

Minutes of July Meeting of West Clare Municipal District, held on 3rd July, 2018 at 3p.m. in West Clare Municipal District Offices, Kilrush, Co. Clare

Cathaoirleach sa Cathair:

Cllr. I. Lynch,

I Láthair:

Cllr. P.J. Kelly, Cllr. R. Nagle, Cllr. M. Hillery, Cllr. G. Keating, Cllr. C. Curtin, Cllr. B. Chambers, B. Slattery,

Officials present:

Mr. Leonard Cleary, Area Co-Ordinator & Director of Service
Mr. J. O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare Municipal District
Mr. M. Lahiffe, A/Senior Executive Engineer, West Clare Municipal District
Mr. J. Corry, Administrative Officer & Meetings Administrator.
Mr. David Bennett, A/Rural & Community Development Officer.

Cllr. Lynch convened the meeting & welcomed those in attendance. Cllr Lynch proposed a Vote of Sympathy to Cllr. Keating on the recent death of his brother Oliver, R.I.P. This was seconded by all Cllr Slattery & agreed. Those present rose to say a prayer in memory of the deceased.

1. Minutes of Meeting of West Clare Municipal District held on 1st May 2018

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Keating & seconded by Cllr. Curtin & agreed.

Cllr. Hillery enquired regarding the Civic Reception to honour Rita Malone Kierse. J. Corry advised that in accordance with S74 of the Local Government Act 2001 that the West Clare MD could hold a Civic Reception . It was agreed that same should take place in the Council Chamber at Aras Contae an Chlair after the September Meeting of the West Clare MD which would then take place at 2pm on 21st September 2018.

Cllr. Slattery again requested an urgent meeting with the consultants to discuss the Doolin Masterplan. L. Cleary indicated that he had been liaising with B. McCarthy, Senior Planner re same & that he would revert to the Members with a date as soon as possible.

Cllr. Slattery also requested a meeting with Housing to discuss Traveller accommodation in the West Clare MD area. J. Corry indicated that he would follow up with Housing re same .

2. Agreement for use of lands as Amenity Area for boating, fishing and angling by Inagh and District Angling Club

The Agreement was proposed by Cllr. Slattery and seconded by Cllr. Nagle.

3. Proposal to take in charge roads & footpaths located within Kilrush Business Park

It was proposed by Cllr. Lynch & seconded by Cllr. Chambers & agreed to commence the formal process for taking in charge the roads & footpaths within Kilrush Business Park.

4. Proposal to dispose of lands owned by Clare County Council at Kilrush Roads depot to facilitate new exit for Saint Gobain

J. O'Malley raised this matter & he advised that it was proposed to facilitate a new exit from Saint Gobain through lands owned by Clare Co Council adjacent to the Council Depot in Kilrush. It was proposed by Cllr. Lynch & seconded by Cllr. Chambers & agreed to dispose of the lands owned by Clare County Council to facilitate same.

5. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Chambers

I have recently been contacted by the Residents Association in the Marian Estate, Kilkee who have requested consideration of the following issues:

a) The need for speed ramps in the estate.

b) The need for public lighting to the rear of no.17 Marian Estate where a very serious incident occurred last August.

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

Reply

A traffic survey will be carried out in the Marian Estate to determine whether or not speed ramps are required in the area.

Discussions have taken place with the Public Lighting Engineer with a view to installing public lighting in this area within current budgets. Works have been carried out to repair lighting that was not previously working in the area and plans are being considered currently to install additional lights.

Response Ends

John O' Malley, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

6. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Chambers

"That Clare County Council would carry out verge trimmings at Junctions and Approach roads to towns and villages in the West Clare MD area."

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

Reply

Clare County Council currently cuts the entry roads to all Towns and many villages in the West Clare MD. This is done in conjunction with Tidy Towns in some instances and Community Groups in others. The issue of cutting junctions is a matter of Health and Safety. Whilst Clare County Council is constrained by the Wildlife Act, we endeavour to monitor junctions in the Municipal District and cut as required. It must be appreciated that due to the large network of local roads in the MD, the junctions selected must be on a needs basis.

Response Ends

John O' Malley, A/SEE, and Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

7. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Slattery

“I’m requesting that Clare County Council carry out repair work to all the footpaths at Mount Callan View estate in the village of Inagh as a matter of urgency due to the very bad condition of same.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Nagle

Reply

Funding was received for footpath remedials this year. Works to sections of footpaths identified at Mount Callan view will be carried out in 2018.

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Slattery

“I am requesting that Clare County Council employ an additional General Operative for the duration of the tourist season in Lahinch. Due to the volume of complaints received from tourists and locals on the lack of bins in the village of Lahinch, I am requesting Clare County Council to provide same.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Nagle

Reply

Clare County Council reassign a General Operative from the Roadworks crew to Lahinch during the busy Summer months. Decisions on assigning an extra G/O to Lahinch are demand based and weather based. Clare County Council is currently assessing a proposal to install two bins on Main Street, Lahinch on a seasonal basis

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Slattery indicated that it was essential that an additional GO would be employed in Lahinch during the tourist season. He also emphasized the necessity of having refuse bins provided in Lahinch. L. Cleary advised that a full review of services in Lahinch was taking place in advance of the Irish Open in July 2019. He also undertook to discuss the matter further with M. Lahiffe with a view to having a plan in place for the remainder of the current tourist season.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Slattery

“I am requesting Clare County Council to strengthen and re surface the road from the Grotto to the Church junction on Main Street Corofin.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Hillery

Reply

This road will be considered for inclusion in future Roadworks Programmes.

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery

“That Clare County Council would give an update to my motion submitted to the January 2018 meeting requesting TII to have the Main Street, Miltown Malbay resurfaced and that a roundabout be installed at the square in the interest of safety including an update on the resurfacing of Church Street and Flag Road which are included in the 2018 Roadworks Programme.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

TII funding has been secured for resurfacing and re-strengthening of the Main Street in Miltown Malbay. The works are programmed for September/ October 2018. Potential roundabout or Signalisation works at the square do not form part of the funding package.

Resurfacing at Upper Church Street is programmed for October 2018.

Flag Road N67: TII funding has been secured to excavate and reconstruct approximately 120m of road way. This work is to run in unison with the Main St works in Sept/Oct.

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Hillery emphasized the importance of something being done at the Square

It was agreed to take Items 11 & 14 together

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery

“That Clare County Council would give a time scale as to when the footpaths in Miltown Malbay and Spanish Point which are included in 2018 Roadworks Programme will be upgraded and to include the location of paths included in the programme.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

There are numerous locations identified for remedial works as part of the grant received for footpaths. Works areas include for sections of Main Street, Miltown (West) , sections of Ballard Road L2118 (both sides), sections at public housing estate Ballard Road, Bank of Ireland corner, L2112 Church St at multiple locations and sections of the Miltown- Spanish Point Road.

These works form part of an overall Footpath programme for the whole North Clare Area. This overall programme is to be carried out over 2018 & 2019.

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin

“That the Senior Executive Engineer provide an Outline Report on the Road & Footpath Remedial Works planned for Miltown Malbay within the coming months.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Hillery

Reply

Main Street, Miltown Malbay resurfacing (including re-strengthening on the Western side) along with 120m of complete road reconstruction works on N67 Flag Road is in design currently. It is hoped that works will commence in September/ October.

Resurfacing at Upper Church Street is programmed for October 2018. This includes from the Church to the Speed Limits on the L-2112.

Footpaths works will be minimal until after the peak season. Over the course of 2018 & 2019 we will be carrying out footpath works to include for Sections of Main Street, Miltown (West), sections of Ballard Road L2118 (both sides), sections at public housing estate Ballard Road, Bank of Ireland corner, L2112 Church St at multiple locations and sections of the Miltown - Spanish Point Road.

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Curtin said it was 30 years since the Main St. in Miltown Malbay had been resurfaced. He added that the problem was not cosmetic only & that the western section of the road was very weak & would need to be strengthened which would necessitate in consultation with Businesses etc. Cllr. Hillery agreed & suggested that there needed to be a focus on the worst parts of the road surface.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery

“That Irish Water would give a commencement date for the Water Mains Upgrade of 5.5km between Miltown Malbay and Mullagh and the installation of a Reservoir at Rockmount to insure a constant supply of water to the whole area.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

I have forwarded the Notice of Motion to Irish Water and I am awaiting a response. We will inform the members in due course of any update from Irish Water.

Response Ends

Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Water Services and Environment Section

Cllr. Hillery indicated that he was disappointed that it was taking so long for the contract to progress. He suggested that there needed to be a Standby in place in the event of a water outage.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin

“That the Senior Executive Engineer up-date the Council on the details (Road No's , Lengths, Time Scale) for the agreed road restoration programme serving Connolly & Inagh arising from the Mount Callan Wind Farm Project.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Hillery

Reply

Roads Completed to date in 2018 :

- *L 8354 Reanaghishagh 1.9Km*
- *L-82844 Cloonbooly 1.15Km*
- *L-6204 Kinturk 1.75Km*

Roads due to be completed in the next 3 months :

- *L-1092 Cloonmacken 1.3Km*
- *R474 West of Connolly – 650m full width Stone Mastic Asphalt and 1250m (one lane) Stone Mastic Asphalt*
- *R474 East of Connolly 300m.*

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin

“That in view of the exceptional growth on roadside grass verges to- date this year , extra funding is provided to extend the existing road side verge Programme in the interest of Public Safety.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers

Reply

Clare County Council endeavour to monitor junctions in the Municipal District and cut as required. It must be appreciated that due to the large network of local roads in the MD, the junctions selected must be on a needs basis. We do not have a policy of cutting local road verges during the Summer months in the majority of cases due to the sheer size of the network and due to a prohibition on Hedgecutting via the Wildlife Act.

We will continue the policy of contacting landowners responsible for roadside hedges that are causing safety concerns and reminding them of their responsibilities as laid out in the Roads Act 1993.

Any road that is included in the SMDW for Surface Dressing or Strengthening will have the hedges and verges cut as part of the project.

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare MD

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly

“That the area owned by Clare Co Council beside Killimer Church be used to improve traffic safety on the N67.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

Reply

Consideration is currently being given to a Low Cost Safety Scheme for this section of road. Records of accidents in the area are being viewed in order to justify a scheme. The TII are ultimately responsible for National Roads and for any more significant works to progress they will have to be consulted further.

Response Ends

John O' Malley, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly

“That the short section of “dip” between the house of Haulie O’ Brien and Blain Hill (Kildysert) be improved in the interest of public safety.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

Reply

Works along this section of road are not covered under the current Roadworks Programme. In order to carry out road improvements in this area a full Road Design Report would be required. This area may be more suited to a Low Cost Safety Scheme and this will be investigated now to determine how this can best be approached.

Response Ends

John O' Malley, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly

“That traffic safety signage be put on the L6176 (N68 to Kilmurry McMahon) in order to address increased traffic level.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin.

Reply

Clare County Council’s Road Markings Contractor has been instructed to place new warning markings on the road in this location. This will be completed in the coming days.

Response Ends

John O' Malley, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating

“That Clare County Council will carry out road repairs to the L2002, damaged by coastal erosion and storms from Cloghaun Lough Bridge to the village of Kilbaha including the area south of the grave of the yellow men”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

Various options are currently being considered for this section of road. Financial constraints and Cost Benefit Analysis have to be taken into account so that a viable solution can be found. Coastal protection works would be very costly due to the exposed nature of the section and it is unlikely that the works would succeed in getting funding under a Minor Works Scheme as there are no houses directly affected on the road. What is the more likely solution is to relocate the road either within the existing boundaries or to consider extending into adjoining lands depending on which is most viable. This is dependant on there being finances available to complete the works.

Response Ends

John O'Malley, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating

“That Clare County Council request the TII to provide funding for the surface dressing of the N68 from Keane’s Pub, Lisdeen to Garrihy’s Pub, Moyasta.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

Reply

Surface dressing would not be suited along this road as it is a National Secondary Road and requires significant strengthening and resurfacing works. The TII have been notified of the condition of this section of road and they will be contacted again to highlight the need for works in the area. It is at the discretion of the TII as to how they distribute funding on National Roads.

Response Ends

John O'Malley, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Keating indicated that he had received a lot of complaints regarding this road & that it was important that the matter would be dealt with urgently

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating

“That Clare County Council carry out a survey of road markings and pedestrian crossings to ensure that the markings are in place and that the pedestrian crossings are in working condition.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

Clare County Council carried out works on a number of Pedestrian Crossings in 2018. Included in this work was the relining of some Pedestrian Crossings. Upgrade works have been carried out on existing poles and beacons at 13 pedestrian crossings in the Kilrush Municipal area. Over the course of 2018/2019, we will carry out surveys on the lining and operation of all Controlled pedestrian crossing in the MD.

All lining on the National Roads is monitored and works on relining the National Secondary is ongoing.

In relation to Regional and Local Roads in the MD, we monitor the quality of the lining on an ongoing basis. We contract lining companies on a twice yearly basis to reline a variety of areas which extend from Centre Road lines to disabled symbols to Stop bars.

Response Ends

John O' Malley, A/SEE, and Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch
“That Clare County Council would increase overall funding for grave yard maintenance”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Hillery

Reply

The Council employs caretakers in a number of burial grounds in the County and their duties include grass cutting and the general upkeep of those burial grounds. The Council also operates a support scheme for burial ground maintenance under the Community Support Scheme which benefits local community groups.

Over the last number of years there is increasing demand for maintenance works within burial grounds including repairs to boundary walls and piers, installation of gates, cutting back of ivy etc. In this regard, an increase in funding would be welcome and will be tabled at budget time.

Response Ends

Monica Meehan, SEO, Rural Development

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch
“That Clare County Council would apply for a special designation for the regional road from Kilrush to Cree similar to the regional road from Killimer to the N68 in order for traffic to the ferry to be directed through Cree and Cooraclare”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers

Reply

It has been noted that there has been an increase of tourist traffic taking this route. More focus will be afforded to this section of the road network and considered as part of the new 3 year Roadworks Programme which has to be submitted by November 2018.

Response Ends

John O’ Malley, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Lynch advised that this matter had been raised numerous times previously.

J. O’ Malley advised that signage had been applied for to re-direct the traffic.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch
“That Clare County Council commence a community consultant forum requesting suggestions from community groups on projects within their communities that could assist economic development “

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

The Council has recently employed four Rural and Community Development Officers and all four staff will be in place by September 2018. These staff will have a role in the delivery of the Clare Rural Development

Strategy which will include engagement with local community groups about their areas and building their capacity. The main aim of the strategy is to revitalise rural towns and villages and to create jobs and thereby stimulate economic activity. In this regard, the motion as proposed will be addressed mainly through this means. The Council also operates a number of national grant schemes that aid economic development such as the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme. Communities are consulted on both schemes through public calls for proposals.

Response Ends

Monica Meehan, SEO, Rural Development

Cllr. Lynch emphasized the importance of communication between the various departments in the Council.

L. Cleary introduced D. Bennett, A/ Rural & Community Development Officer. He also welcomed the positive feedback on the Rural Development Strategy.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Nagle

“That I am requesting that Clare County Council would repair/replace the footpath in front of the Brothers of Charity building in Ennistymon “

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers

Reply

Clare County Council will include this item of works in this years programme.

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Nagle

“That I am asking for the Public Lighting to be extended from its current location to the Filling Station in Liscannor along the R478

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Slattery

Reply

Clare County Council is seeking quotations from appropriate utility companies in relation to the feasibility and cost of this lighting extension. I agree that the extension of this lighting would be beneficial and subject to final costings we will review the request.

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE West Clare Municipal District

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Nagle

“I am again requesting that the area in front of the church in Kilshanny down to the main road would be strengthened and surface dressed “

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Slattery

Reply

The L1046 is the road in question. The section of roadway from the Church to the Main road will be resurfaced in 2018.

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE West Clare Municipal District

28. Correspondence

The Members referred to the correspondence received from the General Manager, Primary Care regarding the proposed Primary Care Centre in Kilrush & the fact that there were no plans presently for the development of a Centre in West Clare at this time. It was proposed that the correspondence would be sent to Deputy Harty with a view to seeing if this decision could be overturned.

29. A.O.B

Cllr. Slattery raised a concern regarding communication from Irish Water re water shortages.

It was agreed that the next MD meeting would take place at 2pm in the Council Chamber, Aras Contae an Chlair on 21st September.

This then concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed :

Cllr. I. Lynch
Cathaoirleach

Signed :

J. Corry
Meetings Administrator

Dated this the 21st day of September 2018.