

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 3RD OCTOBER, 2018, AT 10AM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor M. Collins, Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Browne, Foley, Scanlan, Sheahan and Galvin.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Social Development Directorate (Mr. G. Daly), Senior Executive Engineer, West Division (Mr. B. Noonan), Meetings Administrator, Adare/Rathkeale, (Ms. K. Butler), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Senior Executive Engineer, Physical Development Directorate (Ms. A. Goggin), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

At the outset of the Meeting, the Cathaoirleach and Members extended their condolences and sympathy to Ms. M. Corbett, Meetings Administrator, and family, on the passing of her mother, Mrs. Mary Greaney.

With the permission of the Cathaoirleach, Members stood in silence and the Meeting adjourned for a short period as a mark of respect.

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 5th September, 2018.

Councillor Sheahan requested that the Minutes be amended under Item 3 General Municipal Allocation (GMA) to read “it was agreed to allocate €1,150 and not €1,500 to Kinard Burial Ground Committee, Glin for the purchase of a lawn mower”, as originally proposed.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Foley, the amendment was agreed.

Proposed by: Councillor Scanlan
Seconded by: Councillor Foley
And Resolved:

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

With the permission of the Cathaoirleach discussion on the Minutes was deferred and it was agreed to take Item 2 on the Agenda first.

2. Deputation

The Cathaoirleach welcomed representatives from the Board of Management Killoughteen National School, Newcastle West. The Deputation consisted of Mr. Willie Curtin, Principal, and Mr. Pdraig Kennedy, Treasurer, Board of Management and Parents Representative.

Mr. Curtin addressed the Meeting and welcomed the opportunity to outline to the Members the current situation with regard to traffic issues in the vicinity of the school, the funding required for a pedestrian crossing and the building of a car park. He stated that there are currently 162 students with 18 staff at the school. He also stated that there would be an increase in enrolments next year to approximately 180. He mentioned that a new pre-school along with an ASD class opened in September 2018.

Mr. Curtin also stated that a new extension consisting of two mainstream classrooms has just been completed and funding has been sanctioned for the school to build a purpose built ASD class and a school general purpose room/hall. These new projects are to be completed by Autumn next year. As a result of the above works the car park which is already inadequate will now be made smaller to accommodate this new ASD building.

He stated that it is the intention of the school to install a car park across the road from the school, but funding is required for a pedestrian crossing to make this a safe option. A costing of €44,000 has been received by the school for this work, which would consist of approximately 40 car park spaces. Mr. Curtin stated that he now wishes to seek assistance to progress this project.

The Members thanked the delegation and a discussion took place. It was noted that many other schools are also experiencing similar funding difficulties in this area and it was agreed by all Members that the Department of Education had a role in these matters and should provide assistance to schools.

Councillor Galvin proposed a Motion be forwarded to the next Full Meeting of Limerick City and County Council that the townland of Killoughteen, Newcastle West, which is identified as a structurally weak area in the County Development Plan be included in the Clár Programme.

The Cathaoirleach stated that further contact would be made with the schools representatives on the above matter.

3. Physical Development Directorate

To receive update on Invasive Species.

The Senior Executive Engineer, Physical Development Directorate, gave a presentation to Members on Japanese Knotweed in County Limerick.

She referred to the Invasive Species App and noted that approximately 500 reports of Japanese Knotweed in the county have been received. She stated that the treatment and spraying of knotweed has commenced at different locations in the county and approximately 30 locations have been sprayed this year. She also stated that regular spraying is to continue at these locations over the next three to five years together with the new locations identified each year. A discussion also took place on the eradication of Japanese knotweed and it was noted that Japanese knotweed on private property is the responsibility of the landowner and this matter can be pursued, if necessary, under the Derelict Sites Act.

The Cathaoirleach and Members complimented the Council on the spraying programme and thanked the Senior Executive Engineer for the presentation.

4. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Newcastle West GAA for provision of a P.A system.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €5,000 to Killeedy GAA for a walkway and playground.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Abbeyfeale Sign Language, for purchase of equipment.

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On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €10,000 to Fuller's Folly, from the Tourism GMA fund.

QUESTIONS

5. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting for the footpath verge and hedgerow between the Woodfield Estates along the R522 and the Rathina junction with St. Ita's Terrace to be cleaned up and cut back.

REPLY: Contact has been made with the relevant landowners with regard to the above.

6. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the road repairs at Glenashrone, Abbeyfeale (outside O'Connor's gate).

REPLY: Repairs works will be carried out on the above within the next two weeks.

7. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for the trees on the left hand side of the entrance to Cryle View estate, Abbeyfeale, to be topped as they are causing damage to the roofs of adjoining properties.

REPLY: The trees will be assessed by the Parks & Open Spaces staff within the next two weeks and works shall be carried out if deemed necessary.

8. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for a report on vacant Council houses within Abbeyfeale: (i) how many are vacant (ii) the addresses of the vacant houses (iii) the length of time each house is vacant (iv) how many people are waiting for housing in Abbeyfeale.

REPLY:

- (i) Currently there are 5 vacant properties within Abbeyfeale.
- (ii) In accordance with GDPR guidelines, we cannot disclose details.
- (iii) Three of the vacant properties are longterm voids and funding has been approved in principle but awaiting the assignment of this funding for the necessary upgrade works. One vacancy is short term vacancy for upgrade and the remaining property is with Design and Delivery for upgrade.
- (iv) There are 125 people on the housing waiting list for Abbeyfeale broken down as follows:
 - 71 One Bedroom accommodation = 51 1st Preference, 8 2nd Preference, 12 3rd Preference.
 - 35 Two Bedroom accommodation = 25 1st Preference, 5 2nd Preference, 5 3rd Preference.
 - 15 Three Bedroom accommodation = 10 1st Preference, 3 2nd Preference, 2 3rd Preference.
 - 2 Four Bedroom accommodation = 4 1st Preference.

Councillor Galvin referred to the above and a discussion took place on vacant Council houses, the number of people waiting for housing and the housing voids programme.

Following discussion, all Members expressed concern at the number of longterm void properties within the District and questioned why these properties are not being renovated and brought back into stock given the acute housing shortage and the extensive housing waiting list.

Members requested that an official from the Housing Development Directorate attend a Special Meeting of the District to discuss the reasons why funding is not being made available to bring these voids back into stock and also to discuss the housing allocation process

At this point, Councillor Sheahan indicated he had to leave the Meeting and Councillor Galvin took the chair.

NOTICES OF MOTION

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that hatching be put in place at the entrances to the various estates between Woodfield and the Bridge of Tears roundabout along R522 and also at the Rathina junction with the N21 at St. Ita's Terrace, Newcastle West in the interest of better connectivity and local safety.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan asked that hatching be put in place at the above locations to improve connectivity and local safety as it is difficult to get out onto the R522.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

REPLY: The installation of hatching is carried out with reference to the Road Traffic (Signs) Regulations 1997 and the Road Traffic (Traffic & Parking) Regulations 1997. The process also involves consultation with the Gardai and we will write to the Gardai with regard to this Motion.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that the road be resurfaced immediately from Collins Cross, The Hill, Abbeyfeale, towards Dromtrasna, Abbeyfeale, as it is in a dreadful condition.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin stated that the road needs to be resurfaced from Collins Cross, The Hill, Abbeyfeale, towards Dromtrasna, Abbeyfeale. He stated that Dromtrasna National School is also on this road, which leads to additional traffic in the area.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY: The above roadway will be considered under the 2019-2021 Roadworks Programme. However, as an interim measure patching will be carried out on this roadway.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting for a detailed update on the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan with regard to the following: (i) the purchase of O' Riordan's Bar (ii) update on Nellie Lane's Yard (iii) details on the funding to complete the plan (iv) proposed

commencement date of the works as per the Part VIII (v) update on the provision of a public toilet (vi) update on the derelict buildings (vii) details on the formation of a working group to progress the plan.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin referred to the above and acknowledged the work of the Council on this matter. A discussion then followed on this item.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Browne.

- REPLY:**
- (i) Discussions are continuing with regard to this property.
 - (ii) This is a separate but related project to the Traffic Management Plan. Funding for its progression could be developed as part of the Traffic Management Plan with the Physical Development Directorate and the TII.
 - (iii) The detail design of the Part 8 approval is now out to tender. Discussions have taken place with TII and further discussions will take place once the detailed design is completed. The Members will be kept informed with regard to this.
 - (iv) Commencement date is Summer 2019.
 - (v) Not part of the Part 8 project.
 - (vi) Not part of Part 8 project.
 - (vii) Working group will be formed once the consultants for the detailed design are appointed later in the year.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor F. Foley

I will move at the next Meeting that the funding which is being proposed for the new development of houses at New Street and Colbert Road, Abbeyfeale, should instead be made available to purchase the former Council houses known as Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale, as these houses are derelict and an eye sore.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Foley stated that funding which is being proposed for the new development of houses at New Street and Colbert Road, Abbeyfeale, should instead be made available to purchase the former Council houses known as Colbert Terrace, Abbeyfeale. A discussion took place on this matter and Members having attended Meetings of Local Residents Associations felt they would not be in a position to support the Part VIII for this proposed development.

Councillor Browne proposed that funding be made available to develop the area of Colbert Terrace by purchasing and regenerating the derelict properties in the estate as opposed to constructing social housing at the Colbert Street junction.

In replying, the Director of Services agreed the traffic management issues at Colbert Street and New Street needed to be addressed and it was envisaged that the housing issues at this location be addressed in unison. The Director informed Members that the derelict sites at Colbert Terrace were actively being pursued.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Browne.

REPLY: Staff from the Urban and Village Renewal Department (UVRD) carried out an audit of vacant properties at Colbert Terrace and initiated action under the Derelict Sites legislation. We note the recent sale of property at this location and will monitor the buildings in the coming months. Approvals for the construction of new homes is funded under a separate funding stream and as a result, any action required in relation to both issues raised can be progressed in parallel.

Councillor Galvin requested that representatives from Irish Water to attend the November Meeting to discuss various issues.

Councillor Scanlan requested an update on the current position with the Buy & Renew Scheme and property 15 Assumpta Park, Newcastle West. The Director confirmed that the Council are Sale Agreed in respect of the purchase of this property. Councillor Scanlan replied saying this has been the case for some time and sought further clarification on this matter.

Councillor Collins requested that the grass in the gardens of vacant properties in the District to be cut as a matter of urgency as it draws attention to these vacant properties and detracts from the aesthetics of these estates.

Councillor Scanlan requested an update on access to the Station House in Barna. The Senior Executive Engineer confirmed that advice is being sought on this matter under the Roads Act.

It was agreed to hold the Draft Budgetary Plan 2019 for the Municipal District of Newcastle West on Friday, 19th October, 2018, at 11.30 a.m, at Áras William Smith OBrien.

It was agreed to hold the November Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 7th November, 2018, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____