

# **Minutes of September Meeting of West Clare Municipal District, held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2019 at 4 p.m. in West Clare MD Offices, Ennistymon**

## **Cathaoirleach sa Cathair:**

Cllr. B. Chambers,

## **I Láthair:**

Cllr. S. Talty, Cllr. R. Garvey, Cllr. G. Keating, Cllr. J. Killeen, Cllr. J. Garrihy, Cllr. I. Lynch, Cllr. C. Murphy

## **As Láthair:**

Cllr. P.J.Kelly,

## **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.

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

At the outset L. Cleary remembered William Freeney, SEE, Environment, who had recently died suddenly. He added that he had worked on many projects in the West Clare MD over the years and had always been very helpful and that he would be a huge loss to Clare Co. Council. He proposed that a prayer be said in memory of William, R.I.P. and all agreed and rose to say a prayer in his memory.

## **1. Minutes of Meeting of West Clare Municipal District held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019**

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

There was a discussion on the proposed West Clare Greenway and it was suggested and agreed that a list of all landowners whose lands may be required for the proposed section of Greenway between Kilrush and Kilkee be compiled before engaging consultants for the project. It was further agreed that a Special Meeting could be held with the Cllrs and the IFA at a future date.

## **2. Minutes of Special Meeting of West Clare Municipal District held on 16th July 2019**

The Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Talty & seconded by Cllr. Murphy & agreed.

## **Economic Development**

### **3. Section 183 Disposal of lands at Skagh Point, Kilrush, Co. Clare.**

The disposal of the lands was proposed by Cllr. Lynch & seconded by Cllr. Keating & agreed. Cllr. Lynch proposed the disposal subject to it not affecting the proposed Greenway route and the lands that would be required.

## **Social Development**

## **Rural Development**

### **4. Ennistymon Digital Hub and Multi Service Centre.**

L. Cleary referred to the project which he said would be a great asset to Ennistymon and North Clare from both a Social & an Enterprise point of view. He added that facilities in the Multi Service Centre included Hot Desks, Incubation Units, and it was serviced by full audio visual, high speed broadband and had training and conferencing facilities. He added that the North West Family Resource centre would be accommodating the first floor of the building. He concluded saying that he hoped that the facility would be officially opened by Minister Ring in November. The Members welcomed the fact that the building was almost completed and they agreed that it would be a tremendous asset to the area.

### **5. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Murphy**

***“In light of the growing demand for experiences based on the Irish language, heritage, culture and the natural environment that Clare County Council undertake a feasibility study into the development of Colaiste Ui Chomhrai in Carrigaholt with a view to accessing RRD funding for 2020”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

*Reply*

*The Rural Development Directorate and the Irish Office Unit, Corporate Services have considered the need for a feasibility study of Colaiste Ui Chomhrai, Carrigaholt. A funding application for RRDF Category 2 will be made at the October call for grant proposals.*

*Response Ends*

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development and West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Murphy welcomed the response as he said that it was a great asset to the area. He added that it was embarrassing that it was closed. Cllr. Keating indicated that it was necessary to close it because it was in need of refurbishment.

L. Cleary added that Clare Co Council would progress a tender for a feasibility study to be carried out in advance of submitting an RRDF application.

### **6. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch**

***“That an update be given to the West Clare Municipal District regarding the register of derelict buildings in Kilrush, efforts made by the Council to have these buildings made good and possible incentives/ grant schemes to assist owners bring these buildings back in to use.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

*Reply*

*The Rural Development Directorate will provide an update at a special Briefing Session for Elected Members on derelict buildings in Kilrush. This will be arranged in early Autumn and will include inputs from the Senior Executive Officer, Rural Development and the Senior Executive Architect, Rural Development.*

*Response Ends*

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development and West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Lynch indicated that some buildings had become a danger and that it would be important that an update be given regarding the list.

It was agreed to take Items 7 and 8 together.

### **7. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch**

***“That the West Clare Municipal District develop Bye laws in relation to overnight camping, caravans and camper vans with a view to regulate and control the influx of temporary overnight visitors while also identifying safe and suitable locations as well as service provision to accommodate such visitors to West Clare.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy

*Reply*

*There is merit in improving/increasing the provision of these tourism services tailored to demand and appropriate regulation.*

*Clare County Council will develop a proposal for a feasibility study to address this tourism need and also associated issues acquiring Bye-Laws.*

*Response Ends*

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development and West Clare Municipal District

### **8. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Murphy**

***“That Clare County Council undertake a feasibility study into the provision of a number of motorhome /campervan sites for overnight rental on a 24 hour basis using existing public car parking facilities in the West Clare Area”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating

*Reply*

*There is merit in improving/increasing the provision of these tourism services tailored to demand and appropriate regulation.*

*Clare County Council will develop a proposal for a feasibility study to address this tourism need and also associated issues acquiring Bye-Laws.*

*Response Ends*

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development and West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Murphy and Cllr. Lynch welcomed the response as they felt that this was a growing market which needed to be accommodated.

**9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Garrihy, Garvey, Talty,**

***“That Future Rural Regeneration & major Infrastructure projects are focussed on the settlements of North & West Clare or collaborating parishes as identified in the Clare Rural Regeneration Strategy & that the Rural Development Directorate lead a partnership with CLDC, Clare Sports Partnership, Clare PPN and other key agencies to establish a strategic project development unit to work with and support the communities/settlements and co-operating parishes to identify and build transformative regeneration projects within their areas to become shovel ready for delivery in line with schemes such as CLAR, Community Enhancement , RRDF, URDF, Large scale sports capital, Tourism Ireland, SEAI and other support schemes for the next 5/10 years. We propose that elected members play a lead role on the ground in their specific areas to support the objective of delivering integrated transformative multifaceted projects in line with the Rural Regeneration and Development Strategy. If agreed can a timeframe for this be given.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

*Reply*

*Clare County Council works in close partnership with CLDC, Clare Sports Partnership, Clare PPN and other key agencies to ensure support for communities and settlements. This partnership is rooted in the structures of the Clare Rural Development Forum and the LCDC (Local Community Development Committee). Strong relationships have been built between these partners. The Rural Development Directorate leads both the Rural Development Forum and the LCDC.*

*It is appropriate to also refer to the internal structures of Clare County Council that support the above external partnership. There is merit in undertaking a cross-directorate approach to funding opportunities including the RRDF (Rural Regeneration & Development Fund), URDF (Urban Regeneration & Development Fund), Large Scale Sports Capital programme, Disruptive Technologies Fund, Tourism Ireland /Fáilte Ireland, SEAI, LEADER and other grant aided support schemes over the next 5/10 years. There are also other relevant grant schemes such as Town & Village Renewal, Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure, CLÁR, LIS (Local Improvement Scheme) with similar investment aims. To achieve the intended objective of this motion, the current approach includes a combination of existing and new structures as follows:*

- The Council ‘Working Group for the Action Plan for Rural Development’ includes two Elected Representatives from each Municipal District. This Working Group reviews assessments undertaken by executive with inputs from all relevant Directorates and Departments. It recommends project priorities to the full Council for consideration, approval or submission for Department funding. This relates to small and medium scale projects.*
- Large scale projects proposed under these funding streams are considered at both Municipal District Committee Meeting level and also at full Council Meetings. These proposals emerge from motions from Elected Members and also management proposals. It is intended that key strategic projects will be identified at each Municipal District level as priorities for the five-year term of this Council. Subsequent*

*agendas at MD Meetings will give an opportunity for discussion and review of progress on these motions and will ensure a more strategic focus.*

- *The strategic focus on projects in the areas of Economic, Social, Rural and Physical Development is coordinated through Management Team of Clare County Council. This facilitates the input of the Chief Executive, the four Directors of Service, the Acting Head of Finance and S.E.O.'s of Corporate and HR support services. All large scale projects are considered at this fora. Technical project appraisals are undertaken through cross-directorate engagement and review meetings. Briefings on projects are arranged with Elected Members at Municipal District level to ensure ongoing input into the project planning process.  
For example: the Economic Development Directorate co-ordinates U.R.D.F. project applications; the Social Development Directorate co-ordinates Sports Capital Project applications; the Rural Development Directorate co-ordinates R.R.D.F. applications. There are various other grant schemes also co-ordinated in similar ways.*
- *The Directorate structure is designed to work and engage with communities, business interests and agencies. Projects are delivered both directly by functional Departments and the PMO (Project Management Office). All delivery occurs under the auspices of the four Directorates. Finance, HR and Corporate Services Departments provide key strategic support services.*
- *A strengthening of senior management resources for the strategic and operational coordination of projects at Municipal Districts is currently occurring.*

*Response Ends*

Leonard Cleary, Director of Rural Development and West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Lynch suggested that the Co. Development Plan was too broad. He added that when the Town Councils existed that they had a specific plan with specific objectives which they could work towards.

Cllr. Garrihy welcomed the response and complemented the Chief Executive and L. Cleary on being the first Local Authority to set up a Rural Development department and to prepare a Rural Development Strategy.

L. Cleary indicated that he had organised a Workshop for the West Clare MD Members on 23<sup>rd</sup> September so that they could work towards forming a Strategic Plan which the West Clare MD could work towards for the lifetime of the Council.

## **Physical Development**

### **10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Murphy**

***“That Clare County Council undertake a study into all that would be required for the provision and maintenance of dedicated visitor moorings to provide secure anchorage for small to medium craft at coastal villages around the entire length of the coast of the West Clare Municipal District, including investigating where capital and on-going costs may be drawn from to ensure minimum drain on the Councils Budget ”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

*Reply*

*Clare County Council will carry out a feasibility study of additional visitor moorings along suitable locations on the west coast of the county. Various funding sources are currently being investigated to determine whether they will cover the cost of the initial capital outlay and ongoing annual maintenance costs will need to be budgeted for.*

*Response Ends*

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

### **11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch**

***“That Clare Co Council provide information on revenue generated at each location where water safety lessons are conducted in West Clare for each of the last 5 years, identify the investments made in enhancing each of these areas each year for the last 5 years and identify the measures to be taken to make safe the dangerous walkway at Cappa beach prior to next summer season.”***

*This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating*

*Reply*

*Clare County Council do not generate any income at locations where water safety lessons are conducted in West Clare .It is Irish Water Safety ( Clare) that conduct the lessons and we are not privy to that information.*

*Clare County Council has invested significantly in the beach amenities in West Clare over the last 5 years. In 2015 at Whitestrand , Miltown Malby the Council carried out upgrading works to the carpark to complement the new Irish Water Safety training centre which also includes new public toilet facilities.*

*There has been major capital investment at both Lahinch and Spanish Point in the provision of new toilet facilities in 2018 and 2019. Also at Lahinch as well as the provision of coastal protection works the Council has also improved the access to the beach with the construction of new ramps and steps. The lifeguard facilities at both Kilkee and Spanish Point have also been upgraded in the last 2 years.*

*To facilitate access to Fanore beach a new set of timber steps were installed to replace the existing structure in time for the 2019 bathing season. The public welfare facilities at other beaches are maintained each year and where required new sanitary ware and tiling has been provided e.g. Cappa and Kilkee.*

*On an annual basis all the blue flag beaches in West Clare also receive operational investment to ensure the blue flag status is maintained by providing recycling and toilet facilities , beach lifeguards , bathing water quality testing , provision of information on notice boards and day to day maintenance and cleaning where required to comply with the blue flag standard.*

*We will investigate the walkway and Cappa beach and carry out any necessary repairs.*

*Response Ends*

*Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Environment and Water Services*

*There has been significant investment in improvement works on the promenade area in Kilkee, including large areas of new pavement and shower/footwash facilities. The access ramps to the beach in Carrigaholt were rebuilt this summer. General repair and clean up works were carried out to Glasheen Cove beach in the last month. Substantial coastal repair works were carried out at White Strand beach in Doonbeg. The*

*access road to the beach at Doughmore was repaved. New footpaths were installed at the pier in Cappagh walkway in last year.*

*The West Clare MD will be carrying out repair works to the existing access points in Cappagh beach during the Autumn/Winter 2019.”*

*Response Ends*

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

**12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Chambers**

***“I ask Clare Co. Council to clean up Glasheen Cove Beach, Doonaha as it is used by a lot of holiday makers during the Summer.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

*Reply*

This work has been completed by West Clare MD staff recently.

*Response Ends*

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

Cllr. Keating welcomed the completion of these works.

**13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Chambers**

***“That Clare Co. Council provide traffic calming measures on the L6102 at the Junction with the N67.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

*Reply*

*A speed limit survey will be carried out on this road shortly to determine the level of traffic that is exceeding the speed limit. Traffic calming measures will be considered following this.*

*Response Ends*

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

**14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Chambers**

***“That Clare Co. Council would carry out repairs to sections of the L6134 as it is in a very bad state.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

*Reply*

*Repairs works have been carried out on this road in the last week by West Clare MD staff.*

*Response Ends*

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

**15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Killeen**

*“I call on Clare County Council to carry out work to improve the safety at Leana Cross at the intersection of the L5096 and the R480 and to erect signposting/ safety measures to alert road users to the danger at the intersection of the road leading to Kilnaboy School /Church/National Park and the R476.”*

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

*Reply*

*Following examination in 2015, Clare County Council erected signage to the North East of Leana Cross adjacent to the R476. This was intended to warn motorists of the upcoming junction to the left. The boundary wall to the South West of Leana Cross was set back a number of years ago to improve sightlines at this junction. There are existing permanent obstacles such as private boundary walls which prevent the improvement of sightlines at this location.*

*In relation to the junction off the R476 leading to Kilnaboy School, Clare County Council will undertake an analysis of the requirement, if any, for additional safety measures to be introduced at the intersection of the L-1112 with the R476 at Kilnaboy, Corofin.*

*Response Ends*

Morgan Lahiffe , A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

**16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Killeen**

*“Requests that Clare County Council investigate the possibility of providing a new wheelchair accessible, pedestrian walkway from the Church Car Park, through the Council Estate, to Church Street thus improving access to the Town Centre and the newly refurbished Community Centre in Miltown Malbay.”*

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

*Reply*

*There is currently a Universally Friendly access route from Church Street Car Park to Church Street via the roadway adjacent to the church. That said, Clare County Council will undertake an interdepartmental approach to investigating the possibility of providing a walkway between the Church Carpark through the Council Estate to Church Street Miltown Malbay. Should the proposal be deemed acceptable, Clare County Council will seek to find a funding stream to finance the project.*

*Response Ends*

Morgan Lahiffe , A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

**17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Killeen**

*“I call on Clare County Council to upgrade, resurface and re-line the Car Park adjacent to Kilnaboy Church which is much used by the Community and Tourists alike as individuals and Groups”.*

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Garvey



*Reply*

*Kilnaboy Church Carpark is in private ownership and as such is outside the remit of Clare County Council. However as it is an integral part of the community serving church, school and sports groups other streams of funding are available to communities to enhance the social and economic environment. Clare County Council's Rural Development Directorate can liaise with the local community to bid for funding to carry out works of this nature.*

*Response Ends*

Morgan Lahiffe , A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

**18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating**

***“That Clare County Council in conjunction with TII provide a footpath on the N67 between Moyasta N.S. and Taylor’s Cross, a distance of 90 metres, in the interest of the safety of school children on this extremely busy stretch of road leading to Kilkee and Loophead Peninsula”.***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers.

*Reply*

*This request is currently being considered by the West Clare MD office. The length of the footpath required is at least 130m and will require significant groundworks, including drainage and public lighting. There is currently no funding in 2019 to carry out this work but it may be considered for the budget in 2020. The cost of this work will be significant. Land dedication agreements will also have to be entered into if it is to progress. An alternative access path inside the existing land may be considered.*

*Response Ends*

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

**19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating**

***“That Clare County Council remove a dangerous bend on the Cross village side of Kerry Agri store at Killenaugh on the R487”.***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers

*Reply*

*This proposal is currently with the Road Design Section for assessment. It will require land dedication agreements to be entered into also.*

*Response Ends*

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

**20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating**

***“To ask Clare County Council to outline what measures can be taken to improve road safety at the junction between the R473 and the L-82503 at Tiermaclane. This junction is used by children and adults attending the Fern Celtic soccer grounds and has very limited sight visibility”.***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

*Reply*

*I wish to respond as follows:*

*This location can be considered for application as a Low Cost Safety Scheme for 2020. Works to improve sightlines would involve full or part acquisition of the structure at the corner and acquisition of land. The extent of property required would depend on the result of a topographical survey. Accident data would have to be studied for inclusion with the application. Note that depending on the estimated cost of property acquisition the scheme may be outside of the scope of the Low Cost Safety scheme. Other measures such as a review of signage and lining on all approaches can also be considered.*

*Response Ends*

Ann Cronin, Senior Executive Engineer, Road Design Office

**21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Garrihy**

***“That the West Clare MD would commence the process of taking in charge a road at Muckinish West, Ballyvaughan serving 11 houses.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

*Reply*

*If agreed by the West Clare MD, Clare County Council can publicly advertise the Intention to take in charge this road in accordance with Clare Co Council’s Roads Taking in Charge Policy.*

*Response Ends*

John Corry, AO Transportation and Meetings Administrator, West Clare Municipal District

J. Corry confirmed that he had received confirmation from Cllr Kelly that he wanted his Motions moved in his absence.

**22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly**

***“That improved sight distance be created on the Ennis side of junction L-6095 with the N68 at Moyadda Beg, Kilrush”.***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

*Reply*

*The annual hedgecutting contract will commence shortly in the West Clare MD and this junction will be included in this work. A hedgecutting grant has been applied for and approved for the L-6095. This will also assist in improving sightlines in this area.*

*Response Ends*

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

**23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly**

***“That essential repair works be carried out to a section of the L-2072 between Lack and Ballynacally”.***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

*Reply*

*Repair works have commenced along this section of road and will continue to be carried out in the coming weeks.*

*Response Ends*

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

### **Finance and Corporate Services.**

#### **24. Set date for meeting to consider Budgetary Plan for 2020**

It was agreed that the Budgetary Plan Meeting would take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 3pm in the West Clare MD offices in Kilrush. This was subsequently amended by the Cathaoirleach to take place in the Board Room in Aras Contae an Chlair on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 2pm.

#### **25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly**

***“That the Chief Executive include a figure of €750,000 in the GMA allowance in the next draft Estimates with a view to redressing the loss of €86,500 to the West Clare MD because of the reduction of €300,000 in last years adopted estimates ”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

*Reply*

*The draft budget 2020 will be considered by members at the statutory budget later this year. The Local Government Act 2001 Section 102 as amended by The Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides the legislative basis for the preparation of the draft local authority budget.*

*This process commenced in July 2019 with the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) and all Municipal Districts involved from the preliminary phases of preparation including the process around the Local Property Tax Adjustment factor determination. This consultation continues and will focus on the overall financial position of the local authority and a number of key items of financial consequences for 2020 including any variation in basic rate of Local Property Tax (LPT), the amount of General Municipal Allocation to be provided to municipal districts, income reductions over previous years and increased non discretionary expenditure.*

*The amount an authority can provide by way of a General Municipal Allocation is dependent on the total level of income available to it, and the non-discretionary costs that must be met as a first call on that income, including at municipal district level.*

*The full council will be briefed initially in September and again in advance of the statutory budget meeting on the financial position of the council and these emerging financial demands and the impact on the draft budget process. The current budget 2019 provides for a figure of €773,000 in the General Municipal District allocation. Consideration will be given to this motion as part of the drafting of the budget 2020.*

*Response Ends*

Noeleen Fitzgerald, A/Head of Finance ,Corporate and Human Resources

## **26. Correspondence**

The Correspondence regarding Moneypoint was duly noted.

## **27. AOB**

Cllr. Garrihy raised a concern that licenced busses were continuing to use bus routes which were not licenced and were not suitable for busses and coaches to be using. J. Corry advised that he had notified the NTA regarding any instances that he was made aware of & that he would continue to do so..

Cllr. Killeen raised a concern regarding the ongoing beef crises. He suggested that there needed to be joined up thinking on the matter and to get all parties around the table to try and resolve the issue. This was agreed by the other Members.

Cllr. Lynch mentioned that all Members were receiving correspondence regarding the proposed construction of social housing in Kilmaley. He suggested that a Briefing be arranged for the Members by the Housing section.

Cllr. Garvey suggested that a date be arranged for the Meeting regarding the West Clare Greenway that she proposed at the July Meeting.

There was no further business

This then concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed :**

**Cllr. B Chambers**

**Cathaoirleach**

**Signed :**

**J. Corry**

**Meetings Administrator**

**Dated this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of November 2019.**