

Minutes of September Meeting of West Clare Municipal District, held on 21st September, 2018 at 2p.m. in the Council Chamber, Aras Contae an Chlair, Ennis, 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
Ms. M. Cotter, Rural Development Officer
Mr. J. Corry, Administrative Officer & Meetings Administrator.

Cllr. Lynch convened the meeting & welcomed those in attendance.

1. Minutes of Meeting of West Clare Municipal District held on 3rd July 2018

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Slattery & seconded by Cllr. Nagle & agreed.

2. Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 21st June 2018

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Nagle & seconded by Cllr. Chambers & agreed.

3. Minutes of Special Meeting held on 27th August 2018

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Chambers & seconded by Cllr. Nagle & agreed.

4. Set date for meeting to consider Budgetary Plan for 2019

It was agreed that the meeting would take place at 2pm in the West Clare MD Offices in Kilrush on 30th of October.

5. Update on Rural & Community Development Officers

L. Cleary provided an update the Rural & Community Development Officers as well as an update on the applications which were being submitted for funding under the Urban and Rural Regeneration funds.

6. Proposal to take in charge Hills Lane, Miltown Malbay

The recommendation to take the road in charge was proposed by Cllr.Hillery & seconded by Cllr. Curtin & agreed. They both thanked B. McCarthy and M. Lahiffe for their efforts in dealing with this matter.

7. Taking in Charge – Declaration of Roads in the following estate to be Public Roads in accordance with S11 of the Roads Act 1993

- **Croi an Bhaile (Croi na mBaile), Kilmihil**

The taking in charge of the roads in this estate was proposed by Cllr Curtin & seconded by Cllr. Chambers & agreed.

8. Section 183 Disposal of Property – to Conor & Maura Keane, Raenagishagh, Kilmaley, Co. Clare.

The disposal was proposed by Cllr. Curtin & seconded by Cllr. Kelly & agreed

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery

“That the signage be improved at Canada Cross, Miltown Malbay indicating the direction to Lahinch as many people especially tourists using the N67 continue up Church Street coming from the south.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

I have communicated the observations regarding the signage at Canada Cross ,Miltown Malbay to the TII and have asked them to review the signage detail at this junction as to its adequacy or not.

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare MD

It was agreed to take Items 10 and 26 together.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery

“That a footpath be installed at the left hand side of the N85 coming from Ennis at Inagh to accommodate six families in the interest of safety.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Nagle

Reply

A footpath extension on the Eastern side of the N85 is a worthy proposal and would be beneficial to the three houses on the Eastern side. However, any extension would still require Pedestrians to cross the N85 to access the two houses on the Western Side. The provision of a Pedestrian Crossing on the outskirts of a village to facilitate two houses would be deemed inappropriate.

Clare County Council will apply to the TII to fund such a footpath extension subject to approval of all landowners along the route and subject to the appropriate land being made available.

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare MD

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Nagle

“That Clare County Council would extend the footpath for approximately 40m from Carrowkeel East, Inagh, on the N85 to the existing footpath to provide safe access to the village for 6 houses.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Hillery

Reply

A footpath extension on the Eastern side of the N85 is a worthy proposal and would be beneficial to the three houses on the Eastern side. However, any extension would still require Pedestrians to cross the N85 to access the two houses on the Western Side. The provision of a Pedestrian Crossing on the outskirts of a village to facilitate two houses would be deemed inappropriate.

Clare County Council will apply to the TII to fund such a footpath extension subject to approval of all landowners along the route and subject to the appropriate land being made available.

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare MD

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery

“At the July Meeting I submitted a motion in relation to the commencement date for the Water Mains Upgrade of 5.5km between Milltown Malbay and Mullagh and the installation of a Reservoir at Rockmount but I did not receive an update from Irish Water. I request a reply at the September meeting.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

Irish Water is well aware of the on-going issues in the area and has approved funding for the following sections of watermain across the Milltown Malbay and Rockmount areas of County Clare:

- *890m of 110mm OD HPPE Watermain between the Rockmount WTP (located approx. 3.5km northeast of the town of Milltown Malbay) and Rockmount School.*
- *4,386m of 315mm OD HPPE Watermain along the Mullagh Road towards Ballymackea.*
- *230m of 355mm OD HPPE Watermain heading east from Ballymackea towards Doo Lough.*

Following the completion of the procurement/tender stage, the works were awarded to Guerin & Considine Ltd., Liscannor, Co. Clare in January 2018, with the contract being fully executed on Feb. 27th 2018.

It is very disappointing that on the 16th June 2018, the contractor withdrew from this project, citing issues with resources and staff shortages. This resulted in complicated contractual & legal issues needing to be resolved, before an Award Letter could issue to the 2nd placed contractor. These are nearing completion and it is anticipated that an Award Letter will issue in the coming weeks. Allowing time for contract execution, Road Opening Licence application, and in the absence of the contractor’s programme at this stage, it is estimated that works would commence in Q1 2019. Allowing for a 36 week programme works would be complete in Q3 2019.

Design of the reservoir in Rockmount is being progressed. It is intended to submit a planning application to Clare County Council by the end of this year.

Response Ends

Paul Cremin, Irish Water

Cllr. Hillery indicated that this matter needed to be expedited.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch

“That Clare Co Council establish and lead a multifaceted working group consisting of:

- ***Clare Co Council departments lead by the Rural Directorate,***
- ***An Garda Siochána,***
- ***HSE,***
- ***Clare Local Development Company***
- ***the Government, through Minister Pat Breen,***
- ***Community members***

to develop a 5 year action plan to tackle the ongoing social, criminal and addiction issues experienced in West Clare through the provision of adequate :

- ***access to information, supports and services***
- ***development and funding of facilities for the youth and young people***
- ***skills development and job creation***
- ***increased policing resources***

Setting clear, realistic and achievable immediate, short term and long term goals “

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

The Mid West Region Drugs and Alcohol Forum have engaged with Clare County Council and a meeting of all key agencies has been scheduled for the 9th October 2018. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss interventions for post addiction services in West Clare and in particular pathways for long term recovery and engagement in the community.

A multi-agency approach will be required and in that regard Tusla, Clare Youth Service, Clare County Council, Clare Local Development Company, Health Service Executive, the Probation Service, Clare Sports Partnership, West Clare Family Resource Centre, An Garda Siochana and other key support organisations will contribute to the discussion. The outcomes of the meeting will likely address the content of the motion.

Response Ends

Monica Meehan, SEO, Rural Development

Cllr. Lynch indicated that drugs and addiction was an issue in West Clare. He indicated that there needed to be a multi agency approach to this problem and a 5 year action plan to tackle the issues needed to be developed. He further added that immediate intervention actions needed to be developed. L. Cleary indicated that M. Nash, Manager of Bushy Park, Ennis had organized the meeting on 9th October and he suggested that Cllr. Lynch’s motion be discussed as part of the Agenda. Cllr. Lynch referred to the abolition of Kilrush Town Council which he felt was a very significant loss for Kilrush as it had its own JPC etc.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch

“Following the recent GoeDirectory figures on vacant commercial property which repeatedly highlight the high commercial vacancy rate of commercial property in Kilrush that the Rural Directorate engage a process reviewing all commercial properties listed within Kilrush and develop a program to:

- ***assist property to upgrade properties making them available for letting,***
- ***market the properties available for use and***
- ***in the case of long term vacancy de-list the property as commercial.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Reply

The proposed project in this motion would require consideration of various inputs by a number of key stakeholders for example the Valuation Office, Kilrush Chamber of Commerce, Kilrush Town Team, Enterprise/Local Development and Business Support grant agencies, Retail Excellence Ireland, and Clare County Council (Planning, Local Enterprise Office, Rural, Economic, Finance Departments) and private sector property experts. This list is not exhaustive.

I am not aware of any national grant scheme to assist owners of commercial property to upgrade their premises and there is no local grant support available for such an initiative. The de-listing of a property is not within the remit of Clare County Council.

This proposal would need to be led locally by an organisation connected to the local market conditions such as Kilrush Chamber of Commerce and/or Kilrush Town Team. The other stakeholders, including the Rural Directorate, could then be invited to discuss their involvement in the proposed process.

Response Ends

Monica Meehan, SEO, Rural Development

Cllr. Lynch indicated that he was also seeking an update from Finance in Clare Co Council. J. Corry undertook to liaise with Finance and to get them to liaise with Cllr. Lynch on the matter.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch

“That an update is given on the progression of the proposed pedestrian crossing for Fahys road and how other crossings have been given priority.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers.

Reply

The Road Design Office has commenced redesign of the pedestrian crossing facility at N67 Fahy’s Road, Kilrush and will be able to progress the scheme over the coming months. A Road Safety Audit and Section 38 process will be required in addition to liaison with the TII Regional Road Safety Engineer.

Response Ends

Ann Cronin, SEE, Road Design

Cllr. Lynch welcomed the fact that a redesign had commenced & he indicated that he hoped for a further update on the matter before Christmas.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating

“That Clare County Council consider submitting a proposal under the Rural Regeneration Fund to create a one way traffic system in Kilkee from Dunlickey Rd to the Diamond Rocks car park and back to McDonnell Terrace to alleviate the traffic congestion and pedestrian safety concerns on this narrow road. This proposal could be delivered over a number of years with:

- *Phase 1. Land Aquisition,*
- *Phase 2. Road Installation,*
- *Phase 3 Installation of footpath and lighting along McDonnell Terrace to the Diamond Rocks car park.*

There is also scope to create a Wild Atlantic Way Discovery Point at the Diamond Rocks which would provide better access to the magnificent Cliff Walk. I believe this proposal is in keeping with the funds objective i.e. of significant scale, being multi faceted, involving a number of phases, and part of the broad strategic remit of delivering additional tourism employment in West Clare.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

Reply

The Council recently engaged with local residents who have enquired regarding the possibility of carrying out an assessment of this one way traffic system proposal. In that regard the proposal will be referred to the Council’s Road Design Office for comment as a first step in the process and it may feature as an application under future Rural Regeneration and Development Fund calls if deemed appropriate.

The proposal for the creation of a Wild Atlantic Way Discovery Point at the Diamond Rocks will be forwarded to Failte Ireland for their consideration as they currently lead on this project.

Response Ends

Monica Meehan, SEO, Rural Development

J. O’ Malley indicated that the proposed one way proposal was a good idea. He said that he would follow up with Road Design regarding same. L. Cleary indicated that he had followed up with Fáilte Ireland regarding the proposed Discovery Point and he indicated that they were supportive of the project.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating

“That Clare Co. Council carry out resurfacing work on the R474 a distance of 0.04km between Connolly Village and the Ennis Municipal Boundary.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

A programme of remedial works following the Slieve Callan Roadworks project began in April and included numerous local roads in the area. The R474 heading west from Connolly to Kinturk Cross was fully resurfaced in the Summer. The remaining 300m West of the Ennis Municipal Boundary will be remediated in the coming months.

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare MD

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating

“That Clare Co. Council carry out resurfacing at Lackin and Shyan on the R484 and also to address the four areas on the R484 where serious dips have occurred, caused by the recent dry spells.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

Reply

A contractor has been engaged to repair the worst depressions on the R484 arising from the drought conditions. These works are due to be completed in late September.

The R484 will be considered for inclusion in future road works programmes but is dependent on sufficient funding and prioritisation of works, in accordance with their condition, on the road network throughout the entire Municipal District/ Kilrush Engineering Area.

Response Ends

John O’ Malley, A/SEE, West Clare MD

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin

“That the Road Line Markings at Coolmeen Cross and the Six -Crosses, Cranny be restored.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

Reply

The Road markings in Coolmeen Cross will be restored and Yield signs restored to the Six-Crosses junction in Cranny as soon as the lining contractor is next in this area.

Response Ends

John O’ Malley, A/SEE, West Clare MD

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin

“That, in view of the Increasing Volume of Traffic on the N85 from Ennis to Ennistymon, Traffic Calming Measures and Driver Speed Feedback Signs be located at Appropriate Points leading into Inagh Village”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Hillery

Reply

TII installed a driver feedback sign 300m on the Ennistymon side of Inagh Village in 2015. This is adequate on the Ennistymon side. Clare County Council will consult with the TII and seek approval to install a driver feedback sign on the N85 approach from Ennis.

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin

“That the Senior Executive Engineer Up-Date the Council on the Timeframe and Possible Duration for the Proposed Road Reconstruction Works on the N67 and Church Street in Miltown -Malbay and an Indication of the Possibility of Enhanced Parking and Allied Improved Roads Safety Measures in tandem with same.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Hillery

Reply

Works to resurface the N67 Main Street Miltown Malbay will commence on Monday 24th September 2018. Works on this element of the project will take approximately 2-3 weeks. The parking layout on Main Street will revert to the parking layout as before. No additional safety measures are to be installed at this time.

Works to remediate the roadway adjacent to the church will take place before December.

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Curtin emphasized the importance of liaising with businesses in advance of the works & commended M. Lahiffe in this regard.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly

“That a footpath be constructed on the western side of the L6340 and connecting with the existing footpath.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin.

Reply

Funding is not currently available to extend the footpath in Lisseycasey. Works will be carried out to the existing footpath going East from this location in the coming weeks

Response Ends

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

Cllr. Kelly indicated that there was only a section of this road within the speed limit that didn’t have a footpath.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly

“That essential repair work be carried out on the L6352 (Pole Road) west of Kiladysert.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

Essential repair works are underway with the resources available at this location. There was a lot of settlement on this section of road during the summer drought.

Response Ends

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

Cllr. Kelly suggested that this road should also be included in the Winter Maintenance plan.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly

“That the construction of a footpath (previously agreed) take place as soon as possible at Ballynacally.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

Footpath repair works will be commencing in Ballynacally in the next 2 to 3 weeks. There is no funding available to construct new footpaths in this years budget. Consideration will be given to additional footpaths in the next Roadworks Programme.

Response Ends

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

Cllr. Lynch queried if all works where monies had been allocated as part of the GMA would be completed within the lifetime of the Council.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Chambers

“That Clare County Council seek additional funds to carry out repairs to roads that are falling into disrepair after the fine weather which has caused some sections of these roads to submerge”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

Reply

Clare Co Council officials met with the Department of Transport ,Tourism and Sport recently to highlight to them that there were maintenance issues surrounding some regional and local roads throughout the county following the recent prolonged dry period. The Department have requested that the issues be quantified and an application for funding submitted. They advised that they cannot give any commitment at this point that funding will be made available to address these issues.

Response Ends

John Corry, AO Transportation & Meetings Administrator West Clare MD

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Nagle

“I am proposing that Clare County Council would outline a timeframe for the provision of the Services Centre and associated works at the Pier in Doolin and immediately prepare Bye-Laws for Fisher Street.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Slattery

Reply

I wish to respond as follows:

The Doolin Pier Services Centre is one of the priority capital projects for the Council's newly established Project Management Office.

We are currently in the handover phase from the Planning Department who led the project over the last year and I have only last week met with and instructed the Design team to revert by the end of next week with a revised programme outlining the various tasks and milestone dates involved, the main ones being detailed design, tender preparation and Construction stage.

On receipt of which, I will be in a position to fully update the members either at a special briefing or at the next Municipal District Meeting.

Response Ends

Sean Lenihan, Senior Engineer, Project Management Office

Clare Co Council will arrange to examine issues surrounding parking at Fisher Street in Doolin and will look at the introduction of measures to restrict cars parking for prolonged periods and thereby resulting in car parking scarcity and traffic congestion at Fisher Street, Doolin.

Response Ends

John Corry, AO Transportation & Meetings Administrator West Clare MD

Cllr. Nagle suggested that Bye Laws for parking should be in place by next summer and that they should include a 2 hour parking restriction. It was agreed that further discussion would need to take place in the context of developing Bye Laws for Doolin as there were many factors to be considered.

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Nagle

"I am requesting that Clare County Council would surface dress the road into Inagh School and Housing Estate and make the footpaths wheelchair accessible as this is causing great difficulty at the moment for wheelchair users."

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Slattery

Work will begin in the coming months on the remediation of footpaths at Callan View, Inagh and in the vicinity of Inagh School. Numerous drop kerbs are in existence currently to facilitate wheelchair users outside the school. That being said, we will look to improve some locations if there are specific instances where issues have arisen.

Until such time as the footpaths are brought up to the required standard, road surfacing cannot take place. Callan View and the road in front of the National School will be considered for inclusion in future roadworks programmes.

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

28. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Slattery

"I am requesting Clare Co Council to connect the existing footpath from Greenfield estate to the footpath at the Council Estate on Station Road, Lahinch and to provide a speed ramp with signage approaching the village in close proximity to the old Railway Station entrance in the interest of road safety for pedestrians and motorists."

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Nagle

Reply

Clare County Councils intention is to construct this section of footpath in the coming year subject to landowner permissions and subject to funding being made available.

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

29. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Slattery

“In view of the serious drought that occurred over the Summer, I am requesting that the Water Section of Clare Co Council liaise with Irish Water to take in charge the Fanore Group Water Scheme as a matter of urgency.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Nagle

Reply

The Rural Water Programme have been liaising with Fanore Group Water Scheme since late 2017 with regards to the compilation of an application for taking in charge by Irish Water. As part of this, significant investment in upgrade works under the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government Rural Water Programme for 2018 working towards a taking in charge shall be completed in the coming days.

All documentation, as set out by Irish Water, with regards to the taking in charge process was issued to the GWS in early 2018 and the Rural Water Programme has been in regular contact with the GWS with regards to both upgrade works and the taking in charge process throughout 2018.

The taking in charge process sets out a number of steps and requirements a group water scheme must conform to in order to meet the strict requirements of Irish Water in advance of receiving approval for a taking in charge. These includes the assembly of scheme drawings, connections schedule, application form, scheme network details and infrastructure details which given the complexity and large of the scheme is time staking.

The critical parameter of a taking in charge process is UFW (Unaccounted for Water) on the and this must fall below the key figure of 0.4m³/km/hr in order to advance a taking in charge application. Leak detection works were carried out in March 2018 to assist with water loss on the scheme but this will have to be assessed again post completion of the upgrade works.

In addition to the above the Rural Water Programme are co-ordinating the transfer of critical infrastructure to Clare County Council through legal representatives of both parties.

The Rural Water Programme in Clare County Council are committed to actively assisting in achieving a successful taking in charge, however, as previously stated it should be noted that the taking in charge of a scheme is at the discretion of Irish Water and is subject to the scheme meeting all criteria as set out in the taking in charge process and no direct timescale can be apportioned to same.

Response Ends

Michael McNamara, Executive Engineer, Rural Water Programme

Cllr. Slattery indicated that he would appreciate if something could be done as there were serious problems in Fanore.

30. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Slattery

“I am requesting the Senior Executive Engineer in the Ennistymon area to erect a large convex mirror on a trial basis at the junction of Blakes Corner Ennistymon to alert drivers that large vehicles i.e. buses or trucks are approaching the corner.”

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Nagle

Following consultation with the ESB, they will not allow a mirror on their infrastructure at any location.

Reply

Response Ends

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Slattery suggested that another pole should be put up to accommodate a mirror. He also suggested that the steps at Blakes Corner should be filled in.

31. A.O.B.

Cllr. Keating & Cllr. Lynch emphasized the importance of the Road Works Programme being managed effectively and the elected Members being kept fully updated re same.

This then concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed :

Cllr. I Lynch

Cathaoirleach

Signed :

J. Corry

Meetings Administrator

Dated this the 30th day of November 2018.