

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 4th May, 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), Operations Manager West and South Division (Mr. B. Kennedy), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Mr. T. O'Callaghan), Senior Executive Engineer, West Division (Mr. R. Noonan), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), 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 6th April, 2016.

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

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

2. Service Operations Directorate

(a) Cedarville Estate, Abbeyfeale

A map outlining the proposed location of double yellow lines on the left hand side of Cedarville Estate for approximately 200 metres from the junction with the N21 was circulated. Discussion took place in relation to the possibility of the Council making land available to facilitate the development of a car park, in conjunction with a local dentist, which could be used for mass goers at week-ends. It was agreed to meet with members of the Resident's Association and Mr. Mullins in relation to this matter.

It was agreed to proceed with the installation of double yellow lines on the left hand side of the road and that the residents of Abbeyfeale would be informed of this decision through the media and the Church. Members stressed the need to educate the public on the proper use of existing spaces adjacent to the Church and not to transfer any parking issues to the adjacent estate.

(b) Desmond Hall

The Senior Executive Engineer, West Division informed the members that signage in relation to Desmond Hall had now been approved and would be put in place in the coming weeks. He also stated that, as a result of matters raised in the Tidy Towns

Report in relation to identification signage on the N21 approaching Newcastle West, Planning Enforcement had been in contact with business people and it was proposed to have some of the signage and advertising boards removed. Following general discussion it was suggested that the Planning Department would engage with local business people to seek to agree a solution in relation to the placing of advertising signs.

The Director advised that the Council encouraged businesses to apply through the proper channels for the erection of advertising signage.

(c) Cois na Feile, Abbeyfeale

In relation to Cois na Feile, it was noted that Part 8 had been advertised in the newspapers and that drawings were available for inspection until the 13th June, 2016. Observations could be made until the 27th June, 2016, and once the Part 8 process had been completed, tendering would commence. Members noted that houses on the Estate were to be allocated in the immediate future and raised concerns that residents would be living in the estate before footpaths were put in place. It was suggested that every effort would be made to have the works carried out before the winter. The Director stated that a Special Meeting of the District could be arranged for July to facilitate the Part 8 process.

3. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

The Director stated that the inclusion of this Item on the Agenda was a reminder that a decision had to be made in relation to the allocation of funds under Special Projects at a Statutory Meeting. He also stated that any groups applying for funding had to have tax clearance, meet with specified criteria and that forms were available to Members to facilitate this process. He stressed that projects should be strategic in nature, not relate to the running costs of groups, should be approved in advance of works.

It was noted that Templeglantine had approached all the Members in relation to funding a project in the amount of €40,000. It was agreed to place General Municipal Allocation as an item on the Agenda each month and a workshop could be arranged if required.

QUESTIONS

4. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when essential safety measures are likely to be undertaken between the pedestrian entrance to Wingfield Orchard and the Woodfield Junction along the R 522.

REPLY: Repair works will be carried out on this section of roadway within the next 2 weeks.

5. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when the old garden fencing fronting the Social Housing at Oak Crescent will be renewed.

REPLY: An inspection on the existing fencing at this location will be carried out in the coming week in order to assess this matter.

6. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when an effective waste water disposal arrangement will be provided for Hillside Estate, Dromcollogher.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council, on behalf of Irish Water, are currently surveying the Hillside Estate. The tendering process will commence as soon as surveying and documents are complete. It is anticipated that works will commence within 3 months.

7. Question submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the provision of directional signage at Hillside Drive, Athea.

REPLY: This signage is being erected.

Members raised concerns that notification that the sign had been erected was not conveyed to them. They noted there was still an issue with the naming of Hillside Drive on the directional sign and queried if Gortnagross could be added. The Operations Manager agreed to look at the signage again and revert to the next Meeting.

8. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting if a waste bin service can be provided at Holy Cross Cemetery Athea.

REPLY: A bin service was provided to the above mentioned cemetery however the service had to be removed due to misuse. Currently a number of TÚS workers are carrying out clean ups in both of the cemeteries in Athea and this is working well.

The Council provides a bin collection service to 11 cemeteries within the Newcastle West Municipal District in 2016 and this would have been budgeted for in this year's budget. Therefore the funding available for 2016 does not allow for the addition of any further bin collections for cemeteries. The matter can be revisited for 2017 should funding allow.

Members stressed the need for a bin service at this location and noted that any misuse of such service should be dealt with and the bin left in place. The Operations Manager undertook to review this request.

NOTICES OF MOTION

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that a street cleaning programme be put in place for the village of Mountcollins.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Galvin stated that the street sweeper should be available for small villages on a regular basis.

Councillor Foley seconded the Motion.

REPLY: The Newcastle West Municipal District currently has access to the road sweeper for 1 day every second week and this is rotated between the towns of Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale. Given the limited availability of the sweeper, the Council can only commit to

sweeping Mountcollins on a six monthly basis, should resources allow.

Members suggested that mini road sweepers should be employed in the smaller towns and villages.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that the direction towards Monagea be incorporated on signage at the junction with the L 1315 at Boherbui, Newcastle West.

REPLY: Signage for Monagea at this junction has been ordered and will be erected as soon as possible.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council put an immediate annual plan in place for grass cutting and general maintenance at the Glebe Estate in Monagea.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Scanlan stated that he understood that the Bond had been realised and further works had been carried out to finish the estate. He stated that it was now imperative that this estate be taken in charge.

Councillor Collins seconded the Motion.

REPLY: The Glebe Estate in Monagea has not been taken in charge by Limerick City and County Council. We have looked at the estate and there are significant elements of landscaping works to be carried out as well as grass cutting. These should be completed and the estate taken in charge before the Parks and Landscaping team become responsible for grass cutting.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council take over the running costs of lighting the Grotto in Mountcollins.

Councillor Galvin in proposing the Motion stated that we should try to assist in this matter.

Councillor Collins seconded the Motion.

REPLY: The Council's budget for energy/maintenance of the public lighting system has been significantly reduced in recent years. Accordingly it is not possible to add any additional lights to the Council's system at this time and for the foreseeable future other than those governed by planning commitments. However, the Director of Services for the Municipal District has received a request to meet Mountcollins Development Association and this matter can be discussed further at that time.

Members noted that there were grottos elsewhere with similar requirements.

13. **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor F. Foley**

I will move at the next Meeting that funding be sought immediately for the upgrading of the road surface from Mountmahon to the Garda Station in Abbeyfeale as the surface is in a dangerous condition.

Councillor Foley in proposing the Motion stated that the road had deteriorated considerably and that the Council should immediately seek funding from the TII. Members asked that this matter be pursued and an update given at the next Meeting.

Councillor Browne seconded the Motion.

REPLY: The Council's Roads Department is currently preparing a submission to the TII for funding and the above mentioned roadway forms part of this submission.

14. **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Browne**

I will move at the next Meeting that hedges at St. Joseph's housing estate, Dromcollogher be trimmed back.

Councillor Browne in proposing the Motion stated that this was a Council estate and that, due to overhanging hedges, children in the estate were unable to play in the Green area.

Councillor Scanlan seconded the Motion.

REPLY: In the West Division, hedges at Regional road junctions are cut annually along with local roads which are high risk. Hedge cutting also takes place around signs at junctions. The Roads Act 1993 obliges landowners and occupiers of land to take all reasonable care to ensure that trees, ditches, hedges and other vegetation growing on their land are not our could not become a danger to people using or working on a public road.

The Wildlife Act 1976 prohibits hedge cutting between the 1st March and 31st August each year and therefore the above mentioned hedges at St. Joseph's housing estate cannot be cut at the present time however consideration will be given to trimming these back once the prohibition period for hedge cutting has concluded.

15. **Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan**

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council set aside money from the Development Contribution Fund to design and undertake full overlay of pavement in the town of Glin.

Councillor Sheahan in proposing the Motion stated that, as a result of works carried out by Irish Water, the street and pavements in Glin were in poor condition and asked that the Council consider re surfacing the entire road.

Councillor Collins seconded the Motion.

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 infrastructural improvements could be carried out at that stage subject to the necessary funds being available. A submission in this regard will be made to the Development Fund shortly.

Members requested that any study should be done in consultation with local residents and the results of same should be brought to a future Meeting of the District.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan

I will move at the next Meeting that a pedestrian crossing be provided at a location in South Main Street, Glin.

Councillor Sheahan in proposing the Motion stated that the relocation of the Post Office to South Main Street had given rise to increased pedestrian and vehicular traffic on the street resulting in two near accidents in recent times and that a pedestrian crossing was required to improve safety for pedestrians.

Councillor Browne seconded the Motion.

REPLY: In Glin the road surface is in need of upgrade over much of its length and the village could do with a formal pavement renewal plan to incorporate public realm improvements – in effect a redesign of the village road scape. The street widths in Glin are particularly broad which can make the crossing of the road more difficult. However a crossing would ideally be carried out in conjunction with a village design in order to achieve the best solution.

The Operations Manager noted that a pedestrian crossing costs in the region of €35,000. There were many requests for crossings throughout the District, with a crossing in Bruree being funded under the General Municipal Allocation.

At the conclusion of the Agenda the following items were discussed with the consent of the Cathaoirleach.

Councillor Sheahan requested an explanation as to why fencing was put in place at the Limerick City and County Council Depot in Glin. The Operations Manager noted that, as a result of risk assessments carried out on all depots in the County, it was recommended by the Health and Safety Officer that the erection of fencing was necessary for safety and security reasons.

Councillor Collins raised a matter which had been previously discussed at a Meeting of the District in relation to the renaming of The Square, Newcastle West to Con Colbert Square. The Operations Manager noted that following research, it appeared that this matter was originally proposed in 1966 but never came to fruition. Members were in agreement that the process should now be undertaken to rename The Square, Newcastle West.

It was agreed to hold the June Meeting on Wednesday, 1st June, 2016.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____