

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MERCHANT'S QUAY, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 18TH MAY, 2015, AT 9.45 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor Michael Sheahan, Mayor

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Butler, Byrne, Clifford, Collins, Daly, Gilligan, Hourigan, Hurley, Keller, Leddin, Loftus, Lynch, McCreesh, Ó Ceallaigh, O'Dea, O'Hanlon, Prendiville, Quinlivan and Secas.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Deputy Chief Executive (Mr. P. Dowling), Acting Director, Travel and Transportation (Mr. V. Murray), Senior Engineer (Mr. P. O'Neill), Senior Executive Officer, Home and Social Development (Ms. P. Liddy), Senior Executive Officer, Environment and Water Services (Mr. G. Dillon), Senior Executive Officer, Regeneration (Mr. J. Murphy), Project Manager, Regeneration (Mr. S. Hanrahan), Senior Executive Engineer (Mr. F. Keyes), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Mr. T. O'Callaghan).

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 20th April, 2015.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin
Seconded by Councillor O'Dea
And Resolved:

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

2. Disposal of Land

Circulated, Report of the Director, Home and Social Development dated 24th April, 2015. Members noted the proposal for the disposal of land as follows :

- Dwelling house situate at 20 Maigne Way, Carew Park in the City of Limerick.
- Dwelling house situate at 122 Hyde Road, Prospect in the City of Limerick.

3. Corporate Services

Annual Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick

On the proposal of Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor Leddin it was agreed that the Annual Meeting should be held on 19th June, 2015.

On the proposal of Councillor O'Hanlon and seconded by Councillor Collins it was agreed that the Annual Meeting should be held at 7.00 p.m.

A number of Members highlighted the importance of restoring the ceremonial aspect of the Annual Meeting and noted that it was a part of history that should be passed on to the next generation.

4. Economic Development and Planning

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

Circulated, Report of the Director, Economic Development and Planning dated 27th April, 2015.

Members welcomed the taking in charge of the estates outlined in the report and made the following points on foot of same:

- That there were ongoing concerns in relation to the standards of the roads and sewer infrastructure in Meadowbrook.
- That Members be provided with a list of estates waiting to be taken in charge and those that will go on display in 2015, for the former City Council area.
- That while the estate at Mungret Woods had been taken in charge, the street lighting was not yet working.

The Acting Director of Service, Travel and Transportation undertook to liaise with the Economic Development and Planning Department in relation to the list of estates requested. With regard to Meadowbrook, he informed Members that the roads had been worked on with the resources that had been available and that any issues in relation to the sewer infrastructure would be a matter for Irish Water. In relation to Mungret Woods, he pointed out that an electrical contractor had been engaged to resolve the street lighting issue.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin and seconded by Councillor Butler and resolved:

“That the following housing estates be taken in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2014 and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993”

1. Meadowbrook, Mill Road, Corbally
2. The Grange (Phase II), Raheen.

5. Travel and Transportation

Part 8 Procedure - Park Bridge and Park Canal Traffic Reassignment, Traffic Calming and Pedestrian and Cyclist Improvements

Circulated, Report of the Acting Director of Service, Travel and Transportation dated 8th May, 2015 and enclosing the Chief Executive's Report which was prepared pursuant to Section 179(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2014 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 – 2013 and set out details of the proposed development at Park Canal Bridge / Park Road. It was proposed to proceed in accordance with the Chief Executive's Report.

Members welcomed the proposed development and noted that issues, that had been raised at the start of the process, had been resolved through consultation with local residents. Members expressed disappointment that the boardwalk proposal had been rejected by An Bord Pleanála and congratulated Limerick Civic Trust on the works carried out to the banks of the canal. It was noted that Waterways Ireland was responsible for maintenance of the canal waterway and it was agreed that Waterways Ireland should be invited to a future meeting of the District to discuss this issue.

6. Home and Social Development

Part 8 Procedure - Proposed Residential Development at O'Malley Park, Southill, Limerick

Circulated, Report of the Director, Home and Social Development dated 8th May, 2015 enclosing the Chief Executive's Report which was prepared in accordance with Section 179(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2014 and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 – 2013 and set out details of the proposed development at O'Malley Park, Southill, Limerick. It was proposed to proceed in accordance with the Chief Executive's Report.

Members welcomed the proposed development and the range of unit types proposed and emphasised the importance of the proposed development to local residents. Members stressed the importance of applying social, economic and physical supports to the regeneration areas and the need to reduce segregation and enhance integration. The issue of wandering horses in O'Malley Park was raised along with the need for increased garda resources.

Members commended the work underway at the Hospitality Training Centre and emphasised the area's need for improved connectivity with the N20.

In response to issues raised by Members the Project Manager, Regeneration clarified the following :

- Some relocations from O'Malley Park were viewed as temporary and it would be open for relocated residents to return.
- The social clause was integrated into the construction contract with a percentage of the days worked on the contract assigned to long term unemployed / youth and also apprentices.
- It was planned that works would commence by the end of 2015 and that construction would take fifteen months.
- The N20 Rosbrien Interchange was at land acquisition stage.

With regard to the absence of a secondary school in the area, the Mayor noted that District Members, who sat on the Education and Training Board, could progress this issue and undertook to arrange for a presentation on the Le Cheile Project for a future meeting of the district.

7. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Malachy McCreesh

I will move at the next Metropolitan meeting that the council undertake a review of the properties on the approach to Limerick City Centre via the Dock Road with

regard to improving the unsightly appearance of this roadway.

In proposing the motion, Councillor McCreesh highlighted the condition of some of the properties on the city side of the Greenpark roundabout and also the potential to improve the appearance of the recycling bins located in that area.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Leddin stressed the need to actively engage with businesses with regard to the appearance of their premises and noted that some businesses in the area under discussion had invested heavily to improve the appearance of their premises and would be disappointed with the condition of some of the neighbouring premises.

Members supported the motion and made the following points on foot of same.

- That city of culture signage be removed or used for an alternative advertisement such as the Council's bid for European Capital of Culture 2020.
- While acknowledging the work carried out by the Shannon Foynes Port Company in improving the appearance of Limerick Docks, the presence of large deposits of scrap metal at the docks remained unsightly and Shannon Foynes Port Company should be contacted in this regard.

REPLY: A review will be undertaken of the Dock Road area in the coming weeks. Any properties that are deemed to be unsightly / derelict will be inspected. The Council will endeavour to have remedial works undertaken by the owners of these properties and where appropriate, notices can be served on the owners under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990.

The Deputy Chief Executive welcomed the motion and undertook to review the issue raised in conjunction with the Operations Manager for the Division.

Members raised the issue of businesses sponsoring individual roundabouts and a motion was put by Councillor Butler, seconded by Councillor Byrne, that the Council would draw up a scheme to invite annual expressions of interest for the sponsorship of roundabouts and present same to a future meeting.

The Deputy Chief Executive indicated that he would ask the Economic Development and Planning Directorate to review this proposal and revert as soon as possible.

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Cian Prendiville

I will move at the next meeting that we write to the Ministers for Environment and Justice explaining how attempts by our predecessor, the Limerick City Council, to bring water charge boycotters to court failed to break non-payment, and calling on them to scrap draconian plans to bring water bill non-payers to court in order to get attachment orders. In that letter we should encourage them to follow the example of the old Limerick City Council and abandon the water charges, and instead fund the service through progressive taxation.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Prendiville and seconded by Councillor Loftus.

Members supporting the motion spoke of the stress that water charges place on the most vulnerable and how water charges will result in students having to pay increased

deposits for accommodation. Members also pointed out that the sums to be collected now will be inadequate to fund Irish Water and had the set up costs for Irish Water been invested directly in improving the network, water charges would be lower. It was also noted that Irish Water will now make decisions in relation to the expansion of water services needed to support development.

Members against the motion noted the extent of investment needed to upgrade the water network infrastructure and deal with water quality issues. They pointed out that water charges were the most appropriate funding mechanism and would also encourage conservation of water.

The motion was passed, following a show of hands.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Cian Prendiville

I will move at the next meeting that the Council and Regeneration exert every effort to ensure the supermarket at Watchhouse Cross does not remain vacant and that this important service for the community is restored. We should request a progress report for the June meeting.

In proposing the motion Councillor Prendiville highlighted the importance of the supermarket at Watchhouse Cross to the community and the danger that the site will visually detract from the local amenity, if left vacant.

In seconding the motion Councillor Quinlivan raised his concerns for neighbouring businesses should the premises remain vacant and noted that the post office on the site was due to reopen on 2nd June, 2015.

Members supported the motion and the following points were made in relation to same:

- That, given the risk of supermarkets closing at short notice, the co-location of post offices with supermarkets was an issue and the Council should look into providing locations for post offices.
- That the Council introduce a scheme to provide rates relief to businesses in danger of closure and bring forward proposals in this regard.
- That the increased cost of insurance for businesses should be highlighted to the Government.

REPLY: The site owner has not approached the Council for assistance. At every opportunity, the Council has, and will continue to advise potential investors that a business opportunity exists in Moyross, a designated District Retail Centre.

The Deputy Chief Executive noted that, while the Economic Development and Planning Directorate would engage with key players in relation to the site, it had to be acknowledged that this site was in private ownership.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Paul Keller

I will move at the next meeting that we write to Bus Eireann calling on them to relocate the following bus stops:

- 1) **Ballysimon Road - beside the Woodlawn Park entrance inward bound**
 - 2) **Dublin Road - St Patrick's Road - Cherryville Junction next to Maxol Station outward bound**
- on the grounds of safety for pedestrians, restrictions to traffic flow, and general road safety for all users.**

The motion was proposed by Councillor Keller and seconded by Councillor O'Dea.

In proposing the motion Councillor Keller pointed out that the bus stop referred to on the Ballysimon Road was located 20 yards from a pedestrian crossing with the result that the bus often stops on the pedestrian crossing and also obstructs the view of traffic exiting from Woodlawn Park. In relation to the bus stop on the Dublin Road, Councillor Keller noted that the bus blocks the single lane exiting the city at this location and also blocks the view of traffic exiting the adjacent Maxol Garage.

Members supported the motion and indicated that the Travel and Transportation Department had already carried out work in this area.

It was also emphasised by Members that consideration be given to relocating, not removing, the bus stops in question.

The Acting Director of Service, Travel and Transportation informed the Members that the location of bus stops was now a function of the Council and that he would examine the two locations and revert to Members in relation to same.

At the conclusion of the agenda Councillor Hourigan requested that an update on the Natura Wetlands Report 1999 be provided at the next meeting.

Signed: _____
MAYOR

Dated : _____