

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY, BALLYSTEEN, CO. LIMERICK ON TUESDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY, 2022 AT 9.30 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor K. Sheahan, An Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Collins, Keary, O'Donoghue and Teskey.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction and Maintenance (Mr. C. Culloo), 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), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Lenihan).

APOLOGIES:

Councillor O'Brien, Director, Housing (Ms. C. Curley).

At the outset of the Meeting Councillor Teskey expressed disappointment that his Motion proposing Limerick City and County Council support the HSE in the current pandemic situation, where there are delays for ambulances due to staffing shortages, by allowing the Fire & Emergency Services be activated to emergency medical calls to provide first responder assistance in life and death situations had not been included on the Agenda of the January Full Council Meeting and requested his motion be forwarded for inclusion on the Agenda of the March Meeting of Limerick City and County Council. This was seconded by Councillor Keary and agreed. Councillor Keary also stated a new policy should be drafted around this issue to establish if a services amalgamation is possible which would achieve better effectiveness in the system. The Meetings Administrator advised a reply had been received from the Director of Service, National & Regional Shared Services Centre and proceeded to read the response into the record as follows:

Reply:

Limerick City and County Council has been working very closely to support the HSE since the start of the pandemic on a wide range of matters including the release of staff to work for the HSE, facilitating pop-up test centres, assisting with traffic management for the vaccination centres and planning for a range of responses. Close collaboration between the agencies of the state has been a key cornerstone as Ireland responded to the major and unheralded challenges associated with the pandemic. It is important to note that there has been an excellent working relationship between the principal response agencies throughout the pandemic as part of the 'whole of government approach' at the local and regional level.

The issue of ambulances is currently being discussed at national level between the Health Service Executive and National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management under the aegis of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Pending progress at the national level, the Limerick Fire and Emergency Service will have to await guidance from the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management in terms of this issue and cannot progress this matter until the national discussions have concluded.

Councillor Keary requested an update in relation to the Council depot on the N69 at Kilcornan as there is still a lot of anxiety in the local community relating to the use of this depot. Councillor Teskey also requested the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District engage on a formal basis with Shannon Properties with a view to acquiring lands to provide a suitable depot for the area. The Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division advised Members fencing and extensive landscaping will be carried out on the Kilcornan depot shortly and he further advised that a business case regarding a Permanent Depot has been forwarded to the relevant management team for consideration and a response is awaited.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 11th January, 2022.

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

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

2. Roads, Traffic & Cleansing

District Engineers Report

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division dated 8th February, 2022 outlining details of proposed works, projects and future projects planned for the District.

Following discussion the following issues were raised by Members:

- Councillor Sheahan requested a copy of the derelict sites presentation which was presented at the Community, Leisure and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee held on the 7th February, 2022.

- Councillor Keary asked if the funding approved under Active Travel could be put towards traffic and pedestrian safety measures at primary schools in the District. The Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division advised funding could not be used for such projects and further advised the National Transport Authority had published a Safe Routes to School programme which had been circulated to all National Schools in the Country to enable them to apply for funding for safe zones and added that only two Schools in the District had applied for funding under this programme. Councillor Teskey proposed the District write to the Minister of Education to put in place Safety Officers in each County and actively engage with schools in relation to road safety for children. This was seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed. Councillor Keary further proposed a representative from the Department of Education and a senior member of An Garda Síochána be invited to attend the March District Meeting to discuss. This was seconded by Councillor Sheahan and agreed.
- Councillor O'Donoghue asked if a costing could be provided for the March District Meeting for the construction of a footpath from Fedamore village to the GAA field and to address drainages issue on this route.

3. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

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

- €800 to Deerpark Residents Association.
- €10,000 to Croom Development Association.
- €1,000 to Ballysteen Carnegie Library.

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

- €10,000 to Croom Development Association (from 2021 Allocation).
- €1,000 to Ballysteen Carnegie Library (from 2021 Allocation).
- €6,000 to Croom United Soccer Club.
- €3,000 to Fedamore GAA Club.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, on behalf of Councillor O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate the following:

- €1,000 to Community Crisis Response Team.
- €1,000 to Ballysteen Carnegie Library.
- €3,000 to Croom Development Association.

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

- €3,000 to Croom Development Association.
- €1,000 to Ballysteen Carnegie Library.

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

- €3,000 to Croom Development Association.
- €1,000 to Ballysteen Carnegie Library.

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

- €3,000 to Croom Development Association.
- €3,000 to Ballysteen Carnegie Library.

QUESTIONS

4. Question submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan

I will ask at the next Meeting when was it agreed that we now charge €1,500 for a single grave in all of our Burial Grounds.

Reply: Limerick City and County Council carried out a review of charges for burial grounds in 2021. These charges had not been reviewed in the past six years. As a result of the review through scales of charges in 2022, the decision was made in December 2021 to increase to €1,500.

Revenue from the sale of graves is used to support the operation and maintenance of the graveyard service.

Councillor Sheahan requested an explanation for the increased costs of grave spaces and said he was totally opposed to the new charges. Councillor Teskey proposed a motion be forwarded from the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District to Full Council calling for this charge to be revoked. This was seconded by Councillor Sheahan and agreed.

Councillor Keary further proposed Limerick City and County Council erect a columbarium wall in each burial ground and also requested the Local Cemetery Bye-Laws be amended to ensure consistency in the height of headstones in burial grounds in the City and County. This was seconded by Councillor Sheahan and agreed. The Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction and Maintenance advised a burial ground strategy is being compiled presently and he agreed to provide an update to Members when this strategy is complete.

5. Question submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan

I will ask at the next Meeting for a progress report on the promised developments/improvements at The Carnegie Library in Askeaton.

Reply: Following a competitive Tendering process for suitable qualified Architects, Feeny McMahon Architects, Limerick were appointed in December 2021 to prepare surveys, designs, permissions, statutory consents, relevant certificates, and tender packages for the works.

In January 2022 the architect and a structural engineer carried out a site visit to the Carnegie Library in Askeaton.

The architects are now currently completing a structural assessment of the building and the necessary works required to modernise same. They have also engaged a conservation architect as the building is a protected structure and any proposed works will need to adhere to conservation standards.

When this necessary phase has been completed, they will then move to design the internal spaces. At this stage, they will meet with key stakeholders to discuss their proposals.

6. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

7. A.O.B

- Councillor Keary was of the opinion Full Council Meetings should revert to monthly meetings. Councillor Teskey proposed a motion be sent from the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District requesting same. This was seconded by Councillor Keary and agreed.
- Councillor Sheahan requested the April or May Municipal District Meeting be held in Croom to facilitate a delegation from Croom Development Association.
- Councillor Sheahan noted a large number of public lights in Askeaton were not working and asked if this issue could be followed up by the Municipal District office in Rathkeale.
- Councillor Sheahan requested a survey be carried out on the road condition between Askeaton and Rathkeale and the outcome relayed back to Members due to concerns among residents residing on this roadway regarding the amount of serious and fatal accidents which have occurred on this stretch of road in recent times. Councillor Keary added he had spoken with the Gardaí on a number of occasions requesting a speed van be placed on this roadway to address speeding

traffic concerns and further requested the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District liaise with the Chief Superintendent in Henry Street on this matter.

- Councillor Collins also asked if regular Garda checks at Mount Earl, Adare could be requested due to traffic overtaking inside the yellow line when traffic is backed up on the M7.
- Councillor Teskey also noted the road from Killaheen to Reens Pike on the N21 is very poorly marked and requested the Senior Executive Engineer, Service Operations West Division engage with the Traffic Infrastructure Ireland to request a lighted up junction be installed similar to the junction in Croagh.
- Councillor Keary requested signage and bollards be replaced in Croagh Village.
- Councillor Collins also requested the Mague River Trust deputation be facilitated at the District Meeting when it is being held in Croom.
- The Meetings Administrator asked if Members would facilitate the request for a deputation from the Rathkeale Social Cohesion Group. The Cathaoirleach agreed to receive a delegation from the group at the April Municipal District Meeting.
- Councillor Keary requested clarity on the use of CCTV cameras in the District. The Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction and Maintenance advised a briefing was held in relation to CCTV cameras and would circulate the current status on working cameras. Councillor Keary called on a Special Meeting of Limerick City and County Council to discuss GDPR constraints and also requested the Chief Superintendent attend the Meeting.
- Councillor Sheahan asked for all Civic Receptions proposed during the Covid 19 pandemic be facilitated at the March District Meeting.
- Councillor Sheahan proposed footpaths and signage in Ballysteen be replaced. This was seconded by Councillor Teskey and agreed.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
