

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT ONLINE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12th JANUARY, 2022, AT 10AM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor L. Galvin, Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Collins, Foley, Ruddle, Scanlan and Sheahan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Community, Tourism and Culture (Mr. G. Daly), Senior Executive Engineer, West Division (Mr. J. Sheehan), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Executive Engineer, Housing (Mr. D. Toomey), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Ms. M. Corbett), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

At the outset of the Meeting, the Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the first Newcastle West Municipal District Meeting for 2022 which is being held online due the current Covid 19 situation. He wished all a Happy New Year and proceeded with the Meeting by confirming all the Elected Members present.

The Meetings Administrator outlined to the attendees that Standing Orders apply to all Online Meetings and that no recording of the Meetings and its proceedings by any person, including Elected Members and attending members of the public and media are allowed. She also thanked everyone for their co-operation on these matters.

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 1st December, 2021.

Proposed by: Councillor Collins

Seconded by: Councillor Scanlan

And Resolved:

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

2. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,400 for public lighting from Abbeyfeale Rugby Club, to St. Ita’s Terrace, Abbeyfeale.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €500 for Newcastle West Christmas lights.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €4,000 to Tournafulla Community Centre for fire door at Community Kitchen.

QUESTIONS

3. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting for a clean up to be carried out of the Mass Path from Maiden Street to Assumpta Park in Newcastle West.

REPLY: The Newcastle West Roads crew will carry out a clean up in this area.

4. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the progress of the pedestrian crossings for (a) Castlemahon National School and (b) Killoughteen National School.

REPLY:

(a) An application for funding for a pedestrian crossing at Castlemahon National School has been made to the National Transport Authority under the Active Travel Fund. The decision on which schemes will be funded should be known by March 2022.

(b) The pedestrian crossing for Killoughteen National School will be installed in 2022 in conjunction with the overall building works which are being carried out by the school. There is regular contact with the school with regard to this project.

5. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting if contact can be made with the TII regarding the repairing of the N21 from Dee's Filling Station to Lacey's Cross, Newcastle West. Parts are in poor condition and as this is the main road through the town, it should always be in good condition as it showcases the town.

REPLY:

As an interim measure, the Newcastle West Roads crew will carry out repairs on any potholes on the N21.

The request for a full re-surfacing of the N21 from Dee's Filling Station to Lacey's Cross, Newcastle West will be forwarded to the TII for their consideration.

6. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for a detailed update on (a) the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan (b) works for Wards Cross (c) works for Cryle view junction, Abbeyfeale.

REPLY:

- (a) Limerick City and County Council is in discussion with Transport Infrastructure Ireland and the National Transport Authority (NTA) in relation to funding for the scheme. The NTA has agreed in principle to part fund the project and a submission to the NTA is being prepared in order to agree the details of same. A Compliance Report is being prepared for Planning which will be presented to Members.

Tenders have been returned for a Slit Trench Investigation contract which are currently being assessed. This Slit Trench Site Investigation contract will be progressed on site shortly, together with a CCTV survey and these will enable the detailed design to be completed. A further update on funding will be provided at the February meeting of the Municipal District.

- (b) Since the previous update on the scheme, the Technical Advisors, Barry Transportation, have finalised the detailed design for the scheme. They have also prepared the tender documentation, which will enable Limerick City and County Council to commence the tender process and appoint a contractor. These tender documents are currently undergoing a final review in preparation for the commencement of the tender process.

The various project deliverables have been issued to TII, and they have given their approval to advertise the tender for construction of the scheme. TII have allocated €400,000 in 2022 towards the construction of the scheme.

Commencement of the tender process is dependent however on the acquisition of the lands necessary for the scheme. Prolonged negotiations are continuing in this regard.

- (c) Transport Infrastructure Ireland have provided funding and a contractor has been appointed to deliver the safety improvement works at Cryle View Junction. The contractor is due to commence works mid-December.

Councillor Galvin referred to O’Riordan’s pub, Abbeyfeale, which has fallen into disrepair and also to a previous request that a deputation from the District meet with Transport Infrastructure Ireland to discuss the availability of funding for the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan. It was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would invite the Senior Executive Engineer, Place-Making and Public Realm to the next Meeting of the District to discuss the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan. The Director also agreed to raise these matters with the relevant Directorate.

Councillor Galvin referred to the works which were carried out at Cryle View Junction, Abbeyfeale and in replying, the Executive Engineer confirmed that sightline improvement works were complete.

7. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for a detailed update on St. Ita's Road, Abbeyfeale on (a) road re-alignment (b) footpath relocation (c) extension of footpath up to Fitzgerald's farmhouse (d) drainage.

REPLY:

- (a) There has been pre-planning discussion regarding a residential development on lands on St. Ita's road opposite the Super Value shop. The planning permission for the site is currently being considered by the Planning Authority. The road re-alignment will be carried out as part of these works with a proposed pedestrian crossing being located close to the entrance of the new proposed residential development.
- (b) Pre-planning discussions have included the relocation of the footpath by 2m from Hartnett's funeral home to 10m past the entrance to the new development. Note the planning permission is currently subject to a further information request.
- (c) An application has been made to the National Transport Authority for funding to extend the footpath in this area. The Council is currently awaiting a response on whether this application has been successful.
- (d) Phase 1 of the drainage works for this area is nearing completion from Harnett's Funeral Home to the graveyard. Funding for Phase 2 will be sought under the Drainage Grants Scheme 2022.

8. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting how many agencies are involved in our rivers and lakes. Please name them.

REPLY:

There are a number of agencies involved in the management and maintenance of rivers and lakes. The primary agencies responsible are:

Office of Public Works – responsible for Rivers and Channels associated with Arterial Drainage Schemes and assess applications for culverting of watercourses/works to structures.

Waterways Ireland – responsible for inland navigable waterways primarily for recreational purposes.

Local Authority – responsible for Drainage District infrastructure and monitoring of water quality in rivers/lakes for a number of agencies including EPA and Irish Water.

ESB – infrastructure/flow controls associated with hydroelectric plants – weirs, head/tail race etc.

EPA – Water Quality Monitoring and Hydrometric Stations

Irish Water – Water Treatment river intakes and associated infrastructure including monitoring, wastewater discharge infrastructure

Inland Fisheries Ireland – function to protect, manage and conserve Ireland’s inland fisheries and sea angling resources

Other Agencies involved include:

Under Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage:

- **NPWS** – Environmental Aspects & Licencing/Comment on Activities on Protected Sites through the Development Applications Unit (DAU)
- Foreshore Licencing (which includes tidal extents within Rivers/Estuaries)
- **LIFE-IP** – Waters of Life
- **LAWPRO** – (Water Quality and Community & Stakeholder Engagement)
- **Rivers Trusts** (such as Maigne Rivers Trust) – River Conservation

In addition, riparian landowners also have rights and responsibilities under the law. For further information please see: Living Near Watercourses – A Guide to the Rights and Responsibilities of Landowners (OPW – January 2020) <http://flooding.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/riparian-guide-january-2020.pdf>

9. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when (a) the 2 Council owned properties at Coolaboy, The Square, Dromcollogher will be cleaned up and (b) what plans are in place to have them tenanted and in what timeframe.

It was agreed that this Question be deferred to the February Meeting of the District.

10. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting for (a) what the up to date position is with the purchase contract of the 19 Turnkey properties at D.C. manor, Woodfield, Newcastle West (b) when are the terms of offer to the public likely to be advertised and (c) when those units will be available for occupancy.

REPLY:

- (a) Limerick City and County Council submitted an application to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, on 8th November, 2021, for the approval of the turnkey acquisition of 19 units at Woodfield Manor, Newcastle West.
- (b) Terms of offer to the public of the units can proceed once Department Approval for the scheme is received.
- (c) It is envisaged that the units will be available for occupancy at the end of Q1 2022.

11. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting that the raised road constructions between the entrance to Michael Harnett Close and Newcastle West Motor Factors be refined in the interest of safety.

REPLY: It is proposed to upgrade the speed ramps in this location during 2022, subject to the availability of funding.

12. Question submitted by Councillor F. Foley

I will ask at the next Meeting for the footpath to be replaced from Maurice O'Connell to Gala Supermarket on the Killarney Road, Abbeyfeale.

REPLY: An application for funding for footpath replacement at the above location will be made to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) under the GeoApp applications for 2022 as the above is located on the N21.

NOTICES OF MOTION

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council call on the ESB to upgrade the electricity supply at Clash, Athea.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin referred to ongoing issues with the electricity supply at Clash, Athea. He requested that the Council write to the ESB asking that a survey of the line be carried out from Coole to Keale in Athea and that a detailed report on a programme of works to alleviate the problem be submitted to the Council.

It was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would write to the E.S.B on this matter.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council calls on the state to have only one agency with responsibility for our rivers and lakes.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin referred to the rivers in Athea and Abbeyfeale and requested that one agency be responsible for all rivers and lakes in the District.

It was agreed that as this matter relates to a change in National policy, the Meetings Administrator would refer this Notice of Motion to the Corporate Services Section for inclusion on the Agenda for the next Full Council meeting.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that our Roads Section liaise with the TII in order to resolve the matter of congestion on the N21 at the Bridge of Tears roundabout, Newcastle West.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY: As this roundabout is on the N21 the Central Services Roads team will liaise with the TII with regard to the possibility of installing a yellow junction box on the roundabout.

A more detailed response will be issued once the TII have reverted.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan referred to traffic congestion on the southern side of the town of Newcastle West and requested that the Council liaise with the TII on this matter.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that public toilets be provided at The Demesne Park, Newcastle West.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Ruddle.

REPLY:

There is a public toilet located at the Market Yard, Newcastle West, which is close to The Demesne Park. Signage will be erected at the Demesne Park to advise users of the location of the public toilet and its distance from the park.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan referred to the need for public toilets at the Demesne but some Members expressed concern with regard to anti-social behaviour which may arise should public toilets be installed at this location. The possibility of utilising existing facilities at this location was discussed.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor F. Foley

I will move at the next Meeting that safety measures be put in place on the N21 at the junction known as Dillane's Forge leading onto the L7056 in Templeglantine.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

REPLY: As this location is on the N21, an application will be made to the TII regarding the installation of stacking lanes at this junction.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Foley referred to representations received with regard to safety concerns at this junction and requested that funding be sought for safety works at this location.

Following discussion, it was noted that stacking lanes have been removed from various locations in the District and the Members queried the TII's policy on stacking lanes. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer agreed to liaise with the TII on this matter.

The following items were also raised.

The proposed footpath works near the funeral home in Athea.

An update was sought on the grant amounts on the Housing Grant application forms which may differ to the grant allocation approved when the Standard Unit costs are applied.

An update was sought on the proposed distributor roads for Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer agreed to follow up on this matter with the Travel and Transport Strategy Section. It was also agreed that the Meetings Administrator would invite the Senior Engineer from this Directorate to the next Meeting of the District.

An update on the housing issues raised by a deputation from the Broadford Voluntary Housing and Community Childcare Facility CLG at the December Meeting was referred to. The Members noted that the Committee had been written to by the Housing Directorate but they had not been formally informed about this correspondence. In replying, the Director agreed to raise this with the relevant Directorate.

A discussion took place on the recently announced Scale of Charges for single and double burial ground plots. The Members felt the charge was excessive in comparison to what other Local Authorities are charging. The buying of burial ground plots in advance was also discussed. In replying, the Director stated that the Scale of Charges is an executive function of the Council and that he was aware that correspondence had been sent to the Chief

Executive Officer regarding this matter. He also agreed to advise the Chief Executive of the concerns raised by the Members today.

It was agreed to hold the February Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 2nd February, 2022, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
