

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN ÁRAS SEÁN FINN, NEW LINE ROAD, RATHKEALE, CO. LIMERICK ON MONDAY, 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER, 2017 AT 6.30 P.M.**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Keary, O'Brien, Sheahan and Teskey.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director, Regional Services (Ms. C. Curley), Senior Executive Engineer, Physical Development Directorate (Ms. A. Goggin), Meetings Administrator (Mr. T. O'Callaghan).

At the outset Councillor Teskey extended congratulations to Adare GAA Club on winning their first County Senior Football title.

**1. Physical Development Directorate**

**Proposed Inspections of Overground Slurry Tanks**

Members noted a letter that had been sent by the Council to a number of farmers with overground slurry holding facilities advising of pending inspections of same and pointed out that farmers were expressing concern at the financial implications of these inspections in terms of direct costs and possible reduction in single farm payment. Members pointed out that such slurry holding tanks had been constructed in accordance with Department of Agriculture Guidelines, with the assistance of Department Grants, and subject to planning permission granted by the Council. Concerns were also raised that farmers would now be expected to construct bunds to hold slurry temporarily, in the event of a spillage from these slurry tanks, and Members discussed the viability of such bunds in terms of their potential to hold rainwater and the dangers they posed to children on the farm.

The Senior Executive Engineer expressed her disappointment that farmers had not contacted Council staff to express these concerns and stressed that the letter and related inspections were intended to highlight a number of issues, primarily concerned with valve failure and management, that had led to a number of serious slurry discharges in the past years. The Senior Executive Engineer presented an overview of these incidents along with the potential to install a ballcock controlled valve on reception tanks, as a fail safe device. She noted that the Council had been in contact with the Department of Agriculture requesting that this arrangement be included in the specification for overground slurry tanks and retrospective funding allocated to farmers for its installation in existing systems.

Members thanked the Senior Executive Engineer for her presentation and noted the importance of keeping Members informed of the Council's activities in this regard. On the proposal of Councillor Teskey, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue it was requested that the details of the presentation be drawn up as a brochure for circulation to those farmers already contacted, along with a covering letter outlining the Council's concerns and recommendations.

Members acknowledged the benefits of the ballcock controlled valve to control the flow of slurry to reception tanks and discussed the possibility of including an electronic alarm with same, in the event of its failure.

On the proposal of Councillor Keary, seconded by Councillor Teskey it was agreed that a Motion should go forward to the full Council in the name of the District calling on the Department of Agriculture to grant aid the retrospective fitting of ballcock controlled valves to control the discharge of slurry from overground slurry stores to adjacent reception tanks.

This concluded the Meeting.

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

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