

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN COMMUNITY HALL, DROMCOLLOGHER, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE, 2015, AT 10.00 A.M.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor J. Scanlan, An Cathaoirleach.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Browne, Collins, Foley, Galvin and Sheahan.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Acting Director, Travel and Transportation (Mr. V. Murray), Operations Manager, West and South Division (Mr. B. Kennedy), Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services (Mr. C. O'Connor), Senior Executive Engineer, West and South Division (Mr. B. Noonan), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Executive Engineer, Housing (Mr. M. O'Brien), Senior Executive Planner, Economic Development and Planning (Mr. S. Duclot), Conservation Officer, Economic Development and Planning (Mr. T. Cassidy), 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 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2015.

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

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

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Special Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2015.

Proposed by Councillor Browne;  
Seconded by Councillor Collins;  
And Resolved:

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

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Special Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2015.

Proposed by Councillor Collins;  
 Seconded by Councillor Browne;  
 And Resolved:

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

A discussion took place in relation to the proposed Abbeyfeale Development Plan. It was agreed that the Senior Executive Engineer, West and South Division, would make contact with the Chairman of Abbeyfeale Development Association in relation to matters affecting the Council and that a presentation of the Plan would be made at a future Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

## **2. Deputation**

### **Deputation from Dromcollogher Community Council**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed representatives from Dromcollogher Community Council. The Deputation consisted of Mr. John O'Dell (Chairman), Ms. Eileen Twomey (Treasurer) and Mr. John Collins (Committee Member).

Mr. O'Dell circulated a report covering the main areas of concern in Dromcollogher under the following headings:

- Infrastructure.
- Speed Reduction Measures.
- Amenities.

The Deputation stated that they would like Limerick City and County Council to work with them in formulating a plan for the next 5 years incorporating the Plan previously outlined by the Council in relation to The Square in 2012/2013.

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

It was agreed that the Operations Manager would look at the proposals set out by the Deputation and revert back to the Members before replying to the Deputation.

### **Rathronan Estate, Athea:**

As agreed at Meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2015, a member of staff from the Economic Development and Planning Directorate was present for discussion on this item.

Concerns were expressed by the Members that funding was now required from the Development Fund to complete works on this estate. It was pointed out that the developer was still in operation and was working on behalf of the Council on another project in Abbeyfeale. There was general agreement however that the works on the estate should be completed as soon as possible.

The Senior Executive Planner, Economic Development and Planning, outlined the background to the development and gave details of the development contributions and bond levied in respect of the estate. Given the extreme difficulties that had arisen in relation to the completion of the estate the sum of €56,000 was now being provided from the Development Fund to bring the area up to a satisfactory standard. In response to queries from the Members regarding action to be taken against the developer for recoupment of costs, the Senior Executive Engineer pointed out that there were legal difficulties but that the matter was being examined under the planning legislation. He pointed out that planning permission for this estate had now expired.

Councillor Scanlan proposed that a policy be developed whereby the Council would have a residual charge on lands in conjunction with Planning Authority until estates were finished. He requested that such a proposal be referred to the Economic Development and Planning Strategic Policy Committee for consideration. This was seconded by Councillor Galvin and agreed.

It was also proposed that the Council's policy on bonds be examined.

The Senior Executive Engineer, West and South Division, gave an outline of the works required on the site.

The recent announcement of funding for a sewage plant in Athea was also welcomed by Members.

### **Cois Na Féile, Abbeyfeale.**

In relation to Cois na Féile, Abbeyfeale, Members requested that they be kept up to date on progress. They also requested that this item be kept on the Agenda until the estate was completed.

## **3. Economic Development and Planning**

### **Proposal to remove four structures from The Record of Protected Structures**

Circulated, report from Director of Services, Economic Development and Planning, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015 setting out details of proposed removal of 4 structures from the Record of Protected Structures in accordance with Section 54 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), details as follows: (i) A thatched house at Coolaboy, Dromcollogher, County R.P.S. Reg. No. 275, (ii) A thatched house at Gardenfield, Monagea, Newcastle West, County R.P.S. Reg. No. 381, (iii) Commercial premises on Church Street, Newcastle West, County R.P.S. Reg. No. 1461, (iv) Dwelling / former Commercial premises on Maiden Street, Newcastle West, County R.P.S. Reg. No. 1693.

The Conservation Officer, Economic Development and Planning, outlined details of the proposal pointing out that the statutory process, as set out in Section 55 of the Act, had been complied with. He then outlined the reason for the proposed deletion of each of the properties.

A discussion took place in relation to other properties on the Protected Structures List that Members felt were not necessarily of heritage value and asked that these and, in particular, houses in Abbeyfeale be de-listed. Members queried grant aid available to owners of thatched houses to repair and maintain them and the Conservation Officer advised that the Council tried to work with owners to save those properties. He also stated that funding was only available for dwellings that were not derelict. He added that Limerick City and County Council had the highest number of thatched houses in the country and that the Council needed to try and maintain as many as possible.

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

“That, in accordance with Section 55 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) the approval of the Municipal District of Newcastle West be and is hereby given to the deletion from the Record of Protected Structures of the four structures, as set out in the report of the Director of Services, Economic Development and Planning dated 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015 details as follows:

(i) A thatched house at Coolaboy, Dromcollogher, County R.P.S. Reg. No. 275, (ii) A thatched house at Gardenfield, Monagea, Newcastle West, County R.P.S Reg. No. 381, (iii) Commercial premises on Church Street, Newcastle West, County R.P.S. Reg. No. 1461, (iv) Dwelling / former Commercial premises on Maiden Street, Newcastle West, County R.P.S. Reg. No. 1693”.

## **QUESTIONS**

### **4. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting for a progress report on the up to date position with regard to the removal of trees impeding the sightline at the exit from Hawthorne Estate, Ballyagran, and provision of signage for Ballyagran from R520 (Bruff Line).*

**REPLY:** The boughs of the trees impeding the sightline at the entrance to the Hawthorne Estate have now been removed. This has improved the sightline at this location and no further removal of trees will improve the sightlines further. There is an old roadside shed immediately adjacent to the trees which may impede sightlines somewhat. We are not in a position to remove this shed. To install a footpath at this location will involve the removal of the tree immediately adjacent to the shed. We are in discussions with the residents group in relation to this matter.

A sign for Ballyagran from the R520 (Bruff Line) will be ordered and erected on delivery.

### **5. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting for the up-to-date position regarding signage for Meelin from the Spout, Mountplummer, Broadford.*

**REPLY:** A sign has been ordered for the above location.

**6. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting for the up-to-date position with regard to resurfacing/infill of potholes at Nash's Lane, Newcastle West.*

**REPLY:** The construction of the new Aldi on Nash's site has commenced. Nash's Lane is to be upgraded as part of these works.

A number of other issues were raised in relation to the proposed works and these were responded to by the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads.

### **NOTICES OF MOTION**

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

*I will move at the next Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West that the road in front of John Paul Terrace, Broadford, be repaired as a matter of urgency.*

Councillor Browne, in proposing the Motion, stated that there was a need for the road to be repaired as a matter of urgency.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

The Senior Executive Engineer, West and South Division, stated that the Contractor had been contacted on a few occasions with regard to repairing the road and that the Council Office in Newcastle West was following up on the matter.

**REPLY:** The reinstatement of a trench on this road arose from a water services mains rehabilitation contract. The contractor, Gibbons Building and Civil Engineering Limited, has been made aware of the defective reinstatement at Broadford and has been requested to repair same.

### **Schedule of Works General Municipal Allocation Roads**

With the permission of the Cathaoirleach, the Senior Executive Engineer referred to the roads element of the General Municipal Allocation and requested the approval of the Members to the expenditure of €50,000 to carry out footpath construction works in Castlemahon Village as a continuation of other works carried out there in recent years.

Following discussion in relation to this and other proposals, on the proposal of Councillor Scanlan and seconded by Councillor Collins, this proposal was agreed.

Discussions also took place regarding the allocation of the remaining €80,000 from the General Municipal Allocation for Special Projects. It was agreed that this matter would be deferred to a future meeting and that the possibility of capitalising this fund for use in the coming years would also be considered.

Concern was expressed by the Members at the manner in which the General Municipal Allocation had been dealt with in 2015. Members were informed that the Chief Executive was aware of the concerns raised and had given an undertaking that the process would be revised for the 2016 Budget.

### **Municipal Reception for Ms. Philomena Lee**

On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Scanlan seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed that a Municipal Reception would be accorded to Philomena Lee, who was a native of Newcastle West to mark her contribution under "***The Philomena Project***" to raise awareness about adoption laws and ways to improve them.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_