

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 JULY, 2019, AT 10AM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor J. Scanlan, Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Collins, Foley, Galvin, Ruddle and Sheahan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Community Development Directorate (Mr. G. Daly), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Ms. M. Corbett), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Senior Executive Engineer, Operations and Maintenance Services (Mr. T. McKechnie), Administrative Officer, Mid West Road Design Office (Ms. Mairead O'Donovan), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

APOLOGIES:

Senior Executive Engineer, West Division (Mr. B. Noonan), Executive Engineer, Housing (Mr. J. Rigney).

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 1st May, 2019.

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

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

- (b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 12th June, 2019.

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

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

2. Deputation

The Cathaoirleach welcomed representatives from Abbeyfeale Community Leisure Ltd/Abbeyfeale Town Park. The Deputation consisted of Mr. John O'Sullivan, Chairperson, Ms. Geraldine O'Brien, Secretary, Ms. Celine McNally, Treasurer and Mr. Maurice O'Connell, Abbeyfeale Community Council.

Ms. O'Brien addressed the Meeting and commenced by congratulating the Members on being elected to the Council. She also thanked staff for their assistance to date. She welcomed the opportunity to outline to the Members the current maintenance issues at the park. She stated that the following items need to be addressed:

- Upgrades required to playground surface, seats, litter bins and fencing in need of replacement,
- Panels and frame at mini pitch, goal posts and netting require upgrading
- River Erosion of the riverbank at the Town Park
- Removal of diseased trees
- Wear and tear at the Basketball Court
- Revamping of Car Park and and maintenance of toilets

Ms. O'Brien outlined the basic costs in keeping the park open, which included insurance costs and maintenance costs. She stated a number of fundraising initiatives have taken place and said the Committee also received funding from Limerick City and County Council. She also referred to the taking in charge of the Town Park by the Council.

The Members thanked the delegation and a discussion took place.

The Members acknowledged the hard work of the Committee. They stated that a Programme of Works is required for the Town Park and expressed concern on the erosion of the river bank and safety issue at this location. It was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would again contact the Office of Public Works regarding river erosion in Abbeyfeale. The Director of Service stated that he would arrange for staff from the Community Development Directorate to contact and provide assistance to the committee regarding the funding streams and grants available.

3. Disposal of Land

- (a) Circulated, report of Senior Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office, dated 21st June 2019, concerning proposal to dispose of 0.067 Ha. land at Garryduff, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, to Gerard and Claire Conway.

Members noted the proposal.

- (b) Circulated, report of Senior Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office, dated 21st June 2019, concerning proposal to dispose of 0.053 Ha. land at Garryduff, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, to Hannah and Nora Collins.

Members noted the proposal.

- (c) Circulated, report of Senior Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office, dated 21st June 2019, concerning proposal to dispose of 0.546 Ha. land at Killaghteen, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, Edmond Thomas Dore.

Members noted the proposal.

- (d) Circulated, report of Senior Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office, dated 21st June 2019, concerning proposal to dispose of 0.246 Ha. land at Killaghteen, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, to Eamonn Kelly.

Members noted the proposal.

- (e) Circulated, report of Senior Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office, dated 21st June 2019, concerning proposal to dispose of 0.020 Ha. land at Killaghteen and Ballintubrid, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, to Don Colbert.

Members noted the proposal.

- (f) Circulated, report of Senior Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office, dated 21st June 2019, concerning proposal to dispose of 0.415 Ha. land at Ballintubrid, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, to John Hough.

Members noted the proposal.

- (g) Circulated, report of Senior Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office, dated 21st June 2019, concerning proposal to dispose of 0.025 Ha. land at Ballintubrid, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, to Joan Keating.

Members noted the proposal.

4. Service Operations Directorate

Taking in Charge of Estates – Declaration of Roads to be Public Roads

To consider the Taking in Charge of Estates:

Bushes Court, Glin

The Glebe, Monagea,

in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000-2017, and Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993.

Circulated, report of the A/Senior Planner, Planning and Environmental Services, dated 13th June, 2019.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley and resolved:

“That, Estates:
Bushes Court, Glin
The Glebe, Monagea,

be taken in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000-2017, and Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993”.

5. Service Operations Directorate

To consider and approve the Speed Limit Bye-Laws for National and Non-National Roads.

Circulated, Report of the Senior Engineer, Operations & Maintenance Services, dated 25th June, 2019, setting out the background to the Speed Limit Review and the preparation of related Draft Bye-Laws for National and Non-National Roads.

The Senior Executive Engineer referred to previous concerns raised by the Members on some of the proposed speed limits as follows:

1. The proposal to increase the speed limit on the western side of Abbeyfeale on the N21 near the Town Park
2. The proposal to increase the speed limit on two sections of the north eastern side of Newcastle West on N21 Limerick Road near Lacey’s Cross and near the pedestrian crossing
3. The proposal to extend the 80 kph on the north eastern side of Glin near Glin Pier

The Senior Executive Engineer stated that further engagement took place with the TII on the above matters.

The Members discussed the proposed amendments and the following was agreed:

- With regard to Item 1 above, the Members agreed to the increase of the speed limit on the western side of Abbeyfeale on the N21 to 80kph but the speed limit at the Town Park to remain at 60kph.
- With regard to Item 2 above, the Members did not agree with the proposals to increase the speed limits and the Senior Executive Engineer stated that he would seek legal advice on whether this section of proposed Speed Limit Bye Laws could be excluded without affecting the overall Bye Laws.
- With regard to Item 3 above, the Members agreed to extend the 80 kph on the north eastern side of Glin near Glin Pier. However, a request was made to the Senior Executive Engineer to carry out speed surveys at this location and engage with the TII on the installation of traffic calming measures at the location near Glin Pier.

The Senior Executive Engineer agreed to attend the September meeting of the District in order to finalise the above.

6. Housing Development Directorate

To note progress reports from the Housing Development Directorate.

Circulated, Housing Progress Reports of the Director of Service, Housing Development, dated May 2019 and June 2019.

Members referred to the ongoing discussions regarding local authority housing in the District and queried funding and maintenance of Local Authority houses. The Members agreed to invite the Directors of Service for Housing to the September Meeting of the District.

7. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €700 to Newcastle West Scouts.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Churchtown Grotto.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Maple Grove Residents for purchase of a lawnmower.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Ashford/Raheenagh Tidy Towns.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Carrickerry/Old Mill Development Association for purchase of equipment.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was agreed to allocate €350 for Clean Up at Broadford.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was agreed to allocate €100 to drainage works at Ardnacrohy, Newcastle West.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was agreed to allocate €900 to public lighting at Dromindeel, Newcastle West.

QUESTIONS

8. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when footpath renewal work will be undertaken at Kilcolman Drive, Newcastle West along the left hand approach fronting house no. 5 towards the junction with house no. 6.

REPLY: Footpath renewal works will be carried out at the above location during 2019.

9. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for a full detailed report on the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan regarding the following: (a) purchase of buildings (b) public toilet (c) Colbert Street housing development (d) Colbert Street derelict sites (e) start date of the project (f) final agreed plan for the town (g) working model of proposed traffic lights.

REPLY: (a) the purchase of the building on Main Street has been completed by Property Services and payment is with the solicitors
(b) the provision of public toilet is being dealt with separately by Tourism Department
(c) the housing as granted planning permission, namely three number three bed houses are being redesigned. On completion of same a revised stage submission will be made to the department for review.
(d) there are five houses on Colbert Street on the Derelict Sites Register; two of which have been compulsory acquired; two are under consideration for compulsory acquisition and one house has received planning permission. There are open derelict site files on four other dwellings and these are under negotiations with the owners.
(e) the project is currently at detailed design stage. Surveys and ground investigation works are underway. The final scheme has to be costed and funding agreed with Transport Infrastructure Ireland prior to tender approval.
(f) the traffic management plan will be discussed with Working Group. I propose to hold proposed meeting on Tuesday 16th July 2019 in Leen's Hotel. An invite will be issued.
(g) design of traffic lights is being undertaken as part of the overall scheme

10. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for a progress report on the purchase of a site for a new graveyard for Abbeyfeale.

REPLY: The site selection process to identify a site for a new burial ground in Abbeyfeale remains ongoing. A small number of additional sites that may be suitable have been identified and site suitability tests are to be carried out in the near future.

The Director stated that the site selection process is currently ongoing and will revert when sites have been evaluated.

NOTICES OF MOTION

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that double yellow lining be renewed on either side of the R544 approach road to Kilcolman Drive, Gortboy, Newcastle West.

REPLY: This roadway is included in the Roads Programme 2019-2021 and renewal of the yellow lines will be carried out during these road overlay works.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that the yield sign on the Bruff Line entry to the Bridge of Tears roundabout Newcastle West be replaced with a stop sign in the interests of safety.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Scanlan requested that the yield sign on the Bruff Line entry to the Bridge of Tears roundabout Newcastle West be replaced with a stop sign in the interests of safety.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

REPLY: Roundabouts are installed in areas where there are a number of roads of equal status coming together. The yield system works best for roundabouts with motorists giving way to traffic coming from the right. However, this roundabout will be looked at with a view to improving the road markings.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that a public lighting scheme be put in place at Snow's Cross, Ballingarry, in the interest of safety.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin asked if the provision of public lighting can be considered under GMA. In replying, the Executive Engineer, Roads outlined the criteria for the provision of public lighting under GMA.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

REPLY: Snow's Cross, Ballingarry is a Rural Junction of Regional Road R520 Newcastle West Road and R519 Ballingarry Road. There is no existing lighting near this location. It is policy not to install lighting in isolated rural locations. There has been no recorded accidents at this location according to the Road Safety Authority collision statistics for 2005 – 2015. A scheme of the nature requested could cost in the region of €100,000. There is no capital budget available to install new public lighting schemes.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council discuss the proposed procedure for the completion of documentation by undertakers prior to the opening of a grave for burial with the Elected Representatives and undertakers before this new procedure is enforced.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin stated that it may prove difficult in some instances for a family member to locate a receipt for a burial plot.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

In replying, the Director of Services stated that a review of the burial ground and caretaker structure is taking place at present where different policies are being reviewed.

REPLY: Currently funeral directors in Limerick City and environs provide information in advance of all interments. For the effective management and operation of all graveyards it is essential that this procedure is introduced across the City and County. This will provide greater clarity for funeral directors and families as well as ensuring correct records are maintained.

The Council will arrange regional meetings to inform funeral directors on this new procedure.

The following items were also raised.

An update was requested on the provision of traffic ramps at Gortboy, Newcastle West. An update was requested on the provision of pedestrian crossings at Gortboy, Newcastle West between the Courtenay Boys National School and the junction of Sheahan's Road and between the junction of Sheahan's Road and the junction of Station Road, Newcastle West. In replying, the Executive Engineer stated that these items would be considered under the Newcastle West Traffic Movement Plan which is currently being progressed. It was noted that that traffic flow management at Boherbui and Gortboy is also being considered under this plan.

A query was also raised regarding the use of the pedestrian crossings at The Square and Church Street, Newcastle West. In replying, the Executive Engineer confirmed these are uncontrolled pedestrian crossings.

An update was sought on the N21 junctions at Sweeps Cross and Cregan's Cross, Newcastle West. A request for the provision of lighting at Sweeps Cross was also raised. The Senior Executive Engineer stated that some improvement works have been carried out but agreed to review this matter again.

The provision of a public swimming pool for Newcastle West was referred to and the Director confirmed that a Sports Recreation Strategy for the City and County is currently being commissioned which will consider all infrastructure. A request was also made that priority be given to Newcastle West if a plan was to be put in place for funding for a public swimming pool under the Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund.

The delegation from Cryleview Residents who attended the May meeting of the District was also raised and it was noted that the group needed to be updated on the matters they raised at the meeting. A brief discussion took place on the ongoing proposals for the estate and it

was noted that an onsite meeting had also taken place with representatives of the estate. It was agreed that the Council would liaise further with the residents.

Another review of the Sugar CRM system was requested due to difficulties with the system. The Director stated that this matter will be raised with the relevant Department and more training on the Sugar CRM system can be arranged.

An update on a survey of the roads in Mountcollins, Carrigkerry, Castletown and Ballyagran was requested and whether an application for funding to repair these roads could be made. In replying, the Executive Engineer stated that all roads within the District are surveyed on a regular basis and recorded on the Pavement Management System. Funding for road upgrades is available through the annual block road grants.

Reference was made to the request to the Department of Health to reinstate the services at the Health Centre, Abbeyfeale (dispensary). The need to purchase the land to the rear to provide parking was also highlighted.

An update on the Distributor Roads for Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale was requested for the next Municipal District Meeting.

The Regional Athletics Hub was also referred to and an update sought on its progress. The Director stated that an application has been made for funding under the Large Scale Sports Infrastructure Fund to further progress the project. It was noted that the Meetings Administrator has written to the Minister of State P. O'Donovan T.D. seeking his support for the Council's application.

It was agreed to hold the September Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 11th September, 2019, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____