

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN ÁRAS SEÁN, NEW LINE ROAD, RATHKEALE, CO. LIMERICK ON FRIDAY, 26TH MAY, 2023 AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor S. Keary, An Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Rural, Culture and Community Development (Mr. S. Duclot), Director, National and Regional Shared Services (Mr. K. Lehané), Senior Engineer, Water Services (Ms. A. Peters), A/Senior Executive Officer, Water Services (Ms. C. O'Kane), Meetings Administrator (Ms. K. Butler), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic & Cleansing (Mr. G. O'Connor), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Lenihan).

1. Water Quality Issues in Foynes

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Members of the Water Services Department and Duane O'Brien from Uisce Éireann to the Special Meeting to discuss water quality issues in Foynes.

At the outset of the Meeting, Director, National and Regional Shared Services gave Members a presentation in relation to the Shannon Estuary Water Scheme and the recent discovery of cryptosporidium detected during routine water testing on the 11th May explaining that following a second cryptosporidium positive test and consultation with the Health Service Executive a Boil Water Notice was issued on the 13th May.

Mr O'Brien, Uisce Éireann advised Members that although the Health Service Executive had not reported any illness relating to the cryptosporidium detection a Boil Water Notice was put in place as a precaution to protect public health and added upgrade works are ongoing in the Shannon Estuary Water Plant at the present time and the Boil Water Notice will be in place until all remedial works are complete and the Health Service Executive have been advised.

Discussion ensued and Members raised the following concerns:

- Councillor O'Brien noted the lack of information and updates provided to members of the public in particular immunocompromised and also added the cost implication for households as well as businesses to have to now purchase bottled water while the Boil Water Notice remains in effect is extensive. Mr O'Brien, Uisce Éireann advised approximately 7,000 customers are currently affected and regular updates are provided on local media outlets as well as on

Uisce Éireann's website www.water.ie. He further advised vulnerable customer who have registered their details with Uisce Éireann will be directly contacted.

- Councillor Sheahan queried if water tankers would be provided for customers who are affected by the Boil Water Notice, however, the Director, National and Regional Shared Services advised the Health Service Executive advise would require customers still having to boil the water these tankers would provide.
- Councillor Collins queried if a UV filter would work in domestic households to prevent bacteria from getting into their water. The Senior Engineer, Water Services advised the UV filter will stop the cryptosporidium bacteria from reproducing but it would not remove it from the household water supply.

The A/Senior Executive Officer, Water Services concluded that a Councillor Clinic would be held with Uisce Éireann shortly and encouraged Members to submitted any questions or concerns they might have. Uisce Éireann would endeavor to issue a direct response to any issues raised.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
