

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 TUESDAY, 16TH OCTOBER, 2018 AT 4.30 P.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor A. Teskey, An Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, National and Regional Shared Services Centre (Ms. C. Curley), Meetings Administrator (Ms. K. Butler), A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division (Mr. K. Murphy), Director, Social Development Directorate (Mr. G. Daly), Head of Digital Strategy (Mr. M. Bilauca), Senior Staff Officer, Urban and Village Renewal (Ms. A. Crowe), Administrative Officer, Social Development (Mr. P. Malone), Technician, Urban and Village Renewal (Ms. A. Lahiff), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Harnett).

At the outset of the Meeting the Cathaoirleach welcomed the Deputation from Askeaton Community Council and informed the Meeting the Gardaí would not be in attendance and had sent their apologies. Councillor Sheahan proposed the Christmas JPC Meeting be scheduled as soon as possible, this was seconded by Councillor Teskey.

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a)** Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 3rd September, 2018.

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

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

- (b)** Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 11th September, 2018.

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

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

2. Deputation

The Cathaoirleach welcomed representatives from the Askeaton Community Council and introduced all Council officials present.

The Chairperson of Askeaton Community Council advised Members he had forwarded an Agenda for discussion. The following issues were highlighted by the group:

1. Speed Ramps, Parking and Road Markings

- Speed ramps in the town are not effective and need to be replaced on William Street, Main Street and Saint Mary's Terrace.
- Double yellow lines needed at junctions around the town especially at the Post Office on Saint Mary's Terrace.
- Mirror needed at the junction of the Quay to East Square.
- Signage needed on Plunkett Road to stop trucks using it as a shortcut to get onto the N69.

2. Street Cameras

- 3 cameras have been installed in the town, when will they go live and when will the other 3 cameras be installed.

3. Reilig Mhuire Burial Ground

- The cross near the lower wall fell a number of years ago and the Community Council were told it would be re-erected. This has never happened and now has weeds growing over it. The Rosary will be held in the Burial Ground in November at the cross and they would like the cross to be in place for this. Also they would like a timeline for when the Burial Ground extension will go ahead.

4. Signage for Desmond Castle

- Signs directing the public to Desmond Castle need to be erected on the N69 at the junction beside the bridge.

5. Clothes Bank Removal

- Due to the ongoing issue of dumping rubbish at the clothes bank in the swimming pool car park, the clothes banks need to be removed.

6. Derelict Buildings

- As there are a lot of derelict buildings in Askeaton town, what is the Council's view on serving of notices?

7. Public Lighting

- Street lighting in the town is inadequate and all bulbs need to be replaced with LED bulbs.

All Members thanked the Askeaton Community Council for their presentation and a brief discussion followed. On the proposal of Councillor Teskey and seconded by Councillor McMahon it was agreed a private workshop be convened with the group in due course to discuss further the issues highlighted.

Discussion ensued on the CCTV cameras in Askeaton. The Head of Digital Strategy informed the Community Council the cameras installed in the town of Askeaton are live and monitored in the Moyross Centre in Limerick. This CCTV footage can be accessed by the Gardaí if needed. The Head of Digital Strategy added that the funding provided by the Department of Justice in 2017 had only allowed for the provision of 3 cameras in Askeaton, however, if further funding was provided by the Department of Justice a 4th camera would be installed.

Members of the Askeaton Community Council thanked the Councillors and Officials for the opportunity to raise their concerns and welcomed the proposal of a private workshop. The group also requested an official from Environment, Housing and the HAP unit attend the Workshop Meeting along with the Superintendent from Newcastle West as they have a number of issues they wish to raise with the Gardaí.

3. Social Development Directorate

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Director, Social Development Directorate Mr. Gordon Daly, Senior Staff Officer, Urban and Village Renewal Ms. Audrey Crowe, Administrative Officer, Social Development Mr. Pdraig Malone and Technician, Urban and Village Renewal Ms. Ann Lahiff to the Meeting.

A presentation was given to Members to update them on derelict sites, vacant properties, the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2018 and funding initiatives.

Following a discussion Members expressed concern at the level of dereliction in Rathkeale that needed to be addressed as a matter of urgency. The Director, Social Development Directorate informed Members his Department have a range of measures to incentivise owners of derelict properties to remove their properties from dereliction, however, this approach is a slow time consuming process. The Director, Social Development Directorate also informed Members he shared their concerns and added the scale of the problem is quite significant, however, Members would see an escalation in properties being tackled going forward.

Members thanked the Council Officials for their presentation and suggested a workshop be adopted to discuss this matter further.

The Cathaoirleach requested that Item 10, Water Quality Issues in Rathkeale, would be taken as the next Item. This was agreed by Members.

10. Water Quality Issues in Rathkeale

Councillor Teskey referred to the recent water issues in Rathkeale and the surrounding areas and expressed concern and annoyance at the response to the matter by Irish Water. Discussion ensued and all Members were in agreement the response to the matter by Irish Water had not been adequate.

Councillor McMahon proposed a letter be forwarded to Irish Water expressing the Members dissatisfaction with the handling of the recent water issue in the District. This was seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue. Councillor O'Donoghue called again for Irish Water to be abolished and the power to manage water and waste water returned to the Local Authorities.

Councillor Sheahan proposed Limerick City and County Council conduct an independent survey throughout the City and County to ascertain where lead pipes have been used in the water system. This was seconded by Councillor Teskey.

The Director, National and Regional Shared Services Centre informed Members a vote had taken place at the September Meeting to abolish Irish Water and as this vote was defeated a vote cannot be cast again for six months. The Director also advised Members the lead pipes survey is not an issue for Limerick City and County Council and should be referred to Irish Water. Councillor Sheahan asked the motion be referred to Irish Water.

Following the conclusion of Item 10, The Cathaoirleach proposed to close the Monthly Meeting to facilitate the Workshop and Special Meeting for discussion of the Draft Budgetary Plan 2019 for the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale. Members also

agreed to resume the Monthly Meeting at the conclusion of the Draft Budgetary Meeting. This was seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue.

4. Service Operations Directorate – Planning and Environment

Update on Taking-In-Charge of An Curran, Pallaskerry

Circulated, report of the Staff Officer, Planning and Environmental Services, dated 27th September, 2018 setting out an update in relation to the taking in charge of An Curran, Pallaskerry. The report was noted by Members.

5. Operations and Maintenance Services

Traffic Calming in Kilcornan

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Operations and Maintenance Services, dated 10th October, 2018 setting out the update on the proposed traffic calming measures at Kilcornan. The report was noted by Members.

6. Drainage Issues in Courtmatrix

Circulated, report of the A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division, dated 11th October, 2018 giving an update in relation to proposals to address the drainage issues at Courtmatrix. The report was noted by Members.

As the land is currently up for sale Members requested Limerick City and County Council's solicitor should attend the public auction to protect our interest and circulate a response from the solicitor after the auction.

7. Flooding Issues in Askeaton

Circulated, report of the A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division, dated 10th October, 2018 giving an update in relation to proposals to address the flooding issues in Askeaton. The report was noted by Members.

8. Flooding Issues in Foynes

Circulated, report of the A/Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division, dated 10th October, 2018 giving an update in relation to the flooding issues in Foynes. The report was noted by Members.

9. Askeaton Sewerage Scheme

Councillor O'Donoghue supports Councillor Sheahan in relation to the ongoing issue of the sewerage problem in Askeaton. Raw sewerage could clearly be seen in the river in Askeaton during a Meeting with the OPW in Askeaton that afternoon. Councillor O'Donoghue proposed Irish Water retract their allegations of not finding a sewerage issue in Askeaton and also a written apology should be issued to the people of Askeaton and Councillor Sheahan.

QUESTIONS

11. Question submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan

I will ask at the next Meeting for an up-to-date report on the Sli na Slainte walk on the Askeaton bypass.

REPLY: A further application for funding has been made to the Department of Rural and Community Development under the "Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2018". We are still awaiting a response.

12. Question submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan

I will ask at the next Meeting for a report on our request to have someone from Shannon Airport Property to talk to us about the land bank in Askeaton.

REPLY: Contact has been made with Ray O'Driscoll, Shannon Group, who has agreed to meet with a representation of the Members for an informal update. Currently awaiting date and time suggestion to be forwarded by Ray O'Driscoll.

13. Question submitted by Councillor S. Keary

I will ask at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council provide the following information:

- (a) The current number of unoccupied houses in the Municipal Area which are in the ownership of this Authority.**
- (b) An up-to-date program for the repair of these voids.**
- (c) An up-to-date program for the allocation of these much needed properties.**

REPLY: In response to Councillor Keary's queries regarding Housing please note the following:

- (a) There is currently 10 number unoccupied houses in the Municipal Area which are in the ownership of this Authority.
- (b) Works will be carried out by direct labour team and local contractors and will commencing on 23rd October. A final programme is being finalised and depends on direct labour/contractor availability.
- (c) An allocation programme will follow on from works programme.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Notice of motion received from Councillor S. Keary

14. I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council prepare an audit of the Great Southern Greenway between Rathkeale and Abbeyfeale with particular emphasis on the following:

- (a) Directional and promotional signage and mapping to highlight areas of special interest along the trail route in the towns and villages.**
- (b) Lack of access and egress for wheelchairs and people with special needs.**
- (c) Lack of essential amenities/toilets, seating etc.**
- (d) Health and safety issues for users of the trail.**
- (e) Potential risk to Limerick City and County Council.**
- (f) Suitability of existing surface for cyclists.**
- (g) Existing maintenance program.**
- (h) Risks associated with access through an existing working farmyard.**
- (i) Gate locations and design.**

The motion was proposed by Councillor Keary and seconded by Councillor Teskey. In proposing the motion Councillor Keary outlined the serious health and safety issue on the Greenway. The surface is unsuitable, there is a lack of signage and amenities for the public also. Members agreed resurfacing should have taken place and the Greenway should be maintained to promoted as a tourist attraction in the area. Packages should be provided to include the Greenway and hotels in the locality. Members also welcomed the Senior Executive Officer, Social Development Directorate response to

attend a Meeting when an update can be given in relation to and assessment and funding.

REPLY: I confirm that I have requested the Sport Ireland Trails office to undertake an assessment of the Great Southern Greenway. Once this is completed I will revert with an update.

Please note that Limerick City & County Council has made an application for funding for the Great Southern Greenway through the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund which was submitted on the 27th of September 2018. We will also be seeking funding from the National and Regional Greenways fund, the closing date for this application is the 30th of November next.

In the meantime for your information I am circulating a copy of "Greenways and Cycle Routes Ancillary Infrastructure Guidelines" issued by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in August 2018. It provides guidance on the installation and creation of ancillary infrastructure intended to bring a Route to life and make it an attractive and enjoyable experience for users.

Notice of motion received from Councillor S. Keary

- 15. I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council install speed limit reduction signs on the L1420 commencing at the Lantern Lodge to 500 metres South of the Woodlands House Hotel.**

The motion was proposed by Councillor Keary and seconded by Councillor Sheahan. Councillor Sheahan noted a footpath should be incorporated in the costing for the bypass as children use this road to walk to the school bus. The Director, National and Regional Shared Services Centre advised Members the Council cannot reduce speed limits and there is a process to changing the speed limit. Councillor Keary advised her he is willing to change the text of the Motion as he is looking to get the speed limit reduced.

16. Correspondence

Correspondence, as circulated, was noted by Members.

The following GMA 2018 allocations were discussed at the conclusion of the Agenda. On the proposal of Councillor O'Donoghue, seconded by Councillor McMahan it was agreed to allocate the following:

Councillor O'Donoghue:

€2,000 to Croom Community Hall.

€1,000 to Granagh/Ballingarry Community Park.

Councillor McMahon:

€1,200 to Rathkeale Boxing Club.

Councillor Sheahan:

€4,000 to Askeaton GAA Club.

€1,500 to The Butterfly Club.

€ 660 to Limerick Bat Group.

€4,000 to Askeaton Civic Trust.

Councillor Keary:

€3,500 for Driver Feedback Sign at the Woodlands Hotel.

€ 600 for Loughill Development Association.

A.O.B

- Councillor Sheahan proposed a Civic Reception be held for Margaret O'Shaughnessy, Foynes to honour her contribution to tourism in the Midwest region. This was seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue.
- Councillor O'Donoghue noted Airtricity have a 10 day rotation to repair lights when reported. Lights have been out at an apartment complex in Croom for the past 2 years and need to be replaced as soon as possible.
- Councillor Teskey also noted pole no's 11 and 12 at the Church in Rathkeale need bulbs replaced.
- Councillor Keary expressed his disappointment with the Sugar CRM system. He stated he does not know when a case is resolved and what the resolution is.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
