

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN KILCORNAN COMMUNITY CENTRE, KILCORNAN, CO. LIMERICK ON TUESDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER, 2015, AT 9.00 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor R. O'Donoghue, An Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Keary, McMahon, Neville, O'Brien and Sheahan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Head of Finance, Motor Tax and ICT (Mr. T. Gilligan), Director, Home and Social Development (Ms. C. Curley), Senior Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office (Mr. T. Fitzgerald), Operations Manager, South and West Division (Mr. B. Kennedy), A/Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, West Division Operations (Mr. B. Noonan), Assistant Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office (Mr. S. Linehan), Administrative Officer, Mid West National Road Design Office (Mr. M. Leahy), Administrative Officer, Water Services (Mr. Michael Griffin), Meetings Administrator (Ms. T. Knox), Staff Officer (Ms. Karen Butler), Assistant Staff Officer (Ms. E. Buckley).

With the Cathaoirleach's permission, it was agreed that Item 3 would be taken at this stage of the Meeting.

3. Deputation from Kilcornan Community Council

The Cathaoirleach welcomed representatives from Kilcornan Community Council. Mr. Randal Howlett, Chairman of the Community Council addressed the Meeting. He stated that both Kilcornan Community Centre and the Ger McDonnell all-weather playing facility were increasingly being used by the community which resulted in increased traffic flow. He added that traffic lights and traffic calming measures were needed to address road safety issues and that little capital investment had been made in the area to-date.

Members pointed out that there was a high level of traffic going through the village and that there was a need for a footpath and lighting from the primary school to the church grounds.

With the Cathaoirleach's permission, it was agreed to take Item 17 in conjunction with Item 3.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Brien

I will move at the next Meeting for the NRA to attend at our area and explain what their plan is for the installation of traffic route lighting in the vicinity of the Kilcornan primary school and entrance to the Ger McDonnell all-weather playing facility/ Kilcornan Community Centre together with enhanced traffic calming/safety measures at this location.

REPLY: The issue of traffic calming at this location has been raised with the NRA Safety Engineer. It remains on their list of potential works, but they currently do not regard it as a priority. However, the Council will write to the NRA requesting a meeting with a delegation of Council officials and Councillors on this matter.

The Members discussed the need to organise a deputation of Members to the National Road Authority (NRA) to discuss issues relevant to each District.

With the Cathaoirleach's permission, it was agreed that Item 5 would be taken next.

5. Travel and Transportation (Mid West National Road Design Office)

Proposed N21 Adare Western Approach Improvement Scheme

Mr. Dermot Donovan, Roadplan Consulting, delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed scheme. The scheme comprised of pavement rehabilitation, drainage, kerbing, footpaths and safety improvements. Members were advised that the project was dependent on Part VIII approval, funding and contract procurement. Members were informed that the project would take place outside the peak tourist season and that there would be a mix of daytime and night-time works, given the high volume of traffic passing through the village.

Members were advised that the project presented before them was not the final Plan, but a draft and that a public consultation would take place in the Dunraven Arms Hotel, Adare on 15th September, 2015. The last date for receipt of public comments would be 25th September, 2015.

The Senior Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office stated that improvements works were needed for Adare village and he recommended that the proposed works should proceed. In response to queries from the Members he outlined the budget for the scheme. It was agreed that following the public consultation process and before proceeding to Part VIII, the proposed scheme would be brought before the Members again for consideration.

Parent's Council, Kilcornan National School

Following an agreed 15 minute adjournment and with the Cathaoirleach's permission, it was agreed that Ms. Marie O'Neill, Parents Council of Kilcornan National School, could address the Meeting. She raised issues regarding traffic control works on the entrance to and pick-up/set down areas at the rear of the school.

The Meeting then proceeded with Item 1 on the Agenda.

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 14th July, 2015.

Proposed by Councillor O'Brien;

Seconded by Councillor McMahon;
And Resolved:

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

- (b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 14th July, 2015.

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

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

- (c) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 21st July, 2015.

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

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

2. Disposal of Land

Circulated, report from Head of Finance, Motor Tax and ICT dated 3rd September, 2015.

Members noted and approved the disposal of land as set out below:-

- Ballyroe, Loghill, Co. Limerick.

4. Environment and Water

Bleach Lough Anglers Ltd.

Circulated, report of the Director of Environment and Water Services dated 25th June, 2015 in relation to renewal of Lease for Bleach Lough Anglers Ltd.

The report stated that in 2009 the Council agreed to lease lands at Ballinacarriga, Kildimo (on the shore of Bleach Lough) to Bleach Lough Anglers Ltd. for a period of 6 years for a nominal fee. At that time the Anglers wished to provide changing and mooring facilities for the sport of fishing.

It was also stated that a request had been received from Bleach Lough Anglers Ltd. for the renewal of the lease for a further 6 years.

The Head of Finance, Motor Tax and ICT indicated that, subject to agreement by the Members, this item would go before the full Council. He pointed out that there were time

constraints as the lease needed to be renewed by November. Following a lengthy discussion on the proposal of Councillor O'Brien, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue, it was agreed to discuss this matter 'in committee' at the conclusion of the Meeting.

QUESTIONS

6. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Brien

I will ask at the next Meeting what steps are being taken by the Human Resources Department of Limerick City and County Council to employ a Supervisory Executive Engineer and Engineering Technician for the Adare Rathkeale area.

REPLY: The Council is in the process of recruiting additional engineering and technical staff for operations. A number have already started and more will be starting in the coming weeks.

7. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Brien

I will ask at the next Meeting, in view of what was discussed at the last District Meeting, whether Limerick City and County Council will provide emergency funding towards the provision of essential services such as street lighting in private estates in the District not yet taken in charge by the Council.

Councillor O'Brien highlighted the difficulties being faced by residents living in unfinished estates.

The Head of Finance, Motor Tax and ICT indicated that, as these estates were in private ownership, Limerick City and County Council did not have any remit in these estates until they were taken in charge.

Members requested that an audit be completed on unfinished estates to establish the cost of completing estates to a satisfactory standard.

REPLY: There is a protocol in place in relation to taking in charge of private estates. Currently, Limerick City and County Council has no provision in its budget in order to provide for emergency funding to estates not in charge.

8. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Brien

I will ask at the next Meeting if consideration could be given to the substitution of L1423, from the Seven Sisters Pub to Clorhane, for L1423, Curraghbridge towards Ballylongford, on the 2016 List of Local Road Schemes in circumstances where L1423 Curraghbridge towards Ballylongford was completed during the 2015 Roads Scheme.

REPLY: This work will be carried out under the 2016 Road Works Scheme.

9. Question submitted by Councillor S. Keary

I will ask at the next Meeting what is the policy of Limerick City and County Council regarding the non compliance by landowners to spray or cut noxious weeds on certain lands throughout County Limerick.

REPLY: The Approved Officers for dealing with noxious weeds under the Noxious Weeds Act are designated under the Department of Agriculture. The Council notifies the Department of Agriculture of any complaints received in relation to landowners dealing with Noxious Weeds.

Councillor Keary indicated that he was not satisfied with this reply.

10. Question submitted by Councillor T. Neville

I will ask at the next Meeting if traffic calming measures are being erected on the N20 at Banogue and if so a detailed outline of the measures.

REPLY: The N20 from Croom to the County Boundary is currently being examined to determine best strategy for potential future works. Banogue will be included in this assessment.

11. Question submitted by Councillor T. Neville

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the flood relief works to be carried out on the Askeaton Ballysteen road at Moig Askeaton.

REPLY: Flood Relief Works to be carried out on the Askeaton Ballysteen Road at Moig Askeaton – Works will commence before the end of September, 2015.

12. Question submitted by Councillor T. Neville

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the replacement of rubber speed ramps in St. Mary's Park with ramps similar to the permanent ramp already erected in the estate.

REPLY: The Speed ramp that was replaced in St Marys Park on the straight stretch was identified as priority in conjunction with the Gardaí. The schedule of Municipal District works does not allow for the replacement of any further speed ramps at this location. However, it is our intention to reduce the speed limit in this estate to 30 kph this year.

13. Question submitted by Councillor R. O'Donoghue

I will ask at the next Meeting in relation to the proposed development at Gortadroma and following a meeting between RAGE and Cadence where video footage of the process was shown, for clarification on the opening/non-opening of Cells on the site and clarification on the percentages of inert material left after processing by the Cadence plant and materials going to landfill.

Councillor O'Donoghue indicated that Members had been misinformed in relation to the opening of cells at the Gortadroma site and percentages of inert material going to landfill. Members requested that this item remain on the Agenda for future Meetings.

- REPLY:**
- 1) Cells –For Cadence Enviropower Ltd. to open any new landfill cells they would first need to obtain a waste licence from the EPA to operate the new cells.
 - 2) Inert material - Cadence Enviropower Ltd has indicated that the amount of ash generated by the gasification system is less than 5% (by weight) of the total amount of waste processed.

14. Question submitted by Councillor R. O'Donoghue

I will ask at the next Meeting in relation to the Council's Draft Cemeteries Bye-Laws 2015 will it be mandatory seven days per week for undertakers to seek written permission from the Council before opening a grave.

REPLY The purpose of this particular requirement is to ensure that the Council is provided with accurate details of all burials in Council cemeteries to ensure that interments take place in correct plots and to allow the Council compile accurate registers of interments for records and archival purposes.

The Council acknowledges that, in very limited circumstances, there may be occasions when it may not be possible to secure prior written approval i.e. a death and proposed burial at week-end.

The Council will consider this proposed bye-law in the context of submissions received prior to bye-laws being submitted to the full Council for formal approval.

15. Question submitted by Councillor R. O'Donoghue

I will ask at the next Meeting in relation to the Council's Draft Cemeteries Bye-Laws 2015, if a person wants to purchase a second grave is it proposed that the price of the second grave be set at the same price or discounted.

REPLY: The price of graves is set by the Chief Executive as part of the financial management of the Council.

The policy of the Council is that a grave sold for immediate use is set at a fixed price, dependent on the location of the cemetery in which the grave is being purchased.

The Council charges a higher rate if a person wishes to purchase a second grave that is not required for immediate use.

16. Question submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update in relation to the status of Deel Manor Estate, Askeaton and when it is anticipated that the Council will be in a position to take over even a part of the estate.

REPLY: The Bank who hold the planning bond for this development has appointed a consultant to oversee the completion of this estate. The consultant has submitted the taking in charge documentation to the Council which is being examined. A schedule of works will then be issued to the consultant for agreement and once these works have been completed to the satisfaction of the Council the formal taking in charge process will commence. It is not possible at the present to provide a date for the taking in charge

NOTICES OF MOTION

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Brien

I will move at the next Meeting that Coillte be requested to hold a public information evening to inform residents of the area what its vision over the next 5 years for Curraghchase Forest Park is.

Councillor O'Brien, in proposing the Motion stated that Curraghchase Forest Park was a tourism gem in the region and was not promoted enough. In his opinion the car parking fee of €5 per car should be reduced to attract additional tourists and to prevent cars parking on the public road. The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan and supported by Councillor McMahan.

Following a discussion it was agreed to invite a representative from Coillte to address a Meeting of the District to outline future plans for the forest park.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Neville

I will move at the next Meeting that immediate repairs be carried out on the road at Ballyculhane, Kildimo.

REPLY: Pothole repairs will be carried out in the next few weeks. The road at this location will be considered for next year's road works programme.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Neville

I will move at the next Meeting that, in conjunction with the community, a review of the one way traffic system in Rathkeale take place with a view to making further improvements.

Councillor Neville, in proposing the Motion, indicated that the one-way traffic system had been in existence for the past 10 years and a review was necessary at this time. The Motion was seconded by Councillor Keary.

Following a discussion it was agreed that the Council would liaise with the community council in this regard.

REPLY: The Travel and Transportation Department are not aware of any complaints or issues relating to the areas in Rathkeale that operate a one-way system. If a particular issue can be identified in relation to the one-way system, this can be investigated.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor R. O'Donoghue

I will move at the next Meeting that the Council, having consulted with the Rates Valuation Office, would provide a designated helpline solely for Councillors (as per Irish Water) to assist Councillors in their representations on behalf of Rate Payers.

Councillor O'Donoghue, in proposing the Motion, stated that rural businesses did not have the same foot-fall as city businesses and that the Rateable Valuation was based on city levels. He asked that this be reviewed. The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor R. O'Donoghue

I will move at the next Meeting that the Council install street lighting and CCTV cameras in the Community Park in Ballingarry, in the interest of public health and safety.

Councillor O'Donoghue, in proposing the Motion, highlighted the need for CCTV cameras to deter anti-social behaviour and criminality. The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

REPLY: The Community Park in Ballingarry is not in the ownership of Limerick City and County Council.

23. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 14th October, 2015 in Croom Civic Centre, Main Street, Croom, Co. Limerick at 9:00 a.m. and that a Deputation from Croom Development Association and a deputation from Wallace Cross Area would be invited to attend and give a presentation at that meeting.

The Members congratulated the Head of Finance, Motor Tax and ICT on his new position in Mayo County Council and wished him well for the future. The Cathaoirleach made a presentation to him to mark his departure from the Council.

The Head of Finance, Motor Tax and ICT indicated that it had been a pleasure working with the Members and that his dealings were always professional and courteous.

Discussion on Bleach Lough Anglers Ltd.

As agreed earlier in the Meeting, discussion on item 4 took place 'in committee.'

Members discussed the request of Bleach Lough Anglers Ltd. to renew the lease of lands at Ballinacarriga, Kildimo. Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed by the majority of the Members to refer this item to the full Council for consideration.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
