

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN KANTOHER BUSINESS PARK, KILEEDY, CO. LIMERICK ON WEDNESDAY, 4th OCTOBER, 2017, 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, Service Operations (Mr. G. Daly), Meetings Administrator, Corporate Services (Ms. T. Knox), Senior Executive Engineer, West Division (Mr. B. Noonan), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Senior Staff Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. M. Corbett), Clerical Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. D. O'Kelly).

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 6th September, 2017.

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

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

Councillor Galvin asked for his opposition to the proposed location of new graveyard at Clash Road, Abbeyfeale, as discussed at the last Meeting, to be recorded in the Minutes.

The Senior Executive Engineer responded to queries from the Members in relation to the following:

- Safety measures at Boherbui.
- Works on Curlings Bridge.
- Traffic Management Plan for Newcastle West.

The Meetings Administrator provided update in relation to removal of asbestos from building at Churchtown, Newcastle West. A further update to be provided at November Meeting.

At the request of the Director of Services, the Cathaoirleach and Members agreed to take an additional item, which was not listed on agenda in relation to review of Newcastle West Pool Feasibility Impact Study later in the Meeting.

2. Deputation

The Cathaoirleach welcomed representatives from Kantoher Development Group and outlined the format for the presentation. He stated that as a local person, he was immensely proud of the work that was ongoing locally and he was well aware of the negative effect on the area since 2004 when Kerry Group had pulled out. He commended the Development Group for the drive and commitment shown by them in bringing employment back to the area. The Deputation consisted of Messrs. Colman Deely (Chairman), Joe Kelleher (Secretary), Jack O'Connor (Board Member) and Ms. Trish O'Sullivan (Innovate Limerick).

Mr. O'Connor addressed the Meeting and stated that it was a great opportunity for the Group to inform the Members of the future plans for the area. He also wished to acknowledge the huge support the Group had received from Limerick City and County Council and other state agencies.

He gave a presentation under the following headings:

- Mission Statement.
- 2005-2017 Limerick City and County Council investment in Kantoher.
- More to Do – 2017 onwards.
- Promotion and development of the business park.
- Reedbed System- Funding needed for pipework to connect the business park with the reedbed system.
- Community Resource Centre – Assistance from the Development Contribution Fund for the refurbishment of the Ashford Tavern into new community centre.

He outlined to Members their plans for the future which included redevelopment of the Ashford Tavern into a Community Resource Centre. This would require funding, some of which had already been sourced.

It was noted that the Reedbed Sewage System was a very large project and that an application had been made under the Village Renewal Scheme for funding.

Members thanked him for the comprehensive presentation and wished them every success in the future. They stated that the Group was a great example of what could be achieved.

The Director of Services commended the Group on their achievements and was delighted with the announcement that funding of €100,000 had been secured under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme towards the Reedbed Project. He also acknowledged the assistance provided by Trish O'Sullivan and Mike Cantwell of Innovate Limerick.

3. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €1,500 to Con Colbert Hall, Athea.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate the following:

- €3,500 to lights on the R515.
- €1,000 to lights for Feenagh Cemetery.
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On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €6,000 to roadway outside Templeglantine G.A.A. field.

A discussion took place in relation to possible conflict of interest. It was noted that two Members of the District were on the board of West Limerick Resources, while another two were on the Local Community Development Committee. As part of their role on these bodies, the Members would be involved in the adjudication of funding to certain groups. If such a group had previously made a presentation seeking funding at District level, a concern was raised in relation to possible conflict of interest for the Members.

In response, the Director stated that he would seek clarification from Corporate Services as it was an issue that had relevance across the local authority. He added that while it was not the intention to limit engagement with these groups, there might be a need to formalise the process.

4. Economic Development Directorate

Development Fund Allocations

The Senior Executive Engineer, West Division, stated that funding of €70,000 was available under the Development Fund Allocations 2017 for the District.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was agreed that allocations from the Development Fund for the Municipal District would be allocated as follows:

- Curlings Bridge Newcastle West €30,000.
- Newcastle West Regional Athletics Hub €30,000.
- R524 Safety Improvements at Limestone Cross, Glin €10,000.

5. Provision of new Graveyard in Abbeyfeale

The Senior Executive Engineer gave an update on progress in relation to the provision of a new graveyard in Abbeyfeale. He stated that the report issued by the Planning and Environmental Section of the Council had found the site at Clash Road, Abbeyfeale, to be suitable. The report had now been forwarded to the HSE for its consideration.

Members requested that a full cost analysis be undertaken in relation to identified site at Clash Road, Abbeyfeale.

6. Newcastle West Development Association

Circulated, correspondence dated 25th September, 2017, from Newcastle West Development Association seeking the nomination of the 'Cathaoirleach of the Day' of the Municipal District of Newcastle West to sit on the Board.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to nominate Councillor Collins, as the current Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Newcastle West, to the board of the Newcastle West Development Association.

With the permission of the Cathaoirleach and as agreed at the outset of the Meeting, a report on a Review of Newcastle West Pool Feasibility Impact Study was then discussed.

Review of Newcastle West Pool Feasibility Impact Study

The Director stated that the report, which had been carried out by BDO concluded that the provision of another pool in Newcastle West would have a significant impact on facilities in the area. He said, having carefully considered the report Management's advice was not to proceed with a local authority led Swimming Pool in Newcastle West at this time. He added that there was not a sufficient business case for a local authority led new pool in Newcastle West.

Varying views were expressed by the Members on the report by BDO and, following a short discussion, it was agreed that the Members would reflect on the matter further and that the item would be included on Agenda for the next Meeting.

QUESTIONS

7. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for a detailed update on the footpath in Ballyagran.

REPLY: Works have commenced on the footpath at Ballyagran and it is expected that these works will be completed within the next two weeks. The installation of public lighting as part of these works is also progressing.

8. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for a detailed update on the Traffic Management Plan for Abbeyfeale.

REPLY: The Council is in the process of completing two house purchases at the junction of Colbert Terrace and Athea Road R524 to accommodate proposed road widening. The Traffic Management Plan is currently being revised and updated. A finalized drawing will be ready for discussion with Councillors next month.

Members asked that a discussion would take place on the Traffic Management Plan for Abbeyfeale prior to it going on Public display. It was proposed to hold a workshop after the November Meeting of the District.

9. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on (a) riverbank along by the treatment plant Abbeyfeale; (b) riverbank at the back of New Street, Abbeyfeale.

REPLY: (a) The Question has been referred to Irish Water for an update. The Members will be advised as soon as a decision has been made by Irish Water.

Irish Water generally does not attend District Meetings but will be happy to meet with the Members on the clinic meetings in Dooradoyle. Two elected Members attended the most recent clinic on 25th September. Irish Water will contact the elected Members directly and advise when the next clinic is planned.

(b) In relation to the riverbank at New Street, Abbeyfeale, we received a response from OPW stating that the purpose of the Minor Works Scheme is to provide funding to Local Authorities to address localized flooding problems. They stated that the matter of riverbank erosion is not covered by this scheme.

The OPW indicated that the works described in the Council's application were mainly related to the protection of the bank of the river from erosion and as such the proposed works do not provide any protection from flooding to the existing property. The erosion is not leading to an undermining of a flood defense and therefore does not qualify for funding under the Minor Works Scheme.

Members raised the issue of erosion of riverbank at a particular property and stated that unless works were carried out it could be an ecological issue. The Senior Executive Engineer stated that he would try and clarify what scheme was previously used when work was undertaken in a similar situation.

10. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when the issue of subsiding gullies along Boherbui, Newcastle West is likely to be resolved.

REPLY: The matter has been investigated and repair works will be completed this week.

11. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next if a yield/stop sign can be put in place at the Desmond Business Park Junction with the public road towards various farm land at Dungeeha in the interest of public safety.

REPLY: The matter will be investigated and a response will issue as soon as possible.

12. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting what the up-to-date position is with the review of speed limits within the Municipal District.

REPLY: The Council previously sought submissions in relation to the proposed speed limit review. These submissions have been considered by the Municipal and Metropolitan Districts.

A number of issues which required further consideration arose from the submissions and these issues are currently being addressed.

Meetings have been held with the TII in relation to National Route Proposals and draft Bye-Laws are currently being prepared.

The revised proposals and the draft Bye-Laws will be brought before the November Municipal/Metropolitan District Meetings.

NOTICES OF MOTION

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that proper and adequate signage be put in place along the Great Southern Greenway to advise dog owners to keep their dogs on a lead at all times.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin stated when works would be completed on the Greenway it would be a great success. Farmers with land adjoining the Greenway had concerns— with walkers using the Greenway and not keeping their dogs under control.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY: Under the Control of Dogs Act, 1986 it is an offence for a person in charge of a dog in a public place not to keep it under effectual control. Signs requesting owners to keep dogs under close control will be ordered and will be erected on the Great Southern Greenway Limerick as soon as they are delivered.

Bye-Laws will have to be introduced on the Great Southern Greenway Limerick if we want to ensure dogs are kept on a lead at all times and this can now be considered.

14. Notice of Motions submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that a safety survey be carried out at the junction known locally as Lees Cross on the Bruff line (R521).

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin stated that it was a very dangerous junction and asked that traffic calming measures and signage would be looked at.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

In response the Senior Executive Engineer stated that he was well aware of the junction in question and lack of funding was an issue. A study would need to be carried out to identify a long term solution to the problem. He said funding could be made available from the GMA 2018 fund.

It was agreed to hold the November Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 8th November, 2017 at 10.00 a.m. at Áras William Smith OBrien, Newcastle West.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
