

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN ÁRAS SEÁN FINN, NEW LINE ROAD, RATHKEALE, CO. LIMERICK ON FRIDAY, 27TH OCTOBER, 2023 AT 10.00 A.M.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Collins, Keary, O'Donoghue and Sheahan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

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

APOLOGIES:

Councillor O'Brien.

1. Water Quality Issues in Foynes

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the Special Meeting to discuss the Water Quality Issues in Foynes.

At the outset of the Meeting, Councillor Teskey expressed his disappointment at the refusal of Uisce Éireann staff to attend the Special Meeting. The A/Director, National and Regional Shared Services advised Members that in July 2023 a Master Co-operation Agreement came into effect seeing Uisce Éireann directing and managing all public water and waste water supplies in Ireland. She further advised that as Uisce Éireann is a stand alone organisation, Limerick City and County Council have no role in the day to day running or workings of Uisce Éireann, therefore, Limerick City and County Council cannot instruct Uisce Éireann to attend any meetings. She further advised that Limerick City and County Council staff are under the management and direction of Uisce Éireann and Limerick City and County Council are only responsible for the health and safety welfare of these members of staff.

Discussion ensued in relation to the ongoing Boil Water Notice and the lack of communication from Uisce Éireann. Councillor O'Donoghue stated that there is confusion amongst members of the public as to who is responsible for water and waste water as the Local Authority are still responsible for storm water and Water Service staff use vehicles with Limerick City and County Council logo on them and added the public need to be advised of the distinction going forward.

Councillor Keary requested a schedule of works for the Foynes Shannon Estuary Treatment Plant for the next Municipal District Meeting stating when works are due to commence on the installation of the UV filter and when works are expected to be completed. He further stated that buying bottled water is putting huge expense on people of certain categories in the locality and that a voucher system should be introduced by Uisce Éireann to cover these costs. Councillor Teskey proposed the issue be addressed at Full Council and should be an Agenda item for the next Full Council Meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Keary and Agreed.

The Meetings Administrator advised she had spoken to Ciara McCaughley, Regional Communications Specialist with Uisce Éireann who had advised a Zoom Meeting could be arranged for Members of the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District following the November District Meeting. Members advised the Meeting Administrator they would be willing to travel to the Uisce Éireann office in Mallow if need be to meet with Uisce Éireann officials.

Councillor Collins stated at a previous Meeting there had been a discussion around providing grant aid for the installation of UV filters in the homes of people in need and requested an update on this discussion. The Meetings Administrator advised as discussed at the May District Meeting UV filters will stop the reproduction of cryptosporidium, however, it would not eradicate it and therefore customers would still have to boil their water before use.

The A/Director, National and Regional Shared Services advised Members that they should make use of the Uisce Éireann Councillor clinics to raise their issues and concerns. She further added she would communicate all issues raised at the Meeting with Uisce Éireann and revert in due course. She stated that there is a facility on the Uisce Éireann website for vulnerable customers to register their details and encouraged people to do this as if any scheme does become available this will be the point of contact for Uisce Éireann. Councillor Collins requested the A/Director, National and Regional Shared Services circulate an email in relation to how vulnerable people can register their details on the Uisce Éireann website to enable Members circulate same if they have any queries in relation to this issue.

Councillor Teskey proposed the District write to the 3 TD's for Limerick to seek parliamentary assistance from the Minister in relation to the timescale for when the Boil Water Notice would be lifted. This was seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed. Councillor Teskey further proposed Uisce Éireann be invited to attend a meeting of the Full Council and a Motion be sent stating "Due to the number of boil water notices in Limerick City and County a full update including a schedule of works and timeline to alleviate the problem with a view to ending the boil water notices be provided and also to request Uisce Éireann to attend this meeting". This was seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____