

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 6TH APRIL, 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), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Mr. M. Curran), Senior Executive Engineer, West Division (Mr. J. Sheehan), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Executive Engineer, Housing (Mr. D. Toomey), Administrative Officer, Property and Community Facilities (Ms. T. Knox), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

APOLOGIES:

Senior Engineer, Transportation and Mobility Directorate (Mr. H. McGrath).
Senior Executive Engineer, Place-Making and Public Realm (Mr. K. O’Gorman).

At the outset of the Meeting with the permission of the Cathaoirleach, on the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was unanimously agreed that the Meeting would be adjourned for ten minutes, in accordance with Standing Orders, to listen to the historic address of Ukraine’s President Zelensky to the Dáil and Seanad at 10 a.m.

In response to the address of President Zelensky, the Members thanked the Cathaoirleach for facilitating the address to be shown and wished to acknowledge the support which has been extended to the people of Ukraine during these tragic circumstances.

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 2nd March, 2022.

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

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

- (b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Special Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, on Distributor Roads for Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale held on 23rd March, 2022.

Proposed by: Councillor Sheahan

Seconded by: Councillor Collins

And Resolved:

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

2. Disposal of Land

Circulated, report of Head of Property and Community Facilities, dated 25th March, 2022, concerning proposal to dispose of property at 16 Hawthorn Drive, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

A brief discussion ensued in relation to the value and disposal of the above property.

3. Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate

To receive Update on the Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan.

Circulated, report of Senior Executive Engineer, Place-Making and Public Realm, dated 6th April, 2022.

The Meetings Administrator conveyed the apologies of the Senior Executive Engineer for his inability to attend the Meeting. He stated that the Senior Executive Engineer wished to inform the Members that a decision will be made shortly on whether a new Part 8 is required for Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan and should this be the case the Part 8 process would commence in advance of the May Meeting of the District. He also stated that a site investigation is to commence on Monday, 11th April, 2022, which is to take six weeks approximately to complete.

4. Transport and Mobility Directorate

To consider Draft Schedule of Works for the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

Circulated, report of Director of Services, Transportation and Mobility Directorate, dated 6th April, 2022, setting out the details of the Draft Schedule of Works for the Municipal District of Newcastle West 2022.

Members, in welcoming the report, thanked staff for the work, which had gone into compiling the Schedule. They noted the works proposed for 2022 and referred to the funding which was made available for the various projects, which was also welcomed.

The Members unanimously adopted the Schedule of Works 2022 for the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

Reference was also made to the condition of the road on the N21 outside Garvey's petrol station, St. Mary's Road, Newcastle West and in replying the Executive Engineer, Roads stated that repairs to this roadway is to commence shortly at this location.

5. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €1,200 to Newcastle West Street Musicians.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €670.35 to Killeedy Defibrillator Group.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €670.35 to Killeedy Defibrillator Group.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €1000 to Newcastle West Coursing Club.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Galvin , it was agreed to allocate €3,000 to Tournafulla Community Kitchen.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Newcastle West Coursing Club.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to drainage works at Caher, Abbeyfeale.

QUESTIONS

6. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting that seating be put in place along the Greenway from Abbeyfeale towards Tullig Wood (Tullig Wood included).

REPLY: It is proposed that seating will be put in place along the full route of the Limerick Greenway in the coming months.

The necessity of public toilets and tea/coffee facilities along the Greenway at Ardagh was raised. Reference was also made for directional signage to be put in place at the Greenway in Abbeyfeale to divert people into the town. In replying, the Director agreed to check this matter but stated that an information sign showing a map of the town centre of Abbeyfeale is in place at this location.

7. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for a detailed update on the proposed housing developments for Colbert's Terrace, Abbeyfeale and Mountcollins village.

REPLY:

Mountcollins village development consists of 4 new housing units in Radharc Cilin. The scheme has Stage 2 approval and a Part 8 submission is being prepared, which should be advertised in May 2022. At present negotiations are underway with an adjacent landowner to facilitate the development of an access footpath to the village to the West of the site.

Colbert Terrace, which consists of 3 No. 3 bed dwellings houses, the refurbishment of an existing dwelling and the demolition of the corner unit. A Stage 3 submission has been issued to the Department. They have requested additional information as the current cost of construction exceeds department caps. The QS is currently reviewing the stage 3 Bill of Quantities. The further information is to be issued to the Department by 4th April, 2022.

The Members referred to the issuing of further information to the Department by the 4th April, 2022, and it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would liaise with the relevant Directorate on this matter.

8. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an Update on the pricing of our graves as previously raised by me.

REPLY: This matter was discussed at the Full Council Meeting held on 28th March, 2022. The Executive committed to review the 2022 burial ground charges with a view to addressing the concerns of the Members.

9. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update when the trees and overgrowth in the closed dump in Churchtown will be cut back. These are destroying fences at Evergreen Court and encroaching into their properties.

REPLY:

A site assessment has been carried out by our team to establish site works required at the Churchtown landfill site.

A scope of works has been agreed, and we will be engaging with Contractors to carry out site clearance at this location over the coming months. Subject to compliance with the provisions

of the Wildlife Acts, it is hoped to have this work completed in Quarter 2 of 2022. This should help to address the concerns raised in relation to the trees and overgrowth.

10. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting when will the flashing sign at Boherbui (up from the Church) be fixed and put in working order again.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council sent a contractor to investigate the lights last week and are now in working order.

11. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting can a footpath be considered for Kilmeedy from Browne's corner to the Church as it is in very bad condition.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council will consider this footpath for works later this year subject to funding.

12. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting for the number of One Off Houses built in the Newcastle West District/Municipality through the duration of our current County Development Plan.

REPLY: Outside of the settlements of Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale, Planning Permission was granted for 656 individual residential units, between 2010 and the start of 2022.

On comparison, of the above figure with Geodirectory figure within the same period, an additional 342 additional units were registered with An Post, as new addresses. This figure identifies newly constructed housing units. Geodirectory is the definitive database of buildings, each matched to a unique postal address.

13. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at our next meeting (a) how much of the loan allocated to Lazy Bikes for our Greenway project has been drawn down, (b) when were these borrowings availed of, (c) how many bicycles do Lazy Bikes currently have on our Greenway, (d) where are these bikes provided from, and (e) who is in control and where or how can contact be made.

REPLY:

(a) The approved loan of €300,000 is fully drawn down.

- (b) €200,000 on 8 July 2021 and €100,000 on 2 March 2022.
- (c) Lazy Bikes are trading under the name Limerick Greenway Bike Hire for their operation on the Limerick Greenway. Over the winter months, the service was limited to groups who had pre-booked. By the week ending 8th April, Limerick Greenway Bike Hire have advised they will have commenced a 7 day a week service and have 400 bikes available on the greenway.
- (d) Rathkeale, Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale.
- (e) Contact details for Limerick Greenway Bike Hire, along with other bike hire providers, can be found on the bike hire section of the Council's website limerickgreenway.ie

NOTICES OF MOTION

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that the Council replace the boundary fence dividing Joe Flynn's property and Maple Court estate, Abbeyfeale be replaced with a permanent fence.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin referred to the condition of the boundary fence at the above location and requested that the fence be replaced. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer referred to the possibility of having a more durable fence at this location and agreed to revert to the Members on this matter.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Municipal Meeting that the Council give a facelift to the apartments on the Killarney road, Abbeyfeale, and residents be informed to please keep clean and tidy.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council does not have direct ownership of any apartment at the River Garden Complex, Killarney Road, Abbeyfeale.

Three of the units within the wider complex are under a Long Term Lease arrangement. Under this type of lease arrangement maintenance of the units remains the responsibility of the building owner.

The maintenance of a private property is the responsibility of the property owner.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin referred to the condition of the apartments on the Killarney Road, Abbeyfeale and it was agreed that the Director would liaise with the relevant Directorate on this matter.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will move at the next Meeting that the Council reconsider leaving the Mass Path gate open at night time. As this is currently being left open all night this is leading to anti-social behavior and causing a nuisance to the neighbours in the area. Can this be locked at night time and reopened in the mornings.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ruddle referred to the recent opening of the Mass Path gate at night time and to anti-social behaviour at this location and requested that the opening times of the Mass Path be reconsidered.

In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that this matter was discussed at a recent Meeting of the Joint Policing Committee where the Gardaí noted that no reports of anti-social behaviour had been highlighted.

Following discussion, the Senior Executive Engineer agreed to liaise with the Gardaí on this matter. It was also agreed that this Item would be kept on the Agenda for the May Meeting of the District.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that Site Notices be placed on all Council owned property being considered for disposal within our Municipal District.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY:

The current procedure for selling properties is that a “for sale” sign is placed on the property and that all properties are advertised online. The Council is satisfied that the existing procedure is working well and properties are kept on the market for a minimum of 4-6 weeks and in most cases longer for maximum exposure.

The placing of a sign on the property gives the public an indication that the property is for sale. Queries can at that stage be raised with Council Officials or the Marketing Agent.

The Property Section is subject to audit and has the necessary safeguards and checks in place to ensure that all transactions are transparent and accountable. The disposal of property is a reserved function and a report is prepared for the Members in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan expressed dissatisfaction at the reply received and requested that site notices be placed on all Council owned property in advance of disposal. A discussion followed and in replying the Director stated that it is not appropriate to change the existing process which is working well.

The following items were also raised.

The funding costs to date for the Distributor Roads for Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale was raised. In relying, the Meetings Administrator referred to the response received from the Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development and it was agreed that further clarification would be sought on the funding allocated to date on both these roads. It was also agreed that this Item remain on the Agenda for the May Meeting of the District.

Repairs to the floor of the bridge crossing the Greenway at Bill Kelly's next to Devon Road Station was raised. It was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would seek a further update on this matter.

It was agreed to hold the May Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 4th May, 2022, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated: