

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 27th JANUARY, 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), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. T. Knox), Senior Executive Technician, Economic Development and Planning (Mr. M. O'Brien), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Senior Staff Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. M. Corbett), Clerical Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. D. O'Kelly).

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from the Operations Manager and the Senior Executive Engineer, West and South Division.

At the outset and with the Cathaoirleach's permission, it was agreed take Item No. 2 on the Agenda first as Superintendent O'Connor and Sergeant McGraynor were in attendance at the Meeting.

2. Update on Policing in the District

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Superintendent O'Connor and Sergeant McGraynor to the Meeting. The Superintendent gave a briefing on policing issues in the Division and also provided details in relation to crime statistics for the area. He added that crime figures were down generally.

He stated that the installation of CCTV, if possible, in the town centre would be very welcome and would assist greatly in the prevention and detection of crime. It was noted that CCTV schemes had proven very beneficial in towns like Skibbereen and Clonakilty. He would like the Council to consider this initiative in association with the business community in the town. It was agreed that this matter would be further discussed at a future Meeting when more detail was available. The Community Text Alert System was discussed and it was acknowledged that it had been very successful in the District. He asked for the assistance of the public in reporting suspicious activity to An Garda Síochána.

Members thanked the Superintendent for his very comprehensive report and commended An Garda Síochána for their excellent work in the Community.

A discussion took place during which the Superintendent responded to issues raised by the Members in relation to the following:

- Staffing in the District.
- Proposed new Garda Station for Newcastle West.
- Opening hours for Abbeyfeale Garda Station/Re-advertise opening hours.

- Upgrade of Glin Garda Station.

The location of Go Safe vans was discussed and the Superintendent was asked who was responsible for deciding on the locations of these vans. Members were of the opinion that some locations were not accident black spots and asked for the matter to be referred to the Joint Policing Committee.

In relation to theft from cars and graves at Calvary Cemetery, the Superintendent stated that it was not possible to install CCTV at that location but that discreet signage advising people of the dangers of theft should be placed in the vicinity.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 2nd December, 2015.

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

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

Arising from the Minutes, Councillor Sheahan asked for an update on the proposed Public Realm Study for Glin. The Director stated that funding could be considered through the General Municipal Allocation. In response to a query on cost, he stated that €15,000 should be sufficient to cover the cost of preparation of a Study.

The Director stated that a reply from the Director of Services, Environment and Water, in relation to Deputation from Calvary Cemetery would be circulated to the Members.

3. Fixing of Date

It was agreed to hold the February Meeting of the Municipal District on Wednesday, 10th February, 2016.

4. Economic Development and Planning

Taking in Charge of Estates - Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads

Circulated, Report of the Director of Services, Economic Development and Planning, dated 14th January, 2016.

Proposed by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan and resolved:

“That, Market Court housing estate, Newcastle West, be taken in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2015 and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.”

QUESTIONS

5. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when trees can be removed or maintained along the Lake Road between the Lake Bridge and Tooreenagreana as they are considered a safety hazard.

REPLY: Costings for the maintenance and removal of trees in the public area are being sought by the Horticulture Section. The Council will also make contact with the relevant parties of trees in private ownership.

6. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when works will be carried out on both subsiding pedestrian crossings along Upper Maiden Street, Newcastle West.

REPLY: Works will be carried out on the pedestrian crossings at Upper Maiden Street, within the next 3 weeks.

7. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting what was the actual Budget and final spend on Cemeteries Maintenance in the Municipal District for each of the past 3 financial year ends, and also what is the proposed Budget for 2016.

REPLY: The budget and final spend for Cemetery upkeep and maintenance within Newcastle West Municipal District for the past 3 financial years is set out hereunder:

	Budget	Final Expenditure
2013	€48,000	€50,249
2014	€48,000	€40,709
2015	€25,000	€26,179*

*The Council carried out conservation works in 2015 in Newcastle West Municipal District costing €10,069 which was in addition to the 2015 budget as set out above.

The amount allocated for general maintenance in 2016 was €26,000.

Burial Ground Committees also carry out maintenance works in cemeteries and the Council supports these committees through payment of a burial ground grant. It is estimated that approximately 30 such grants are provided annually in Newcastle West Municipal District at a cost of €10,000.

8. Question submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will ask at the next Meeting if the recently laid road surface at Killarney Pole, Newcastle West as part of Barnagh Phase 2 realignment scheme be checked for safety reasons.

REPLY: The question apparently relates to a recent single vehicle collision at the Junction of the Old Barnagh Road and the Ballintubrid Road in the area of the Killarney Pole, and to occurrences of skidding in the vicinity of the new Killarney Pole junction on the N21. It is the Council's information that both types of incident occurred during periods of frost.

The Council's on-site supervision team has confirmed that all of the relevant checks carried out on the road pavements prior to Scheme opening complied with the Contract Specification and hence the Council would not expect that the road surface would be a factor in the cause of these incidents.

9. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting if a grate can be installed at the new crossing at Ger Ryan's house, Ballaugh, Abbeyfeale to prevent the water flowing along the road into the neighbour's property.

REPLY: The Roads Engineer is to arrange a meeting with the property owner in the coming weeks to discuss the installation of a gully.

10. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the purchase of a new graveyard in Abbeyfeale.

REPLY: The Council has been actively pursuing a suitable site for the development of a new cemetery for Abbeyfeale for some time. Unfortunately it has proven difficult to identify a suitable site due to ground conditions in the Abbeyfeale area.

The Council is currently considering all options for the provision of cemetery in this area.

11. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the footpath from Abbeyfeale United Soccer Grounds to the Railway Bar, Abbeyfeale.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council contacted the Rural Recreation Section of the Department of the Environment Community and Local Government regarding the allocation of the Recreation Funding 2015 and was advised that a review of the funding allocation is being considered and that an update will be available in the coming weeks.

NOTICES OF MOTION

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that immediate safety measures be implemented to ensure that adequate sight lines be provided for all traffic exiting the Woodfield Estates on to the R522 at Killeline and that essential reinstatement works be undertaken on the right hand side of the Main Road between there and the pedestrian entrance to Wingfield Orchard.

Councillor Scanlan, in proposing the Motion, stated that a hedge on private property was obscuring the sight line exiting the estate. He added that reinstatement works were urgently required on the right hand side of the Main Road. The Executive Engineer stated that he would make contact again with the landowner regarding cutting down the hedge. He also stated that the Contractor would carry out the reinstatement works in two weeks.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Browne and agreed.

REPLY: Contact was being made with the landowner adjoining the estate with regard to improving sight lines in this location. The reinstatement works on the right hand side of the main road are due to commence shortly.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that an immediate survey be undertaken to resolve the issue of conveying storm water from Farihy locally through Broadford Village and onward to Killeen and Rathpalantine.

Councillor Scanlan, in proposing the Motion, stated that this was a serious issue and needed urgent attention. The Executive Engineer stated that a survey was being carried out to determine levels and works identified would be done to alleviate the problem.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Browne and agreed.

REPLY: A survey is currently being undertaken in the above mentioned area with regard to this matter.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that Dublin Coach be contacted to ask if their bus service from Tralee to Galway could include stops at Abbeyfeale and Newcastle West similar to their stops for the Tralee Dublin journey.

Councillor Collins, in proposing the Motion, stated that the recent decision by Dublin Coach to include stops in Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale on their Tralee to Dublin service was very welcome. It was noted that many students from the locality attended college in Galway and the benefits of including Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale on the Tralee to Galway service was discussed.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin and agreed.

REPLY: Dublin Coach will be contacted with regard to stops at Abbeyfeale and Newcastle West for their Tralee to Galway service.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that Dee's bridge between Bog Mount and Clash be repaired.

Councillor Galvin, in proposing the Motion, stated that the bridge was very dangerous and if the Council intended to carry out works it would be necessary to talk to the landowner. The Executive Engineer stated that he would prepare a costing for the work and revert to Members at the next Meeting.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan and agreed.

REPLY: Works will be carried out on this bridge within the next month.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that the Superintendent/Chief Superintendent of an Garda Síochana be asked to attend the next Meeting to discuss and explain the use of the go safe vans in towns and villages.

Councillor Galvin, in proposing the Motion, stated that the issue had been dealt with earlier in the Meeting.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan

I will move at the next Meeting that all housing estates in the village of Athea be properly signposted in the interest of alerting emergency services to correct locations.

Councillor Sheahan, in proposing the Motion, stated that it had been brought to his attention by Athea Community First Responder Group about the lack of signage to the estates of Hillside Drive and Rathronan. Councillor Galvin expressed concerns in relation to the proposed signage. A short discussion took place and it was agreed that the Executive Engineer would further investigate the matter and revert back to the next Meeting with an update.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Browne.

REPLY: A survey of the housing estates in Athea will be carried out to determine where signage is required.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST

MEETING TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10th, 2016.

Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting for (a) the cost of a single/double burial space at Calvary Cemetery, Newcastle West; (b) the cost of single/double burial space in the other council controlled cemeteries within the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

Response

Grave space charges are as follows;

Single Grave € 750 at time of need
Single Grave €1,000 reserved

The charges for double grave are as follows

Double Grave €1,750 at time of need
Double Grave €2,000 reserved

These charges apply to all Council controlled cemeteries within the Municipal District of Newcastle West.



Kieran Lehane
Director of Services
Environment & Water