

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 1st June, 2016, AT 10:00 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), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. T. Knox), Chief Officer, Limerick Local Community Development Committee (Mr. S. O'Connor), Research Assistant, Social Development (Dr. E. Humphreys), Senior Executive Planner (Mr. K. Reeves), Senior Executive Engineer, West Division (Mr. R. Noonan), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Heritage Officer (Mr. T. O'Neill), Senior Staff Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. M. Corbett), 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 4th May, 2016.

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

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

With the Cathaoirleach's permission the following items were raised:

Desmond Hall

Access to Desmond Hall was discussed and it was agreed to contact the Office of Public Works to ascertain if it was possible to open the facility, to the public, earlier in the season.

Cois na Feile

Members welcomed the allocation of houses and said the completed works were a credit to all involved. In response to queries from Members, the following was clarified in relation to footpath construction:

- Plans and particulars of the proposed scheme were available for inspection up the 13th June, 2016 inclusive.
- Submissions or observations with respect to the proposed development could be made up to and including the 27th June, 2016.
- Tender documents were being prepared in tandem with the public consultation process.

- It was proposed to bring Part VIII Report to the July Meeting for consideration.

Public Realm Plan Glin

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Collins it was agreed that funding of €70,000.00 for the preparation of a Public Realm Plan and pavement renewal and infrastructure design for Glin would be allocated under the additional discretionary funding element of the Development Fund Allocation 2016.

2. Support Services Directorate

Corporate Services

(a) Annual Meeting

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Galvin it was agreed to hold the Annual Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 29th June, 2016 at 10.00 a.m.

(b) July Meeting

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley it was agreed to hold the July Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 13th July, 2016 at 10.00 a.m.

Municipal Reception

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Sheahan it was agreed to grant a Municipal Reception to honour Newcastle West GAA for their success at under 16 level (Minor and Senior level Championship) in accordance with Section 74 of the Local Government, Act, 2001, as amended.

3. Service Operations Directorate

Cedarville Estate Abbeyfeale

The Executive Engineer, West Division informed Members that the Superintendent of the District had been contacted in relation to installation of double yellow lines and that a reply was awaited.

4. Economic Development Directorate

The Heritage Officer outlined proposals for the preparation of a Heritage Plan for Limerick City and County 2017 – 2030.

The broad objectives of the proposed Plan included:

- To raise awareness of, appreciation for, and enjoyment of Limerick City and County's heritage.
- To acquire knowledge through survey and research in heritage in Limerick, and to make available heritage information to the wider public in a user-friendly manner.
- To promote best practice in heritage conservation and management.

- To support the local economy and strengthen tourism.

He stated that funding had now come on stream in the amount of €26,000. The issues document was the first step in the preparation of a heritage plan. Written submissions and observations were invited and could be submitted up to the 28th July, 2016. Following consideration of submissions, the proposed heritage plan would be put on public display for a period of 8 weeks from the 1st October to 28th November, 2016 and the final heritage plan was expected to be published in February/March 2017. He stated that he would forward the parameters and guidance for the plan to Members. The Heritage Officer agreed to check the process and procedure involved in becoming a heritage town but suggested that the City and County as a whole (and not individual towns) should be reviewed in terms of heritage status in order to get maximum benefit.

With the permission of the Cathaoirleach it was agreed to defer Item 5 to later in the Meeting to allow for those making a presentation time to get to the Meeting.

6. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed that €20,900 would be allocated to Templelantine Church.

On the proposal of Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed that €2,500 would be allocated to Abbeyfeale Park.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Galvin it was agreed that €24,900 would be allocated for Public Lighting at Carraward West, Dromcollogher.

QUESTIONS

7. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting (a) for a detailed report/discussion on the Great Southern Trail footpath in Abbeyfeale; (b) investment in the crossings; (c) signage on the N21 and on the line itself; (d) update on the Website; (e) what Directorate does it come under and who has responsibility; (f) what grants have been drawn down; (g) what is the budget for maintenance.

REPLY:

Rural Recreation funding of €82,708 was approved in December 2014 to undertake remedial works on the Great Southern Trail (GST). These works included amongst others the improvement of crossings, signage, development of specific town land signage and seating. An alternative, less costly crossing option was trialed in 2015 but this did not prove suitable. Consultants were engaged during 2015 to develop designs and specifications for the improvement works identified. The crossings are currently being installed and other works related to signage will be undertaken following the completion of a Design Guide for the GST.

Rural Recreation funding was sought in 2015 for the footpath in Abbeyfeale but this funding was not allocated owing to the re-allocation of this funding to flood related emergency works. The Great Southern Trail is currently under the responsibility of a number of different Directorates including both Economic Development and the Service Operations Directorate. A review of the necessary operational structures required to advance the development of the GST is underway.

The marketing of the Great Southern Trail will be undertaken following the necessary operational structure being put in place and a review of the website will be undertaken as part of this review. The maintenance of the Great Southern Trail is undertaken through the Operations West Division and West Limerick Resources.

8. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on Knocknagorna Bridge (a) when works will commence; (b) what is the total budget allocation; (c) how long will it take to complete the works.

REPLY: Punch Consulting Engineers have carried out a detailed survey on this bridge and the report on their recommendations is expected this week.

(a) It is estimated that works on this bridge will commence in Quarter 3 of 2016.

(b) The total budget allocation is €50,000.

(c) It is estimated that works should take 3 to 4 weeks to complete.

9. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the proposed works for Castletown/Ballyagran villages arising from the Municipal District Meeting held in the hall in Castletown.

REPLY: As part of this year's Newcastle West Schedule of Municipal District Works, the following works will be carried out:

1. Surface Dressing - L1542 at 2 locations in Ballyagran.
2. GMA - footpaths at Ballyagran.

It is intended that item 1 will be carried out during the summer months and item 2 will be carried out in October/November.

Works to provide a footpath from the crossroads at Castletown to the Burial Ground have been estimated at approx. €70,000. There is currently no funding available to carry out this work.

Works to continue a footpath from Ballyagran village to St. Joseph's Foundation have been estimated at approximately €75,000. A submission for Development Funding has been made for this project.

10. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting if road lining will be renewed in the Broadford village area.

REPLY: Renewal of the road line markings will be carried out in Broadford village within the next two weeks.

11. Question submitted by Councillor S. Browne

I will ask at the next Meeting when the remaining barriers will be installed on the left hand side of the New Barnagh Road going down hill.

REPLY: All crash barriers required under the construction contract have been installed by the contractor.

The Cathaoirleach referred to Item 5 which had been deferred earlier in the Meeting and it was agreed to take this item before the Notices of Motion.

5. Social Development Directorate

Circulated, Report of the Chief Officer, Limerick Local Community Development Committee dated 25th May, 2016, setting out the background to the item and what was required of the Members; Report of the Director of Economic Development dated 25th May, 2016 which stated that the Director was satisfied that the draft Limerick Local Economic and Community Plan was consistent with the Limerick City Development Plan 2010, the Limerick County Development Plan 2010 and the relevant Local Area Plans and that both economic and community elements of the plan were consistent; and draft Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021 dated 18th May, 2016.

The Chief Officer, Limerick Local Community Development Committee stated that under Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended local authorities were required to prepare a six year Local Economic and Community Plan. He added that Members were being asked to adopt a Statement of Consistency on the draft Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021.

A presentation on the Plan was given by Dr. Humphreys under the following headings:

1. Origins and Purpose of Plan.
2. The evidence base for the LECP, policy "fit" and type of Plan.
3. High Level Goals.
4. Physical/Environment and Economic.
5. Overall Structure and Content.
6. Presentation of the Plan.
7. Implementation.
8. Next Steps – Timeline.

The Senior Executive Planner confirmed that the Local Economic and Community Plan was consistent with the relevant Plans as outlined above.

After a brief discussion, Members thanked staff for the presentation and information.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan;
 Seconded by Councillor Scanlan;
 And Resolved;

"That the Members of Newcastle West Municipal District, having considered the draft Limerick Local Economic Community Plan, find it is consistent with the Limerick City Development Plan 2010, the Limerick County Development Plan 2010 and the relevant Local Area Plans and that there is consistency between the economic and the community elements of the LECP, in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended".

NOTICES OF MOTION

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that a bus bay be provided at Barnagh, east bound, to cater for pedestrians getting on or off to use the Great Southern Trail.

Councillor Galvin in proposing the Motion stated that to access the Great Southern Trail it was not safe for visitors to cross the main road from the other side where there was a parking area.

Seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

REPLY: This matter has been investigated and it has been determined that the provision of a bus stop at the above location would create a safety hazard on the down slope on the east bound route towards Newcastle West. As this is a 100 kmph National Road, any bus whether pulling in or pulling out of any potential parking bay would introduce a safety risk to both the bus and any affected traffic. Accordingly, it is not considered appropriate to provide the bus bay as requested.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that the a kerb and footpath be included in the road programme in Mountcollins Village from Caher river bridge up to John Reilly's Junction.

Councillor Galvin in proposing the Motion stated that this was a very dangerous area and a formal junction was required.

Seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

REPLY: Road overlay works are due to commence in Mountcollins in 2017 which will include footpath upgrade and drainage works. It is also intended to carry out some footpath upgrade works as part of the 2016 GMA Roads Allocation on the main street.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Browne

I will move at the next Meeting that the road from Cleanglass South to Cleanglass North, Tournafulla be resurfaced as a matter of urgency as it is unsafe for road users.

Councillor Browne in proposing the Motion stated that this road was not safe and requested that it be resurfaced as a matter of urgency. Members requested a breakdown of amounts and projects under the Flooding Programme.

Seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY: This roadway is included on the 2016 Newcastle West Roads Programme with the funding for the upgrade works being provided under the Severe Weather funding programme. The necessary works are to commence in early June.

In reply to a query regarding amount of funding received under the Severe Weather Funding Programme, the Roads Engineer agreed to email the list of projects and amounts

to Members. It was also stated that the second round of funding under the Programme was due to be paid out in the coming weeks.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Browne

I will move at the next Meeting that a plaque be erected on the Barnagh Road in remembrance of those who lost their lives there.

Councillor Browne in proposing the Motion stated that a request had been made to him to bring this matter to the Meeting. Some Members were concerned that this was a very emotive issue and could be upsetting for some families who had lost loved ones.

It was agreed to consult with family members prior to further discussion.

It was also suggested that a plaque in the viewing area, erected by a local community group/committee, may be more appropriate.

Seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY: Any memorials encountered during the construction of both Phases of the N21 Killarney Pole to Barnagh Road Safety Scheme have been reinstated at suitable and safe locations away from the busy national road but as close to the original locations as possible. Relatives, friends and other relevant parties were consulted, where possible, during the relocation of these memorials to ensure that they were aware of their removal and to get their views on the alternative locations being proposed.

The Council also understand that Transport Infrastructure Ireland was not generally in favour of memorials being erected along the National Road Network.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that road lining be placed at the junctions between (a) Arra View and (b) Hawthorne Estates, Newcastle West with the local road.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Scanlan stated that road lining at this location was necessary.

Seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY: Renewal of the road line markings at the above mentioned junctions will be carried out within the next week.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that immediate action be taken to repair/renew the road through Glin town centre from the N69 Junction through Main Street and towards the local Football Field.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Scanlan stated that the road in Glin was in very bad repair and required work as a matter of urgency.

Seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

REPLY: Prior to carrying out a major overlay of the carriageway in Glin Village, it would be

prudent to undertake a strategic Public Realm Plan for the village. This plan would inform the design of the layout of the footpaths and carriageway for the future. The design of any structural improvements could be carried out at that stage subject to the necessary funds being available. A submission in relation to the provision of the Public Realm Plan for Glin was made to the Development Fund recently but funding has not been allocated this year in this regard.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that funding be provided for a set down area outside Glengurt National School (National School in Tournafulla) to allow safe access and set down for those attending the school.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Collins stated that this location was a danger to the public as there was no proper set down area. It was noted that cars were pulling up outside the school and dropping off children on the roadway. It was suggested that the school could apply for a summer works grant to the Department of Education.

Seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY: Line markings designating the set down area outside the school can be marked out within the next few weeks.

Community Initiative Scheme 2016

Chief Officer, Limerick Local Community Development Committee was in attendance at the Meeting and gave a brief outline of allocations made under the 2015 Scheme. A short discussion took place and it was agreed to defer the matter as further information was required by the Members before allocations for 2016 could be considered. On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Foley it was agreed to hold a Special Meeting of the District to be held "in committee" on Wednesday, 29th June, 2016 at 10.30 a.m.

Changing of Name of "The Square", Newcastle West.

The Meetings Administrator outlined the legislation governing the change of name of a Square which she said was contained in the Local Government Act, 1946 (as amended by the Local Government Act, 1955 and the Local Government Act, 1994). She further explained that Members of the Full Council must pass a resolution agreeing to change the name of The Square and then the Council must hold a plebisite of those who were classified as "Qualified Electors". Qualified Electors was every person who was a registered Elector on the register of Local Government Electors or was the rated occupier.

The Meetings Administrator went on to state that the legislation would appear to only allow those who were occupying the houses or business premises to have a vote. Therefore, for owners of buildings in The Square, who had the premises rented out, it was only the tenant who would have a say and not the registered owner of the premises.

She stated that a Motion to change the name of The Square would have to be passed by the Full Council. In this regard, a Motion could be submitted to the July Meeting of the Full Council from the Municipal District to propose the change of name and to commence the process.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed to make contact with residents of the Square in relation to the proposal and if the feedback was positive to proceed to Full Council with a Motion.

Members congratulated Deputy Patrick O'Donovan on his appointment as Minister for Tourism and Sport and asked for their good wishes to be conveyed to him in a letter.

Vote of Sympathy

A Vote of Sympathy was extended to Brian Kennedy and the Kennedy family on the death of his father John (Jack) Kennedy. A minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____