

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN ÁRAS SEÁN FINN, NEW LINE ROAD, RATHKEALE, CO. LIMERICK ON TUESDAY, 13TH JUNE, 2017 AT 9.30 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor R. O'Donoghue, An Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

A/Director, Regional Services (Ms. P. King), Senior Architect (Mr. S. Hanrahan), Senior Executive Engineer, Physical Development (Ms. A. Goggin), A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division (Mr. T. Kelly), Meetings Administrator (Mr. T. O'Callaghan), Staff Officer (Ms. K. Butler), Assistant Staff Officer (Ms. E. Buckley).

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 17th May, 2017.

Proposed by Councillor Keary;
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 23rd May, 2017.

Proposed by Councillor McMahon;
Seconded by Councillor Keary;
And Resolved:

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

Members discussed the importance of the proposed CCTV project to the District and noted that an update in relation to same was to be received at the July District Meeting.

It was noted that the report of the Culture and Arts Cross Party Working Group would be brought to the full Council.

It was noted that the Facilitators report on Christmas in Rathkeale was to be considered by the Management Team.

Members referred to previous discussions on the activities of Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) in the District and the Motion that had been agreed, calling on the Chair of the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) to convene a meeting of that SPC and invite AHBs to same.

Members highlighted the need for communication with the AHBs and the need to be informed by the Council of where Council houses were available for letting. It was proposed by Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor McMahan that representatives of AHBs such as the Peter McVerry Trust and the Simon Community meet with the District Members to discuss their operations within the District and that procedures be put in place to ensure that District Members were informed of housing allocations by AHBs within the District. Members requested an update in this regard for the next District Meeting.

It was agreed that Item 4 on the Agenda would be taken next.

4. Social Development Directorate

Limerick City and County Council Housing Programme 2017

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Senior Architect to the Meeting

The Senior Architect presented an overview of the Council's Housing Programme 2017 which included the following :

- An overview of Rebuilding Ireland – Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness – July 2016 from the national and local viewpoint, including targets, funding, delivery mechanisms and local project details.
- The role of Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) in housing provision and their relationship with the Council.
- An overview of regeneration, rent pressure zones and vacant housing stock.
- A review of the Repair and Lease Scheme.
- The aims and key actions of the Council's housing policy.

Members discussed the need to incentivise property owners to open up vacant property and also to incentivise people, who might otherwise be on the housing list, to purchase their own property. Members noted the potential of the Repair and Lease Scheme to attract people back to towns and villages in the District.

The Senior Architect clarified a number of issues in relation to the Repair and Lease Scheme and noted that work was ongoing with the Derelict Sites Department to identify properties that might benefit from the scheme.

2. Service Operations – Planning & Environmental Services

(a) Taking in Charge of Estates – Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads

Circulated, Report of the A/Senior Planner, Planning and Environmental Services, dated 23rd May, 2017 setting out proposals to take in charge the estate at Ballyvareen, Kildimo.

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

“That the estate at Ballyvareen, Kildimo be taken in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

(b) Update on the Taking-In-Charge of An Curran Estate, Pallaskenry

Circulated, report of the Staff Officer, Planning and Environmental Services dated 7th June, 2017 giving the position in relation to the take over of the estate.

Members noted that, contrary to the report, the developer had carried out works in this case but that further minor works were still outstanding. Members also discussed the issue of leachate being drawn into the treatment plant, along a road that was not built for such traffic, and recommended that the Council take ownership of this issue.

The A/Senior Executive Engineer, West Division Operations undertook to discuss the issue of outstanding works with Mr. Declan Flanagan, Executive Engineer and it was agreed that this item should be included in the Agenda for the July Meeting.

3. Physical Development Directorate

Presentation on Invasive Plants Smart Phone App.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Anne Goggin, Senior Executive Engineer, Physical Development to the Meeting. Ms. Goggin presented the Members with details of a Smart Phone App. which assisted in identifying the location of invasive plant species such as Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Winter Heliotrope. The information collected would assist in developing a strategy to control these plants, in conjunction with landowners.

Members noted the need to have a permit in place in relation to the use of certain herbicides and highlighted the need for training in this regard rather than the use of penalties and the potential for such courses to be held in the District.

The Senior Executive Engineer, Physical Development clarified the various methods employed to control or eliminate the range of invasive plants and members thanked her for her informative presentation.

5. Economic Development Directorate

Consultative Group for the Great Southern Greenway

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development dated 8th June, 2017 extending an invitation to the District to increase its membership on the Consultative Group for the Great Southern Greenway.

Members noted the contents of the report and agreed that all Members of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale would become members of the Consultative Group for the Great Southern Greenway.

6. General Municipal Allocation (GMA) 2017

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Teskey it was agreed that €500 be allocated to Askeaton Tennis Club.

On the proposal of Councillor O'Donoghue, seconded by Councillor Teskey it was agreed that €3,000 be allocated to Ballingarry Community Field.

It was agreed that details of any future allocation should be given to the Meetings Administrator in advance of District Meetings.

7. Flooding Issues

Circulated, report of the A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division dated 6th June, 2017 setting out an update on proposals to address flooding issues at Foynes, Askeaton and Ballysteen. The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

8. Footpath from Kildimo to the Beer Garden Public House

Circulated, report of the A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division, giving an update on the incomplete footpath from Kildimo to the Beer Gardens Public House. The report, as circulated was noted by Members.

QUESTION

9. Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Brien

I will ask at the next Meeting why my approved Motion to clean the grass margin of the N69 at Bolane, Kildimo has not been acted upon by the road crew.

REPLY: This work has been scheduled for the 8th June, 2017.

NOTICES OF MOTION

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

I will move at the next Meeting that the Council reinstate weekend street cleaning in Adare village, forthwith.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor O'Brien and seconded by Councillor Teskey. In proposing the Motion Councillor O'Brien noted the importance of Adare as a tourist attraction and the importance of keeping it clean at all times, including the weekends when bins were often overflowing.

REPLY: The Council is continuing to monitor the street cleaning service in Adare. Special efforts are being made to source additional funding to increase the current street cleaning service in Adare to include a weekend service during the peak tourist season.

Members noted that, while they had not objection to Adare being cleaned at weekends other towns in the District had similar needs, a balance was needed throughout the area, and a improved programme of works needed.

Members also discussed the varying needs of other towns and villages and suggested that a strategy be developed for each town and village in the District and it was suggested that 2018 should be made the Clean Up Year for the District with communities engaged with and asked to play their part in same.

In reply to issues raised by Members the A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division noted that businesses were responsible for any litter arising from their activities and that the Council's Enforcement Department carried out targeted campaigns in this regard. In relation to budgets for street cleaning in the District he noted that the budget did not allow for a 7 day service throughout the District.

It was proposed by Councillor Keary, seconded by Councillor Sheahan that, as street cleaning was tourism related, a portion of the Tourism budget should be allocated to street cleaning.

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

I will move at the next Meeting for the provision of a traffic count and safety survey at Shanagolden, monitoring vehicular traffic from Newcastle West to the N69.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor O'Brien and seconded by Councillor McMahan.

In proposing the Motion Councillor O'Brien noted that he had received representation regarding road safety in Shanagolden that expressed concerns in relation to the speed of cars and trucks passing through the square.

Members supported the Motion and noted the volume of trucks passing through Shanagolden, the concerns for school children crossing the road and the need for traffic calming measures to be introduced. It was suggested that traffic calming on the Newcastle West side of the village be costed.

REPLY: The Council have scheduled to carryout a Traffic Count on the R521 in Shannagolden in June 2017. The data will be collected for a full week (7-days). Data will capture no. of bicycles, vehicles and heavy goods vehicle using the route and their respective speeds.

12. Correspondence

Correspondence, as circulated, was noted by Members.

At the conclusion of the Agenda, and with the consent of the Cathaoirleach, the following points were raised by Members;

- On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue it was agreed that a deputation representing the contemporary Arts Festival in Askeaton be received at a future meeting of the District at which the Councils Arts Officer was also available to attend.
- Councillor Teskey noted that the Old Mart in Rathkeale was being demolished and this work involved the removal of asbestos which was of concern to local residents. It was noted that planning permission had been granted for these works and that a specialist team of contractors was involved. Councillor Teskey asked that the Planning Department monitor these works continuously.
- Councillor Teskey raised the issue of a property across the road from the church in Rathkeale which had been sold by the Council to a private concern. It was noted that a local group had placed seating in the vicinity of this property and the A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division informed the Members that the Council's Property Department was researching details of the property, including maps, and would forward same to the Members.
- Councillor O'Brien noted that Gander Racing would take place in Ringmoylan on 22nd July 2017 and all were invited to same.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
