

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT RE-SCHEDULED MEETING OF METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MERCHANT'S QUAY, LIMERICK, ON FRIDAY, 27TH OCTOBER, 2017 AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE DRAFT BUDGETARY PLAN MEETING

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor Seán Lynch, Mayor.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Butler, Collins, Costelloe, Daly, Gilligan, Hogan, Hourigan, Hurley, Keller, Leddin, McCreesh, Ó Ceallaigh, O'Dea, Pond, Prendiville, Secas and Sheahan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Physical Development (Mr. K. Lehane), Meetings Administrator (Ms. T. Knox), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Mr. T. O'Callaghan), Executive Architect (Ms. M. Donoghue), Conservation Officer (Mr. T. Cassidy), Senior Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office (Mr. T. Fitzgerald), Senior Executive Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office (Mr. C. Hegarty), Assistant Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office (Mr. R. Kennedy), Asst. Staff Officer, Social Development (Ms. S. Butler).

At the outset, the Mayor and Members extended their condolences and sympathies to the families of the following individuals who had died recently and a silence was observed in their memory :

Ms. Sophie Coll, Mr. Michael Pyke, Ms. Rachel Spain, Mr. Neville Furlong, Mr. Sean Moran; Mr. Leo Morrison, Mrs. Margaret Daly.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 18th September, 2017.

Proposed by Councillor Hurley;
Seconded by Councillor Secas;
And Resolved:

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

2. Disposal of Land

Circulated, Report of the A/Senior Executive Officer, Community Support Services dated 3rd October, 2017 setting out proposals to dispose of the freehold interest in a dwelling house at Caheranardish, Mungret, Co. Limerick and to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval. The report was noted by Members.

3. Proposed Additions to the Record of Protected Structures

Circulated, Report of the Senior Manager, Planning and Environmental Services Department dated 6th October, 2017 setting out the legal and procedural background to the addition of

records to the Record of Protected Structures and recommending the following proposed additions to same :

P.P.S. 2017 / A Former R.I.C. / Garda Barracks at Barnakyle, Patrickswell;

P.P.S. 2017 / I Quaker Meeting House and Burial Ground at Ballinacurra (Bowman), Limerick

P.P.S. 2017 / J Military Cemetery and Lodge, King's Island, Limerick.

Former R.I.C. / Garda Barracks at Barnakyle, Patrickswell

Circulated, Report dated 16th October, 2017 setting out details of the proposed addition of the former Garda / R.I.C. Barracks, Ref. No. P.P.S. 2017/A to the Record of Protected Structures.

The following points were made by Members opposing the proposed addition :

- Development of the structure would not proceed, if protected, and it would continue to detract from the visual aspect of Patrickswell and this should be taken into consideration in conjunction with the urban renewal of Patrickswell.
- There were no plans by the owner to demolish or change the structure.
- Any efforts to bring residential units into a habitable state should be supported, in view of the current housing crisis.
- This is not the original Barracks in Patrickswell and the existing planning permission system will protect those parts of the building that merit same.
- The financial support associated with protected buildings was inadequate and the costs associated with developing the building, as a protected structure, would make the project unviable.

The following points were made by Members in support of listing the property :

- The building had served many functions and its historical value should be taken into consideration.
- Including the building on the record of protected structures would guarantee its protection.
- Every effort should be made to maintain the existing streetscapes in towns and villages.
- The building was rated of regional significance, with original features still in place and represented part of our social history.

The Conservation Officer noted that the building contained original roofing slate, windows and rain water goods and that the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht has issued a Ministerial Recommendation, on foot of Section 53 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) in respect of the building and as a result, should the Members decide not to add the building to the Record of Protected Structures, their reasons for not doing so would have to be recorded and submitted to the Minister. In response to clarification sought from Councillors, the Conservation Officer stated that Section 2 of the Planning and Development Act specifically required alterations to roofing, windows and doors of character to have planning permission and also made the point that Policies in the Development Plan sought the protection of historic streetscapes.

A motion was proposed by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Lynch that the former Police / Garda Barracks, Barnakyle, Patrickswell, Limerick, Ref. No. P.P.S. 2017/A should not be added to the Record of Protected Structures as, in view of the policy to encourage people to live

in our towns and villages and in response to the national housing crisis, Members were of the view that, if listed for protection, it would become unviable to develop the building as residential accommodation and that the character of the building could be protected by the planning legislation associated with the planning permission process.

The Mayor called for a vote on this motion, which resulted as follows:

In favour

Councillors Butler, Collins, Daly, Gilligan, Leddin, Lynch, O’Dea, Pond and Sheahan

(9)

Against

Councillors Costelloe, Hogan, Hourigan, Keller, McCreesh, Ó Ceallaigh, Prendiville and Secas.

(8)

Abstain

Councillor Hurley

(1)

The Mayor declared the motion carried and it was agreed that the following resolution be adopted by the same voting.

Proposed by Councillor Collins;

Seconded by Councillor Lynch;

And Resolved:

“That the former Police / Garda Barracks, Barnakyle, Patrickwell, Limerick, Ref. No. P.P.S. 2017/A should not be added to the Record of Protected Structures in accordance with Sections 53, 54 and 55 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) as, in view of the policy to encourage people to live in our towns and villages and in response to the national housing crisis, Members are of the view that, if listed for protection, it would become unviable to develop the building as residential accommodation and that the character of the building could be protected by the planning legislation associated with the planning permission process”.

Quaker Meeting House and Burial Ground at Ballinacurra (Bowman), Limerick

Circulated, Report dated 16th October, 2017 setting out details of the proposed addition of the Quaker Meeting House and Burial Ground at Ballinacurra (Bowman), Limerick City, Ref. No. P.P.S. 2017/I to the Record of Protected Structures.

Members queried why the Quaker Meeting House, a relatively modern building, was being proposed for protection. The Conservation Officer noted that the building represented good architecture and the heritage of the future.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;

Seconded by Councillor Collins;

And Resolved:

“That the Quaker Meeting House and Burial Ground in the townland of Ballinacurra (Bowman), Limerick, Ref. No. P.P.S. 2017/I be added to the Record of Protected Structures in accordance with Sections 53 and 54 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)”.

Military Cemetery and Lodge, King’s Island, Limerick

Circulated, Report dated 16th October, 2017 setting out details of the proposed addition of the Military Cemetery and Lodge, King’s Island, Limerick Ref. No. P.P.S. 2017/J to the Record of Protected Structures.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Lodge would not be added to the Record of Protected Structures and the Conservation Officer noted that the Members would not have to list reasons for same as there was no related Ministerial Recommendation, on foot of Section 53 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Proposed by Councillor Butler;
Seconded by Councillor Collins;
And Resolved:

“That the Military Cemetery at King’s Island, Limerick Ref. No. P.P.S. 2017/J be added to the Record of Protected Structures in accordance with Sections 54 and 55 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)”.

4. 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, Physical Development dated 29th September, 2017 with attached, for the consideration of the Members, the Public Consultation Report on the Draft Limerick City and County Council (Control of Horses) Bye-Laws 2017.

The report set out that two submissions had been received during the consultation period and noted the intention to bring the Draft Limerick City and County Council (Control of Horses) Bye-Laws 2017 to the November 2017 Meeting of the Full Council for consideration and adoption. The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

5. N24 Beary’s Cross Road Improvement Scheme

Circulated, Report of the Administrative Officer, Mid West National Road Design Office dated 11th October, 2017 enclosing a report prepared in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) in relation to the proposed N24 Beary’s Cross Road Improvement Scheme. The report noted that, as the proposed scheme was located in both the Metropolitan District area and the Cappamore-Kilmallock Municipal District area, the proposed scheme was being brought to both Districts for consideration and discussion and would be brought to the November Meeting of the Full Council for approval.

Members noted the contents of the report, as circulated, and welcomed the proposed works. In response to an enquiry from Members, the Senior Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office noted that, given the need to acquire land as part of the project, it was anticipated that

the earliest time work would commence, on site, would be 2019.

6. GMA 2018

It was noted that, due to time constraints, following the postponement of the District Meeting which had been set for 16th October, 2017, the date for the meeting to consider the Draft Budgetary Plan 2018 had been already agreed.

QUESTIONS

7. Question submitted by Councillor J. Leddin

I will ask at the next Meeting what plans the Council has to review the current street lighting provision on St. Alphonsus Street and also the stretch of the Dock Road from Mount Kenneth to St. Alphonsus Street.

REPLY: The public lighting on St. Alphonsus Street was upgraded to LED lighting over the last number of weeks. The lights on the Dock Road from Mount Kenneth to St. Alphonsus Street have been identified as a high priority area for central services to replace the existing lanterns with energy efficient LED lighting in 2018 subject to funding being available.

8. Question submitted by Cmhrl. S. Ó Ceallaigh

I will ask at the next Meeting, when is it planned to have people housed in the Hyde Road Flats and the Churchfield Site in Southill.

REPLY: The refurbishment by Cluid Housing of Hyde Road Flats is due for completion in December 2017. The allocation process is currently underway and tenancies will commence in January 2018. The Churchfield site is projected to be completed in March 2018 and tenancies will commence in March / April 2018.

9. Question submitted by Cmhrl. S. Ó Ceallaigh

I will ask at the next Meeting, when is it envisaged for works on sufficient flood defences to begin in Castleconnell and when is it envisaged that these works will be completed.

REPLY: Flood defences for Castleconnell have been included in the Draft Flood Risk Management Plans for the Shannon CFRAMS. The Office of Public Works (OPW) has advised that the draft plans have been submitted to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform for Ministerial approval.

Once the plans are approved, it is the intention of the OPW to publish a national prioritised list of schemes that will proceed to the design stage with the relevant Local Authority.

It is not known when the announcement will be made by the Minister and therefore, the Council are not in a position at this stage to indicate a timeframe for the Castleconnell Flood Relief Scheme.

Once the announcement is made by the Minister, the Council will arrange a meeting with the OPW in order to progress the Limerick Flood Relief Schemes.

10. Question submitted by Councillor J. Costelloe

I will ask at the next Meeting what plans there are for the Old Thomond Weir site at O'Dwyers Villas, Thomondgate.

REPLY: The Thomond Weir site is currently being used under licence on a temporary basis, to facilitate the restoration of a barge. The existing building on the site has been cleared back to a 'shell and core' state. It is envisaged, given its sound structural condition, that this building will be retained for appropriate re use. There is development potential for the remainder of the site in conjunction with other lands in this area owned by Limerick City and County Council.

11. Question submitted by Councillor M. McCreesh

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the current status of the plans for the internal buildings at Mungret College.

REPLY: LCCC has instructed Limerick 2030 DAC to develop a high level masterplan for the Mungret site. Stage 1 includes a Masterplan and development appraisal including financial modelling for the LCCC landholding which comprises 26.3 hectares and the Mungret College buildings. The tender process is currently underway.

Design and Delivery Services are about to commence work on the roof of the main building. Scheduled completion date is Spring 2018.

12. Question submitted by Councillor M. McCreesh

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the schedule for the thermal upgrade plan for Tara Court, Watergate and has funding been provided for the completion of this scheme.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council have submitted a capital appraisal to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for funding to complete the refurbishment work to the Watergate Flats Complex. The first phase of work is complete, with work to Tara Court to take place in Phase 2. The funding application is under consideration at present by the Department.

13. Question submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville

I will ask at the next Meeting, what progress has been made towards streaming Metropolitan District Meeting online for the public to follow, or watch back, as in other Council's across the country.

REPLY: No progress has been made in relation to the streaming of Metropolitan Meetings online. This is a matter which would require consideration at Metropolitan District level and would require an amendment of Standing Orders

to allow for same.

Issues such as the capital costs of equipment to facilitate the process and the ongoing running costs, together with additional administration, would need to be taken into account prior to making a decision in relation to such a matter.

It is recommended that the matter be submitted, as an item for consideration, to the next Protocol Committee Meeting of the Council.

14. Question submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville

I will ask at the next Meeting, what progress has been made on agenda last year to organise a forum between the council, third level institutions in the city and the students unions in those institutions to discuss the crisis in student accommodation in the Metropolitan District.

REPLY: The provision of student accommodation is primarily drive by the third level institutions and the private sector. Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) is cognisant that all aspects of the housing market are intertwined and welcomes initiatives such as the new legislation to give increased power to support lending by the Housing Finance Agency (HFA) to Higher Education Institutions (HEI). Initial discussions indicate the possibility of demand for funding further supply of up to 6,000 student accommodation units nationally, over the period to 2020. Limerick City and County Council's focus at present is on addressing the increasing levels of homeless families living in B&B / Hotel accommodation and the provision of accommodation for those on the housing waiting list.

NOTICES OF MOTION

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Leddin (to be referred to the Local Electoral Area Briefings)

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick Metropolitan District amend the current two way traffic flow on the lower South Circular Road from the junction of Quin St and Gerard St to one way in the direction of city centre and prohibit right turn from South Circular Road onto Gerard St, in the interests of safety for school children and pedestrians.

It was agreed that this Motion be referred to the Local Electoral Area Briefings for consideration.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cmhlr. S. Ó Ceallaigh

I will move at the next Meeting that this District calls on Irish Water to give a better standard of notification to the Council with regard to when and where there will be planned water outages across the Metropolitan District of Limerick.

The motion was proposed by Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh and seconded by Councillor Costelloe.

In proposing the motion Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh noted that the notice given by Irish Water of planned water outages was inadequate and at times the Council only learned of a planned outage the night before it was due to take place.

Members discussed the consequences for businesses and those providing community services of inadequate notice. Members requested that notices from Irish Water in relation to planned water outages contain more specifics in relation to outages and that Members be copied with details of outages at the same time the Council was informed.

Members also requested that they receive advance notice of road works undertaken by Irish Water and raised issues in relation to the adequacy of traffic management at these works.

In response to a query from Members, the Director, Physical Development noted that, in the event of a claim made against the Council arising from road works, any contractor or statutory agency involved would be joined in the proceedings.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council, on behalf of Irish Water, update the Irish Water website, water.ie of all details on planned and unplanned outages. The Councillors of the Metropolitan District are also emailed and advised of the outages. Irish Water will be copied on the Notice of Motion.

Public Representatives have been assigned a designated email account, localrepsupport@water.ie and Irish Water also provide clinics for public representatives.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Costelloe (to be referred to the Home and Social Development SPC)

I will move at the next Meeting that this District calls on the Minister for Health to adequately staff child mental health services in Limerick City.

It was agreed that this Motion be referred to the Home and Social Development SPC for consideration.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Hurley

I will move at the next Meeting that this Authority will make provision in the 2018 Budget for people with disabilities in association with Limerick's positive ageing initiative.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Hurley and seconded by Councillor Hourigan.

In proposing the motion Councillor Hurley referred to Ireland's Ageing population and the fact that medical and social advances would increase the number of people living with disabilities and disabling conditions in the community. She noted that the Council had introduced a number of measures to improve participation for people with disabilities and their families and that the National Convention of Older People, to be held in Limerick in the coming week, would be supported by the Executive of the Council. Councillor Hurley stressed the importance of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which set out how enjoyment of human rights were to be promoted and protected to enable people with

disabilities to live full lives in the community, and pointed out that Ireland had signed same in March 2007, thereby committing to its ratification and progressive implementation. She noted that ratification committed all Local Authorities to an ongoing programme of action to support people with disabilities to live fully in their communities and called on Local Authorities to exert influence on and work with other public, civic and private entities to advance the full participation of people with disabilities living within their areas. Councillor Hurley highlighted some of the barriers that exclude and inhibit people with disabilities such as economic pressures; lack of appropriate accessible private and social housing; lack of accessible and readily available public transport, parking and public spaces; and difficulties in finding and retaining employment and called for the Council to budget and plan for 2018 and beyond to advance the implementation of the UNCRPD.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville (to be referred to the Travel and Transportation SPC)

I will move at the next Meeting that the streets immediately surrounding the milk market, where stalls are set up on a Saturday morning, should be closed to cars seeking to cut through the market for the duration of the Saturday market.

It was agreed that this Motion be referred to the Travel and Transportation SPC for consideration.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville (to be referred to the Community, Leisure & Emergency Services SPC / Home and Social Development SPC)

I will move at the next meeting that we call for the Council owned lands in Mungret, suitable for housing, to be developed by the Council as a mix of social and affordable housing, as a matter of urgency.

It was agreed that this Motion be referred to the Community, Leisure and Emergency Services SPC Home and Social Development SPC for consideration.

21. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
MAYOR

Dated: _____