

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN THE CROOM ENTERPRISE CENTRE, CROOM, CO. LIMERICK ON WEDNESDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2017 AT 2.00 P.M.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor A. Teskey, An Cathaoirleach.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Keary, McMahon, O'Brien, O'Donoghue and Sheahan.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director, Regional Services (Ms. C. Curley), Head of Digital Strategy (Mr. M. Bilauca), A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division (Mr. T. Kelly), Administrative Officer, Social Development (Ms. Ciara Farrell), Meetings Administrator (Mr. T. O'Callaghan), Staff Officer, Social Development (Ms. E. Rea), Assistant Staff Officer (Ms. E. Buckley).

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2017.

Proposed by Councillor O'Donoghue;  
Seconded by Councillor O'Brien;  
And Resolved:

"That the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read, adopted and signed".

- (b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2017.

Proposed by Councillor O'Donoghue;  
Seconded by Councillor O'Brien;  
And Resolved:

"That the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read, adopted and signed".

Councillor Keary requested an update on proposals in relation to the €600,000 allocated to the Culture and Arts Cross Party Working Group and noted his expectation that €100,000 of this budget would be allocated within the Adare-Rathkeale District. The Director, Regional Services noted that the working group was due to bring their proposals to the Full Council in the near future.

- (c) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2017.

Proposed by Councillor O'Donoghue;  
 Seconded by Councillor O'Brien;  
 And Resolved:

"That the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read, adopted and signed".

## **2. Deputation from Croom Development Association**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Pdraig Broderick, Mr. Tom Shanahan, Chairperson of the Croom Traders Association and Ms. Elaine Butler, Chief Executive Officer of Croom Development.

The Deputation noted that, while there were many positive developments associated with Croom, many businesses had closed in the past number of years leaving a large amount of vacant property, a portion of which was derelict and revitalisation of this aspect of the Town was necessary.

The Deputation highlighted the issue of traffic congestion on the main street and presented a solution to same which would involve the acquisition and demolition of three adjacent properties, the construction of a 40 space, off street, car park and the limiting of parking to one side of the main street.

Members thanked the Deputation for their presentation and made the following point in relation to same:-

- The proposed site had a history of illegal fly tipping and the proposal would help to resolve same.
- The introduction of one way traffic on the main street should be considered.
- The Renovation and Refurbishment Scheme should be considered with regard to some of the vacant property and the owners approached in this regard.
- Consideration should be given to engaging the services of a town planner to review how best to approach the issues faced by the town.
- The ongoing status of the private road, included in the presented proposals, should be clarified.
- Traffic congestion on the main street was hindering existing businesses and discouraging new business from setting up and the proposals would assist in resolving this issue.
- The cooperation of business and property owners in Croom should be sought to assist in moving the proposals forward.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Deputation for their input and requested that they keep the District Members informed of progress within the coming months.

### **3. Support Services Directorate – Corporate Services**

#### **Annual Meeting of Municipal District**

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue it was agreed that the Annual Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale would be held on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 at 9.00 a.m. with the June Monthly Meeting to commence at the conclusion of same.

### **4. Physical Development Directorate**

#### **Presentation on Invasive Plants Smart Phone App.**

It was agreed that this item would be deferred to the June Meeting of the District.

It was agreed that item 6 on the Agenda would be taken next.

### **6. Social Development Directorate**

#### **Briefing on the Community Facilities Scheme and Assessment Criteria**

Circulated, report of the Chief Officer LCDC dated 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 giving an overview and details of the scheme and document entitled Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government Communities Facilities Scheme Capital Scheme 2017, guidelines and application form.

The Administrative Officer, Social Development informed the Meeting that a budget of €64,500 had been allocated to the Council in association with this Scheme and €10,000 of same was available for projects within the Adare-Rathkeale District. She noted that grants to a maximum of €1,000 would be available for any single project and the application deadline was 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2017.

Members noted the limited budget available to single projects and overall to the District and expressed dissatisfaction at the extent of administration involved in processing applications. Members noted the involvement of the LCDC in the approval process and stressed that the District did not have a representative on same. Members noted the benefits of any such funding being allocated directly to the District.

### **5. County Wide CCTV Project**

The Head of Digital Strategy presented details of the Council's Smart CCTV Pilot which included the background, funding, challenges and aims of the project. He noted that the project would proceed through the four phases of technical assessment, stakeholder consultation, procurement and delivery of up to 50 CCTV cameras by Q4 2017.

Members thanked the Head of Digital Strategy for his presentation and stressed the benefits the system would bring to crime prevention and detection in the District. Members noted the importance of controlling access to the system and discussed the importance of ensuring that

any future public lighting installed or upgraded would have the facility to accommodate CCTV cameras.

In response to issues raised by Members the Head of Digital Strategy clarified the following:-

- All appropriate steps would be taken to deliver a secure CCTV system.
- Public signage would be put in place to make the public aware of the presence of the CCTV cameras.
- Different types of cameras could provide a range of sophisticated functions depending on the price committed.
- While licences would be required as part of the project, it was considered that Part VIII applications would not be required.
- The availability of fibre broadband would be assessed as part of the project and preference would be given to the use of fibre where possible.
- Consultation with the Gardaí had commenced and was ongoing and, in general, camera requirements had been identified.

Members stressed the importance of proceeding swiftly with the project to ensure funding was availed of and cameras were in place prior to the year end. Members requested that the Head of Digital Strategy update the July District Meeting of progress in this regard.

## **7. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)**

It was noted that no new allocations under the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) 2017 were currently proposed.

## **8. Service Operations Directorate – Planning & Environmental Services**

### **(a) Update on the Taking-In-Charge of Ballyvareen Estate**

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Water Services dated 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 giving an update on the taking in charge of Ballyvareen Estate, Kildimo. The report was noted by Members.

### **(b) Update on the Taking-In-Charge of An Curran Estate, Pallaskenry**

Circulated, report of the Staff Officer, Planning and Environmental Services dated 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 giving an update on the taking in charge of An Curran, Pallaskenry. The report was noted by Members.

## **9. Flooding Issues**

Circulated, report of the A/Senior Executive Engineer, West Division Operations dated 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 giving an update on proposals to address flooding issues at Foynes, Askeaton and Ballysteen.

The A/Senior Executive Engineer, West Division Operations noted that, while a lowest quotation of €2,000 had been received for the described consultancy work at Ballysteen, he did not have this budget available to him. Members noted instances of similar work being designed in house by Council engineers and asked that this option be explored.

**10. Footpath from Kildimo to the Beer Garden Public House**

Circulated, report of the A/Senior Executive Engineer, West Division Operations dated 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 giving an update on the incomplete footpath between Kildimo and the Beer Garden Public House. The report was noted by Members.

**11. Facilitators Report on Christmas in Rathkeale**

Circulated, report of the Independent Facilitator on meetings with various stakeholders in Rathkeale dated 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2017.

The Director, Regional Services informed Members that it was now intended to bring the report to the Council's Management Team and the Gardaí to identify actions that would be taken by both organisations to address issues raised in the report and same would then be brought back to the District for consideration.

Members expressed dissatisfaction that the report had not been brought back to the District Members by the facilitator to afford the Members an opportunity to expand on the issues raised. Members also noted an absence of solutions included in the report and that other state agencies had not been included.

The Director, Regional Services noted the facilitator's terms of reference that had been agreed by the District Members and the potential to incur extra expenditure should these be extended.

Following discussion, it was agreed, on the proposal of Councillor Teskey, seconded by Councillor Sheahan that a Special Meeting of the District, in committee, should be held with the Facilitator.

The Director, Regional Services informed Members that she would verify the availability of the Facilitator in this regard.

**QUESTIONS**

**12. Question submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan**

**I will ask at the next Meeting for a progress report on Harte's Cottage, Askeaton.**

**REPLY:** A Notice under Section 8(7) of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 has been served on the property, entering it on the Council's Derelict Sites Register.

**13. Question submitted by Councillor C. McMahon**

I will ask at the next Meeting if there are any plans to develop;

- Signage at the crossroads by the Church in Cappagh where there is currently a caved in wall and a signless bollard.
- Improved signage and line markings at Chepp's Cross.

If a program for these works is not in place I will ask that an estimation of cost and possible date to review these works be provided.

**REPLY:** A Road Traffic Accident caused damage to the Junction in Cappagh Village. Limerick City and County Council are to liaise with the local Gardaí to follow up on damages caused at the junction to source funding for a repair.

In regards to Chepp's Cross, the signage will be re-aligned when resources are in the area. There is no budget allocation for signage on local roads. The costs associated will be coming from our General Maintenance budget which is limited.

**14. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Brien**

I will ask at the next Meeting what provisions are being made for the reinstatement of street cleaning in Adare and what budgets are in place for the cutting and maintenance of Adare Village Park.

**REPLY:** At present Limerick City and County Council have a full-time Street Cleaner working 5 days a week in Adare. Limerick City and County Council will continue to monitor the streets in Adare as we go into the high tourist season. Should an increase in service be required Limerick City and County Council will have to source additional funding.

With regard to Adare Village Park €25,000 is allocated in the 2017 budget for the grass cutting and maintenance of Adare Town park.

**15. Question submitted by Councillor A. Teskey**

I will ask at the next Meeting what progress the Council has made regarding the illegal dumping which prevails in the Ballywilliam area.

**REPLY:** The Council is actively following up on illegal waste/dumping in the Ballywilliam area, Rathkeale and has initiated legal proceedings under the Waste Management Act.

## NOTICES OF MOTION

### **16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor R. O'Donoghue**

**I will move at the next Meeting that the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale calls on the Minister for Justice and An Garda Síochána for an immediate upgrading of Garda vehicles at Croom Garda Station, in light of the age and condition of the current vehicles.**

In proposing the Motion Councillor O'Donoghue noted that a six year old van was the only vehicle available to the Gardaí in Croom and requested that vehicles, similar to those available to the Gardaí in Adare and Rathkeale, be made available.

Members supported the Motion.

### **17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors A. Teskey and K. Sheahan**

**We will move at the next Meeting that the District get an up to date progress report on the Western Approach Scheme for Adare.**

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Teskey and seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

#### **REPLY:**

The N21 Adare Western Approach Improvement Scheme is located on the western outskirts of Adare Village on the National Primary Road extending between the Junction of the L1422 Blackabbey Road and the Junction of the R519 Ballingarry Road.

- The Part VIII for the Scheme was approved at the June 2016 Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale.
- The Construction of the School drop-off area was completed on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016.
- Ground Investigations commenced in November 2016 and were completed in February 2017.
- J. B. Barry and Partners Limited, Consulting Engineers have been appointed by Irish Water to progress the design of a Foul Sewer within the Scheme and the MWNRDO are coordinating the Sewer design with the other elements of the proposed Scheme.
- The Consultants have advised that the design of the Sewer will be completed by early July 2017.
- Also, contacts are ongoing between the MWNRDO and the Design Team responsible for a proposed Council Housing Development looking to access the N21 across from Scoil Naomh Iosaf in Adare. This proposal also has implications for the design of the Foul Sewer and, in that regard, liaison between the Housing Design Team and J.B. Barry and Partners is ongoing. Should this project progress it will provide funding for part of the Sewer.
- The Contract to undertake the remainder of the works associated with the proposed road Scheme will not be undertaken until such time as the issue of Foul Sewer provision along this section of the N21 has been resolved.

Members noted proposals in relation to the sewer and discussed the potential to carry out works to the proposed carpark and storm water attenuation at that time in order to avoid increased traffic congestion at a later date.

In response to issues raised by Members the Director, Regional Services noted that she could not give assurances that funding would not be in jeopardy due to delays and pointed out that expenditure on a ground condition survey and detailed design in association with the proposed sewer had been necessary as same had not been carried out in association with a related third party planning application. She informed the Members that the survey had identified the presence of a significant amount of rock along the route of the proposed sewer.

#### **18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor A. Teskey**

**I will move at the next Meeting that the Council take a proactive approach this year in maintaining hedgerow on roads that are under the remit of this District and in particular those responsible for the maintenance of the National roads in this District.**

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Teskey and seconded by Councillor Keary.

**REPLY:** Landowners are responsible for maintaining their hedges adjacent to their land. On the grounds of Health & Safety, Limerick City and County Council cut hedges at junctions to approximately 70m either side of a junction for local and regional roads as required to maintain satisfactory sight-lines.

Annually within the Adare-Rathkeale roads division over 300 letters are sent to landowners informing them to cut their hedging. This is a live database and is updated annually if an issue arises.

Operations and Maintenance Services - Central Services has recently procured the services of a hedge/grass cutting contractor for the National Road Network in Limerick. The contract includes for the cutting of the national road network on three occasions during the growing season. The first cut will commence in the next week to ten days with the second cut to take place late June/early July and the final cut to take place in September. This is an annual contract.

Members supported the Motion and highlighted the need for hedges to be cut to improve sightlines and for issues relating to hedge cutting to be moved on effectively between Area Engineers, as staff changed. Members noted the legal position in relation to notices served on landowners and acknowledged proposals to commence cutting hedges on national roads earlier in the year.

#### **19. Correspondence**

Correspondence was noted.

At the conclusion of the Agenda the following points were raised by Members with the consent of the Cathaoirleach.

- Councillor O'Brien noted that Kilcornan Community Council had extended an invitation to the District to hold a Meeting in Kilcornan. The Cathaoirleach informed the Meeting that he understood that traffic calming plans submitted by the Council to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) for approval had been returned for review by the Council. It was agreed that the outcome of this process would be awaited before a decision on the invitation would be made.
- On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Teskey it was requested that Members be informed should any coypu, a large non native members of the rodent family reported to have been released in County Cork, be reported in the District.
- Councillor Keary highlighted the issue of speed limits at the church and graveyard at Kilcornan and elsewhere in the District and requested an update in relation to the speed limit review that was underway. The A/Senior Executive Engineer, West Division Operations undertook to revert in relation to same.
- Councillor Sheahan requested an update in relation to the cottage in Adare, damaged by fire and still unrepaired.
- Councillor Sheahan requested an update in relation to the footpath requested between Adare and Adare GAA grounds.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

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**Cathaoirleach**

Dated:

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