

**Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on  
Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 at 9.45am in Treacys Oakwood  
Hotel, Shannon, Co. Clare.**

**Present:** Councillors Pat McMahon (Cathaoirleach), Gerard Flynn, P.J. Ryan, Michael Begley, Donna McGettigan, John Crowe, Pat O’Gorman,

**Officials:** Liam Conneally Director of Services, Jason Murphy Meetings Administrator, Aidan O’Rourke Senior Executive Engineer and Patricia O’Neill Staff Officer.

**Shannon Garda Station:** Inspector Paul Slattery, Sergeant Seamus Mulligan and Detective Sergeant Kevin O’Hagan.

Cathaoirleach Pat McMahon opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

**1. Minutes of Shannon Municipal District Meeting AGM held on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020**

The minutes of the Shannon Municipal District AGM held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 were proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. PJ Ryan and agreed by all.

**2. Minutes of Shannon Municipal District July Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

The minutes of the Shannon Municipal District July Meeting held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 were proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. Donna McGettigan and agreed by all.

**3. Minutes of Special Meeting of the Shannon Municipal District held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020.**

The minutes of the Special Meeting of Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2020 were proposed by Cllr. John Crowe and seconded by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and agreed by all.

**4. Sergeant Seamus Mulligan, Shannon Garda Station**

Sergeant Mulligan welcomed this opportunity to address the Members of the Shannon Municipal District. He stated that Shannon Garda Station has a well resourced workforce due to its close proximity to an International Airport and while their commitment is to the Airport, Shannon and its environs benefit significantly from this sized workforce.

He informed the meeting that the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme which has been in operation for almost 2 years now has made significant progress in some housing estates. He emphasised that public engagement is key to its success and role that Liaison Garda plays in relation to this.

He stated that crime figures in Shannon and its environs have remained the same in recent years, with no major increase and there has been a slight increase in the detection levels of crime.

The Member raised the following points:

- Progress in combating theft in tourist locations was welcomed particularly in Bunratty.
- That all complaints to the Gardaí, anonymous or otherwise be followed up on or investigated.
- The Housing Section of Clare Co Council has seen a significant increase in the number of complaints it has received about anti-social behaviour by its housing tenants. Clare County Council to establish a new unit to address this matter.

- The presence of the Garda Patrol Car in the area
- More Garda resources be deployed to the bigger villages in the District which have seen a growth in population in recent times.
- Gardaí engagement with the younger member of the population.

Liam Conneally thanked Inspector Paul Slattery, Sergeant Seamus Mulligan and Detective Sergeant Kevin O'Hagan for attending and providing regular updates at the Shannon MD Meetings. He also commended the workings of the Joint Policing Committee and the good working relationship that exists between Clare Co Council and the Gardaí.

Sergeant Mulligan concluded by reiterating the importance of the public reporting incidents of criminal activity to the Gardaí.

#### **5. Proposed declaration of Public Roads at the following locations**

- Ballycasey Avenue, Shannon  
Proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. Donna McGettigan and agreed by all.
- Inbhear na Sionna, Shannon.  
Proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. Donna McGettigan and agreed by all.

#### **6. Recent Grant Approvals.**

Cllr. PJ Ryan requested clarification in relation to the criteria required in order for Community Groups to draw down the funding they were awarded under the Shannon MD Community Grant Scheme 2020 with particular reference to public liability insurance and financial detail required. He also stated that the cost of insurance for some community groups was considerable given the amount of funding they were approved of under this scheme.

Patricia O'Neill, Staff Officer outlined the criteria that is required in relation to public liability, stating that some groups could be named under the public liability insurance for the local Tidy Towns Group and where contractors are carrying out works on behalf of a community group, the contractors public liability is sufficient.

In relation to financial detail required she stated that evidence of expenditure incurred ie receipts must be submitted and that there is not a requirement for groups to submit audited accounts under this scheme. She further outlined that she is currently liaising with the community groups that were awarded funding as the deadline for completed projects is 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and would encourage any community group experiencing difficulty with these requirements to contact her.

#### **7. Draft Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS)**

Jason Murphy highlighted that this is a strategic document for the Shannon MD over the next 20 years in delivering a high quality, accessible, integrated and more sustainable transport network in the Region. He outlined that this strategy is currently at public consultation stage which runs to the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and emphasised the importance of the Shannon MD's contribution to this process. He suggested that a workshop take place with the Elected Members with a view to making a submission.

The Members expressed disappointment that the public consultation documents showed little benefit for Shannon with a greater emphasis on Limerick City and its environs. The Members agreed that a workshop be held to discuss this further and also to make a submission on this strategy.

Liam Conneally reiterated the importance of LSMATS for Shannon and further agreed that a workshop should take place with the Elected Members having their input. He stated that

LSMATS has been developed by the National Transport Authority in collaboration with Limerick City and County Council, Clare County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). He added public funding will follow for infrastructure and that investment in infrastructure is required to facilitate population growth. He concluded that this document provides leverage to the Shannon MD and it should be used in that context.

It was also raised by the Members that a review should be carried out of a proposed railway line for Cratloe which is currently prohibiting development in this area. Liam Conneally advised that the Members can request this change in a review of the Development Plan but stated that it would require an extensive and costly study.

## **8. Road Works Programme**

Aidan O'Rourke, Senior Executive Engineer updated the Member

- 90% of the surface dressing works are now complete with final works scheduled for next week in Boola and Sixmilebridge.
- 6 out of 8 projects completed under drainage grants.
- Restoration Improvement Works are currently underway. Drainage works on the R471 Shannon Sixmilebridge and drainage works at Meelick have been completed.
- Larkins Cross traffic signalisation project has now commenced and is expected to be completed in 4 weeks.
- Westbury Junction upgrade will commence in the coming weeks.
- Works to Mountievers and Sixmilebridge bridges to commence this week
- Tír Na nÓg Playground resurfacing works completed and the playground is due to be opened this week.
- Footpath rehabilitation contract tender currently being assessed. GMA footpath works are incorporated into this contract.
- OPW funded works for a riverbank defence at Gort Na Null are now complete.
- Roadmarking works have been issued to the contractor and are due to commence next week.
- Contract preparation is currently underway for Sixmilebridge Town & Village Renewal Scheme for the rehabilitation and renewal of footpaths within the town centre.
- Grant approval has been received under Climate Change emergency fund for the investigation into the condition of stormwater pumps at Westbury Housing estate. Investigative works are progressing.
- Grant approval has been received under the active travel measures for a footpath in Meelick, connecting 2 housing estates and funding for stormwater maintenance at Bóthar Na Luchara and Bóthar Na Linne, Shannon.
- Funding has been received via an application by the Road Design office for road markings for the cycle lane between Ennis and Shannon. These works are currently out to tender.
- Funding allocated under the Climate Change and Active Travel Measures for works must be completed by the end of November and are being prioritised along with the Roadworks Grant Projects.

Cllr. PJ Ryan requested an update on Tranch4 Motorway Service Areas for the M18 service area proposed within the Shannon MD and the criteria involved in taking over a private road.

Aidan O'Rourke outlined that the TII are undertaking a review of its policy in relation to Service areas on motorways and dual carriageways. A consultation paper is being prepared and a review is ongoing. On publication the TII will be in a position to confirm if the M18 service area will be progressing further.

Aidan O'Rourke further outlined the process involved in taking a private road in charge.

Cllr. Gerard Flynn stated that only one Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) is progressing in the district which is small in comparison to the other MD's. Cllr. Begley also stated that the LIS scheme is currently closed.

## **9. Economic Development**

### **Shannon Town Masterplan**

Liam Conneally advised the Members that the Shannon Town Masterplan is ongoing and he will be meeting with the consultants within the next 2 weeks. He will update the Members at the November Meeting of the Shannon MD on its progress.

### **Strategic Development Zone (SDZ)**

Liam Conneally informed the Members that the application is being progressed. The Chief Executive is to meet with the Interim President of UL in the coming weeks and the Members will be updated accordingly.

Cllr. Michael Begley queried the length of time in making the application and timeframe involved in light of UL's proposal to expand in Limerick City.

Liam Conneally clarified that this is a long term proposal, taking 25 to 50 years to develop out the future expansion of UL with an estimated cost of €1.5 to €2 billion. He added that the application will be made by the end of the year and is hopeful of support from all stakeholders.

## **10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat Mc Mahon**

**Ar moladh Cllr. Pat McMahan**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

I am requesting Clare County Council to lay a footpath from Cois Crann to Beechgrove, Newmarket On Fergus as the residents of each area find it quite dangerous to walk between each estate.

### **Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:**

At present, funding which is available for footpaths is being prioritised to repair existing paths which are found to be defective. This area will be examined and considered should a source of funding become available.

## **11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat Mc Mahon**

**Ar moladh Cllr. Pat McMahan**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

Due to the deterioration of some of the footpaths in Kilnasoolagh Park, Newmarket On Fergus that the Council draw up a programme to repair the worst affected areas.

### **Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:**

Shannon Municipal District is in the process of awarding a contract for footpath repair works which include section of footpath within the Kilnasoolagh Estate. It is expected that this work will commence within the next fortnight with the majority of works intended to be complete by December of this year.

**12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat Mc Mahon**  
**Ar moladh Cllr. Pat McMahon**  
**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

The Clare County Council repair the potholes in the Car Park of the Catholic Church in Newmarket On Fergus as a matter of great urgency.

**Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:**

Repairs to the public car park adjacent to the Church in Newmarket on Fergus will be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

**13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan**  
**Ar moladh Cllr. PJ Ryan**  
**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

That this MD would carry out repairs to the road surface to prevent ponding and flooding on the R462 outside the old Post Office in Cratloe

**Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:**

Installation of a new gully to alleviate water lodging on the road at this point is included in this years' Roadworks Programme and will be carried out shortly.

**14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan**  
**Ar moladh Cllr. PJ Ryan**  
**Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe**

That this MD would carry out surface repairs and drainage to the midsection of the public road at Boola, Meelick and complete repairs and drainage carried out under the Local Improvement Scheme to the private section of the same road.

**Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:**

Drainage works at this location were completed on the private section during works on the LIS scheme. A seal will be carried out at this location this year. Drainage and road improvement works were carried out on the lower section of the public road at Boola in 2018. The road is a candidate for future drainage & surface improvements subject to quantum of grant funding in future years and it would be hoped to continue the works further along this road.

**15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan**  
**Ar moladh Cllr. PJ Ryan**  
**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat O'Gorman**

That this MD would put in place a complete drainage system on the Gallows Hill road in Cratloe.

**Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:**

The installation of a complete drainage system along this hilly rural road is beyond the level of resourcing available to the Municipal District and would need to be advanced as a capital project. Individual drainage measures can be advanced where identified via the drainage grant which can alleviate issues here and these are being examined to progress where possible, subject to drainage grant monies continuing to issue from central funding.

**16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan**  
**Ar moladh Cllr. Donna McGettigan**  
**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

I call on this MD to look at the grass cutting/maintenance that has been raised as an issue by many constituents. Constituents are calling for a local company to have this contract granted to them. While this may not be possible under European contract law we still need to find a solution.

Therefore I propose the following:

- An enforcement structure be implemented
- This includes agreed standards and time frames of the contracted works.
- That the company and the MD streamline their communication structures.
- That the company would preferably have a local contact who could ensure that necessary works were carried out.

**Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:**

Grass cutting is subject to an open tendering process each year where any prospective contractor who wishes to compete can submit a tender. Tendering is carried out in accordance with the public procurement process. It is not possible to choose a contractor to award to, or to limit tenders by geographical location. An enforcement structure is in place within the existing contract in that the contractor is only paid for cuts completed to a satisfactory standard set out in the contract. There is a constant line of communication between the Shannon MD office and both the crew leader and managing director of the contractors company. This contract was subject to a review and overhaul of contract documentation and will be further reviewed prior to its re-issue for the 2021 cutting season.

**17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan**  
**Ar moladh Cllr. Donna McGettigan**  
**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

Speed reductions to go onto Bóthar na Rinne, the road between Tradaree and Cluain Airne. This is the only road leading into and out of both areas and residents feel that cars are driving too fast with children playing in that area.

**Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:**

The road approaching these estates has had speed controls installed on the road between Tradaree and St. Patricks Comprehensive. The location was examined before and after the installation and was shown to have been successful in controlling speed. The location in question is further along this road. A study including speed survey, accident history check etc. will be carried out at the earliest opportunity to determine the issue here.

**18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan**  
**Ar moladh Cllr. Donna McGettigan**  
**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

That this MD liaise with local Gardaí about anti social hotspots with the view of putting up CCTV in areas in order to quell complaints of anti social behaviour.

**Jason Murphy replied as follows:**

Clare County Council is committed to community safety. This is a complex area and there are many approaches available and used to reduce anti-social behaviour. These approaches include community development programmes involving sport, youth and community groups through

mechanisms like the LCDC, grants, maintenance and improvements to the public realm such as the removal of trees and designing out crime. There are also initiatives to promote awareness and change behaviour.

Clare County Council is actively involved in strengthening communities and reducing anti-social behaviour in our daily activities with our Environmental Wardens, Awareness Officer, Rural Development Officers, and Tenant Liaison teams all working directly with the public.

An Garda Síochána play a central role in ensuring community safety and they work closely with Clare County Council through such structures as the Joint Policing Committee. There is regular engagement with Clare County Council structures including the Municipal District Meetings.

CCTV is just one aspect of community safety. Since September 2018 the Data Protection Commissioner has been carrying out audits of Community based CCTV and we continue to monitor outputs from these audits to inform and guide our position.

In the meantime the Shannon MD will continue to liaise with An Garda Síochána and other stakeholders such as our Councillors to work on solutions to promote safe communities and reduce anti-social behaviour in ways best suited to individual circumstances.

**19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe**

**Ar moladh Cllr. John Crowe**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

I am requesting the removal of the ESB pole at Bridge United Soccer Club, Shannon Rd. Sixmilebridge.

**Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:**

An application will be made to the ESB for the relocation of this pole to a more suitable location at the earliest opportunity.

**20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe**

**Ar moladh Cllr. John Crowe**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Michael Begley**

I am requesting that all the blocked shores/ drains in Parteen Village to be cleaned. Due to the grass growing up through these drains it is causing major flooding problems in this area.

**Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:**

This location was recently surveyed and the current drainage difficulties noted. The maintenance work here will be undertaken within the coming weeks.

**21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe**

**Ar moladh Cllr. John Crowe**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

As part of the review of the footpaths in Sixmilebridge, I am requesting this Council to make a provision for the inclusion of wheelchair access on these footpaths.

**Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:**

Shannon Municipal District will include for survey of the measures required within the village and implementation within upcoming footpath works to as great an extent possible within the funding available.

**22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley**  
**Ar moladh Cllr. Michael Begley**  
**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat McMahon**

That drainage works be carried out on the L-7040 (Aughboy, Clonlara) to prevent future storm water damage to the road and private property.

**Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:**

This location has been examined by the Shannon MD team recently and works were carried out to make safe the location and to provide some temporary relief from flooding. Substantial further works are required to fully solve this issue and will be considered for funding via the 2021 road drainage grant.

**23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley**  
**Ar moladh Cllr. Michael Begley**  
**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

That a full Zebra Crossing be marked at Clonlara NS in place of school patrol markings as this function has had to be abandoned.

**Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:**

A speed survey, accident history and examination of the location will be carried out at the earliest opportunity. A source of funding will need to be identified in order for this work to be progressed.

**24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley**  
**Ar moladh Cllr. Michael Begley**  
**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan**

That blocked storm water drainage on the "Castle Road" and at its junction with the L-3064 (Coolisteige, Clonlara) to prevent flooding of the junction and private property.

**Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:**

This matter will be examined at the earliest opportunity to determine the issue here and blockages identified will be removed as soon as possible.

**25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn**  
**Ar moladh Cllr. Gerard Flynn**  
**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Michael Begley**

I am calling on the Senior Engineer to follow up on the necessary repairs to the 2 bus shelters in the Drumgeely area. I had previously included the upgrade of these shelters from my percentage of the GMA Budget 2020 works. The most serious problem is with the one opposite Fergus Road as you enter and exit the Industrial Estate.

**Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:**

The 2021 programme of works has been delayed due to flooding during the month of February and the COVID 19 lockdown. It is intended to focus on GMA works projects once the grant funded Roadworks Programme is complete and the repair to these bus shelters will form part of this work.



**26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn**  
**Ar moladh Cllr. Gerard Flynn**  
**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan**

I am calling on The Senior Engineer to put in place a plan of action to address a number of issues concerning dangerous trees in Shannon and in some areas they are causing health and safety risks as they are growing over roads and public access areas.

**Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:**

A review of tree issues arising will take place in the next fortnight in preparation for works to be carried out once the bird nesting season ends at the end of September. This review will inform a works list which will be carried out within the budget available.

**27. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn**  
**Ar moladh Cllr. Gerard Flynn**  
**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Michael Begley**

I am calling on The Senior Engineer to fast track the spending of the General Municipal Allocation for 2020 as the new budgetary process for 2021 may be a severe challenge for resourcing public services.

**Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:**

Given the delay to this years programme due to flooding in February and the COVID 19 lockdown combined with a significantly increased volume of works, our grant works are scheduled to run to the end of November with GMA works commencing thereafter. If the opportunity arises to advance GMA projects earlier this will occur. GMA funding for 2020 is ring fenced and will carry forward to 2021 and remain assigned to each councillor as is the current case.

**28. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O'Gorman**  
**Ar moladh Cllr. Pat O'Gorman**  
**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

That this MD would liaise with An Garda Síochána with the view of putting in place a 50KM speed limit on the old N18 taking in Clonmoney National School, The Wells Church and Dairygold Co-Op, as the first step to get traffic calming measures in place.

**Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:**

Speed limit reviews are undertaken by the Clare County Councils Transportation Section and this notice of motion will be forwarded to the Senior Engineer, Transportation Section for his attention in the next speed limit review.

*This motion received the full support of all the Members and a discussion was held in relation to various measures that could possibly be introduced such as effective signage, driver feedback signs, traffic calming strips etc. Aidan O'Rourke stated that there was a limitation to what can be installed in an 80km speed zone.*

**29. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O'Gorman**  
**Ar moladh Cllr. Pat O'Gorman**  
**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

I am calling on this MD to remove 5 trees on Corrib Drive Shannon, in front of Shannon town United AFC and two trees at the back of Shannon town United AFC machinery shed, in the interest of safety.

**Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:**

These trees will be examined as part of our upcoming end of year tree works programme.

**30. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O'Gorman**

**Ar moladh Cllr. Pat O'Gorman**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Michael Begley**

That Clare County Council request Irish Water to set out the current state of the wastewater treatment infrastructure in Meelick, noting the problems in particular at the treatment facilities at Ballycannon Heights and Elton Court and further explore the potential to bring all the wastewater from Meelick and connect to the Limerick main drainage at Knockalisheen.

*The Members were informed that Anne O'Sullivan, Senior Executive Engineer has written to Irish Water in relation to this Motion.*

**31. Correspondence**

Request from Olive Carey, Dúchas na Sionna to attend the November Meeting of the Shannon MD to update the Members on the Shannon Wetlands Restoration Project and Hastings Farmhouse Restoration.

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat McMahon and seconded by Cllr. PJ Ryan to invite the members of Dúchas na Sionna to the November Meeting.

**32. AOB**

The Members will be contacted with a date for the workshop in relation to LSMATS.

---

**Cathaoirleach**

---

**Meetings Administrator**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_