

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN ÁRAS SEÁN FINN, NEW LINE ROAD, RATHKEALE, CO. LIMERICK ON TUESDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2023 AT 9.30 A.M.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor A. Teskey, An Cathaoirleach.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director, Rural, Community and Culture Development (Mr. S. Duclot), Director, Housing (Ms. C. Curley), Senior Executive Officer, Strategy and Non LA Housing Construction (Ms. S. Newell), Meetings Administrator (Ms. K. Butler), Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. G. O'Connor), Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. J. O'Keefe), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. E. Harrison), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Lenihan).

At the outset of the Meeting it was agreed Item 3 on the Agenda would be taken first.

**3. Disposal of Land**

Circulated, report of the Head of Property Management dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2023 setting out proposals for the disposal of sites at Towerfield, Croom and the intention to bring the Section 183 Notice to Full Council for approval.

The Director, Housing advised Members the proposed disposal is for 16 units to be disposed of to Croom Voluntary Housing Association CLG to deliver an elderly and disability housing scheme at a cost of €127 per unit.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.

Councillor O'Donoghue referred to Minutes of the Special Meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2023. He asked it be noted in the Minutes in relation to the Draft Adare Public Realm Plan no works be carried out on the roads surrounding Adare, as described in the plan, until the bypass is complete.

Proposed by Councillor O'Donoghue;  
Seconded by Councillor Teskey;

And Resolved:

“That the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read, adopted and signed, subject to the amendment outlined above to the Minutes of Special Meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2023”.

- (b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 12th September, 2023.

Councillor O’Donoghue referred to Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 in relation to the Notice of Motion received from Councillor Sheahan regarding tidal flooding that takes place in Askeaton town every year. Councillor O’Donoghue requested the Minutes be amended to state that he referred to the issue of the sewerage holding tanks overflowing and not Councillor Sheahan as stated in the draft Minutes.

Proposed by Councillor O’Donoghue;

Seconded by Councillor Teskey;

And Resolved:

“That the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read, adopted and signed, subject to the amendment outlined above to the Minutes of Monthly Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2023”.

Following the adoption of the Minutes, Councillor Teskey expressed disappointment that a Motion he had proposed at the September Municipal District Meeting requesting the separation of the Adare Public Realm Plan from the Adare Local Area Plan, subject to legal advice, was not sent. The Director, Rural, Community and Culture Development advised the legality of this request had been checked with the Planning Department, Limerick City and County Council and the advice received was as the process has already commenced the Draft Adare Local Area Plan cannot be altered at this stage. However, when considering the Chief Executive Report, the Elected Members of the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District will decide to make or amend the Draft Local Area Plan.

Councillor Keary asked for a response to his request at the September District Meeting for costings for the original macadam surfacing of the carpark adjacent to the Primary School on the N21 Rathkeale, Road, Adare. The Meetings Administrator advised she had received a response from the A/Senior Executive Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office who stated the original macadam to surface the carpark cost €13,000. Councillor Keary stated he did not accept these figures. The Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised a private developer has received permission for a development with an entrance through the carpark which involves a relocation and reconfiguration of carpark.

Councillor O’Brien referred to the investment by Irish Rail for the Limerick to Foynes and the recent delays in delivering the project due to appeals made through the statutory

process. Discussion ensued and Councillor Teskey proposed Irish Rail attend the November District Meeting to provide an update on the project. This was seconded by Councillor O'Brien and agreed.

## **2. Declaration of Interest**

The Meetings Administrator stated that, in line with Part 15 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and the Code of Conduct she was inviting those present to notify the Cathaoirleach of any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting. No such interests were declared.

## **4. Road Traffic and Cleansing**

### **Part 8 – Proposed N69 Ballyengland Junction Improvement Scheme**

Circulated, Report of the Chief Executive dated 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2023 setting out details in relation to the proposed junction improvement works at the Junction of the N69 and L6005, Ballyengland Lower, Askeaton. The report had been prepared pursuant to Section 179 3(a) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and noted that it is proposed to proceed in accordance with Section 7 of the report.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Enda Harrison, Executive Engineer, Roads Department to the Meeting. The Executive Engineer, Roads Department outlined details of the report to Members. Discussion ensued in relation to the report and the following issues were raised by Members:

- Councillor Teskey queried maintenance of the hedgerows and grass margins when works would be complete. The Executive Engineer, Roads Department advised there is currently a National Roads contract which maintains all grass cutting on the N69.
- Councillor Keary queried why consideration was not given for sightlines when works were previously carried out on the bridge involved in this scheme. The Executive Engineer, Roads Department advised this would have a significant impact on the overall cost of the scheme.
- Councillors Sheahan referred to safety issues with motorists coming out onto the N69 going towards Limerick and Councillor Keary felt the stop line was too close to the edge of the N69 and increased land take should be considered to improve sightlines at this location. The Executive Engineer, Roads Department advised Consultants and Designers in consultation with Safety Engineers feel safety issues have been addressed and added that Transport Infrastructure Ireland are in favour of cars slowing down at junctions instead of widening junctions.

- Councillor O'Donoghue asked if there was an alternative other than a grass verge at the junction that would be more sustainable and easier to maintain. The Executive Engineer, Roads Department advised increased frequency of grass cutting at all junctions would be looked at.

The report, as circulated, was proposed by Councillor Teskey, seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed.

## **5. District Engineers Report**

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing dated 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 outlining details of proposed works, projects and future projects planned for the District.

Following discussion the following issues were raised by Members:

- Councillor Teskey requested the front of the Bank of Ireland building in Rathkeale be cleaned.
- Councillor Sheahan stated the slipway into the river from West Square, Askeaton should be repointed.

## **6. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)**

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

- €9,366 to Irish Palatine Association.
- €1,000 to West Limerick Radio.
- €2,000 to Holy Trinity Church, Rathkeale.
- €2,000 to Askeaton Tennis Club.

Councillor Keary told the Meeting he did not agree with GMA monies being allocated to the West Limerick radio station and requested the record of the Meeting to note he wished to be distanced from any GMA contributions issued to the station.

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

- €1,000 to Askeaton Tennis Club.
- €1,000 to West Limerick Radio.

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

- €3,000 to Castlerovers FC.
- €3,000 to Askeaton GAA Club.

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

- €3,000 to Askeaton Tidy Towns.
- €2,000 to Ballysteen National School.

On the proposal of Councillor Keary, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue, it was agreed to allocate €1,950 to Gerald Griffin GAA Club.

### **NOTICES OF MOTION**

#### **7. Notice of Motion received from Councillor K. Sheahan**

**I will move at the next Meeting that this committee would call on An Post to place a letter box in the parish of Kilcornan.**

The motion was proposed by Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Teskey and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Sheahan asked the motion be amended to include Kildimo as the post office has closed in both villages and a post box is required.

#### **8. Notice of Motion received from Councillor E. O'Brien**

**I will move at the next Meeting that the Office of Public Works (OPW) reinstate the Ballydoole road tarred and reconstructed in 2021 under a Limerick City and County Council Local Improvement Scheme.**

The motion was proposed by Councillor O'Brien, seconded by O'Donoghue and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor O'Brien stated there was extensive damage caused to the Ballydoole road by the OPW while they were carrying out flood relief works. He requested the District correspond with the Minister responsible for the OPW to get a report on the re-instatement of the road and that the item would be on the Agenda for the November Municipal District Meeting.

**Reply:** The roadway in question is in private ownership and as such is not in the charge of Limerick City and County Council.

Road improvement works were delivered on this road through the Local Improvement Scheme in 2021 by Limerick City and County Council with all subsequent maintenance requirements on the road being the

responsibility of the private landowners and not Limerick City and County Council.

Regarding the request for the OPW to undertake works on the roadway, this is a matter for the private road owners to liaise directly with the OPW in order to resolve the matter.

#### **9. Notice of Motion received from Councillor J. O'Donoghue**

**I will move at the next Meeting for an update on the Foynes/Shannon Estuary public water supply. This update to include a timeframe for the installation of the ultraviolet reactor and an operational date.**

The motion was proposed by Councillor O'Donoghue, seconded by Councillor Keary and agreed.

In proposing the motion, Councillor O'Donoghue stated he was disappointed with the reply received from Uisce Éireann on this matter. Councillor Teskey proposed a Special Meeting be convened with Uisce Éireann and Kieran Lehane, Director of Services to update Members on the progress of works at the Foynes Shannon Estuary Water Plant. This was seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue and agreed. Discussion ensued and Councillor Sheahan referenced the costs being incurred by the general population in the area who have to purchase bottled water as a result of the Boil Water Notice and in particular the elderly and those with medical conditions.

**Reply:** Uisce Éireann is progressing with plans to install an ultraviolet reactor at the treatment plant. This reactor will render any Cryptosporidium in the water inactive. The projected completion date for this work is Q4, 2023.

Once these works are complete, a verification sampling programme will be undertaken. We will then seek to lift the notice in consultation and agreement with the Health Service Executive. Uisce Éireann's drinking water standards, as per EU Drinking Water regulations, are strict and include wide safety margins.

Where risks to water quality are identified through Uisce Éireann's enhanced testing and monitoring programme, the Health Service Executive (HSE) is consulted, and Boil Water Notices are issued to protect public health.

#### **10. Correspondence**

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

**11. A.O.B**

- Councillor Sheahan proposed a Motion be sent to the Chief Executive of Limerick City and County Council that Askeaton Civic Trust and Limerick City and County Council enter into a partnership to promote Askeaton town for its heritage and historic values going forward. This was seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed.
- Councillor Sheahan expressed concern in relation to the proposed Health Service Executive budget cuts for 2024 which will deprive citizens with serious illness of medication and called for this situation to be addressed.
- Councillor Teskey proposed the District write to the Minister for Justice calling for meaningful legislation with regards to penalties be introduced for individuals who commit crime and added these penalties should be irrespective of age. This was seconded by Councillor Keary and agreed.
- Councillor Teskey proposed the District write to Coillte requesting they seek expressions of interest to procure a tenant for the coffee shop in Curraghchase Forrest Park before the current tenant retires in the near future. This was seconded by Councillor Sheahan and agreed.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

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**Cathaoirleach**

Dated:

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