

**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, 10<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2017 AT 9.00 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:**

Director, Physical Development (Mr. K. Lehane), A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division (Mr. K. Murphy), Executive Engineer, Rathkeale Area Office (Mr. D. Flanagan) Meetings Administrator (Mr. T. O'Callaghan), Administrative Officer, Rathkeale Office (Ms. K. Butler), Assistant Staff Officer (Ms. E. Buckley).

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2017.

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

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

Councillor Sheahan noted the ongoing need for a new sewerage treatment plant in Askeaton, with separate sewage and storm water piping systems. He highlighted persistent problem with sewage odours in Askeaton in Upper Main Street, Church Street and Deel Manor Estate and the fact that metal ventilation pipes, on the existing sewerage system, had corroded and not been replaced.

The Meetings Administrator informed Members that this issue had been brought to the attention of Irish Water and a reply had been received indicating that no odours had been detected when the site was visited. On the proposal of Councillor McMahon, seconded by Councillor Sheahan it was agreed that Irish Water should be invited to the next District Meeting to discuss this issue. Members also requested that the A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division examine the corroded vent pipes and engage with Irish Water in relation to same and highlighted the need for private houses to ensure that their sewerage connections were properly vented.

Members raised the ongoing need for greater Garda resources to be allocated to the District and it was noted that a Deputation from Askeaton was due to meet with the Garda Superintendent. Members highlighted the need for the public to record the name of the Garda they deal with and the file number, when reporting a crime and the need for Garda text alerts to be issued to the correct area.

Councillor Keary requested an update on the pedestrian crossing in Adare, as moved at the September District Meeting. It was agreed that a report in relation to same should be brought to the November District Meeting.

## **2. Deputation from Ballysteen Tidy Towns Group**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Siobhan Costello, Derek Somers, Una Hewson and Dolores Braddish to the Meeting.

Circulated, and reviewed at the Meeting, report entitled Deputation from Ballysteen Tidy Village to Limerick County Council Autumn 2017 which set out the background to the group and a range of issues in Ballysteen in need of attention.

Members commended the group on their professional presentation and made the following points while discussing this item;

- Efforts should be made to have Beigh and Ballysteen piers included as viewing points in the Shannon Estuary Way and Bord Fáilte might assist in this regard.
- The Town and Village Renewal Scheme may be applicable to the works and a water tap should be provided at Beigh Castle.
- The works needed should be prioritised, with the dangerous junction and parking issues dealt with first.

Members requested that District staff cost the works required so that it could be considered for inclusion in the Council's programme of works or for support under the General Municipal Allocation (GMA).

## **3. Deputation from Foynes & District Community Council**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Grainne Walsh, Anne Nestor and Patrick Fitzgerald to the Meeting.

Circulated, report from Foynes & District Community Council under the following headings:

- Achievements of Current Committee
- Objectives
- The Roof Project
- Team Limerick Clean Up

- Limerick Going for Gold
- Tidy Towns
- TÚS
- Facebook Page
- Community Centre
- Christmas Market

The Deputation reviewed the background to the Community Council, the range of projects and initiatives undertaken to date and future plans. It was pointed out that the Community Council had been left with no option but to borrow funding to repair the roof of the Community Centre and that any assistance to defray the cost of same would be welcomed.

Members acknowledged the achievements of the Community Council and commended the work it carried out and the prominent role it played in Foynes. Members noted that Foynes was a significant tourist attraction and a key port and highlighted that, while support had already been given to a number of organisations based in Foynes, serious consideration would be given to the request made by the Community Council, going forward.

#### **4. Physical Development Directorate**

##### **Report on the Public Consultation for the Draft Limerick City and County Council (Control of Horses) Bye-Laws 2017 to Regulate Sulky Racing on Public Roads in Limerick**

Circulated, Report of the Director of Service, Physical Development Directorate dated 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 setting out the Public Consultation Report of the Physical Development Directorate on the Draft Limerick City and County Council (Control of Horses) Bye-Laws 2017 to regulate sulky racing on public roads in Limerick.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

#### **5. Support Services Directorate – Corporate Services**

##### **JPC Sub Committee**

The Meetings Administrator noted the proposal to establish District JPC Sub Committees as set out in the JPC Strategic Plan 2016-2021 and that it was proposed that the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale should now set up such a sub committee that would meet quarterly with the local Garda Superintendent and the District PPN Representative on the JPC.

Following discussion it was agreed that such meetings should be held at 9.00 a.m. on the day of a Monthly District Meeting with the Monthly District Meeting to commence at the conclusion of the JPC Sub Committee Meeting.

**6. General Municipal Allocation (GMA) 2017**

It was noted that no new allocations under the GMA 2017 had been circulated to the Meetings Administrator.

**7. Service Operations – Planning & Environmental Services**

**Update on the Taking-In-Charge of An Curran Estate, Pallaskenry**

Circulated, report of the Staff Officer, Planning and Environmental Services dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2017 which noted that, following a meeting with the Developer of the estate, a decision had been made to draw down the bond for the estate and an estimate of the cost of the required works would be submitted to the bond holder. Members welcomed the anticipated works on the estate and highlighted the importance of continuity of works, in view of the high turnover of District Technical Staff.

It was noted that leachate was no longer being drawn to the treatment plant at the estate and the Executive Engineer, Rathkeale Area Office confirmed that the road to the plant was in a reasonable condition.

**8. Flooding Issues in Askeaton**

Circulated, report of the A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division dated 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 outlining the position in relation to the funding of works at Askeaton, as set out by the Office of Public Works (OPW).

Members stressed the importance of these works and noted that it had been fortunate that Askeaton had not been subject to flooding in the recent past.

**9. Footpath from Kildimo to the Beer Garden Public House**

Circulated, report of the A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division dated 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 which was noted by Members.

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**10. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor A. Teskey**

**I will move at the next Meeting that this District writes to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and request that an Island to be put in place for the crossing on the road**

**from the N21 onto the L1427. This junction is located at the Limerick side of the Lantern Roundabout in Adare.**

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

In proposing the Motion Councillor Teskey noted that TII had agreed to carry out modifications to the road markings on the N21, on the approaches to the Mount Earl Junction, by relocating the right turn arrows and adjusting the layout to provide extra width to allow vehicles to pass queuing right turn traffic. A full right turn lane would not be provided, however, as the existing pavement was not wide enough.

Councillor Teskey highlighted the continued danger of motorists speeding into vehicles waiting to turn right at this location and requested that TII re-examine their proposals in relation to this location.

Members supported the Motion and noted that a box should have been included as part of the recent works and called on TII to re-examine this location.

**11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor A. Teskey**

**I will move at the next Meeting that this local authority consider a pedestrian crossing to facilitate the students at Rathkeale No2 National School at Church Street, Rathkeale and upgrading of relevant road markings to identify the school for the mainstream traffic that enter and leave the town at this point.**

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Teskey and seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Teskey requested that the location be surveyed and the works, as proposed, costed.

Members supported the Motion and noted the importance of carrying out any survey when the school was open.

**REPLY:** In order to determine if a pedestrian crossing is justified we will have to carry out a site assessment, this will require a comprehensive on-site traffic and pedestrian survey.

The A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division noted that it was hoped to complete the survey before the end of the year.

**12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Brien**

**I will move at the next Meeting that the Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) provide an update on my Motion to install traffic route lighting in the vicinity of the Kilcornan primary school and entrance to the Ger McDonnell all-weather playing**

**facility and Kilcornan Community Centre, together with enhanced traffic calming and safety measures at this location.**

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

In proposing the Motion councillor O'Brien outlined recent interactions between the Council, TII and the Minister for Transport on this issue. He called on the Minister for Transport to intervene in this matter and take steps to ensure that the required works were carried out and requested that the Minister visit the District in this regard. On the proposal of Councillor O'Brien, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue it was agreed that this issue should appear as a recurring item on future District Meeting Agendas.

**REPLY:** Limerick City and County Council submitted a proposed traffic calming scheme for Kilcornan to TII for approval and funding earlier this year. Queries were received last July on the cost element of the project. These were addressed and submitted to them promptly. Limerick City and County Council has not had any further update on the scheme progression since then other than to schedule a meeting for Thursday, 12th October to discuss the design submitted. Central Services will update the Members following this meeting.

**13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor E. O'Brien**

**I will move at the next Meeting, in light of the recent Tidy Towns findings, that the Council undertake remedial and improvement works at the Council's Storage/Chip Depot at Kilcornan.**

In proposing the Motion Councillor O'Brien noted that, in accordance with the Tidy Towns Report, this matter was in need of urgent attention.

**REPLY:** In relation to the Tidy Towns findings, the Council agree to carry out remedial works to improve the aesthetics of the entrance gate to the depot in Kilcornan, in the short term. In 2018 we propose to upgrade the entrance subject to the required funding being available.

**14. Correspondence**

Correspondence, as circulated, was noted by Members.

At the conclusion of the Agenda and with the consent of the Cathaoirleach the following issues were raised by Members:

- It was noted that horses had been moved from a site at Abbeycourt, Rathkeale and, combined with the fact that Council staff had been seen inspecting the site, this had given rise to rumours that the site was to be developed as a temporary halting site. In this regard a petition, that the site not be developed as a halting site, had been completed and was now being submitted to the executive of the Council. The Administrative Officer, Rathkeale Office noted that the removal of horses from Council lands had been carried out on behalf of the Council at all such locations in Rathkeale and confirmed that any horse owners who wished to avail of grazing on Council lands should contact the Council's Property Section. She noted, further that any site inspections carried out had been on foot of the Facilitator's Report.

Councillor McMahon pointed out that she was a member of the Traveller Accommodation Committee and stressed that, while plans were in place to upgrade four existing sites, no new sites were being proposed.

The Members suggested that the Council make a statement to clarify the position on the above and a Motion was proposed by Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue that the community in the area were not in favour of a new halting site in Rathkeale.

- Councillor McMahon raised concerns regarding the safety of the incomplete car park at Cluain Mhuire and requested an update in relation to same.
- Councillor Teskey noted that the Ballyhahill Development Association had engaged with GAS Networks Ireland in relation to filling in a roadside dyke on the Loughill Road and requested that the Council provide any assistance possible in this regard.
- Councillor O'Donoghue noted the extent to which certain public lights were being replaced and requested details of the contract for the repair of public lighting for the next Meeting.
- Councillor Keary requested an update on the provision of a sewer line, in conjunction with the proposed road works in Adare. He noted that it was now proposed to provide 20 rather than 30 social housing units in Adare and Members requested details of which 10 units would not now be built.

Councillor Keary put forward a Motion, seconded by Councillor Teskey, that a master plan for the site be developed and brought to the District, prior to the Part VIII process, showing how the site would be serviced and including the provision of sites.

Councillor Sheahan referred to previous discussion regarding the provision of affordable sites in Adare and noted that he had been informed that a policy in

this regard would have to be developed. Councillor Sheahan put forward a Motion, seconded by Councillor Keary that this policy be brought to the next Meeting of the full Council and that Adare should be used as a pilot location for the implementation of such policy.

- Councillor Sheahan queried as to whether work was planned at Curragh Chase gates. The Executive Engineer, Rathkeale Area Office noted that work to improve sight lines was planned at this location within the following two weeks.
- Councillor O'Brien welcomed the allocation that had been made by the Government to Local Improvement Schemes but expressed disappointment that the allocation had to be spent before the end of November. The Executive Engineer, Rathkeale Area Office noted that six applicants in the area had been written to on the previous week and so far one reply had been received. He noted that these applications dated back to the years 2008 and 2009.
- Councillor Keary requested an update in relation to drainage work required at Courtmatrix. The Executive Engineer, Rathkeale Area Office noted that ownership at the location had been clarified.
- The Meetings Administrator referred to correspondence he had issued to Members requesting agreement on a date to hold a Budgetary Plan 2018 Meeting. It was agreed that the Meeting would be held on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2017 at 8.00 p.m. and be preceded by a workshop, on the same subject, at 7.30 p.m.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_