

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 FEBRUARY, 2018 AT 9.00 A.M.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Regional Services (Ms. C. Curley), A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division (Mr. K. Murphy), Meetings Administrator (Ms. K. Butler), Executive Engineer, Operations & Maintenance Services (Mr. D. Flanagan), Senior Executive Engineer, Design & Delivery Services (Mr. J. Delaney), Staff Officer, Property Services (Mr. J. Cregan), Senior Engineer, Water Services (Mr. M. Griffin), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Harnett).

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Adam Teskey.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 9th January, 2018.

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

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

2. Part 8 – Croom Distributor Road

Circulated, report of the Chief Executive, dated 22nd January, 2018 setting out details of the Part 8 – Croom Distributor Road. The Chief Executive's report has been prepared in accordance with Section 179 3(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and it is proposed to proceed as indicated in Section 5 of the report.

The Senior Executive Officer, Design and Delivery Services, informed members that a finance package was being developed. He also informed them that the works would be carried out on a phased basis, starting with the Old Limerick Road section. As the new

secondary school in Croom will be opening in the near future this will advance the development to coincide with that.

On the proposal of Councillor O'Donoghue and seconded by Councillor O'Brien, members welcomed the distributor road and commended the landowners for their agreement to move forward.

3. Disposal of Land at Ardaneer, Foynes

Circulated, report of the Administrative Officer, Property Services, dated 30th January, 2018 outlining the proposal to dispose of land at Ardaneer, Foynes, Co. Limerick to Mr. Michael Cleary, Ardaneer, Foynes, Co. Limerick.

Report, as circulated, was proposed by Councillor O'Brien and seconded by Councillor Keary.

Disposal of Disused Spring Well at Carigeen, Croom

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Water Services, dated 26th January, 2018 outlining the proposal to dispose of disused spring well at Carrigeen, Croom.

The Senior Engineer, Water Services, apologised to members for circulating an incorrect map at the previous meeting. The report, as circulated, was proposed by Councillor O'Brien and seconded by Councillor Keary.

4. General Municipal Allocation (GMA) 2017

The Meetings Administrator advised members that she was still waiting on final figures for 2017 General Municipal Allocation. Members agreed that this would be finalised for the next meeting.

Director, Regional Services informed Members that the 2018 General Municipal Allocation figure has been decided and a workshop date need to be agreed.

5. Review of Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District Works 2017

The Executive Engineer, Operations & Maintenance Services, gave a presentation to members detailing the works carried out in the District in 2017 in relation to Roads Surface Dressings and Reconstruction, Fishery Harbour and Coastal Infrastructure Development Programme, Bridge Rehabilitation Works, Low Cost Safety Improve Scheme, General Municipal Allocation (GMA) & IPB Funding, Community Improvement Scheme and Local Improvement Scheme and Other Capital Works. The Executive Engineer also gave a presentation in relation to Housing Maintenance, Unfinished Housing Estates and Disabled Person and Private House Grants.

Members thanked the roads staff for their ongoing works to maintain the condition of the roads. On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan and seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue members expressed their gratitude towards the outdoor staff who carried out works in the early hours of the morning. Members requested a member of the roads team in Kilmallock should attend the next meeting to address their issues with roads which fall under Rathkeale Municipal District which are in Kilmallock Operational Area. Members expressed concerns about the amount of water lodging on the roads and enquired if anything was going to be done about opening water tables to solve this problem. A/Senior Executive Engineer informed Members that works will be carried out on a location basis and two roads crews will be working full time to open water tables and fill potholes. These works will be carried out once a Traffic Management Plan is in place.

Members noted that Coastal issues should not be part of Limerick City and County Council remit and should be handled by another body.

Members also raised issues regarding unfinished housing estates in Ballywilliam, Rathkeale, Doonbeirne, Ballingarry and Asgard Cove in Foynes.

6. Service Operations – Planning & Environmental Services

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

Circulated, report of the Staff Officer, Planning and Environmental Services dated 9th February, 2018 setting out the position in relation to the taking in charge of An Curran Estate. The report was noted by Members.

7. Service Operations – Operations & Maintenance Services

Traffic Calming at Kilcornan

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Operations and Maintenance Services dated 7th February, 2018 giving an update in relation to proposed traffic calming measures at Kilcornan. The report was noted by Members.

8. Flooding Issues in Askeaton

Circulated, report of the Acting Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division dated 21st December, 2017 giving an update in relation to proposals to address the flooding issues in Askeaton. Members noted the report also adding that the flooding issues needs to be address as houses continue to be flooded each month due to weather conditions.

9. Footpath from Kildimo to the Beer Garden Public House

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Design and Delivery dated 31st January, 2018 in relation to the completion of the footpath at this location. Members noted that this is an ongoing issue with no successful conclusion to date and on the proposal of Councillor O'Brien and seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue an alternative actions such as C.P.O should be sought by the next meeting.

10. Drainage Issues at Courtmatrix

Circulated, report of the A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division dated 28th December, 2017 regarding drainage issues at Courtmatrix. A/Senior Executive Engineer informed members that compensation was offered to the landowner 5-6 weeks ago, however, the landowner has not responded. Members requested that this issue needs to be sorted before the end of the year.

11. Pedestrian Controlled Crossing for Adare

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Operations and Maintenance Services dated 31st January, 2018 setting out an update in relation to pedestrian controlled crossing for Adare. This report was noted by Members.

QUESTIONS

12. Question submitted by Councillor R. O'Donoghue

I will ask at the next meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale for a breakdown (%) of all Councillors using the MyLimerick platform to make representations on behalf of the public.

REPLY: 21 Councillors are using the My Limerick platform to log representations on behalf of the public. This equates to 52% of Councillors.

Councillor R. O'Donoghue noted that all Councillors need to fully co-operated with the My Limerick platform as it shows areas which need more funding.

13. Question submitted by Councillor R. O'Donoghue

I will ask at the next meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale for an update from the Mid-West Design Team in Relation to the Adare bypass and the proposed roundabout at the Lantern Lodge.

REPLY: The Adare Junction layout is still under review.
Any decision on this matter will be published as part of the next Foynes to Limerick Scheme Update which is scheduled for around the end of February/early March 2018.

On the proposal of Councillor O'Donoghue and seconded by Councillor Keary, Members requested that the Road Design Office arrange a briefing/workshop for Councillors before anything is published.

14. Question submitted by Councillor S. Keary

I will ask at the February Meeting of the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal Area for a clear and comprehensive report on the current status of the Planning Application by Cadence Enviropower to An Bord Pleanala for a Gasification Plant at Gornadroma Landfill Site which is owned and maintained by Limerick City and County Council.

REPLY: The Planning Authority met with representatives of Enviropower Ltd in October 2016. At the meeting Enviropower Ltd outlined their intention to apply to An Bord Pleanala for a determination on whether the proposed development constitutes a Strategic Infrastructure Development.

A pre-application consultation has been lodged by Cadence EnviroPower LCC with An Bord Pleanala on 13/01/2017.

There has been no further consultation with the Planning Authority in relation to the site.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan and seconded by Councillor O'Brien it was agreed that this issue should be parked.

15. Question submitted by Councillor A. Teskey

I will ask at the next meeting what revenue is collected by motor tax in Limerick County.

This question was moved to the next meeting.

16. Question submitted by Councillor A. Teskey

I will ask at the next meeting what is the update in relation to my previous motion regarding an enquiry into the flooding issue at the Foynes Flying Boat Museum.

This question was moved to the next meeting.

NOTICES OF MOTION

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Keary

I will move at the February Meeting of the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal Area that the Local Authority of Limerick City and County immediately commence the harmonisation of housing rent payable by tenants between City and County.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor S. Keary and seconded by Councillor K. Sheahan. In proposing the Motion Councillor Keary outlined the large discrepancy between rent charged in the City compared to in the County and called for the matter to be addressed. The Director, Regional Services informed members that this would be addressed when the Minister rolls out a scheme nationally.

REPLY: The rent of Local Authority tenants in Ireland is calculated in accordance with the provisions of what's known as a Differential Rents Scheme. Each Local Authority adopts, by executive order, its own such Scheme, but they all share similar characteristics. The rent is calculated as a proportion of the assessable income of the principal earner, together with a contribution from any subsidiary earners in the household. The significant advantage that this confers on Local Authority tenants over their counterparts in the private sector is that the rent is based solely on the income of the household and is not linked to prevailing market forces. The amount payable will vary up or down in line with income changes of the occupants. At the moment, the average rent payable by tenants across the entire administrative area of Limerick City and County Council is just over €50 per week.

While all Differential Rent Schemes are broadly similar in terms of the general principles outlined above, each Local Authority would have customised its scheme to best suit its circumstances and needs. When the new Local Authority was created for Limerick in June 2014, the Schemes for both Limerick City Council and Limerick County Council were carried forward and continued to apply. It would clearly have been desirable to design and adopt one uniform Scheme for the entire administrative area. However, it was decided not proceed with this on the basis that the Department was clearly indicating that the Minister intended to roll out a Scheme which would apply nationally and would replace any existing local schemes. Despite such indications continuing, there are still no concrete proposals emerging for such a step. Having regard to this, and the need to remove any anomalies in the existing Scheme in this Authority, it is proposed to consider looking at the possibility of designing the uniform Scheme referred to above in the current year. Members will, of course, be consulted in relation to same.

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

I will move at the February Meeting of the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal Area that the Adare-Rathkeale area repair damage to the structural and/or retaining wall at the Market Lane, Summerville, Pallaskenry recently damaged due to storm damage.

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

A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division informed Members that he inspected the wall, there is no structural damage on the wall by the road and that it is a build up of water behind the wall that is coming from the land which is causing the damage. Therefore, as this is a private matter for the landowner Limerick City and County Council would not be carrying out repairs works. Members expressed their disappointment that this is the landowners responsibility and have asked that further investigation be carried out to resolve this. Also a report from the Manger of Limerick City and County Council with regard to this is sought for the next meeting.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor A. Teskey

I will move at the next meeting for a programme to open water tables on our rural roads.

This Motion was moved to the next meeting.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors A. Teskey and K. Sheahan

We will move at the next meeting that the district write to the Minister for Transport seeking assistance be it financial or otherwise in order to help in restoring our local roads to a roadworthy standard.

This Motion was proposed by Councillor K. Sheahan and seconded by Councillor S. Keary.

Members are calling on the Minister to respond promptly to this Motion. Members also noted that the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) need to recognise the serious situation of the condition of our roads and need to provide funding for same. It was also discussed that the Limerick Leader reported that Councillor Sheahan suggested using a chain gang to repair the roads and wanted it noted that he did not use this expression and was totally opposed to using it. Members agreed and also agreed that prisoners could do the works if a scheme was made available.

21. Correspondence

Correspondence, as circulated, was noted.

Members expressed their disappointment in the response from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding their site visit to the waste water treatment plant in Askeaton as there is no waste water treatment plant. There is constant complaints from local householders and businesses of the smell of sewerage around the town.

A.O.B.

Members raised concerns in relation to Askeaton Garda Stations opening hours. Due to the recent theft members are calling on the Garda Station to be open 24 hours. On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan and seconded by Councillor Keary a special meeting is requested with regard to the location and quantity of CCTV cameras in Rathkeale and Askeaton. Members request the presence of Askeaton Community Council, the Chief Superintendent, the Superintendent Newcastle West and Head of Digital Strategy, Limerick City and County Council. Members also request a map showing the areas covered is provided. Members asked if this meeting could coincide with the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) meeting. Director, Regional Services advised Members this is not possible and a separate workshop to discuss General Municipal Allocation (GMA) would have to agreed.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan and seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue Members are calling on the Taoiseach and the Minister for Health to reconsider the withdrawal of Versatis Pain Patches. Members requested this matter be sent forward to the next full meeting of Limerick City and County Council.

It was agreed to hold the March Monthly Meeting on Tuesday 6th March, 2018 at 4.00pm.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed : _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____