

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 11th JANUARY, 2023, AT 10AM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor M. Collins, Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Foley, Galvin, 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, Newcastle West Municipal District (Mr. J. Sheehan), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Valley), Environment Awareness Officer, Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate (Ms. S. McDonnell), Senior Planner, Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate (Ms. N. O'Connell), Assistant Engineer, Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate (Mr. E. Walsh), Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation and Mobility Directorate (Mr. S. O'Reilly), Administrative Officer, Property and Community Facilities (Ms. T. Knox), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

Chairperson, Newcastle West Tidy Towns (Ms. Vicki Nash).
Deputy Chairperson, Limerick Fairtrade (Sr. Delia O'Connor).

APOLOGIES:

Executive Engineer, Housing (Mr. D. Toomey)
Councillor Ruddle

At the outset of the Meeting, the Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the first Newcastle West Municipal District Meeting for 2023.

VOTE OF SYMPATHY

The Cathaoirleach and the Members expressed deep sympathy to the family of Andrew Faughnan, Executive Engineer, Planning, Environment and Place-Making on his sudden and untimely passing.

Deep sympathy was also expressed to the family of T. J. Madigan, Ganger, Newcastle West Roads, on his sudden passing this week.

The Senior Executive Engineer, Newcastle West Municipal District also extended sincere sympathy on this own behalf and on behalf of the Management and Staff.

A minute's silence and reflection was observed as a mark of respect.

1. Adoption of Minutes

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

Proposed by: Councillor Scanlan

Seconded by: Councillor Foley

And Resolved:

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

2. Disposal of Land

- (a) Circulated, report of Head of Property and Community Facilities, dated 22nd December, 2022, concerning proposal to dispose of property at Kilready, Castlemahon, Co. Limerick.

Members noted the proposal.

- (b) Circulated, report of Head of Property and Community Facilities, dated 22nd December, 2022, concerning proposal to dispose of land at Kilready, Castlemahon, Co. Limerick.

It was agreed to defer this item to the February Meeting of the District.

3. Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate

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

To consider the Taking in Charge of Estate Gleann Daire, Ardagh, in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993.

Circulated, report of Senior Planner, Planning, Environment and Place-Making, dated 30th December, 2022.

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

“That Gleann Daire, Ardagh, be taken in charge in accordance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) and Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993”.

The Members referred to the condition of the Gleann Daire estate in Ardagh which has been neglected for a number of years and welcomed the Taking in Charge of the estate.

4. Community, Tourism and Culture Directorate

To receive presentation on Fairtrade Town Initiative.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Environment Awareness Officer (Ms. S. McDonnell), Chairperson, Newcastle West Tidy Towns (Ms. V. Nash) and the Deputy Chairperson, Limerick Fairtrade (Sr. Delia O'Connor) to the Meeting.

Ms. McDonnell made a presentation to the Members on the background to Fairtrade and thanked the Members of the Newcastle West Municipal District who passed a Motion in April 2021 in favour of Newcastle West becoming a Fairtrade Town.

She outlined to the Members the meaning of Fairtrade whereby Fairtrade Company pays the farmer a fair price for products and also gives extra money to the co-operative called a premium. She stated that the Fairtrade premium is spent on developing the community e.g. building schools, bringing water to villages, building clinics or whatever the community needs. She said that more than 7 million people in Africa, Asia and Latin America have benefit from Fairtrade and stated that 500 million smallholder farmers produce 70% of the world's food but are currently half of the world's hungry people. She stated that the Fairtrade premium is vital for Fairtrade farmers as this is the price over and above the minimum price.

She outlined to the Members the various steps required to become a Fairtrade town which include Newcastle West Tidy Towns setting up a Fairtrade sub-group to include representatives from Limerick City and County Council and various other groups to achieve Fairtrade town status. She stated that the group has the support of the Limerick City Fairtrade group who meet a minimum of twice during the year and shares experience with other Fairtrade communities.

She gave an outline to the Members on the various projects and events which are to take place in 2023 to promote Fairtrade and also stated that the Newcastle West Fairtrade Group will support and work with schools, local retailers, hospitality venues, Council's and businesses to promote Fairtrade. She referred to the Fairtrade Fortnight 2023 which is to take place shortly and it is hoped to apply for Fairtrade Status for Newcastle West in Q3/Q4 2023.

She referred to SDG's which are now embedded in the National Tidy Towns Competition and to the twelve SDG goals which are prioritised by Fairtrade. She also referred to the various challenges facing farmers/producers in the developing world such as Climate Change, Low prices for their products and Covid19.

Ms. Nash gave a summary on the work ongoing at present in Newcastle West with regard to promoting Fairtrade and to the importance of everyone in getting involved and working together to achieve Fairtrade Status for Newcastle West.

Sr. D O'Connor referred to the importance of schools being made aware of the importance of Fairtrade and asked if the Council could assist in this matter.

The Members thanked the Group and expressed full support in the promotion of Fairtrade in the District. Reference was also made to extending Fairtrade to other towns in the District and in replying, Ms. McDonnell stated that any Tidy Towns Group can endeavour to achieve Fairtrade status.

At this stage, Councillor Sheahan joined the Meeting.

5. Transportation and Mobility Directorate

To receive Update on Maintenance of River Feale, Abbeyfeale.

The Meetings Administrator stated that following the December Meeting of the District an invitation was sent to Minister O'Donovan, Minister of State for the Office of Public Works to attend the January Meeting. The Meetings Administrator stated that the Minister conveyed his apologies for his inability to attend the January Meeting. He also stated that the Minister had been in contact with the Senior Executive Engineer and he is to revert with regard to organising a Meeting with the Members.

It was agreed by the Members that this item would remain on the Agenda for the February Meeting of the District and that the Minister of State for the Office of Public Works would be invited to attend this Meeting.

6. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

This item was noted.

QUESTIONS

7. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the following junctions (a) Devon Road Cross (b) Dore's Cross, Templeglantine.

REPLY:

(a) **Devon Cross:** Limerick City and County Council have arranged a Meeting with Transport Infrastructure Ireland scheduled for January 2023.

(b) **Dore's Cross:** Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) have completed Safety review. Limerick City and County Council expect to have comments from TII in January 2023.

8. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

*I will ask at the next Meeting that the growth be cleaned off the following bridges:
(a) The Mart bridge, Abbeyfeale (b) The metal bridge on the Ballagh road (c) That the rivers
be cleaned of sally's and other over growth on the approach to the bridges.*

REPLY: Works commenced on these bridges on the 4th January and it is hoped they will be complete by mid-January.

9. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the footpath extension and lighting out the Killarney Road, Abbeyfeale towards Dalton's Cross? Update on application?

REPLY:

I sent an application to Transport Infrastructure Ireland on the 1st December 2022. The proposal is to extend the path by 250m as far as the junction of the N21 with the L1325. This will then promote a walking Loop which would promote active travel and provide alternatives to the residents for access into the Greenway from local B&B. In addition, the path would provide safer access for residents and safer access to the town park. The proposed works would include for the construction of the new path, drainage, ducting, public lighting and associated works. We are still awaiting a reply from TII.

10. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting if Limerick City and County Council can get the public lights fixed in Daar River View estate, Newcastle West. It is very dark here and this is encouraging anti-social behaviour.

REPLY: Daar River View Estate is not in the charge of Limerick City and County Council. Limerick City and County Council has written to the developer/their agents of the estate requesting that the public lighting be repaired as a matter of urgency.

11. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting when the public lights will be repaired at the following locations:

- a) The entrance road to Cluain Arra Estate.*
- b) The 2 lights out in the Old Mill.*
- c) The 4-5 lights out in Nash's Lane which links the centre of town to the Aldi car park.
This is very dangerous with people in dread walking back to their cars after work etc.*
- d) The light out at the Mass Path.*
- e) Ballymorisheen near the Apple Green filling station.*

REPLY:

- (a) **The entrance road to Cluain Arra** – This was attended to on 20.12.2022, however the fault is located in the underground cable which requires excavation and repair. These works are being programmed with the maintenance contractor with a view to the repair being carried out by end of January 2023.
- (b) **The 2 lights out in the Old Mill** – These lights were repaired 20.12.2022.
- (c) **The 4 – 5 lights out in Nash’s Lane which links the centre of town to the Aldi car park. This is very dangerous with people in dread of walking back to their cars after work etc.** – These lights were installed by a private developer and will need to be added to the Council inventory. They will be changed out to lights that meet LCCC specification. These works are being programmed with the maintenance contractor with a view to the works being carried out by end of January 2023.
- (d) **The light out at the Mass Path** – The light at the Maiden Street entrance was repaired 23.12.2022. A new ESB connection is required for the other lights on the Mass Path, this has been applied for and awaiting paperwork from the ESB.
- (e) **Ballymorisheen near the Apple Green Filling Station** – This light was repaired 21.12.1022.

12. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting that reminder/enforcement notices are issued to the owners of hedgerows that remain uncut.

REPLY:

Follow up/Reminder letters were issued to landowners in targeted areas in mid-December. I will continue to monitor the compliance of the landowners.

NOTICES OF MOTION

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that the Council take over Ray’s estate, Mountcollins, the E.S.B. connected the lights in January 2021. When will the Council take over the road?

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY:

Ray’s Estate is listed on a current work programme for taking in charge. Additional survey work needs to be completed in relation to water and wastewater infrastructure on site. Following completion of all necessary surveys, and subject to funding to undertake works, the Council will seek to commence a taking in charge process.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin stated that the taking in charge of Ray’s Estate, Mountcollins is a priority and referred to the existing services which are in place at this estate.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Municipal Meeting that the Council take over the Paddocks, Newcastle West, twelve years this is going on now.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

REPLY:

The Paddocks is currently included on the Council's work programme to be taken in charge. The Council staff are currently engaging with the developer's representatives in relation to water services survey requirements. Subject to receipt of surveys which satisfy both Limerick City and County Council and Irish Water and meet required standards, it is anticipated that the formal taking in charge process will be commenced in 2023.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin requested the taking in charge of the Paddocks, Newcastle West, which is ongoing for a considerable period of time. A discussion took place on a number of matters including service charges applied to properties and management company within the estate.

Following discussion, it was agreed that an up to date list of housing estates which have been taken in charge and also pending to be taken in charge in the District be provided. It was also agreed that clarification be sought on the responsibility of the Council following the taking in charge of estates in the District. In replying, the Senior Planner agreed to revert to the Members on this matter.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will move at the next Meeting that due to the shockingly bad level of service in fixing blown public lights which are now taking months if at all to get fixed, that Limerick City and County Council meet with Airtricity with a view to improving the service.

No lighting leads to anti-social behaviour and people do not feel safe walking around at night, this should be a priority for this Council.

In the absence of Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to defer this Notice of Motion to the February Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that all Council delivered tenancies have a front and back entrance.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

REPLY:

It is Council policy to provide own door access for houses and apartments alike. As with current design policy, individual front and rear door access is provided to all detached, semi-detached and terraced housing. However, it is not possible to provide rear door access from apartment or first floor duplex type units. In accordance with Part B of the Building Regulations, design standards dictate escape through either protected corridors or windows.

As stated above, in line with LCCC policy, we ensure that own front door access is provided to apartments and duplex type units. Rear door access/egress from such units would require additional stairs to the rear of the building which would impact privacy, site size and therefore cost of construction, and such abnormal costs would not be covered by the DHLGH.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan expressed dissatisfaction at the need for Council tenants of mid terrace properties to bring wheelie bins through their homes and reiterated that all Council rented properties should have a front and rear access to their properties.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that adequate public lighting is provided along Daar River View, Newcastle West.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY: Daar River View Estate is not in the charge of Limerick City and County Council. Limerick City and County Council has written to the developer/their agents of the estate requesting that the public lighting be repaired as a matter of urgency.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan requested that public lighting be provided at Daar River View estate, Newcastle West.

The following items were also raised.

An update was sought on the upgrade of the electricity supply at Clash, Athea and in replying the Executive Engineer stated that contact has been made with the ESB with a view to resolving this matter.

Reference was made to the provision of a footpath between the Kerry Co-Op and the speed limit along the Bruff Line at Clooneyskehane and in replying the Senior Executive Engineer stated that an application has been made to the National Transport Authority for the provision of funding to include a full design and appointment of a consultant.

An update was sought on the provision of a dog park in Newcastle West and the Meetings Administrator agreed to seek an update from the relevant Directorate on this matter.

The removal of the two poles in the middle of the footpath in Mountcollins was referred to and in replying the Senior Executive Engineer stated that an application has been sent to the ESB to remove the poles which will form part of the footpath widening works in Mountcollins.

An update was sought on the provision of a bus shelter in the village of Templeglantine and in replying the Senior Executive Engineer stated that the necessary equipment for installation of the bus shelter is expected to arrive this month.

The excellent work carried out by the Roads Team, Newcastle West Municipal District during the recent frosty weather was acknowledged.

It was agreed to hold the February Meeting of the District on Friday, 10th February, 2023, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

It was also agreed that the Meetings Administrator would arrange a date for the holding of a Meeting of the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) Sub Committee.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
