

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 16TH SEPTEMBER, 2015, AT 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor M. Collins, An Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Browne, Foley, Galvin, Scanlan and Sheahan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Services (Mr. G. Daly), Operations Manager, West and South Division (Mr. B. Kennedy), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. T. Knox), Senior Executive Officer, Home and Social Development (Ms. P. Liddy), Senior Staff Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. M. Corbett), Clerical Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. D. O'Kelly).

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Gordon Daly the new Director of the Municipal District and Members stated that they looked forward very much to working with him in the future.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 15th July, 2015.

Proposed by Councillor Scanlan;
Seconded by Councillor Browne;
And Resolved:

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

Arising from the Minutes, the Operations Manager read the contents of a letter which he had drafted to Knockaderry Clounagh Community Council in response to their issues raised at the previous Meeting.

2. Economic Development and Planning

Taking in Charge of Estates - Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads

Circulated, Report of the Director, Economic Development and Planning dated 15th June, 2015.

Proposed by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Galvin, and resolved:

“That the following housing estate be taken in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2014 and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993”

Liosan, Newcastle West.

3. Municipal Reception

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to host a Municipal Reception for Transition Year students from Desmond College, Newcastle West in recognition of their achievement in winning three National Awards.

With the Cathaoirleach’s permission, it was agreed to discuss the Pre Feasibility Study The Knights of Glin Interpretative Centre.

Councillor Sheahan addressed the Meeting on this item. He stated that Glin Community Development had tabled a proposal to establish an Interpretative Centre in a disused church close to Glin Castle. It was necessary to preserve the history of the Knights of Glin. Funding in the amount of €10,000 was required to carry out the feasibility study and Councillor Sheahan asked that this would be funded from the General Municipal Allocation.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Browne it was agreed to allocate €10,000 from the General Municipal Allocation to fund the study.

QUESTIONS

4. Question submitted by Councillor S. Browne

I will ask at the next Meeting if any progress has been made in providing bus and coach parking for visitors to Desmond Castle, Newcastle West.

REPLY: The bus bay on the N21 for Desmond Castle is to be resurfaced by the end of October.

The Members made reference to Dublin Coach Services and, in particular, their route from Dublin to Kerry which did not include stops in Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale. After a short discussion on the matter, the Director agreed to make contact with Dublin Coach Services in relation to the service and to ascertain if the aforementioned towns could be included in this route.

5. Question submitted by Councillor F. Foley

I will ask at the next Meeting if it is proposed to locate a refuse bin at Church Street, Abbeyfeale.

REPLY: A report from the street sweepers had indicated that there was no evidence at present of a litter problem in Church Street.

Discussion took place regarding the need for a bin at this location. It was suggested that the bin currently located at the Vocational School, if not being utilised, be moved to

Church Street, Executive Engineer Roads agreed to follow up on the matter.

6. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting (a) if advance notice to commence was served on Limerick City and County Council in respect of a recently commenced addition to the Glebe Housing Development at Monagea and, if so, the actual date served; (b) has a bond been put in place to cover finishings; (c) have the full development levies been collected in respect of the additional starts.

- REPLY:**
- (a) A commencement notice was submitted for the completion of works on 10th July, 2015.
 - (b) These houses were being completed under planning reference number 04/3492 for which the full bond was lodged. The Council has since claimed this bond in order to fund works on this estate. The planning permission for this development has expired and the developer has been informed that a new planning permission will be required to complete these houses and a new bond can be considered when a decision is made on any new application.
 - (c) The contributions have not been paid in respect of the additional start.

7. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting (a) the value of the bond held to cover completion works at Carraig Desmond, Churchtown, Newcastle West; (b) within what timeframe are works currently underway expected to be completed; (c) has planning expired on the unfinished aspect of this development; (d) what plans are in place with regard to dealing with incompletions.

- REPLY:**
- (a) There is a bond of €231,813 in place for this development.
 - (b) The estimated timeframe for the completion of the works is end of October, 2015.
 - (c) Planning permission has expired for this development.
 - (d) The vacant houses will be boarded up and the undeveloped site areas will be securely fenced.

A discussion took place in relation to the vacant houses and it was proposed that Limerick City and County Council apply the Derelict Sites Act and demolish the houses. It was stated that fencing off the site was not a safe option.

8. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting to where the original stone from the recently replaced Ronaldson's Bridge on the Shangarry Ballintubrid borders was taken.

REPLY: Any suitable stone recovered from the existing structures at this location was reused in the construction works.

Councillor Scanlan queried the response and asked for further clarification from the National Roads Authority and the Mid West Regional Road Design Office with regard to the location of the old stone.

8a. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting when we can expect the wall at the fire station in Abbeyfeale to be repaired.

REPLY: The Fire Service is actively seeking quotations from suitably qualified builders to repair the damaged wall in Abbeyfeale Fire Station bearing in mind the need to comply with all relevant Procurement Procedures and the requirement to comply with all relevant construction and Health and Safety Legislation. We will endeavour to complete this work in as timely a manner as possible.

It was requested that all rubble inside the wall be removed in the interest of safety.

8b. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the following National Roads Authority projects:

- (a) Dalton's Cross towards the filling stations, realignment; stacking lane for Town Park; footpath out to junction.
- (b) Update on new application for Ward's Cross after a number of serious accidents.
- (c) Traffic Safety measures at Devon Road.
- (d) Right turning lane at Barnagh for Breens.

The Meetings Administrator read the following, which was received from the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads and Transportation into the record of the Minutes of the Meeting:

- REPLY:**
- (a) Dalton's Cross towards filling Station was not a National Roads Authority Project. There was no proposal to install stacking lane or footpaths.
 - (b) In relation to Ward's Cross, it was stated that the Council was awaiting a report from the National Roads Authority.
 - (c) The National Roads Authority had no proposal for Safety Measures at Devon Road.
 - (d) No right turning lane was proposed for Breens however a turning facility would be available at the viewing point nearby to facilitate vehicles wishing to access Breens.

It was agreed to invite a staff member from the Road Design Office to the next Meeting.

8c. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for the following information:

- (a) How many housing applicants are there on the waiting list in the Municipal District.
- (b) How many of these are from Abbeyfeale?
- (c) How many vacant houses are there in Abbeyfeale?
- (d) How many vacant houses are there in the Municipal District of Newcastle West?

- REPLY:**
- (a) There are 74 households on the waiting list for the Newcastle West Municipal District.
 - (b) 38 households have addresses in Abbeyfeale. 31 households have addresses in environs.
 - (c) There is currently one vacant house in Abbeyfeale.
 - (d) The Council has 3 vacant houses in the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

NOTICES OF MOTION

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Browne

I will move at the next Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West that the wall of the Fire Station in Abbeyfeale be repaired immediately.

REPLY: The Fire Service is actively seeking quotations from suitably qualified builders to repair the damaged wall in Abbeyfeale Fire Station bearing in mind the need to comply with all relevant Procurement Procedures and the requirement to comply with all relevant construction and Health and Safety Legislation. The Council will endeavour to complete this work in as timely a manner as possible.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Browne

I will move at the next Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West that all works at Cois na Féile Estate are stopped until all outstanding issues regarding the estate are resolved, including concerns of the local residents and the wider community for example the footpath, sewer, derelict houses and any outstanding planning issues that may require enforcement.

Councillor Browne in proposing the Motion stated that there were concerns in relation to a number of issues including, inter alia, provision of footpath for connectivity, sewerage and local residents' concerns.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

Councillor Galvin updated the Members in relation to discussions which he had with the local Residents Association. He outlined their main items of concern which included the following:

- Public Lighting/Footpath/Sewer.
- Allocation of Houses.
- Options for the remaining 12 houses.

In response to issues raised by Members, the Senior Executive Officer, Home and Social Development clarified the following:

- Cluid own the site and the Council had no legal right to stop the works.
- Drawings and Design for footpaths were available and would be circulated to Members.
- 300 Metres of land was available for completion of the footpath but a further 100 metres was required. Discussions were ongoing with the landowner.
- With regard to the 12 remaining houses, 10 were in ownership of Developer and 2 were privately owned. It was not the Council's intention to acquire them.
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At the request of the Members, the Senior Executive Officer agreed to circulate possible dates when a Meeting with the Members for local residents could be held. Relevant officials would also be invited to attend.

Not all Members supported the Motion as worded. A number of amendments were proposed and following a lengthy discussion Councillor Browne agreed to amend the Motion as follows:

I will move at the next Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West that Cluid are asked to suspend works at Cois na Féile Estate and that no works take place on the adjacent road until all outstanding issues regarding the estate are resolved, including concerns of the local residents and the wider community for example the footpath, sewer, derelict houses and any other outstanding issues.

The Motion, as amended, was seconded by Councillor Scanlan and agreed.

REPLY: The development at Cois na Féile was carried out under Planning ref No. 04/769. Under the planning permission Cluid are entitled to complete works on the estate. Cluid currently have a contractor on site with a view to having 12 houses fit for occupation by March 2016. The Council has no legal reason to interfere.

Work on allocation of houses will progress in tandem with the finishing of the houses. In regard to the provision of footpaths on the public road, condition no 3 required the developer to pay a special contribution to the Council in respect of same. This money has been paid and the Council is

obligated to carry out the works. Efforts have been made by Council staff to discuss the design of the footpath with the affected residents.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West that the speed limit be extended from the western side of Strand Village to Conway's Bridge at Lissurland in the interest of public safety.

REPLY: This matter will be considered under the next Speed Limit review which is to take place in 2016.

11a. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West that a footpath be provided from Abbey United Soccer Field to the Railway Bar in the interest of safety..

REPLY: This footpath can be considered for funding under the General Municipal Allocation or Development Fund Allocations for 2016.

11b. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West that Limerick City and County Council, together with the National Roads Authority, prioritise Abbeyfeale Town in relation to traffic management and create much needed car parking.

Councillor Galvin in proposing the Motion stressed the urgent need for the provision of a bus stop and car parking facilities in Abbeyfeale. The Operations Manager stated that a Traffic Management Plan was being commissioned and would be brought back to a Meeting of the Municipal District for consideration.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West that funding for Christmas lighting be provided on a pro rata basis based on the overall population of City and County.

Councillor Scanlan, in proposing the Motion stated that towns like Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale should receive an allocation for Christmas Lights. Councillor Galvin proposed that a Motion be submitted to the Full Council asking that a specific budget be allocated to each Municipal District and to the Metropolitan District for Christmas lights as part of the formulation of the Budget for 2016.

This proposal was seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed.

REPLY: The budget allocation for 2015 was adopted by the full Council in January 2015. Any future funding issue can be discussed as part of the 2016 Budget process which is now commencing.

It was agreed that the next Meeting would be held on Wednesday, 7th October, 2015 at 10.00 a.m.at Áras William Smith O'Brien, Newcastle West.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____