

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 MARCH, 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 (Ms. T. Knox), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Senior Staff Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. M. Corbett), Clerical Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. D. O’Kelly), Clerical Officer, Home and Community (Ms. Jennifer Frahill).

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 10th February, 2016.

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

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

2. Desmond Hall

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Pdraig O’Ruairc, Regional Manager, Shannon Region Heritage Sites, who gave a presentation on Desmond Hall, Newcastle West.

Mr. O’Ruairc stated that visitor numbers to the 13th Century Castle had risen from around 2,000 in 2005 to 11,150 in 2015. He also stated that as a result of signage being erected, numbers had increased, however the present location of signage was confusing for visitors. It was outlined that there was potential to grow numbers to 20,000. He stated that 16,000 people a day travelled through Newcastle West between Adare and Killarney at the height of the tourist season. An increase in visitor numbers to the castle would only come about with proper road signage, car parking and coach parking facilities. He also stated that a Tourist Office in the town was essential to grow tourism in the region.

Mr. O’Ruairc also spoke of the proposal by the Office of Public Works to rename the

Castle to “Newcastle West Medieval Complex”. Members expressed concern at this name change. It was proposed to write to the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and to the Office of Public Works to retain the name of Desmond Hall.

Members thanked him for his presentation and it was suggested that contact would be made with Fáilte Ireland, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Bus Éireann as a matter of urgency due to the commencement of the tourist season. Following general discussion the Director of Services stated that this was a very worthwhile presentation and that there was a need to promote tourism in Newcastle West and the surrounding area.

3. Service Operations

Update on installation of double yellow lines at Cedarville Estate, Abbeyfeale

The Roads Engineer stated that he had had a meeting with Fr. O’Shea in Abbeyfeale and outlined the concerns of residents in the estate with regard to parking in the vicinity of the church and problems with access by emergency vehicles to the estate. It was proposed that Limerick City and County Council would provide a site adjacent to the church for car parking but this was not agreeable to the church as no funding was available to them to develop the site.

After much discussion, it was suggested that installation of double yellow lines may be the only option. It was proposed to bring the matter to public consultation.

Councillor Sheahan raised the issue of car parking facilities at Templeglantine Church.

4. Disposal of Land

Circulated, Report of the Director, Home and Community dated 17th February, 2016 setting out details of proposal to dispose of Freehold Interest to purchasers for dwelling houses situate at:

- 92 Assumpta Park, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.
- Glensharrold, Carrickerry, Ardagh, Co. Limerick.

Councillor Collins disclosed an interest in this item in relation to 92 Assumpta Park. In accordance with Section 177 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, he withdrew from the Meeting for the duration of the discussion on this item. Councillor Foley took over the role of Cathaoirleach for the duration of the discussion.

Members noted the proposals for the disposal of land as follows:-

- Disposal of Freehold Interest in dwelling house situate 92 Assumpta Park, Newcastle West, Co.Limerick.
- Disposal of Freehold Interest in dwelling house situate at Glensharrold, Carrickerry, Ardagh, Co.Limerick.

QUESTIONS

5. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting what revenue was raised from the sale of Council owned graves in the Newcastle West Municipal District in each of the years 2013, 2014 and 2015.

REPLY: The Council does not have a breakdown of the precise income from sale of graves for the Newcastle West Municipal District. The estimated income from the sale of graves is set out hereunder;

| | |
|------|---------|
| 2013 | €47,000 |
| 2014 | €45,000 |
| 2015 | €60,000 |

6. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when the Bog Road Rooska will be resurfaced.

REPLY: Repairs will be carried out on this road within the next few weeks.

7. Question submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will ask at the next Meeting if horses roaming freely on the green area at Assumpta Park, can be removed in the interest of safety and hygiene.

REPLY: The Estate Management Unit is not aware that there are “horses roaming freely” in this green area. However, the situation will be monitored closely going forward and appropriate action taken if such a problem is identified.

8. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting when the road from Barnagh to Horan’s Cross and from Horan’s Cross to Healy’s Forge will be repaired.

REPLY: The above mentioned road is included for reconstruction and resurfacing works in the 2016 Roads Programme subject to Department funding.

8 (a). Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting when the inlets and water tables on the road from Knocknagorna Cross to Toureen Bridge will be opened, in order that the surface water may be removed from the road.

REPLY: The Roads crew is currently engaged in reconstruction works and will endeavour to have this matter addressed when resources permit.

NOTICES OF MOTION

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that Transport Infrastructure Ireland be requested to survey traffic flow at three pinch points, namely, Bridge Street, Newcastle West, Boherbui and Sheahan's Road junctions with the N21 with a view to placing mini roundabout systems at each location so as to enable the smooth flow of traffic locally.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan stated that this Motion should be forwarded to Transport Infrastructure Ireland. He also stated that a detailed submission had been given several years ago in relation to traffic flow and this needed to be reviewed. Councillor Collins seconded the Motion.

Councillor Sheahan pointed out that reinstatement works carried out in Glin were not satisfactory.

REPLY: The Council is in continual and ongoing discussion with Transport Infrastructure Ireland relating to the traffic situation in Newcastle West and the need to look at junction improvements. In addition to the junctions mentioned, Lacey's Cross (Foynes Road Junction) is also high on list of schemes for consideration, all of which recently have been re-tabled as priorities for Limerick City and County Council.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that a full audit be undertaken to identify winter weather related damage to the roads locally and thereafter to request the full Council to consider raising a loan to fund the related cost of undertaking the necessary reinstatement works.

Councillor Scanlan in proposing the Motion stated that roads in the District are in very bad repair after the flooding. Councillor Collins seconded the Motion.

The Roads Engineer stated that following recent flooding, Newcastle West had made an application for €370,000 for repair to roads, however, only €300,000 had been allocated to the District. Members stated that this amount was inadequate in light of the allocation of €4m to the whole Council. It was suggested that Members submit list of damaged roads requiring repair for consideration and the matter be put on the Agenda for the next Meeting of the District.

In relation to query relating to temporary staff the Operations Manager stated that it was hoped to have these staff in place by the beginning of April, 2016.

REPLY: The Council has applied to the Department of the Environment for funding for the repair of roads which were damaged during the recent bad weather. Funding is being granted and details of the allocation for the Newcastle West Municipal District are awaited.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that the green centre area at house Nos. 1 to 10, Hazlegrove Estate, Newcastle West be removed and hardcored for the following reasons;

1. *Large Vehicles and trucks are driving onto the green area on the centre of the road. This is making it dirty and unsightly.*
2. *Emergency Vehicles are unable to access house Nos. 1 to 10 because of the narrowness of roadway.*
3. *Private parking is restricted at this location due to the size of the green area in the centre of the roadway.*

The Roads Engineer stated that a meeting should be arranged at Hazlegrove Estate to discuss the options available.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that Kilougholehane Graveyard in Broadford be repaired in advance of the dawn Mass on Easter Sunday.

Councillor Galvin in proposing the Motion stated that the Graveyard and car park required maintenance in advance of the dawn Mass on Easter Sunday. Councillor Browne seconded the Motion.

REPLY: The two items requested for maintenance/repair works were – cleanup of the Republican Plot and maintenance works in the car-park.

The Council will arrange for a cleanup of the Republican Plot in advance of the dawn Mass on Easter Sunday. Unfortunately, the Council does not have resources to carry out repairs to the car park.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that parking, seating and bins be provided at the scenic viewing location at Barnagh.

Councillor Galvin in proposing the Motion stated that there was a need to place an information board at this location. It was also stated that “no dumping” signs should be placed here. Discussion took place and it was agreed that as it was a very scenic viewing area, improvements to enhance the area were required. The Director suggested that funding may be available from the General Municipal Allocation for tourism issues. Councillors suggested a plan be prepared prior to considering allocation from the General Municipal Allocation. Councillor Sheahan seconded the Motion.

REPLY: The Council has reviewed this area and it was noted that there was sufficient parking, seating and litter bins at this scenic viewing area at the top of Barnagh.

Councillor Collins stated that he had been informed that a proposal was made back in the 1960s to rename The Square in Newcastle West to Con Colbert Square. It was proposed to follow up on this and revert back in light of the 1916 Commemoration.

Following brief discussion on Cois na Feile, Athletics Track and Road Works Scheme it was agreed to hold a Special Meeting "in committee" of the District on Tuesday, 22nd March, 2016.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____