

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF METROPOLITAN DISTRICT OF LIMERICK HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MERCHANT'S QUAY, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY, 2018

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor Seán Lynch, Mayor.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES:

Councillor J. O'Dea.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Physical Development (Mr. K. Lehane), Meetings Administrator (Mr. C. O'Connor), Senior Executive Officer, Design and Delivery Services (Mr. J. Delaney), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Mr. J. Clune) and Staff Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. C. Sheehy).

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

Sean O'Connor, Lynwood Park, Ballysimon Road.
Tom English, Swanson Terrace, O'Connell Avenue.
Michael (Gull) McNamara, Abbeyvale, Corbally

Members also extended their condolences to Alan Jacques, Limerick Leader on the death of his father.

Members extended their congratulations to Ard Scoil Ris on winning the Harty Cup and to Ballybrown GAA on winning the Munster Junior B Football Championship.

Members also congratulated the Primary School Choir from Corpus Christi School, Moyross on the phenomenal performance of 'Rise Up' by Andra Day and its popularity on social media.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick held on 15th January, 2018.

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

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

2. Presentation on University Hospital Limerick

The Mayor welcomed Professor Colette Cowan, Chief Executive Officer, UL Hospitals Group and her Management Team to the Meeting.

The Chief Executive Officer gave a PowerPoint presentation on the UL Hospitals Group outlining the following key points:-

- Five Year Strategy Plan 2018-2022
- Update on the Emergency Department including new work and procedures
- Proposed development for 2018 and proposed future developments within the UL Hospital Group
- Challenges facing the UL Hospitals Group

The Members thanked Ms. Cowan for the presentation and commended the work of the UL Hospitals Group given the resources that are available to them. The Members raised a number of issues including:-

- The location and size of the current site given the proposed development works
- The location of the new ambulance services base
- Proposals to recruit and retain staff
- Relocation of Maternity Hospital
- Role of the Health Care Centres
- Demand for Child Mental Services
- Dealing with elderly attending the Hospitals
- Capacity issues/time scale on trolleys

These queries were responded to by Professor Cowan. Following further discussions the Mayor thanked Professor Cowan for her comprehensive presentation and responses to queries raised.

3. Disposal of Land

Circulated, Report of the Acting Senior Executive Officer, Community Support Services dated 31st January, 2018 setting out proposals to dispose of the freehold interest in a dwelling house at 8 Pearse Avenue, Janesboro, Limerick and to bring a Section 183 Notice to Full Council in this regard, for approval. The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

4. Support Services Directorate

Fixing of Dates

On the proposal of Councillor Hourigan, seconded by Councillor Collins the dates for upcoming Meetings were agreed as follows:-

- March Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick on Tuesday, 20th March, 2018 at 9.45am.

- Annual Meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick on Monday, 25th June, 2018 at 10am.

5. Services Operations Directorate

Part 8 Procedure – Clare Street and Lelia Street, Limerick

Circulated, Report of the Director of Services, Service Operations Directorate dated 12th February, 2018 and enclosed Chief Executive's Report dated 24th January, 2018 setting out details of proposed residential development (7 units) at Clare Street and Lelia Street, Limerick. The report had been prepared in accordance with Section 179 3(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) and noted that it was proposed to proceed in accordance with Section 5 of the report.

The Members welcomed the proposed development.

QUESTIONS

6. Question submitted by Cmhrl. S. Ó Ceallaigh

I will ask at the next Meeting what the value of the Mayoral Chain which was allegedly stolen is, and for an explanation as to why two very different values were printed in various media.

REPLY: The Mayoral Chain was valued at €6,000. This figure was given to the press in a reply to a media query. I am not aware of a different value for the chain being given to any media outlet.

Concerns were expressed at the use of the word allegedly in the question and following discussion Cmhrl. Ó Ceallaigh agreed that the question would be amended by the removal of same.

7. Question submitted by Cmhrl. S. Ó Ceallaigh

I will ask at the next Meeting for a binding commitment from Limerick City and County Council as to when works will begin and be completed on the Ferrybridge in Castleconnell, due to the numerous false promises made to local representatives and the people of Castleconnell for over a year.

REPLY: This wall at Ferrybridge, Castleconnell was originally weakened due to traffic travelling along the footpath close to the wall to avoid floodwaters on the road during the Shannon flooding event of 2015/2016. The wall subsequently collapsed into the woodland behind it during a subsequent weather event in February 2017. Limerick City and County Council placed fill material at the rear of the wall to support the footpath and erected hessian fencing to protect the public. The wall is located in an SAC and consequently permission is required

from the National Parks & Wildlife Service before commencing any remedial works. The site is described as an Alder Carr Wetland. Currently an Appropriate Assessment is being prepared for the site. The design of the repair has been completed and the tender process will commence in March 2018. This site is subject to flooding throughout the year but the window in which remedial works could be carried out is May, June and July. It is during these months that Limerick City and County Council propose to commence works. Partial funding has been provided by the Physical Directorate and additional funding will be sought from the GMA.

8. Question submitted by Councillor E. Secas

I will ask at the next Meeting of the Metropolitan District:

- 1) how much the consultant engineers Mott McDonald were paid in 2016 to advance the road improvement scheme on the R445 from the Kilmurray Roundabout eastwards and to progress proposals to improve access and traffic safety in the area adjacent to the Gaelscoil.***
- 2) why the Council failed to present Members with that draft scheme for discussion purposes early in 2017 and why no formal Part 8 planning submission was lodged in May 2017 as planned.***

REPLY: 1) The consultants were paid €26,866 plus VAT in 2016 to advance the scheme development including a preliminary design, consultation with relevant stakeholders, screening reports, etc.

2) The scheme has been advanced to the point where a Part 8 could be submitted at relatively short notice. The Council did present the preliminary design to the Members at an early stage. The draft scheme includes a number of stakeholders and landowners and the Council obtained the consent of a number of these to submit the planning proposal but it did not obtain the consent of all landowners. However, these engagements are continuing and the Council is committed to progressing a scheme to improve road safety and connectivity on this section of the R445.

9. Question submitted by Councillor J. Costelloe

I will ask the Council at the next Meeting how many fines have been issued in relation to dog fouling in 2017 and how many have been paid.

REPLY: A total of five fines were issued for dog fouling offences in 2017. To date, none of these fines has been paid. However, further enforcement action is being taken in two cases.

NOTICES OF MOTION

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor D. Butler (to be referred to the Cultural Strategic Policy Committee)

I call at the next Meeting on Limerick City and County Council to develop an inventory of all Limerick's historical and artistic assets to ensure their preservation and to exploit their potential as tourist attractions and encourage civic pride.

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Cultural Strategic Policy Committee.

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

I will move at the next Meeting to call for the monthly Local Area Briefings to be held in public and to become statutory meetings.

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

Cmhlr. O Ceallaigh outlined the difficulties in having detailed discussions on operational issues at Metropolitan meetings and compared this with Municipal districts which had fewer elected members and consequently the opportunity to raise issues of concern and have them discussed in public. He stated that in the metropolitan district these were discussed at monthly local area briefings where which were not held in public and were not statutory meetings. Some members who spoke in favour of the motion agreed with proposal for the meetings to be held in public with agenda and minutes circulated. Other members stated that they are happy with the manner issues are dealt with currently and the briefings provided a forum to raise issues with staff who are directly responsibility for the service delivery. Others suggested that consideration should be given to formalising the process.

REPLY: The Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides for the establishment of Metropolitan Districts and Municipal Districts and sets out the procedures in relation to the holding of meetings.

The Statutory Meetings of the Council which are required under the Act to be held include :-

- (a) Annual;
- (b) Budget;
- (c) Such other meetings necessary for the transaction of its business (ordinary meetings).

The Act does not provide for the holding of any Statutory Meetings other than Full Council / Metropolitan / Municipal / Strategic Policy Committees, etc.

As the Local Electoral Area Briefings are not statutory meetings, in accordance with the legislation formal agendas / minutes are not maintained in respect of

such briefings.

Following further discussion it was agreed that the Council would write to the Minister to request legislative change in order to place the local area briefings on a statutory footing .

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

I will move at the next Meeting that a cross party committee be formed to approve the agenda for the monthly Metropolitan District Meetings.

The Motion was proposed by Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh and seconded by Councillor Secas. Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh referred to the process in place for considering the Agenda for full Council Meetings. He outlined in particular issues with items were referred to Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's) for discussion which may not have many Metropolitan Members on its membership.

REPLY: The procedures for the preparation of the agenda for Metropolitan Meetings is set out under Article 33 of Standing Orders which sets out the items to be taken into account in the preparation of the agenda.

The decision in relation to the placing of motions on the agenda is a matter for the Mayor who has absolute discretion to refuse to accept any motion which is not relevant to the business as set out on the agenda.

Any Notice of Motion which is out of order, or contains unbecoming expressions may be expunged from the Summons by order of the Mayor. In any case in which the Notice of Motion, is in her/his opinion, irregular or illegal, the Meetings Administrator to the Metropolitan District shall communicate that opinion to the Mayor and to the Councillor submitting that Notice.

The appointment of a cross party committee to advise on the agenda is not provided for in Standing Orders and there is no provision in legislation for this proposal.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Pond (to be referred to the Environment Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District that as Kilmurray Cemetery is almost full, Limerick City and County Council would immediately begin the process of acquiring a suitable site in the area for a new Burial Ground.

It was agreed to refer this Notice of Motion to the Environment Strategic Policy Committee.

14. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted.

At the conclusion of the Agenda and with the consent of the Mayor the following issue was

raised:-

St Patricks Day Parade.

Director, Physical Development raised with the Members a request for the use of funding for the St Patricks Day parade and suggested that a contribution of €30,000 should be allocated from Division D of the GMA.

Members expressed concern that the proposal was not listed as an agenda item. Members also queried why this funding request was not received earlier and also if funding was already allocated under the general arts or festivals budget. Following discussion and on the proposal of Councillor Hourigan, seconded by Councillor Hurley it was agreed to approve this funding request but that in future such requests would be listed as an agenda item.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

MAYOR

Dated:
