Minutes of May Meeting of West Clare Municipal District, held on 3rd May, 2016 at 11 a.m. at The Meadows, Kilmihil, Co. Clare

Cathaoirleach sa Cathair:

Cllr. C. Curtin,

I Láthair:

Cllr. P.J.Kelly, Cllr. R. Nagle, Cllr. I. Lynch, Cllr. B. Slattery, Cllr. B. Chambers, Cllr. G. Keating, Cllr. M. Hillery.

Officials present:

Ms. Anne Haugh, Area Co-Ordinator & Director of Service

Mr. C. Feeney, A/Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare Municipal District

Mr. J. Corry, Administrative Officer & Meetings Administrator.

1. Minutes of Meeting of West Clare Municipal District held on 2nd March 2016

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Keating & seconded by Cllr. Chambers.

Cllr. Lynch looked for an update on Limekiln junction. J. Corry advised that the design & public consultation had been completed re same & that it was included in the Schedule of MD works for 2016.

Cllr. Keating mentioned the sewerage scheme in Carrigaholt and that he was very frustrated that same wasn't progressing. A. Haugh indicated that it had been very frustrating re progress on Carrigaholt. She added that it had been included as part of the Rural Water application and she indicated that the Department had come back looking for more information on what sort of solution we would be proposing there. Cllr. Lynch suggested that the road should be resurfaced in the meantime.

Cllr. Lynch asked if there was any update on the cycleways for West Clare. A. Haugh added that there was no call for funding yet & but that Clare Co Council were committed to including same when there was a call for funding. Cllr. Lynch suggested that the landowners be met before a submission was made.

Cllr. Nagle referred to the car park at Doolin which needed to be moved further in from the coast because of potential damage from the sea & that equally that the new accommodation building needed to be suitably located to prevent damage from the sea.

Cllr. Keating sought an update on Clahane

It was proposed by Cllr. Hillery & seconded by Cllr. Chambers that the meeting would be adjourned for 15 minutes.

2. Minutes of Special Meeting of the West Clare Municipal District held on 2nd March 2016 to discuss Clare Cycle Initiative & San Marcos project

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Hillery & seconded by Cllr. Chambers. Cllr. Hillery suggested that J. Treacy would contact J. Corry re funding required & provide a justification for same.

3. Draft Memorial Policy

J. Corry advised that the draft Policy had already gone before the Environment & Transportation SPC & that it was now going before each of the MDs for their consideration.

C. Feeney provided a summary on the draft policy. Cllr. Hillery welcomed & proposed the draft Policy & it was seconded by Cllr. Chambers. J. Corry advised that the policy would now need to go before the Full Council for consideration following consideration by the MDs.

4. Teach Ceoil Ennistymon

C. Feeney provided a summary. He added that representation had been made on the matter with many years. He added that there was a Part VIII planning application in 2007 which was very elaborate & he re looked at same & outlined what was now proposed ie removal of gully & height difference & extension of footpath & provision of a new tarmac entrance to the Teach Ceoil. He estimated the cost of same was going to be €25k & he advised that the TII would not provide funding for same anytime soon. A. Haugh mentioned that funding of €140k was being made available to the West Clare MD specifically for roadworks as a result of a surplus from the 2015 AFS & suggested that funding could be used from this allocation for that purpose. Cllr. Slattery proposed that funding would be used & Cllr Nagle seconded & welcomed this news & suggested that it would be imperative that works would be completed before the Fleadh. It was proposed by Cllr. Kelly & seconded by Cllr.Keating & agreed that there would be a Special Meeting called to discuss the division of the remainder of the €140k allocated for roads projects.

5. Draft Parking Bye Laws for Doolin Pier

The Bye Laws as presented were proposed by Cllr. Nagle & seconded by Cllr. Slattery. It was outlined that the Bye Laws would be reviewed at the end of the season. J. Corry advised that there would be two Harbour Masters who would be responsible for enforcing the Parking & Harbour Bye Laws. Cllr. Nagle indicated that it was imperative that the consultants would look at the provision of additional parking at Fisher St.

6. Draft Harbour Bye Laws for Doolin Pier

J. Corry indicated that it was the statutory responsibility of the Full Council of Clare Co Council to consider the Bye Laws but it was coming before the MD for their information. He outlined the proposed charges & indicated that it was proposed that the bye laws would be reviewed at the end of the season. It was proposed by Cllr. Nagle & seconded by Cllr. Slattery that the draft Bye Laws would go before the Full Council.

7. JPC Six Year Strategic Plan and Annual Work Plan

A Haugh indicated that the next mtg of the JPC was to take place next Monday. She advised that submissions could be made on the Plans up to the end of the month.

8. Set date for Annual General Meeting 2016

Cllr. Curtin suggested that the AGM would take place in Ennistymon at 12pm on 21st June. This was seconded by Cllr. Nagle.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery

"That safety measures such as a pedestrian crossing, along with speed ramps and signage be put in place at Miltown Malbay National School to safeguard the students"

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin.

Reply

I have inspected the above referenced school and have the following comment. The school is located within the 50km/h speed limit. The school has the appropriate advance flashing beacon warning signs. In addition a school warden facilitates children crossing the N67 so that they can safely access the Mullagh road. The school is serviced by footpaths and a large set down area directly in front of the school to facilitate drop off of children. In light of the above I do not currently see the requirement for a pedestrian crossing or speed ramps.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Hillery proposed that the local engineer would visit the site during school drop off & collection times to look at a possible solution. Cllr. Keating suggested that there needed to be a consistency re school flashing lights and road markings outside schools etc. Cllr. Keating indicated that Clare was one of the few counties that didn't have a full time Road Safety Officer & he proposed that a full time officer would be appointed.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly

"That the orange warning lights on the approaches to Lissycasey National School on the N68 be kept in a proper state of repair"

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

I have reported these lights as being out of order to Rennicks, the company contracted to maintain same & I have been advised that they are aware of the issue & have inspected same & they will be repaired in the next few weeks

Response Ends John Corry, Meetings Administrator

Cllr. Kelly emphasized the importance of this matter being rectified.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery "When will Creevagh bridge be replaced?"

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin.

Reply

The design work is complete and tenders for both the supply of the proposed precast culvert units and contractor are currently being assessed. Once a contractor is appointed in the coming weeks I would anticipate that the new bridge will be installed in the next 6-8 weeks.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

It was questioned as to how the bridge replacement had taken so long. C. Feeney advised that approval was required from the OPW & that this was the main delay as a S50 declaration was required replacing any structure crossing a river. He added that Clare Co Council were going as fast as the process would allow. R. Nagle suggested that a visual inspection should take place of all bridges to see which ones needed attention & that a plan would be put in place re repair of same.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery

"That Moyglass bridge be inspected following recent flooding and any remedial works required be carried out as soon as possible."

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin.

Reply

The bridge was inspected following the flood event which damaged Creevagh bridge. A schedule of works is being prepared and we would hope to carry out these works during the summer.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Hillery welcomed the response.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Slattery

"I am requesting that Clare County Council alleviate the problem of excessive surface water flowing down the Mine Hill in Doolin by opening and clearing all side-drains and also to repair the pipes/drains entering the river at the Bridge across from McGanns Pub."

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Nagle.

Reply

I am not aware of any issue with surface water on the Mine Hill Road but we will clear and repair any side drains which enter the river at McGanns pub when resources are next available in the area.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Slattery indicated that he was not happy with the response. C. Feeney indicated that he was aware of issues on the main regional rd from G Fitzgeralds to the church but he was not aware of any issue on the Mine Hill rd & he said the GSS had no knowledge of same either. C.Feeney said that they would clear the side drains.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Slattery

"I am once again asking Clare County Council to seriously consider providing a pedestrian crossing from the Surf Shop on the Miltown Malbay road in Lahinch across to the Old Promenade, in the interest of public safety."

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Nagle

Reply

The proposed crossing is situated on the N67 and Transport Infrastructure Ireland are the funding authority for works to the National Secondary road network. We will forward this request again to them for their consideration.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Slattery indicated that there are a lot of residents living on the Miltown Rd & he feels that it is highly dangerous crossing the road at this point. C. Feeney advised that we continually forward these motions to the TII as the funding authority but that they have provided no funding to date. Cllr. Lynch indicated that TII are not fit for purpose if they don't provide funding for same. C. Feeney indicated that the TII are governed by accident statistics & need to prioritise funding based on same. A discussion then ensued & it was felt that it was necessary for the TII to meet with reps from the West Clare MD. J. Corry advised that he had contacted the TII on numerous occasions over the past year re the

West Clare MD meeting with them & that same had not been facilitated. He indicated that he would once again make an appeal to them. Cllr. Kelly referred to the fact that there was a pedestrian crossing at Golf Links in Ennis on the regional road.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Slattery

"I am asking Clare County Council to liaise with Irish Water to relocate the pumping facility, that operates the pumping of sewerage for the village of Quilty, which is situated at the side of the road on the N67 at the entrance to Quilty Village, as this is regularly damaged & out of commission by rocks, stones and water from storm damage."

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Hillery

Reply

Clare County Council has asked Irish Water to consider relocating this pumping station.

Response Ends

Sean Ward, Senior Engineer, Water Services

Cllr. Slattery indicated that he had received numerous representations from residents & businesses in Quilty re same. Cllr. Hillery suggested that the wall would be extended to prevent the road from getting flooded. C. Feeney suggested that it would be difficult to move the pumping station. He suggested that by extending the wall that it would block access to the slipway. He added that he was aware that it was being examined as part of the feasibility report on coastal protection being prepared regarding that part of the coastline

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Nagle

"I am proposing that Clare Co Council would install a public light outside Moy NS".

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Hillery

Reply

Funding for public lighting was reduced again in 2016 which was a retrograde step considering the challenges facing the local authority. Public lighting is the largest utility bill for Clare County Council but under European Directives there is a requirement that the public service to reduce its carbon foot print by 33% by year 2020. Therefore we are not in a position currently to install a public light at Moy school.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Nagle felt that it defied belief that a light could not be provided here. A. Haugh indicated that funding was very limited to provide additional lighting but taking into account the concern expressed re the lack of a public light at this location that she would look into putting in a light here. C. Feeney suggested that the Dept of Education should have a role here also. Cllr. Nagle indicated that he would welcome any assistance provided on the matter.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Nagle

"I am proposing that Clare Co Council would strengthen & surface dress the L10522 from Colm Healy's house to Michael Murray's house at Moymore".

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

The road is not included in the 2016 Schedule of Municipal District Works. We will continue to maintain the road with the resources available.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Nagle queried if same could be included in the 2017 roadworks programme to which C. Feeney replied that he didn't know at this stage if same could be included because of other priorities and the availability of funding.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Nagle

"That Clare Co Council would strengthen & surface dress the L5047 from Fermoyle West to Fermoyle East, Fanore as sections of this road are extremely poor".

This Motion was seconded by Cllr.Hillery

Reply

The road is not included in the 2016 Schedule of Municipal District Works. We will continue to maintain the road with the resources available.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Nagle indicated that this was a very popular route. C. Feeney again emphasized that it was a funding problem and with over 2,000 km of public roads in the West Clare MD area that lack of funding was an issue.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Chambers

"We the members of the West Clare Municipal District call on the Government to provide funding to the door to door accessible transport service run by the Disabled People of Clare (DPOC). The service is due to end by 20th May 2016 due to lack of funding."

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Kelly

Cllr. Chambers said that he was very disappointed with the proposal that the DPOC accessible transport was being removed. It was agreed that this request would be forwarded to each of the Oireachtas members.

It was proposed by Cllr. Kelly & seconded by Cllr. Hillery & agreed that Standing Orders would be suspended to allow the meeting to continue.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Chambers

"To ask the Council as to when they intend to commence works at the pier in Carrigaholt owing to the recent storm damage."

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

Reply

Slight damage was caused to the slipway access to the beach adjacent to the pier & repair works will be carried out in the next 8 to 10 weeks.

Response Ends

Steve Lahiffe, A/SEE, Transportation

Cllr. Chambers said he was happy with the response but would appreciate if the timeline could be reduced.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch

"That the engineer complete a structural and surface condition report on the L2034 Kilrush to Doonbeg road."

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

Reply

We do not currently have the resources to carry out a structural survey of the road in question. The road has been surveyed for a pavement condition rating and on average is in the 5-6 range. There are 2 sections of this road included in the 2016 Schedule of Municipal District Works mainly south of Monmore church and north of Derryard on the approach to Doonbeg.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Lynch said that he was reasonably satisfied with the response. C. Feeney indicated that roads that were built on bogs caused a difficulty as they needed to be maintained more frequently.

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21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch

"That a further submission be made to the TII to have surfacing carried out on the N67 Killimer road from the GAA grounds to the Fire Station, including the hard shoulder at Wood Field, through the Market Square and Henry St. and that the engineer investigate the intersection of the N67 and L6148 following reports of restricted sight line."

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

Reply

Transport Infrastructure Ireland are aware of the sections of road highlighted in the Notice of Motion. It is their intention subject to funding being available in the next 2-3 years to address these sections of road.

The N67-L-6148 junction has not been altered in any way and any issue with sight lines is historic. I will bring the issue to the attention of Transport Infrastructure Ireland who are the funding authority for such works.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

C. Feeney indicated that he had spoken to TII re same & that they would look at this. He also added that from Tesco to the Limekiln junction would be done this year.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch

"A recent RTE program on "dead" town centres highlighted Clonakilty as being a good example of "getting it right". Could the meeting administrator contact his counterpart at Clonakilty to discuss the possibility of an information exchange by way of a briefing or visit to Clonakilty by the members of the WCMD to ensure that we remain progressive in our efforts to revitalize the towns and villages in our district and county."

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

I have tried unsuccessfully to make contact with the appropriate person as they were out of the office this week but I will continue to try & seek details from the appropriate person to see how they managed to revitalize Clonakilty town centre.

Response Ends

John Corry, Meetings Administrator

J. Corry indicated that he would follow up on this matter.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly

"That a proper traffic management plan be put in place at the junction of the N68 & L2084 in the interest of public safety & bearing in mind the very high level of accidents at this point"

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

The Junction is situated west of Lissycasey on the N68 and Transport Infrastructure Ireland are the funding authority for works to the National Secondary road network. We will forward this request to them for their consideration.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

C. Feeney advised that he raised the issue with Road Design & indicated that this junction did not have the relevant accident statistics because accidents may not have been reported etc. Cllr. Lynch suggested that if Motions were forwarded directly to the TII that they would need to directly respond.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly

"That early arrangements be made for the take over of Lislanahan G.W.S. bearing in mind the official undertaking given when the above scheme management altered its pipe sizes etc to accommodate the provision of a water supply to a number of houses in Kilkee."

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

Reply

Clare County Council wrote on three separate occasions – October 2009, November 2010 and June 2013 – to the secretary of Lislanahan GWS asking for information necessary to advance a takeover of the scheme by the Council. No response was received to any of these letters.

Since 1st January 2014 Clare County Council no longer has the power in law to take over a group water scheme, as the power was transferred to Irish Water as Water Services Authority from that date. Thus any future GWS takeovers that may occur will be by Irish Water. The subject of takeover of GWSs by Irish Water is being discussed by a joint group representing from the Department of the Environment & Local Government; Irish Water; local authorities including Clare Co Council; and the Federation of Group Schemes. Three GWSs have to date been taken over by Irish Water as pilot schemes, i.e. Spancilhill GWS in Clare and one each in Mayo and Galway.

Response Ends

Sean Ward, Senior Engineer, Water Services

J. Corry indicated that he had spoken with S. Lenihan this morning on this matter & that he was following up on this matter. A. Haugh indicated that there was some movement in

Clare with Group Water Schemes being taken over by Irish Water as part of a pilot exercise.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin

"That the Senior Executive Engineer update the Council on proposed remedial works on the road surface in Cree village & the collapsed parapet & culverts in the adjoining bridge arising from the abnormal rainfall levels over the winter particularly on 11th September 2015."

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

Reply

The Regional road in Cree will require extensive reconstruction and currently there is insufficient funding available for such a project. If and when the funding situation improves we will revisit this issue. The culvert parapet walls will be repaired in the next 6-8 weeks.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

C. Curtin indicated that the surface needed to be fixed here notwithstanding the lack of funding. He said that there was a health & safety issue here outside the church. C. Feeney explained in detail the cost that would be involved in carrying out these works where he estimated that there would be a cost of €40-€50 per sq/m and that there was no funding provided re same.

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin

"That the Senior Executive Engineer, as a follow up to his reports on the fall out to the extreme flood events of September 11th & December 4th- 5th, outline the current position on the Schedule for the reinstatement work on the bridges at a) Creevagh, Mullagh, b) Bealcragga, Connolly, & c) Aghataggart, Carrowkeel & improved drainage in the Miltown Malbay town catchment."

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

Reply

Creevagh Bridge, Mullagh: The design work is complete and tenders for both the supply of the proposed precast culvert units and contractor are currently being assessed. Once a contractor is appointed in the coming weeks I would anticipate that the new bridge will be installed in the next 6-8 weeks.

Bealcragga, **Connolly:** The design for the repair to the retaining wall is nearly complete and we will be going to tender for a suitable contractor in the coming weeks. I would estimate that the works will be complete in the next 2-3 months.

Aghataggart, **Carrowkeel:** The works required are currently being assessed and will hopefully go to tender in the next 2 months.

Miltown Malbay Drainage. We are currently awaiting the report from the consultant Hydrologist and this will determine the works required which will be subject to funding being available to complete them.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Curtin enquired as to when there would be a report prepared by the Hydrologist. C. Feeney indicated that he was not aware as he was not dealing directly with the Hydrologist but he was expecting the report.

28. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin

"That the Council request the Transport Infrastructure Ireland to redress the inadequacy of signage for all parts of the West Clare Municipal District on the M/N18 and towards this end the Senior Engineer, Transportation report on the original plans as submitted at the outset of the Motorway by the Council."

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

Reply

I wish to advise that Clare Co Council would not have received any predetermined plans re signage for the M/N18 other than what would have been in conpliance with NRA Motorway signage policy at the time. The NRA/TII always tends to work rigidly within its policies in this regard. The only variation from what might have been perceived as policy at the time was the decision not to indicate access to Ennis at Junction 13 because of traffic capacity constraints along the Tulla Road and the fact that dual carriageway access from Junction 12 to the Clareabbey Roundabout was incorporated with the Ennis ByPass project. Apart from this, the NRA provided signage in compliance with its policy for facilitation of access to points of interest, tourism, etc.

Response Ends

Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer, Transportation

Cllr. Curtin suggested that certain places in West Clare needed to be highlighted on signage on the Motorway. Cllr. Lynch agreed & suggested that the Wild Atlantic Way needed to be signposted on the Motorway. A. Haugh indicated that the TII were very strict in terms of what could & could not be signposted.

Cllr. Curtin conveyed regards to John Nagle, Kilshanny who was celebrating his 100 birthday. He indicated that he was an uncle of Cllr. Nagle.

29. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating

"That Clare Co Council carry out repair works to the entrance to the beach at Doughmore as a result of the storms of 2014-2015. There are boulders and wiring from rock armour works, previously carried out at the entrance which are exposed and a danger to users. A flat viewing area which some sort of seating in

keeping with local materials, should be installed at the entrance to Doughmore beach to allow wheelchair users or those with less mobility to use, in order to access the beach and take in the salt air."

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

Repair works to Doughmore are included in works proposed to be carried out in 2016. Inadequate funding was provided to complete all works however it is intended that some works will be carried out later this year. There is no funding provided however to upgrade amenities & an alternative source of funding would need to be provided to carry out such works.

Response Ends Steve Lahiffe, A/SEE, Transportation

Cllr. Keating suggested that we should apply to the OPW for additional funding. He suggested that C. Feeney would discuss with S. Lahiffe.

30. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating

"That Clare Co Council provide drainage and surface dressing on the L20322 a rather short distance of public road."

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

The road is not included in the 2016 schedule of Municipal District Works. We will continue to maintain the road with the resources available.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

31. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating

"To request Clare Co Council to apply to the T.I.I. for special funding to carry out resurfacing to Circular Road, Kilkee. We are spending millions on signage on the Wild Atlantic Way and are forgetting that this road is being used by 30,000 visiting Loophead Lighthouse with an additional 20,000 regular visitors to Kilkee annually."

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

Reply

Funding for the local road network is provided by a combination of Clare County Councils own resources and grant allocations from the Dept of Transport, Tourism and Sport. Unfortunately both sources of funding have decreased

significantly in the last number of years. The road in question will require major reconstruction and current funding allocations are not sufficient to complete such works.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Keating mentioned the Well Rd car park. He added that it was very unsightly. He complemented the great work done by BAM in Kilkee. He also mentioned that there were water leaks on a no of locations on the Carrigaholt rd & in wintertime this is very hazardous. He also mentioned that signage needed to be erected advertising Smiths Gardens. Following a discussion on the level of road grants A. Haugh indicated that it was likely to be 2018 before we would start to see a recovery in grant levels.

32. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted.

33. A.O.B.

C. Feeney gave an update on works in Rineen which were presently out to tender & would progress in the next 4-8 weeks.

C. Curtin congratulated the Clare Football & Hurling team on their recent success.

C. Curtin proposed a vote of sympathy be passed to JJ Clancy who was a retired Overseer from Clare Co. Council. A Minutes silence was then held as a mark of respect for Mr. Clancy.

This then concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cllr. C. Curtin

Cathaoirleach

Signed:

J. Corry

Meetings Administrator

Dated this the 12th day of July 2016.