

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 3rd MAY, 2017, AT 10.00 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor J. Sheahan, An Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Browne, Collins, Foley, Galvin and Scanlan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Service Operations (Mr. G. Daly), Senior Executive Engineer, Operations West (Mr. B. Noonan), Meetings Administrator, Corporate Services (Ms. T. Knox), Administrative Officer, Social Development (Ms. C. Farrell), Staff Officer, Social Development (Ms. E. Rea), Senior Executive Engineer, Physical Development (Ms. A. Goggin), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Valley), Clerical Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. D. O'Kelly).

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 12th April, 2017.

Councillor Galvin requested that the Minutes be amended under Item 4 (b) Taking in charge of Estates to read "Riverside Drive, Abbeyfeale" and not "Riverside Drive, Athea."

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley, the amendment was agreed.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;

Seconded by Councillor Foley;

And Resolved:

"That, the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read and adopted and signed, subject to the amendment outlined above."

The Senior Executive Engineer replied to queries raised by the Members as follows:

- He stated that a Meeting would be arranged with Members on site at Collins Park, Abbeyfeale in the coming weeks.
- Discussion was ongoing with the OPW in relation to erosion of riverbank at New Street, Abbeyfeale and he would revert back once a decision had been made.
- The issue with the Junction at Willie Donoghue's would be considered in the next few weeks.

The Director in reply to a query raised in relation to derelict property at 15 Assumpta Park Newcastle West, stated that he would get information and revert back to the Members.

2. Support Services Directorate

Annual Meeting

On the proposal of Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Foley it was agreed to hold the Annual Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 28th June, 2017 at 10.00 a.m.

3. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Galvin it was agreed to allocate €14,000 to Roads, Rathkeale.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Sheahan it was agreed to allocate the following:

€2,600 to Mountcollins Community Centre.

€5,000 to Abbeyfeale Lights Festival for purchase of Christmas Lights.

€2,000 to Knockaderry for footpaths.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Browne it was agreed to allocate €6,000 to Kileedy GAA.

On the proposal of Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Foley it was agreed to allocate €5,000 to Gok Wan Fashion Event from the GMA Tourism Development, Recreation and Amenity Fund.

In response to query regarding breakdown of funding allocated to the Gok Wan Fashion Event, the Director of Service advised that funding had been allocated as follows:

- €5,000 from GMA Tourism Development, Recreation and Amenity Fund.
- €5,000 from Economic Development and Marketing.
- €6,900 from Culture/Events.

4. Social Development Directorate

Communities Facilities Scheme 2017

Circulated Report, Application Form and Guidelines of the Communities Facilities Scheme 2017.

The Administrative Officer, Social Development, outlined the details of the Scheme and advised the Members that €64,500 had been allocated to Limerick. This amount had been divided on a proportional basis between the Municipal Districts. She stated that €10,000 had been allocated to the Municipal District of Newcastle West and that the maximum amount of grant under the

Scheme was €1,000 She also stated that the closing date for applications was the 26th May, 2017 at 4 p.m.

Members thanked her for the presentation and stated that while welcoming any extra funding for Communities, they were concerned that a lot of administration was involved for such a small amount of funding.

Some Members stated that smaller Community Groups may not qualify for funding under other types of Schemes and should be encouraged to apply for funding under the Scheme.

5. Physical Development Directorate

Presentation on Invasive Plants Smartphone App.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Anne Goggin, Senior Executive Engineer, to the Meeting.

The Senior Executive Engineer introduced the item by outlining the background to the development of the application by the Council. She explained why invasive non-native plants were a problem and referred in particular, to the Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Winter Helitrope.

She explained that the application would allow members of the public to alert the local authority as to the location of invasive and dangerous plants.

The following points were noted in relation to the application:

- User friendly, quick and easy to use.
- Facility to include notes and photographs.
- Free to download.

In response to queries raised by the Members, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that the application was being targeted at community councils, tidy towns, community groups and individuals. Through the information submitted, she said it was hoped to develop a strategy to control invasive plants on Council lands and develop guidelines for other land owners.

The Members thanked the Senior Executive Engineer for the interesting and comprehensive presentation. They stated that it was great to see Limerick City and County Council take the lead with this project and suggested contacting other Local Authorities in relation to the roll out of the App.

6. Operations and Maintenance Services

Provision of new Graveyard in Abbeyfeale

The Senior Executive Engineer stated that progress had been made and that at the April Meeting of the District it was stated that 4 parcels of land had been identified in the Abbeyfeale area. One Landowner had now indicated that he was no longer interested. It was noted that trial holes would be commencing on the 15th May, 2017 on the 3 available sites. Agreements had been drafted with the 3 landowners. Members requested information on the locations and were advised that the locations were as follows:

- Clash Road.
- Killarney Road adjacent to the Coursing Club.
- Knockbrack.

The Senior Executive Engineer agreed to update the Members on progress at the next Meeting of the District.

QUESTIONS

7. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when footpath repairs will be carried out at the entrance to Michael Harnett Close next to, and to the rear of, House No. 16.

REPLY: Footpath repairs will be carried out at this location as part of the roads section routine works in the coming months.

8. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when a clean-up will take place of the waterway network, pathways, outside the Desmond Castle curtilage (South Quay side) and public amenity area.

REPLY: The Arra Development Group maintains the pathways and public amenity area at this location. The Office of Public Works (OPW) is in charge of the River Arra and will carry out any clean-up when required.

9. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the preparation of a Public Realm Study for Dromcollogher.

REPLY: A Design Statement was prepared in June 2013 by Limerick City and County Council. The District Office is in discussions with the Economic Development Directorate with a view to expanding that study or identifying funding for a Public Realm Study.

NOTICE OF MOTION

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that the litter bin blown down in Hurricane Darwin along Maiden Street, Newcastle West, be replaced.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan stated that the bin had been blown down in the Storm and need to be replaced.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

REPLY: A dog waste bin will be installed in order to deal with issue on the street.

Other Matters Raised

At the conclusion of the Agenda and with the permission of the Cathaoirleach, the following items were raised:

Members raised an issue in relation to reporting of faults to Irish Water for water and sewerage. Communications was highlighted as an issue that might need to be reviewed going forward.

Members also requested an updated list of Directorates and contacts within the Directorates to be made available to them.

Plebiscite - Renaming of "The Square" Newcastle West

The Meetings Administrator informed Members that the closing date for receipt of completed ballot papers was 4 pm on Friday, 19th May, 2017. The Ballot Box would be opened and ballot papers counted at Áras William Smith OBrien, Newcastle West on Wednesday, 24th May, 2017 at 10.00 a.m.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
