

# **Minutes of May Meeting of West Clare Municipal District, held on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 at 2 p.m. in West Clare MD Offices, Kilrush**

## **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,

## **As Láthair:**

Cllr.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.

Cllr. Lynch convened the meeting & welcomed those in attendance. He thanked the retiring Cllrs , Cllrs. Curtin, Hillery and Nagle. He said they were great advocates for the communities they represented and he wished them well in their retirement. Each of the retiring Cllrs spoke and acknowledged their Council colleagues, the Council Executive for their assistance and the Press for their coverage of local issues.

L. Cleary thanked the retiring Cllrs for their great public service on behalf of the Chief Executive himself and the Council staff.

Cllr. Lynch concluded by saying that the Council had worked well together as a team over the past 5 years and had achieved a lot.

## **1. Minutes of Meeting of West Clare Municipal District held on 5th March 2019**

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

Cllr. Lynch sought an update on the bus park at Park de Ploussanne. J. O' Malley indicated that works were progressing and he hoped that it would be in place this year. He added that the green area at the rear of the car park was being tidied up and enhanced.

## **2. Section 183 Disposal of Property at Ballyveskill, Tiermaclane, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

The disposal was proposed by Cllr. Keating & seconded by Cllr. Chambers & agreed

## **3. S38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 Traffic Calming including a Pedestrian Crossing at Fahy's Rd, Kilrush, Co. Clare**

Cllr. Lynch indicated that he had been looking for this project to be progressed with 9 years. He indicated that he had concerns with the design being proposed because of its impact on parking spaces as well as its

impact on traffic movement at the roundabout. He proposed that the concerns raised would be reconsidered as part of an amended design which he hoped would come before the West Clare MD as soon as possible. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Chambers and agreed.

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

***“That Clare County Council review the access and charging structure for Active Kilrush Sports Complex to ensure the better use of the facility. Also that an update of future developments as well as communication of Clare Co Council’s policy and action plan for public facilities to reduce health inequalities should be given to the management of Active Kilrush Sports Complex and also to the Full Council.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers

*Reply*

*I wish to reply as follows:*

*Clare County Council is in the process of reviewing the opening hours of the Active Kilrush to enable better use of the facility, in particular the focus will be on pedestrian access to the facility.*

*It is proposed to reduce the hire cost of a pitch to €20 for all pitch hire for juveniles U18’s which is in line with the charging structure for other Active Ennis facilities. This reduction can be immediately applied to encourage active youth participation in sport once agreed by the Management Committee of Active Kilrush Sports Complex. It is hoped that a meeting of the Management Committee would take place as soon as possible.*

*The cost to the Council for the management, maintenance and upkeep of the facilities at Active Kilrush is significant and these costs are not recovered by the charges applied for the use of the facility. Therefore, it is incumbent on the Council to maximise the use of the facility to generate a greater income to support the cost of running the facility.*

*Response Ends*

Siobhan McNulty, SEO, Housing

*The Healthy Clare Strategic Plan 2019-2021 was launched on the 29th March 2019 and sets out key priority areas for action over the lifetime of the plan. Two key priority areas of Mental Health and Physical Activity are identified and there will also be a focus on the other national themes of Healthy Weight, Sexual Health, Tobacco Free and Drug and Alcohol related harm. The Implementation of the Strategic Plan will be overseen by the Healthy Clare Working Group. The plan is available on Clare County Councils website at this link <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/community/healthy-clare/default.html>*

*Response Ends*

Monica Meehan, SEO, Rural Development

Cllr. Lynch suggested that a meeting of the Management Committee of Kilrush Sports Complex needed to take place as soon as possible. He added that Kilrush was a disadvantaged town and that access to and the pricing for the Kilrush Sports complex needed to be reviewed urgently.

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

***“That the West Clare Municipal District ensure that the national flag is flown at district offices, and where flag poles can’t be accessed or don’t exist that new flag poles are erected.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

*Reply*

*Following a review of the protocols surrounding the national flag it has been suggested that there is no requirement to lower the national flag where it is illuminated. Further clarification has been sought on this matter and is awaited. If it transpires that the national flag can remain flying if illuminated then consideration can be given to flying the national flag at both district offices as there would be no staffing resource required to raise & lower the national flag during daylight hours.*

*Response Ends*

John Corry, Meetings Administrator, West Clare MD and AO, Transportation

Cllr. Curtin suggested that it was important that the National flag should be raised on public libraries.

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

***“That Clare County Council carry out traffic calming measures along the entrance road of Kilrush woods from the Killimer road junction as far as the Walled gardens.***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers

*Reply*

*West Clare MD are currently assessing this request for traffic calming. There is existing signage in place but additional traffic calming measures are being considered following this request.*

*Response Ends*

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

Cllr. Lynch suggested that the option of rumble strips should be considered.

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

***“That the Senior Executive Engineer update the Council on the likely date for completion of footpath and road restoration in the Miltown /Spanish Point area and adjoining the N67 on the Lahinch rd, Miltown Malbay.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Hillery

*Reply*

*Clare County Council is seeking funding for footpath works on the Lahinch Road, Miltown Malbay from the TII. Subject to funding being approved Clare County Council will programme the works for the end of the Summer. Further footpath remediation will occur at Church St in the Autumn.*

*Response Ends*

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Curtin acknowledged the work done by M. Lahiffe and his team in Miltown.

**8. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin**

***“That Driver Speed Feedback signs be provided on the L2118-8 at Ballard Rd, Miltown Malbay and on the N85 at Inagh Village (at Kilnamona side).”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Hillery

*Reply*

*Clare County Council has applied for funding to erect Driver Feedback signs at a number of places in North Clare. The entrance to Inagh on the N85 is one of those locations. Clare County Council will examine the issue of speeding on the Ballard Road and should a problem be evident, we will seek funding for a feedback sign at this location also.*

*Response Ends*

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Keating suggested that the Council should look at introducing driver feedback signs in many of the villages and towns throughout the county.

J. O’Malley indicated that their effectiveness was dependent on having a Garda presence.

**9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Curtin**

***“That the Senior Engineer report on the missing town direction signs on the N67 and N85 as raised at a recent meeting and the installation of the new speed limit signs with supporting advance warning notices on the N67 and R482”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Hillery

*Reply*

*Clare County Council will have new Speed Limits Signs as per the Speed Limit review in place on the R482 for June 1st. The TII will also be working to the same deadline for the National Roads. Clare County Council have corresponded with the TII in relation to the town directions signs and have yet to receive a response.*

*Response Ends*

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

**10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery**

***“I am requesting Clare County Council to install measures at the car park in front of Spanish Point Golf Club to prevent illegal parking following the reduction of the speed limit to 50km/h in June 2019.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

*Reply*

*Clare County Council are seeking funding for the provision of a pedestrian crossing at this location. Parking measures in this area will be assessed as part of the design. This work is subject to funding being granted*

*Response Ends*

Morgan Lahiffe , A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr Hillery complimented the local community in Spanish Point who had done so much work. He welcomed the response and indicated that he thought that a pedestrian crossing was necessary.

**11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Hillery**

***“When will coastal protection works start at the following locations, Whitestrand, Miltown Malbay, Spanish Point Beach and Quilty?”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr.Curtin

*Reply*

*The allocation of funding to move from the feasibility stage to the planning and construction stage of these projects is a matter for the Office of Public Works who are the funding Authority.*

***Spanish Point.*** *Clare County Council submitted a request for funding to the Office of Public Works in 2018. The OPW replied on 16th April and queried the necessity for shotcrete and soil nailing as part of the solution. They also want the estimated numbers of visitors to the Mal Bay area and Spanish Point substantiated. A meeting has been arranged for 17th of May to discuss these issues.*

***White Strand Miltown Malbay.*** *Clare County Council submitted a request for funding to OPW in 2018 to advance this project to detailed design and planning. We are awaiting a response.*

***Quilty.*** *The feasibility study for the Mal Bay area has been completed for some time. However the OPW are not satisfied with aspects of the report particularly with regard to sediment transportation and erosion. They have requested further modelling and investigation which is ongoing. Given the benefits to cost ratio of 1/1 it is likely the scheme will have to be significantly modified and if funding is to be secured to move to the planning stage. All these schemes will be discussed at the May meeting with the OPW.*

*Response Ends*

Steve Lahiffe, A/SEE, PMO

Cllr. Hillery thanked S. Lahiffe for his response.

Cllr. Curtin suggested that a reminder should issue to Minister Boxer Moran re the allocation of funding.

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

***“When will work start at Church Street, Miltown Malbay with the upgrading of the existing culvert and drainage works to prevent future flooding of this area?”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

*Reply*

Clare County Council have submitted a section 50 application to the Office of Public Works to carry out this scheme. Planning Permission has been secured for the development. The OPW have responded and sought additional information that involves considerable additional modelling to investigate the implications of the works upstream and downstream of the proposal. They have a number of additional requests for information. We are ready to submit the additional information now. The works can go to tender to appoint a contractor when the OPW grant the section 50 application and allocate funding for the development which is in the order of €500k.

*Response Ends*

Steve Lahiffe, A/SEE, PMO

S. Lahiffe's work on this project was acknowledged. It was indicated that this scheme had been required since Sept 2015 and that it was well time for the OPW to approve.

### **13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Nagle**

***“That Clare Co Council would extend the footpath from the Filling Station in Liscannor to Clahane Cross or investigate the possibility of providing an alternative.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

*Reply*

Clare County Council engaged with landowners in relation to land required to extend the footpath and widen the road to Clahane Cross. At the time no agreement could be reached with the landowner. Clare County Council will reassess this section of roadway and look to progress a solution.

*Response Ends*

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Nagle indicated that a window of opportunity might now exist to revisit the acquisition of lands required. He added that it was an area that required a footpath as a matter of urgency.

### **14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Nagle**

***“While acknowledging the works that are being done to progress the Service Centre and associated works in Doolin that every effort is made to get the project underway as quickly as possible.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

*Reply*

*I wish to respond as follows:*

*Given that it is Cllr Nagle's final Municipal Meeting, I want to personally wish him well and thank him for his efforts in advocating for this particular project over the years.*

*I am glad to report that we are making progress. Given the flood and storm risks pertaining, works to test and assess the most appropriate location for the proposed building are being finalised which will in turn influence the detailed design of the building and ancillary site works.*

*This work is prioritised and ongoing. Meetings have taken place with affected stakeholders and landowners to ensure the optimum success of this project for all within the earliest timeframe possible.*

*Response Ends*

Sean Lenihan, Senior Engineer, PMO

R. Nagle emphasized the importance of this project progressing as quickly as possible because of the increased tourist numbers and the lack of adequate facilities.

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

***“That Clare Co Council would strengthen and black top the R476 from the junction of Main St, Kilfenora to the end of the housing estate on the Lisdoonvarna road.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr.Chambers

*Reply*

*Main Street Kilfenora was resurfaced in 2017. That project included all of the R481 section of the Village and a section of the R476. The remainder of the R476 within the village on the Lisdoonvarna Road will be considered for future roadworks programmes.*

*Response Ends*

Morgan Lahiffe , A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Nagle acknowledged the works done to date in Kilfenora and mentioned that this was the final stretch of road where works were required in Kilfenora.

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

***“That Clare Co Council replace signs that were recently removed on the R473 at Lisheen, Ballynacally.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr.Lynch

*Reply*

*Clare County Council did not remove any signs on the R473 at Lisheen. This area has been inspected and it is accepted that signage has been taken from the area. New replacement signs have been ordered and will be installed when they are delivered.*

*Response Ends*

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

Cllr. Kelly suggested that the removal of these signs was an act of vandalism. It was further suggested that these signs needed to be replaced as a matter of urgency from a road safety point of view.

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

***“That finger post identity signs be put on all Council roads.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr.Lynch

*Reply*

*There are marker signs with Road Numbers on a number of roads throughout the County. Currently, roads connecting to National Roads and some Local roads connecting to Regionals are signed. To extend this to all public roads would entail placing marker posts at every road junction in the County. There is no funding currently available to carry out this work.*

*Response Ends*

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

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

***“That the short section of the L4230, from its junction with the N68 to the section upgraded to facilitate windfarm development, be improved to a standard similar to the adjacent section of road.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Curtin

*Reply*

*There is ongoing works required to complete this section of road as part of the windfarm development in the area. The Contractor is required to complete all agreed works to the standard required by the Local Authority and communications are ongoing to ensure that this is finalised.*

*Response Ends*

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

It was suggested that works were also required to be carried out on a haulage route between Clonina and Cree on the L2048

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

***“That Clare County provide an update on the establishment of a specialist commercial training facility in Cahercon.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr.Lynch

*Reply*

*In December 2018, funding of €1.75million from Enterprise Ireland was awarded towards the development of a Maritime Center of Excellence at Cahercon House. The first phase of the project is proposed to provide a specialist commercial training facility providing mandatory maritime training courses and value-added training for non-seafaring personnel taking up positions at sea, in particular with the Cruise Ship industry. The funding is to assist in the renovation and refurbishment work of the existing accommodation block and classrooms in Cahercon House, thus enabling the first phase of the project to develop.*

*Since December the focus has been on marketing the Clare Maritime Economic Zone (Clare MEZ) and Cahercon facility with a dedicated website [www.Claremez.com](http://www.Claremez.com) established and marketing brochures produced. More importantly through the attendance of our partners with Cruise Ireland at the 'Seatrade*

*Cruise Global Conference' in Miami in April, the project has been marketed worldwide to key stakeholders in the Cruise Industry. I am advised that feedback has been highly positive not just from the cruise companies but from other organisations seeing development possibilities, including marine renewable energy, in the zone around Cahercon.*

*In Ireland the proposed Maritime Center of Excellence at Cahercon has been specifically identified in the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation's **Mid-West Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020** and the draft **Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (RSES)**.*

*The focus is now on concluding a number of critical elements required for the project and in particular sourcing funding and maximising finances.*

*The project has received significant support from local communities seeking to establish Cahercon as a world class marine facility, based on the objectives of the **Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023**, the **Rural Development Strategy** and the **Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary**. More importantly, if progressed, this will be a project of scale which will enhance opportunities for the immediate locality and will be of significant economic and social benefit to the wider West Clare area. .*

*Response Ends*

Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner, Economic Development

Cllr. Keating thanked B. McCarthy as he had done tremendous work to make this happen and it would be great news for the West Clare area.

Cllr. Kelly referred to the issue of silt building up.

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

***"That Clare County Council construct a footpath from the junction of the L6088/0 to Moyasta National School. It is only a short distance and the extra land is available for same. Every Wednesday the children walk to school in their efforts to win a transport flag and these measures are necessary in the interest of safety."***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers

*Reply*

*Clare County Council supports initiatives such as the Green Flag Walk to School Week and encourage that where it is safe to do so that this is continued. In order to construct a new footpath from the L6088-0 to Moyasta National School land purchase agreements would have to be entered into with the existing landowners. The TII would also have to be consulted on this as this is on a National Road. The existing road is single lane with no hard shoulder which has to be considered if proposing to install a footpath. The cost of constructing a new footpath along this section of road would be significant and would also have to include for public lighting. There is currently no funding available to carry out this work but it can be considered under possible future grant schemes.*

*Response Ends*

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

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

***“That Clare County Council erect traffic calming measures, extend the public lighting and explore the possibility of the provision of additional car park spaces at Christ the King Church in Ballycorick in the interest of public safety.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Kelly

*Reply*

*This matter has been raised on a number of occasions in the last few years. The proposal to provide additional car park spaces at the church is a matter for the church authorities to examine options regarding the identification of land which could accommodate parking and develop a possible solution in this context. If the Church authorities wish to make firm proposals in relation to development of additional parking facilities, the Council will be very happy to provide whatever advice it can whether from planning or other perspectives and in the event that approval is confirmed in relation to such a proposal, the Council will provide whatever support it can in terms of achievement of the objective on the ground.*

*Improvements were carried out to the existing lights at this location in 2017. The addition of extra lights at this location is not considered advisable and could put pedestrians at risk from traffic along the R473 as there is no parking in the suggested areas.*

*Response Ends*

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

Cllr. Kelly referred to the fact that there was a curved wall across from the church which had heritage value and could pose difficulties from the point of view of providing additional parking spaces.

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

***“That Clare County Council would install a Pedestrian Crossing on the N85 in the village of Inagh.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Nagle

*Reply*

*Clare County Council will assess the need for a Pedestrian Crossing in the village of Inagh. Any proposed design would need to go through a Road Safety Audit and the construction of the crossing would need be funded by the TII or an alternative funding stream.*

*Response Ends*

Morgan Lahiffe, A/SEE, West Clare Municipal District

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

***“That Clare County Council install traffic calming measures on the R484 outside the Filling Station in the village of Kilmihil.”***

This Motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

*Reply*

*A new Driver Feedback Sign has been ordered for the Ennis Road R484 entering Kilmihil close to the Filling Station and will be installed in the coming weeks.*

*Response Ends*

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

Cllr. Lynch indicated that he could make funding available through his GMA for a sign at the other side of the village.

## **24. Correspondence**

The correspondence from Tom Prendeville dated 24th April 2019 regarding All Saints Cemetery, Shanakyle was noted.

## **25. AOB**

Cllr. Keating congratulated Irish Water, Clare Co Council and the Healy Rae contractors for the works done in Bealaha. He mentioned that there were further works required near the Football field.

Cllr. Lynch indicated that he was very disappointed at how traffic was managed for this contract.

Cllr. Nagle complimented Clare Co Council and Irish Water for works undertaken on the R478 between Burkes cross and the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre. He added that these works were done in record time at minimum inconvenience.

Cllr. Lynch mentioned that we had a Climate Change emergency presently. He mentioned the importance of electric vehicles and referred to the fact that there were no charge points for electric vehicles in Kilrush presently.

He concluded by thanking the Council Engineers and the Executive for their assistance and positive attitude. He thanked the Press for their fairness and openness. He gave a copy of Paul O' Brien's "The Glynnns of Kilrush" to all the elected members as a token.

L. Cleary thanked all the elected members on behalf of the Executive and wished those contesting the upcoming Council elections the very best of luck.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July 2019.**