

Minutes of June Meeting of West Clare Municipal District, held on 23rd June, 2020 at 5 p.m.in the Council Chamber, Clare County Council New Road Ennis Co. Clare

Cathaoirleach sa Cathair:

Cllr. Joe Garrihy

I Láthair:

Cllr. Shane Talty, Cllr. Gabriel Keating, Cllr. Joe Killeen, , Cllr. Ian Lynch, Cllr. Cillian Murphy, Cllr. PJ Kelly
Cllr. Bill Chambers, Cllr. Roisin Garvey.

Officials present:

Mr. Leonard Cleary, Area Co-Ordinator & Director of Service
Mr. John O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer & Meetings Administrator, West Clare Municipal District
Mr. Alan Kennelly, SEE, West Clare Municipal District
Mr. Enda MacNamara, SEE, West Clare Municipal District
Mr. John Corry, Administrative Officer
Mr. Steve Lahiffe, Senior Staff Officer
Ms. Siobhán Mulcahy, Arts Officer

Cllr. Garrihy convened the Meeting.

1. Minutes of Meeting of West Clare Municipal District held on 3rd March 2020

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

2. Minutes of Special Meeting of West Clare Municipal District held on 21st May 2020

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

3. Minutes of Special Meeting of West Clare Municipal District held on 9th June 2020

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

At the outset a Motion under Standing Order No. 20 “Motion for the purpose of dealing with urgent business” submitted by Cllr. Talty.

“That Clare County Council put in place a protocol to ensure that in event of a disruption to the mains water supply for Miltown Malbay, temporary water tankers would be made available to surrounding GWS members within 36 hours of the incident occurring. This protocol would remain in place until such times as works to replace the Mullagh to Miltown Malbay mains and increasing the capacity of the Rockmount Reservoir are completed.”

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

Reply:

John O'Malley, A/SEO agreed that the current situation was not acceptable. A system will be put in place to deal with such occurrences including the necessary communication structures.

Planning and Economic Development

4. "Proposal to dispose of land to the rear of house numbers 26 and 27 Kilcornan, Ennistymon, Co. Clare."

The motion was proposed by Cllr. Talty & seconded by Cllr. Killeen.

Social Development

5. Update on Filming in the West Clare MD area

Ms. Siobhán Mulcahy provided an update to the members in respect of filming projects in the West Clare MD.

It was agreed that information on The Western Region Audiovisual Producers Fund (WRAP) would be provided to the elected members.

Rural Development

6. Community Supports Scheme - Town/Village Paint Scheme

Application was received from Labasheeda Community Pride, Tidy Towns Committee seeking funding under the Town & Village Paint Scheme.

Cllr. Keating nominated and Cllr. Kelly seconded the proposal.

Following discussion it was decided that Labasheeda would receive €5k and the councillors would further consider the matter.

7. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Garvey

"I wish to propose the motion that the West Clare MD unanimously ask the County Council to ask the powers that be to put Miltown Malbay, that is the real gateway to West Clare, on the Wild Atlantic Way route by erecting Wild Atlantic Ways Signs."

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Reply from Miriam Kennedy, Head of Wild Atlantic Way, Fáilte Ireland

"In response to the Notice of Motion from Councillor Roisin Garvey I wish to advise that we do not have plans to add any additional Wild Atlantic Way signage to the route."

When the Wild Atlantic Way was initiated extensive engagement was undertaken along the 2,500km within each County to enable local communities, towns and villages who were directly on or adjacent to the route meet with Fáilte Ireland to give context to how we would be developing the route and progressing the project. As part of this we indicated that the signage was merely to navigate the visitor along the 2,500km giving them confidence that they were still on the Wild Atlantic Way.

Being on or adjacent to the Wild Atlantic Way offers destinations an opportunity to influence the visitors travel patterns as they navigate along the route and given Miltown Malbay's immediate proximity to the route it is considered by Fáilte Ireland to already be part of the Wild Atlantic Way. A sign pointing to a village does not influence this. What motivates a visitor to stop & linger are things to see and do which influences their dwell time.

In relation to Miltown Malbay we have over the last few year proposed the Music Makers for itineraries and familiarisation trips

Siobhan King, Project Officer Clare (WAW) will be working with the Business Network which will be crucial to the initiation of our West Clare/North Kerry VEDP (Visitor Engagement Development Plan) which spans from Loophead up to and including Miltown Malbay and North Kerry. This affords Miltown Malbay the opportunity to be part of a 5 year destination development plan initiated by Fáilte Ireland which will see considerable investment in the area and which will seek to ensure that the wider area is benefitting as best it can from the Wild Atlantic Way.

If you have any further queries please don't hesitate to contact me."

Cllr. Garvey was unhappy with the response from Failte Ireland and felt they need to listen to the people on the ground.

Leonard Cleary suggested that CCC would discuss with Failte Ireland the possibility of getting a spur for Miltown Malbay. John O'Malley advised that he had spoken to Siobhán King briefly regarding the issue and will discuss further with her.

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly

"That the Council undertake to provide a mini marina in Labasheeda"

Cllr. PJ Kelly seconded the motion.

Reply:

There have been various discussions between Clare County Council and a local group with a view towards developing the pier area in Labasheeda – for example

- to improve paving,
- to increase parking provision,
- to install electric vehicle charging points,
- to provide links to cycle routes,
- to remove silt at pier,
- etc.

Our Rural & Community Development Officer is currently in communication with the local group in relation to the various projects in Labasheeda and is looking at identifying funding sources to allow these projects to proceed.

Alan Kennelly, SEE, West Clare Municipal District (Kilrush)

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Murphy

“That, in light of the changed global circumstances due to COVID 19, especially with regard to tourism, that Clare Co Council undertake a strategic review of its current RRDF applications with the Dept. of Rural and Community Development and future applications under Town & Village, CLÁR and Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Schemes, to ensure the most appropriate projects are being pursued and supported”.

Cllr. Lynch seconded the motion.

Reply:

The Rural & Community Department will undertake a review having regard to the west Clare Plan of Strategic Projects, which is at final draft stage.

A third Call for Category 1 applications under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund is now open and the deadline for applications for same is 12 noon on the 1st December 2020. The primary focus of this third call for applications under the Fund is to ensure that the investment provided can act as a key driver for economic recovery in the post Covid-19 environment, providing an immediate stimulus to support the recovery and further development of rural economies and communities and deliver planned and sustainable regeneration in towns and villages, driving greater economic activity and footfall, addressing dereliction and ensuring the re-use of buildings.

The Town & Village, Clár and Outdoor Recreation Schemes are also currently open for applications and the focus for 2020 applications is on appropriate interventions that can respond to the new challenges associated with Covid-19 and support the economic and social recovery of rural towns and villages.

Siobhan O’ Reilly, Administrative Officer, Rural Development

Cllr. Murphy expressed his thanks for the reply but a review of the current applications he felt was warranted. Leonard Cleary advised that this could be gone through at the Strategic review meeting.

Physical Development

10. Proposed Taking in Charge road at Muckinish

Decision taken to defer to next meeting.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Garrihy

“Give the local/secondary roads back to the community and open designated safe cycle and walking connections between the villages, towns and amenity areas of North and West Clare.”

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Garvey.

Reply:

Changing the use of local roads to local access only or one way local access will require extensive consultation with various stakeholders including the Department of Transport, community groups, an Garda Síochána and affected households/landowners. The MD office will explore this proposal further with the Councillor and investigate what options, if any, are feasible.

Enda MacNamara, SEE, West Clare Municipal District (Ennistymon)

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Murphy

“Can I be provided with the following details for the water main at Doonmore, Doonbeg, specifically the section on the N67 between Haugh’s Shop and the village of Doonbeg, for the past three years.

- *A record of the loss of service complaints that have been logged, including dates.*
- *The average repair time, including the longest loss of service, from leak reporting to normal service resumption*
- *Total cost of repairs that have been undertaken.”*

Cllr. Keating seconded the motion.

Reply:

We have forwarded the Motion to Irish Water and are awaiting a reply.

Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Environment and Water Services

Cllr. Murphy believed a timeline for the response is required.

John Corry advised that on numerous occasions a response was sought will continue to talk to Cyril Feeney on the matter.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Murphy

“In the interest of pedestrian safety between the village of Carrigaholt and Amigos Holiday Park, that Clare Co Council use the opportunity provided by filling in the drains alongside the R487, west of the village, to overlay a public footpath once these drains are filled”

Cllr. Garvey seconded the motion.

Reply:

Surface water drainage works have been carried out on the southern side of the L-2004 (between Carrigaholt village & Amigo’s Caravan Park. The L-2004 joins the R487 near Amigo’s). Amigo’s caravan park is approximately 350 meters from the end of the existing footpath in Carrigaholt village. Some sections of the surface water drainage works have been piped, some sections are open drain filled with clean stone.

The L-2004 in this area is narrow and is in an 80 km/h speed limit area. There would be Health and Safety implications (for both pedestrians & drivers) to constructing a footpath in an 80 km/h speed limit area. There does not appear to be space to construct a footpath of the necessary width in the available space / road width.

The construction of a footpath may have implications for the drainage works carried out to date. A new footpath may impair the drainage capacity of the sections of stone filled drain.

Were a footpath to be constructed in this location, it would need to be approximately 350m long, 1.5m to 2m wide, with provision made for public lighting. This footpath would be relatively expensive. A funding source to construct such a footpath has not been identified, and should a funding source become available perhaps this project could be considered. However Clare County Council has no plans to construct this footpath at the moment.

Alan Kennelly, SEE, West Clare Municipal District (Kilrush)

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly

“That the Council carry out essential repairs to the road from Burren, Ballynacally to the link road between Lack and Ballynacally”

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Garvey

Reply:

The requested road repair / maintenance work will be carried out.

Alan Kennelly, SEE, West Clare Municipal District (Kilrush)

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly

“That the Council carry out essential repairs to the road between Lack and Ballynacally.”

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Reply:

The requested road repair / maintenance work will be carried out.

Alan Kennelly, SEE, West Clare Municipal District (Kilrush)

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Talty and Cllr Garrihy

“Failte Ireland "Destination Towns" funding will deliver a very welcome post Covid boost for Main Street Ennistymon later this year. Are there other strategic projects around Ennistymon which can be delivered efficiently in tandem with this programme to maximise the benefits around the town?”

An example is the refurbishment of the existing deficient footpath on Churchill & completing the missing 30 meters of footpath which would give safe pedestrian access to the Aldi shopping centre from the Main Street.”

Reply:

Clare County Council is reviewing possible funding streams to enable upgrade works to the deficient footpath on Churchill & completing the missing 30 metres of footpath. If funding is secured, works will be planned in tandem with the Ennistymon Tourist Destination Town project. The Planning department is also reviewing potential works in Ennistymon. The Municipal District are currently engaging with the Planning department on coordinating projects.

Enda MacNamara, SEE, West Clare Municipal District (Ennistymon)

John O’Malley advised that Part VIII is going to papers this week.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Talty

“I request that Clare County Council continue the public lighting along the Miltown Malbay Rd in Lahinch as far as the caravan park in Cregg.”

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Killeen.

Reply:

This work is not in the 2020 Schedule of Municipal District Works. Clare County Council will prepare a cost estimate and a funding source will need to be identified for this work to proceed.

Enda MacNamara, SEE, West Clare Municipal District (Ennistymon)

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Talty

“I request that the parking/viewing area by Cahlough Bridge, Spanish Point be resurfaced with gravel/chippings.”

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

Reply:

Clare County Council will assess the area and carry out the necessary works.

Enda MacNamara, SEE, West Clare Municipal District (Ennistymon)

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch

“That the following roads be taken in charge:

- *Barrack Road in Kilkee*
- *Place de Plouzane Kilrush Entrance to Carpark from High St; Footpaths and area under arch way”*

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Reply:

If agreed to consider the taking in charge of these roads in accordance with the Roads Taking in Charge Policy, Clare Co Council can commence this process where the intention will be put on public display. A report will subsequently be prepared on the proposals and will come back before the West Clare MD for consideration.

John Corry, Administrative Officer Transportation

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch

“That Clare Co Council would repair the existing pathways from the steps at Cappa beach”.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

Reply:

The requested repair work will be carried out shortly.

Alan Kennelly, SEE, West Clare Municipal District (Kilrush)

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch

“That Clare Co Council would develop a number of cycle family friendly routes throughout Kilrush town”.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Garvey.

Reply:

Clare County Council is committed to providing enhanced family friendly facilities throughout the county. It is important that in order for the plan to be successful that there is a co-ordinated approach between the Municipal District, Rural Development, Planning and Tourism sections with Kilrush Town representatives. There has been agreement already re cycle routes throughout the Town and its hinterlands. More work is required to develop this

agreement further. Once a cycle route has been finalised, the route promoters should engage with Clare County Council. Feasibility reports, costings, possible funding sources etc. can then be prepared and identified.

Alan Kennelly, SEE, West Clare Municipal District (Kilrush)

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating

“That Clare Co Council construct a footpath from the junction of the L6088-0 to Moyasta National School. It is only a very short distance and the land required is available to carry out the work. Every Wednesday the local school children walk to school in their efforts to win a Transport flag and these measures are now necessary in the interest of health and safety”.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Garvey.

Reply:

The junction of the L-6088-0 to Moyasta National School is approximately 120 linear metres and is a straight, narrow part of the N67 National Secondary Road. This section of the N67 has a double, continuous white line and is within a 60 km/h speed limit.

There is not space available to construct a footpath between the existing road boundary and the carriageway edge, so some private land will be required. There has been no contact between Clare County Council and the private landowner to date. If land is available, consideration may be given to this project, subject to funding being available.

Alan Kennelly, SEE, West Clare Municipal District (Kilrush)

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating

“That Clare Co Council carry out coastal protection works to the L2002 from Cloghan Loughbridge to the village of Kilbaha including the area south of the bridge at the grave of the Yellow Men. These roads and bridge were damaged by coastal storms and then by coastal erosion and while a new bridge was built coastal protection works were never carried out. The road is now dangerous and requires urgent attention”.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Reply:

Coastal Protection Works are the responsibility of, and are funded by, the Office of Public Works. An application for funding could be made to the OPW but as there are no houses at risk of flood along this road an application for funding for large scale coastal protection works is unlikely to succeed.

Alan Kennelly, SEE, West Clare Municipal District (Kilrush)

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating

“That Clare Co Council extend the footpath and public lighting on the Kilrush to Kilkee road at the busy Doonbeg turn junction. This motion has been the subject of many Motions and correspondence from the public since 2017”.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Reply:

There is a footpath and public lighting in place at the junction of the N67 (to Kilkee) & the L-2034 (to Doonbeg) roads. The footpath and public lighting extends for some distance along both roads. Clare County Council has no current plans to extend the footpath and public lighting further along either road.

Alan Kennelly, SEE, West Clare Municipal District (Kilrush)

AOB

A discussion in respect of notice of motions and how they can be tracked was had. Leonard Cleary advised that a tracker system would be looked at.

It was noted that the license fee for outdoor furniture has been suspended due COVID 19 but that a license stills needs to be applied for same.

It was also noted that the public should be urged to support their local businesses in Clare.

Following discussion it was agreed that the next meeting of the West Clare MD would take place at 3pm in the Council Chamber on Monday 6th July 2020.

This then concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed: Cllr. Joe Garrihy,
Cathaoirleach**

**Signed: John O'Malley,
Meetings Administrator**

Dated this the 28th day of July 2020.