

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN THE RATHKEALE HOUSE HOTEL, RATHKEALE, CO. LIMERICK ON TUESDAY, 12^H OCTOBER, 2021 AT 9:30 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor K. Sheahan, An Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Collins, Keary, O'Brien, O'Donoghue and Teskey.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Housing (Ms. C. Curley), Meetings Administrator (Ms. K. Butler), Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division (Mr. G.O'Connor), Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division (Mr. J. O'Keeffe), Senior Executive Engineer, Tourism Department (Mr. B. Noonan), Director, National and Regional Shared Services (Mr. K. Lehane), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Harnett).

At the outset of the Meeting Councillor Sheahan proposed birthday wishes be extended to centenarian, Ms. Catherine O'Keeffe who turned 100 years the previous week and asked his fellow Councillor to join with him in presenting a Municipal District scroll to mark the occasion. This was seconded by Councillor Keary and agreed.

Councillor Sheahan also advised that, following legal advice, he wished to withdraw a proposal he made at a previous meeting in relation to the taking in charge of a road at Clonreask, Askeaton. He thanked the Senior Executive Engineer and the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District office for all their work to date on the matter. This was proposed by Councillor Teskey, seconded by Councillor Keary and agreed.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Prior to the adoption of the Minutes Councillor Teskey advised that an issue he had raised at the September Meeting of the Municipal District had not been recorded in the Minutes. He stated that an underpass was required for a farmer on the N21 due to safety issues of crossing cattle on the road at Reens Pike. The Senior Executive Engineer advised an underpass could be considered under the Part 8 process for the N21 Coolanoran Safety Scheme.

Councillor Teskey also referred to a proposal at the September Municipal District Meeting requesting legal action be taken against Irish Water for the pollution in the River Deel which he was not been allowed to raise at the Full Council Meeting and asked for the matter to be forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requesting this body now take legal action against Irish Water on the matter. The Director, Housing advised Councillor Teskey a Local Authority cannot instruct another

public body to carry out this request. Councillor Teskey then asked if the District could write to the Environmental Protection Agency to ask if they could investigate the matter taking into account that Irish Water are not providing a relevant treatment plant in Askeaton.

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 14th September, 2021.

Proposed by Councillor Teskey;
 Seconded by Councillor Keary;
 And Resolved:

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

Following the adoption of the Minutes Councillor Keary expressed disappointment, following a conversation with The Director, Community, Tourism and Culture (Mr. G. Daly) in relation to the Greenway, that they are not going to tender for facilities such as bike hire, catering etc. Councillor Keary advised he would not support the Part 8 process if this were the case. Councillor Teskey agreed the Local Authority should have advised Members of this and that there should be more collaboration with local businesses.

2. National and Regional Shared Services Directorate

Water Services

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Director, National and Regional Shared Services to the Meeting and advised he would take Item 8 in connection with this Item.

Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan

I will move that this committee will discuss the feasibility of inviting our 3 Dail Deputies to meet with us with a view to discussing the ongoing problem of the pollution in the River Deel and any other similar problems in our district.

The Director, National and Regional Shared Services circulated a report and proceeded to brief Members on this concerns in relation to the water quality issues in the District. Following discussion, Councillor Sheahan expressed his disappointment in relation to Irish Water’s response to the water quality issues in the River Deel and proposed the District lobby National Government for support and an invitation issue to the three local TDs for the District to attend a future District Meeting to discuss the matter further. This was seconded by Councillor O’Donoghue and agreed.

Councillor Teskey asked, further to his earlier request at the start of the Meeting in relation to the Environmental Protection Agency investigating Irish Water, if the District

would write to the EPA requesting an adequate treatment plant for Askeaton be incorporated into their 2025 Capital Plan/Programme. Councillor Sheahan asked if the District could also write to the EPA again requesting a copy of the notice they erected on the settlement beds in Askeaton.

Following further discussion on the matter all Elected Members agreed a proper waste water treatment plant was urgently needed in Askeaton.

3. Roads, Traffic & Cleansing

District Engineers Report

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division dated 12th October, 2021 outlining details of proposed works, projects and future projects planned for the District.

Following discussion the following issues were raised by Members:

- Councillor Sheahan asked if a street cleaner could be appointed for Askeaton and the matter be given consideration and a response prepared for the November Meeting of the District.
- Councillor Teskey welcomed the new footpath at Castlematrix and requested a workshop be convened to update Members on the land acquisition process further along that road to enable the completion of the footpath.
- Councillor O'Brien stated the OPW had recently been onsite in Ballydoole, Pallaskenry in relation to a sluice gate at Mellon and requested contact be made with this agency for an update.
- Councillor Keary proposed a final account for the works carried out on the Adare Fountain be provided for the November District Meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Teskey and agreed.
- Councillor Keary also raised the issue of grass cutting on the N21 and stated some areas have still not received a first cut. The Senior Executive Engineer advised he had been in contact with Central Services and there had been a delay in getting a contractor on site for the first cut and added the second cut is due to commence the 22nd October, 2021 and will be carried out over a four week period.

4. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor O'Donoghue, seconded by Councillor Teskey it was agreed to allocate the following:

- €3,000 for Croom United.
- €5,000 for Pallaskenry Community Park

On the proposal of Councillor O'Brien, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue it was agreed to allocate €2,500 for Castle Rovers FC, Fedamore.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Teskey it was agreed to allocate €500 for Ballysteen GAA Club.

Councillor Sheahan asked Members if they would consider agreeing a sum each for Askeaton Tennis Club from their respective GMA allocations.

Councillor Sheahan proposed Development Fund monies be divided evenly between all Districts of Limerick City and County Council. This was seconded by Councillor Keary and agreed.

The Director, Housing advised Members that there would be additional fencing required for the Pallaskenry Walk to enable completion and asked Members if they would be willing to provide GMA money for the extra €30,000 required. The Director also advised she had discussed the matter with Sean Coughlan, Deputy Chief Executive, who had agreed to provide the monies required from the 2022 GMA allocation if Members had exhausted their 2021 allocation. Councillor Teskey expressed his frustration at the misinformation being relayed to the people of Pallaskenry that he and Councillor Keary had refused to provide funding towards the project. He stated that he was fully supportive of the project, however, felt the funding should be sought from Central Government. Councillor Keary agreed with the sentiments of Councillor Teskey and also suggested the required funding be sought from the same source as the Adare Fountain project.

QUESTION

5. Question submitted by Councillor J. O'Donoghue

I will ask at the next meeting for an update on any new application for Town and Village Renewal Scheme or any other works associated with the road, footpath and signage in Fedamore village.

Reply: A previous funding application under Low Cost Safety Improvement Works for Fedamore was unsuccessful.

These works will be kept under review for any future Funding opportunities.

Councillor O'Donoghue noted the reply did not refer to new applications. The Senior Executive Engineer advised securing funding is an issue under the Low Cost Safety Scheme. The Town and Village Renewal Scheme is specifically for amenities and walkways. Councillor O'Donoghue also referred to issues with flooding and signage in Fedamore Village. The Senior Executive Engineer agreed to look into the issues raised and revert in due course.

NOTICES OF MOTION

6. Notices of Motion submitted by Councillor B. Collins

I will move that Limerick City and County Council increases the Grass Cutting Grant for estates so as to cover the cost of insurance that is now necessary so as to qualify for the grant.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Teskey and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Collins stated insurance costs were using up half of grant monies for volunteer groups and it was time the Government reviewed the issue. Councillor Keary suggested it be requested the forthcoming 2022 budget cover insurance costs for such grants. The Director, Housing advised Members this would be considered a policy change and advised the matter be referred to the relevant SPC.

Reply: Please note that having appropriate insurance cover has always been a requirement in applying for grass cutting grants and the Council advise Resident Associations/Groups who are undertaking the work to have appropriate Public Liability and Employers Liability insurance in place. The rising cost of insurance is an issue that has been raised nationally for community groups and this needs to be addressed. There is no capacity to increase the grants for 2021 however, the Council will review grant payments for the 2022 scheme subject to budgetary requirements.

7. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan

I will move at the next meeting that the bridge in Askeaton town crossing the River Deel be named the Captain Paddy O'Neill bridge after the above named who was a member of the United Irishmen was executed by Crown forces during the 1798 rebellion and an appropriate plaque be erected .

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor O'Brien and agreed.

9. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

10. A.O.B.

- Councillor Sheahan proposed a member of staff from Bus Eireann be invited to attend the November District Meeting to discuss the reduction in the number of bus stops, from three to one, in Askeaton. This was seconded by Councillor Teskey and agreed.
- Councillor Sheahan raised the issue of vacant houses in Askeaton which have overgrown gardens be attended to. The Director, Housing advised Members a new housing team has been appointed and proposed a workshop be arranged to discuss housing issues in the District. This proposal was welcomed by Members.
- Councillor Teskey asked for an updated report regarding the Black Abbey Estate in Adare be provided for the November District Meeting.
- Councillor Teskey also requested an updated report on the Compulsory Purchase Orders issued on the derelict site in Rathkeale. He also requested Gordon Daly, Director, Community, Tourism & Culture would attend the meeting to discuss.
- Councillor O'Brien advised the Board of Management for Pallaskenry National School require traffic calming in the vicinity of the school and requested this item be included on the Agenda for the November District Meeting.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____