

**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, 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 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), 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'Keeffe), Senior Executive Engineer, Central Services (Mr. S. O'Reilly), Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction & Housing Maintenance (Mr. B. Kidney), Administrative Officer, Housing Strategy & Non-LA Housing Construction (Ms. H. Creed), Senior Engineer, Mid West Road Design Office (Mr. T. Fitzgerald), Senior Executive Engineer, Mid West Road Design Office (Mr. G. Carey), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Lenihan).

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.

Proposed by Councillor O'Donoghue;  
Seconded by Councillor Keary;  
And Resolved:

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

- (b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Adjourned Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2023.

Proposed by Councillor O'Donoghue;  
Seconded by Councillor Keary;  
And Resolved:

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

**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.

It was agreed Item 4 on the Agenda would be taken next.

#### **4. Transportation & Mobility Directorate**

##### **Roads, Traffic and Cleansing**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Seamas O'Reilly, Senior Executive Engineer, Central Services to the Meeting. The Senior Executive Engineer, Central Services gave Members a presentation on the proposed Lees Cross junction improvement works which would include the separation of the existing five arm junction into two staggered T-junctions to improve definition of traffic priority and sightlines at the junction. He further advised the proposed scheme would be brought to Full Council in January 2024, for approval and he was hopeful the scheme would progress to construction phase in 2025, subject to landowner negotiations and funding. Discussion ensued and the following issues were raised by Members:

- Councillor Keary indicated he would like to see a 60 kmph speed limit applied to either side of the junction on the R520 Regional Road. The Senior Executive Engineer, Central Services advised the Department would not allow a speed limit reduction at this location.
- Councillor O'Donoghue queried if the proposed junction works towards the Ballingarry side would be adequate to accommodate agricultural machinery traffic. The Senior Executive Engineer, Central Services confirmed the junction would be adequate to accommodate agricultural machinery.

It was agreed Item 7 on the Agenda would be taken next.

#### **7. Foynes to Limerick Rail Line**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed David Vaughan, Project Director, Iarnród Éireann, Ollie Tierney, Project Manager, Iarnród Éireann and Garry Keegan, Community Liaison Officer, Iarnród Éireann to the Meeting.

Mr Vaughan, Project Director gave Members a presentation on the progression of works on the Foynes freight line to date advising stage one of the project which includes the removal and disposal of existing track has been completed. Site clearance, installation of boundary fencing, structure rehabilitation as well as formation and drainage works are still ongoing. Stage two of the project, which includes track laying is scheduled to commence in Q2 of 2024 and it is hoped this will be complete by the end of 2024. Further works in stage two of the project will be completed during 2024 and line commissioning is planned for December 2025.

All Members welcomed the update on the project. Following discussion a number of queries were raised by Members:

- Councillor O'Brien queried if the objection lodged against plans to raise the height of the railway bridge in Adare would delay the project. Mr. Vaughan advised the objection is currently at the planning appeal stage and a decision from An Bord Pleanála is expected in February 2024 and added while it would not delay the project it would have consequences in raising the track in the future.
- Councillor O'Donoghue asked how crossings for local wildlife would be handled and also how many farmers with land along the railway line were impacted. Mr. Vaughan advised a number of underpasses have already been installed successfully and added a badger sett had been identified and also relocated successfully. He further advised suitable fencing had been erected along all routes to allow wildlife to move freely along the railway corridor. Mr. Vaughan concluded saying all the 25 – 35 farmers on the route would be facilitated with accommodation works.
- Councillor Keary queried if the track located at Mungret would be rehabilitated. Mr. Vaughan advised Mungret is not currently in the scope for a freight corridor. Councillor Keary then asked for an update on an automatic crossing for a farmer crossing cattle at Kilnockan cul-de-sac. Mr. Vaughan advised he would follow up on this request and revert to Councillor Keary in due course.
- Councillor Collins expressed alarm that the level of the bridge at the River Maigue in Adare would be kept at its current level and asked what impact and cost would be associated with carrying out works in the future to raise the bridge. Mr. Vaughan advised as this part of the project is currently delayed due to a planning issue provisions have been made to raise the bridge at a later date without too much disruption.

It was agreed Item 6 on the Agenda would be taken next.

## **6. Housing Strategy & Non-LA Housing Construction**

### **Social Housing Delivery**

Circulated, report of the Housing Strategy & Non-LA Housing Construction Directorate dated 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2023 setting out details in relation to the social housing delivery for the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District.

The Administrative Officer, Housing Strategy provided a summary update of the main changes to the Housing Delivery report for the District since the last report and outlined the percentage targets being met in accordance with the Housing Delivery Action Plan.

Discussion ensued and the following issues were raised by Members.

- Councillor Keary queried how planning permission had been granted for a housing development in Adare when the necessary infrastructure was not in place to connect to the storm sewer. The Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction & Housing Maintenance advised the storm sewer issue was only discovered after the Part 8 Planning process was complete and works are currently ongoing on the site to rectify this issue. He added the Housing Department is currently in discussion with the four landowners affected by the works at the present time.
- Councillor Keary requested the costs to date to lay the storm sewer to service the Adare site. The Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction & Housing Maintenance advised approval was granted to go to tender for the North site in Adare.
- Councillor O'Donoghue requested an answer to a question he asked at the November District Meeting in relation to the recent house fire in Glenma Estate, Croom. The Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction & Housing Maintenance agreed to follow up on the matter and further revert to Councillor O'Donoghue in due course.
- Councillor Teskey requested the attendance of Jayne Leahy, Head of Property, Limerick City and County Council at the January Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale to discuss the derelict properties on Church Street, Rathkeale including the Old Gasworks site and An Seabhac Public House and the two vacant properties adjacent to the Doctors surgery on Church Street, Rathkeale.

### **3. Disposal of Land**

Circulated, report of the Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services dated 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 setting out proposals for the disposal of Freehold Interest in property at 15 Woodvale, Foynes, Co. Limerick and the intention to bring the Section 183 Notice to Full Council for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

### **5. Mid West National Road Design Office**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Tim Fitzgerald, Senior Engineer Mid West Road Design Office and Ger Carey, Senior Executive Engineer, Mid West Road Design to the Meeting. Before discussion commenced on this Item Councillor Keary withdrew from the Meeting as he felt his presence could be construed as a conflict of interest.

The Senior Executive Engineer, Mid West Road Design Office updated Members with a presentation on the progression of the Foynes to Limerick (including Adare Bypass) Project to date.

Members requested a timeline for when the scheme would be completed. The Senior Executive Engineer, Mid West Road Design Office advised it is hoped the scheme would

be completed by mid-2027, but noted that this was a very ambitious target and that there were a number of significant challenges and risks ahead.

## **8. Roads, Traffic & Cleansing**

### **District Engineers Report**

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing dated 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 outlining details of proposed works, projects and future projects planned for the District.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

## **9. Schedule of Municipal District Works for the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District**

It was agreed to defer this item to the January 2024 Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale.

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

On the proposal of Councillor O'Donoghue, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Meanus Community and Social Club.

On the proposal of Councillor O'Brien, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue, it was agreed to allocate €7,000 to Ringmoylan improvement works.

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

## **11. Notice of Motion received from Councillor A. Teskey**

**I will move at the next Meeting that this District lobby both Minister Helen McEntee TD and Minister Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD to immediately make stronger and more robust legislation available to allow for a central insurance claim register that would be meaningful in targeting the issue of repeated bogus claims. The register should be linked with one's PPS number to target individuals who repeatedly or possibly make regular bogus claims in order to profit from one's insurance.**

It was agreed to defer this item to the January 2024 Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale.

## **12. Notice of Motion received from Councillor S. Keary**

**I will move at the next Meeting no election posters for the 2024 local elections are erected in the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District area.**

It was agreed to defer this item to the January 2024 Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale.

**13. Notice of Motion received from Councillor K. Sheahan**

**I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council would agree to grant a lease on two properties in Askeaton to Askeaton Civic Trust.**

- 1. The lands the Council purchased from Seamus Bradish at Coolranhee, Askeaton.**
- 2. The plot of land purchased from Gerard Ruttle at Coolranhee, Askeaton.**

**Both of these transactions would be conditional to be used for the benefit of the local community and in consultation with the Local Authority.**

**The Civic Trust will propose to have these two plots of ground as an extension to the existing Town Park and plant them with native Irish trees which will be called a Community Forest.**

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

**Reply:** Limerick City and County Council endeavour to explore this option and will follow up with Askeaton Civic Trust.

**14. Correspondence**

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

**15. A.O.B**

The Cathaoirleach wished a happy and peaceful Christmas to all staff of the Municipal District. All Members concurred with these sentiments.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_