

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD AT ÁRAS SEÁN FINN, NEW LINE ROAD, RATHKEALE, CO. LIMERICK ON TUESDAY, 9TH MARCH, 2016, AT 9.00 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor R. O'Donoghue, An Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Keary, McMahon, O'Brien and Sheahan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Regional Services (Ms. C. Curley), Senior Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office (Mr. T. Fitzgerald), Senior Engineer, Transportation (Mr. D. Brennan), Operations Manager, South and West Division (Mr. B. Kennedy), Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations South/West (Mr. R. Noonan), Meetings Administrator (Mr. T. O'Callaghan), Executive Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office (Mr. S. Linehan), Assistant Engineer, Service Operations South/West (Mr. D. Flanagan), Staff Officer (Ms. K. Butler), Assistant Staff Officer (Ms. E. Buckley), Mr. Dermot Donovan, Roadplan Consulting.

At the commencement of the Meeting the Cathaoirleach welcomed Deputy Tom Neville to the Meeting and offered him his congratulations on his election to Dáil Eireann. Members wishes Deputy Neville well for the future and noted that he was now in a position to act as a bridge between Local Government and national politics.

Deputy Neville indicated that he was co-opted onto Limerick County Council in 2003 and had mixed emotions on the abolition of the dual mandate. He added that he had been honoured to be the first Chair of the Municipal District and paid tribute to Councillors O'Brien and O'Donovan who had also stood for election to the Dáil. He thanked local authority staff and Members for their support during his time as an Elected Member.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 9th February, 2016.

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

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

Councillor Keary indicated that he had requested a report showing appropriate locations for speed ramps in Rathkeale and highlighted the need for a speed ramp in Thomas Street. Members added that pedestrian crossings and speed ramps form part of road safety measures and that steel speed ramps could be used as they were less expensive than tarmac.

The Senior Engineer, Transportation highlighted the benefits of providing area wide traffic calming to gradually reduce the speed of traffic exiting the main road network and stressed that speed ramps were not the only solution in this regard. He highlighted the importance of catering for all road users, including cyclists and pointed out the difficulties speed ramps posed for cyclists.

2. Deputation from Rathkeale Community Council

The Cathaoirleach welcomed representatives from Rathkeale Community Council which consisted of Pat Neville, Damien O'Grady, Peter Donovan and Richard Naughton. Mr. Neville outlined their concerns under the following headings:-

Plan for Rathkeale Town

- Traffic Control
- Speed Ramps
- Street Resurfacing
- Plans for Christmas 2016
- Street Lighting

Town Maintenance

- Grass cutting
- Weed killing
- Strimming

Great Southern Trail

- Signage
- Plans for 2016

Dohyle Lough

- Ownership of Water
- Phase 1
- Support

Members thanked the deputation for their presentation and noted that the Great Southern Trail was the precursor to the Green Way in Mayo and that the Council should do more to promote the Great Southern Trail. Members also indicated that an action plan was required for Rathkeale and raised concern with regard to the number of derelict sites in the town.

3. Regional Directorate (Mid West National Road Design Office)

Proposed N21 Adare Western Approach Improvement Scheme

Mr. Dermot Donovan, Roadplan Consulting presented and circulated an update on the Proposed N21 Adare Western Approach Improvement Scheme. He indicated that this was the 3rd Briefing to Elected Members and highlighted the inadequacies of the existing pavement and drainage. He

indicated that a set-down area and carpark, in the vicinity of the school, was proposed as part of the scheme which would facilitate the drop-off and collection of pupils in a safer manner.

The following areas of concern were raised by various Members and a number of Members indicated that they would be unwilling to support the scheme until the issues they had raised had been addressed:

- The capacity and condition of any proposed diversionary routes while works were in progress.
- That the proposed works did not provide for a sewerage pipe to be laid from Murphy's Cross to the Town Hall in Adare to provide for existing and future requirements.
- The need to provide a footpath from Adare to the GAA grounds on the Blackabbey Road. A petition with signatures in support of this proposal was submitted to the Meeting.
- The need for pedestrian controlled lights in the village in lieu of the existing crossing.

The Senior Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office, indicated that they were liaising with statutory bodies and utility companies to make adequate provisions for future servicing requirements. He noted that a request was made to Transportation Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to fund the provision of a footpath from Adare to the GAA grounds on the Blackabbey Road, however, TII in their e-mail dated 29th February, 2016 indicated that their remit extended to national roads only. He noted also that Irish Water, in their letter dated 22nd December, 2015, had indicated that the extension of the waste water network along the route of the proposed road improvement scheme currently did not fall into environmental and economic drivers to facilitate this investment.

4. Road Works Scheme

Circulated, draft Road Works Scheme 2016 for the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan;
 Seconded by Councillor O'Brien;
 And Resolved:

"That, Road Works Scheme 2016 for the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, as circulated, be adopted."

5. Economic Development & Planning

To note update on the Taking in Charge of Ballyvareen Estate.

Circulated, report of the A/Senior Planner, Economic Development and Planning dated March, 2016 setting out update on the status of the Taking in Charge of Ballyvareen Estate, Kildimo.

The report was noted by the Members who requested that the item remain on the agenda for next month.

6. General Municipal Allocation

It was agreed that the General Municipal Allocation Workshop should be held on Monday, 14th March, 2016 at 11.00 a.m.

7. Flooding issues

To receive update on proposals to address the flooding issues in Foynes, Askeaton and Ballysteen.

In relation to Askeaton, the Operations Manager indicated that an update Meeting with the Design Team to clarify costings would be carried out that week. He added that no funding had been allocated for works.

In relation to Foynes, the Operations Manager indicated that legal agreement had been reached with Shannon Foynes Port Company and Iarnród Eireann and these were currently being checked by the Council's Law Agent. Work on site would commence after Easter and it was intended this work would be completed by the end of quarter 3, 2016.

In relation to Ballysteen, the Operations Manager indicated that an application was made to the Office of Public Works (OPW) and as yet no response had been received. He added that an application would be re-submitted shortly.

8. Sewerage Treatment Plant in Askeaton

Circulated, report from Irish Water dated 18th February, 2016 setting out update on the provision of a new sewerage treatment plant in Askeaton. The report was noted by the Members.

9. Footpaths in Adare

To receive update on request to provide footpaths from Adare village to the GAA grounds in Adare.

It was noted that this item was discussed in conjunction with Item 3, Proposed N21 Adare Western Approach Improvement Scheme.

NOTICE OF MOTION

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan

I will move at the next Meeting that the current burial ground bye-laws are amended to permit the standard of maintenance and structure of headstones and kerbing that applied in graveyards for a period in excess of twenty years.

Councillor Sheahan informed the Meeting that he was withdrawing his Notice of Motion.

11. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted.

Change of Dates for April, May and June Meetings of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale.

It was agreed that the April Meeting would be held on Monday, 11th April, 2016; the May Meeting would be held on Wednesday, 11th May, 2016 and the June Meeting would be held on Wednesday, 15th June, 2016.

At the conclusion of the Agenda, Councillor O'Donoghue queried when the Part VIII for the Distributor Road in Croom would start. The Director, Regional Services indicated that she would revert to Members in this regard.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____