

# **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2015, AT 10.00 A.M.**

## **PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:**

Councillor L. Galvin, Mayor.

## **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Browne, Butler, Gleeson, Hourigan, Hurley, Keary, Keller, Leddin, Loftus, Lynch, McCreesh, McMahon, Mitchell, Neville, O'Brien, O Ceallaigh, O'Donnell, Prendiville, Quinlivan, Ryan, Sheahan (J), Sheahan (K), Sheahan (M), and Sheehy.

An apology for her inability to attend the Meeting was received from Councillor Secas.

## **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Deputy Chief Executive (Mr. P. Dowling), Director, Environment and Water (Mr. K. Lehane), A/Director, Travel and Transportation (Mr. V. Murray), Senior Engineer, Environment and Water (Mr. T. Tarpey), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Mr. T. O'Callaghan), Meetings Administrator (Mr. C. O'Connor).

### **1. Disposal of Land**

Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2015, concerning disposal of land at the Public Car Park, Rathkeale.

Following a query from the Members, the Meetings Administrator clarified that there was no consideration payable for this disposal. The disposal would involve an exchange of lands of similar value.

Proposed by Councillor Keary;  
Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);  
And Resolved:

"That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 25.50 square metres at the Public Car Park, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick, to Limerick Community Games, Teach Elto, Shanagolden, Co. Limerick, in exchange for the transfer of an area of land measuring approximately 108 square metres, in accordance with proposal agreed at Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2015, with all costs associated with the disposal to be borne by Limerick Community Games."

## **2. Environment and Water Services**

It was noted that this item had been deferred from the Special Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2015.

Already circulated, report of the A/Director, Environment and Water Services, dated 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2015, regarding the Eastern and Midlands Region – Proposed Water Supply Project - Options Working Paper.

The Director of Environment and Water Services pointed out that the documentation circulated set out four options for the supply of water to an area stretching from the east of the Shannon to Dublin and that Irish Water was seeking input with regard to the range of constraints and assessment criteria that should be applied to the process of selecting a preferred option.

In noting the contents of the report, the following points and queries were raised by Members during discussion:

- The proposals supported development in Dublin and the east of the country rather than the west of the country, which was underdeveloped.
- Desalination was the most acceptable option as it would have no effect on the River Shannon and would not require the laying of a connection across the country.
- The high leakage rate in the Dublin pipe network should be addressed before any consideration was given to pumping water from the Shannon to Dublin.
- There should be a greater emphasis on water harvesting and the reduction of usage.
- Fixing of leaks alone would not be enough to cater for future usage in the Dublin area and there should be a willingness to share water resources with Dublin.
- The proposed reservoir in the midlands would be positive for tourism and amenity in that area.
- Proposals to extract from the River Shannon would have a positive impact on those farming in the Shannon Callows.
- Irish Water must ensure that it focused on the needs of all cities in the State.
- Consultation on these proposals could be improved as not all people who would be affected by these proposals were aware of same.
- A high level of lead was discharged from local mining into the Parteen Basin, which should be taken into consideration in relation to that option.

- What effect would the abstraction of water from the Shannon have on:
  - Water levels;
  - The Ardnacrusha Power Plant;
  - Amenity of the Shannon, including boating;
  - Fish life / fishing;
  - Ecology of the river;
  - Flooding;
  - The people and the economic development of the Limerick Region.
- What was the projected cost and timescale for the various options.
- What was the cost comparison between the Shannon abstraction options and the fixing of leaks in Dublin.
- Several reports over the last number of years had clarified the majority of the issues raised and these reports should be circulated to Members.

The Director, Environment and Water Services, noted the issues raised by Members and undertook to bring same to the attention of Irish Water.

The Mayor noted that Irish Water had not been due to attend to discuss this item. He requested the Executive to circulate any reports relevant to this item to Members and arrange for a Special Meeting to be held in September 2015, with Irish Water to attend to discuss this item only.

Signed:

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**Mayor**

Date:

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