

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 2nd DECEMBER, 2015, 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), Senior Executive Engineer, West and South Division (Mr. B. Noonan), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. T. Knox), Administrative Officer, Economic Development and Planning (Ms. Mary Hayes), 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 November, 2015.

Proposed by Councillor Scanlan;

Seconded by Councillor Galvin;

And Resolved:

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

Arising from the Minutes, Councillor Sheahan stated that in relation to Item No. 3 he had sought funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme to carry out a Public Realm Study for Glin. This request was supported by Councillor Collins. The Director stated that he would check if any funding was available.

The Director of Services advised of his intention to organise Meetings in the New Year regarding:

- Newcastle West Town Plan.
- Abbeyfeale Town Plan.

2. Fixing of Date

It was agreed to hold the January Meeting of the Municipal District on Wednesday, 27th January, 2016.

3. Deputation Calvary Cemetery Committee

The Cathaoirleach welcomed representatives from Calvary Cemetery Committee and outlined the format for the presentation. He advised that a letter would issue to them, in due course,

acknowledging their Deputation. The Deputation consisted of Mr. David Cahill, Chairperson, Ms. Trish Feury and Ms. Mary O'Brien. Sergeant Liam Mc Graynor represented An Garda Síochána. Ms. Feury in making her presentation outlined the issues affecting the Cemetery:

- Theft from the Cemetery and from visitors.
- Illegal Dumping.
- Lack of lighting.
- Structure of footpath.
- Drainage.

The Committee proposed that with the assistance of the Council CCTV would be installed. It was suggested that transient CCTV would be put in place and that the estimated cost was in the region of €3,500. Sergeant Mc Graynor stated that the Gardai were aware of a number of incidents. Illegal dumping was a major issue and had been reported to the Council on numerous occasions. It was the wish of the Committee to provide a safe environment for those visiting their loved ones.

It was stated that the cost of lighting would be in excess of €12,000 and it was proposed to look at the possibility of solar lighting which would be a cheaper option with a cost of approximately €55 per light. It was pointed out that footpaths were uneven and that there was a very high risk of slipping and tripping.

It was also stated that there were approximately 3 to 5 years remaining in Calvary Cemetery. The deputation would welcome any solutions or suggestions that the Council may have in regard to the issues raised.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the Deputation for their presentation. The Deputation then withdrew from the Meeting.

4. Economic Development and Planning Initiatives for the Municipal District of Newcastle West

The Administrative Officer, Economic Development and Planning made a presentation to the Members under the following headings:

- Overview of Planning and Economic Development.
- Data Analysis on Town Centres.
- Geo Directory Occupancy and Vacancy Analysis 2014-2015 – Newcastle West.
- Current Initiatives.

She stated that the current initiatives available to property owners were the Love your Street Scheme and the Retail Business Incentive Scheme. She also stated that the Town and Village Renewal Scheme would be launched the following year and that €100,000 had been allocated to the Great Southern Trail.

The Cathaoirleach thanked her for her presentation and stated that the Retail Incentive Scheme was not stimulating business in Newcastle West as rates there were low and the scheme was not very beneficial. It may need to be looked at in the future. Members also stated that something needed to be done to bring back people to live in towns and villages. It was

proposed by Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Sheahan and agreed that a Motion be submitted to the full Council Meeting calling on the Government to introduce a Tax Incentive Scheme to encourage people to live in rural towns and villages. The issue of derelict sites needed to be dealt with and the Director stated that an official from Economic Development and Planning would address a future Meeting of the District in relation to derelict sites.

In relation to the Great Southern Trail, Members asked if proper signage and crossings could be put in place. It was stated that crossings and designs for signage were being worked on and a meeting would take place with National Trails Association and Council officials in the near future. The Director stated that a Marketing and Promotion Plan for the Great Southern Trail was needed.

5. Travel and Transportation/Environment

Deputation to meet with Transport Infrastructure Ireland

It was agreed that the Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District would attend a meeting with representatives from Transport Infrastructure Ireland. In the event that the Cathaoirleach was unavailable he would nominate another Member. It was also agreed that Members submit a list of issues they wished to have raised at this meeting to the Administrative Officer, Corporate Services by the 9th December, 2015. It was requested that this meeting be arranged to take place in Limerick.

Cedarville Estate, Abbeyfeale

Discussion took place in relation to the provision of double yellow lines at Cedarville Estate. It was suggested that this item be deferred in order to consult with the Engineer for the area and to explore the possibility of car parking facilities, in adjacent doctor's surgery.

QUESTIONS

6. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the provision of a footpath from Abbey United Soccer Field to the Railway Bar, Abbeyfeale.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council has applied for grant funding for an extension of the footpath on the R524 road under the Recreation Fund 2015. The Council was awaiting a response from the Department of Environment Community and Local Government on the status of this grant funding.

7. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the provision of proper signage for the Town Park, Abbeyfeale.

REPLY: Signage for the Town Park has been ordered and will be erected once received. Signage for the Park will be erected at the Square and at the entrance to the Town Park.

8. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the purchase of Tom Ahern's Butcher Stall, Abbeyfeale and Danahers at the end of Colbert Street.

REPLY:

In relation to Ahern's Butcher Stall, Limerick City and County Council had previously indicated that the purchase of this building should be contingent on a Traffic Management Plan for Main Street being adopted. In 2014, a Plan was prepared but was rejected by the business community of Main Street.

The Council has now appointed consultants to prepare a new Traffic Management Plan, in which the merits of the purchase of the Butchers Stall will be considered again.

In relation to Danahers on Colbert Street, the merits of the purchase of this building will be considered in the new Traffic Management Plan about to be undertaken.

9. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting if the suction sweeper can be deployed in the Woodfield Estates to remove the very significant leaf fall in the area.

REPLY: We are actively progressing a programme of sweeping roads and footpaths in the district. We will endeavour to schedule estates into this programme.

10. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when the part of the footpath in urgent need of repair will be replaced at Chapel Close.

REPLY: The repair of the footpath at Chapel Close is part of works scheduled for completion before the end of 2015.

11. Question submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will ask at the next Meeting if traffic calming measures can be looked at in Oakpark, Newcastle West in the interest of safety.

REPLY: Five estates within the Newcastle West Municipal District formed part of the list of estates where the special 30 km estate speed limit is being introduced during 2015. The Oakpark estate can be included in the Newcastle West Municipal District list for 2016 as this will assist with traffic calming within the estate.

Councillor Collins asked what criteria were used with regard to the provision of ramps in estates. The Operations Manager stated that each estate is looked at on its merits.

NOTICES OF MOTION

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that the Members call on the National Roads Authority to undertake a Safety Audit of all right hand turn lanes on the N21 from Newcastle West to the Kerry Border.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Galvin stated that he could not understand why no right stacking lanes were provided for cul-de-sacs with three properties or more on road. Councillor Browne seconded the Motion.

REPLY: The Transport Infrastructure Ireland (previously NRA) has conducted a Safety Inspection on the N21 from Newcastle West to the Kerry Border which included all junctions. Any safety issues arising from this inspection have been noted and will be examined in relation to potential new works, timescale subject to funding availability.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that immediate steps are taken to prepare a Traffic Management Plan for Abbeyfeale Town.

Councillor Galvin in proposing the Motion stated that no parking spaces should be removed from the Main Street in Abbeyfeale. It was the only town on the N21 with no bus stop on the left hand side. People find it very difficult to pull up in the town. It was suggested that a Public Toilet be reinstated at the Square, Abbeyfeale. Councillor Browne in seconding the Motion stated that he would welcome a Traffic Management Plan and proper consultation was required with the people and the business sector.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council has appointed consultants, Malachy Walsh and Partners, to prepare a Traffic Management Plan. Work will commence on the Plan prior to Christmas, 2015. Public consultation will take place in early 2016 with a view to bringing the Plan through the Part VIII process.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that the Council liaise with Irish Water to enable meters to be installed at several private residences in the Newcastle town area where users are currently being overcharged for water as they are billed for estimated rather than actual usage.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Scanlan stated that several households had no meters installed and when Irish Water were contacted they stated that they were awaiting confirmation of specifications from the Council. Following on from contact made by him in relation to one household the meter had now been installed. The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed.

REPLY: The Council will refer Councillor Scanlan's Notice of Motion to Irish Water for

their attention if the Notice of Motion is adopted at the Meeting of 2nd December, 2015.

Irish Water has provided a designated telephone number and email address to facilitate elected representatives making direct contact with them. Irish Water contact public representatives to advise of local clinic facilities that are provided and facilitate public representatives meeting with Irish Water staff. Telephone number is 1890178178. Email address: localrepsupport@water.ie.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that essential works are carried out on local roads at (a) Clonmore, Dromcollogher, (b) Gorteen Feenagh, (c) Appletown, Feohanagh, (d) Gardenfield, Monagea so as to ensure against the repercussions of future flooding in these areas.

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

REPLY: Works such as gully cleaning and drainage works will be carried out at the above mentioned locations in the next few weeks.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that signage located at the Grange side of Dores Cross on the R520 be relocated to a safer area at the junction as it is causing a sight line and traffic hazard for vehicle owners accessing the regional road.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

REPLY: The location has been checked and the signage will be moved back.

17. Correspondence

The Operations Manager stated that correspondence had been received from Inland Fisheries Ireland requesting funding towards the Oolagh Bridge project which had been proposed by the Abbeyfeale Anglers Association. It was suggested that the request be forwarded to the Local Community Development Committee as some funding may be available from that source.

Invitation to Superintendent of Newcastle West District

Members requested that the Superintendent, Newcastle West, be invited to attend the January Meeting to give an update on policing for the District.

The Cathaoirleach wished everyone a happy Christmas and expressed his thanks to the officials and outdoor staff of the Municipal District of Newcastle West for assistance during the year.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____