

**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, 9TH JANUARY, 2024 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), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Lenihan).

At the outset of the Meeting, the Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the first Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District Meeting of 2024.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 9th January, 2024.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan;
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.

3. Disposal of Land

Circulated, report of the Senior Staff Officer, Housing Support Services dated 14th December, 2023 setting out proposals for the disposal of part of folio LK4965 measuring 0.032 acres/0.01294 hectares, located at 4 High Street, Croom, Co. Limerick and the intention to bring the Section 183 Notice to Full Council for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

4. Schedule of Municipal District Works for the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District

The Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing gave Members a presentation on the review of the Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2023.

Following the presentation, discussion ensued and the following issues were raised by Members:

- Councillor Keary raised concerns regarding temporary signage for the Irish Rail and Adare bypass works, which are causing obstruction at the junction of the N69 and Newbridge, Askeaton. The Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing agreed to liaise with Irish Rail on the matter and revert in due course.
- Councillor Sheahan requested flood barriers be installed at The Quay, Askeaton due to concerns from residents that spring tides in Askeaton brought higher water levels than previous years on the quay.
- Councillor Sheahan advised contractors laying cables on the Ballyallinan – Barrigone Road in Askeaton damaged the road and requested the contractor return to the site and carry out repairs to the road.
- Councillor Sheahan requested a second bus shelter be installed on the eastern side of Askeaton Town at a location to be agreed with the local community.
- Councillor Keary also requested a second bus shelter be installed near the old friary in Rathkeale Town.
- Councillor Sheahan requested an update on when public lighting installed during footpath construction works in Ballycullen Road, Askeaton would be operational.
- Councillor Sheahan requested an update on the proposed Greenway from Rathkeale to Askeaton.
- Councillor O'Donoghue asked if rehabilitation works could be completed on the road to the GAA field in Banogue to relieve flood water. The Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised funding has been applied for through the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Fund, however, significant drainage works is required at this location beforehand.
- Councillor Keary queried if contractors who carried out road overlay works at Leahies, Foynes could return and repair the road as the surface is in very poor condition.
- Councillor Keary also queried if farm entrances with potholes could be repaired with asphalt instead of tar and chip.

5. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Keary it was agreed to allocate the following:

- €1,000 to Manister Community Alert.
- €1,000 to Ballingarry Playground Fund.

Councillor Keary noted the funding allocated by Limerick City and County Council for playgrounds in 2023 was not sufficient to cover repair and maintenance costs in the City and County and proposed funding be increased going forward. This was seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed.

QUESTION

6. Question submitted by Councillor A. Teskey

I will ask at the next Meeting are Limerick City and County Council aware of any remuneration be it public or private monies paid to any objectors of Planning Infrastructural projects including judicial reviews.

Reply: Limerick City and County Council is not aware of any such remuneration. However, payments are made for land acquisitions in infrastructural projects in accordance with standard practice. The terms of any judicial reviews that have been concluded are subject to non-disclosure agreements.

Councillor Teskey expressed dissatisfaction at the response to his question.

NOTICES OF MOTION

7. 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.

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

8. Notice of Motion received from Councillor S. Keary

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

The motion was proposed by Councillor Keary and seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

Reply: The legal requirements in relation to the erection of election posters are set out in the Litter Pollution Act 1997 (as amended) and the Electoral (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 2009, which provides that posters may only be erected for a certain specified time period before a polling date and must be removed within 7 days of Polling Day. There are also legal requirements in place in relation to the proximity of posters being erected near polling stations, as well as requirements relating to posters not being on traffic and road signs, hanging off bridges, etc. Further draft legislation in relation to this area, namely the Regulation of display of Electoral and Polling Posters and Other Advertisements Bill 2022, is also currently before the Oireachtas.

The current legislation, therefore, allows for posters to be erected during an election period. However, it is open to the Elected Members of the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District to agree not to erect election posters in the run up to the Local Government Elections in June 2024, but such a decision is strictly by voluntary agreement of the Elected Members.

Following discussion, Councillor Keary withdrew his motion.

9. Notice of Motion received from Councillor B. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council engages with Communities to establish Poster Free Zones in each town and village within the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor O'Brien.

Councillor Keary asked Councillor Collins to also withdraw her motion, however, Councillor Collins did not agree. Councillor Keary proposed a counter vote be cast to decide if the District should be in favour or not in favour of poster free zones.

The results of the voting was as follows:

For the proposal:

Councillors Collins, O'Brien and O'Donoghue.

Against the proposal:

Councillors Keary, Sheahan and Teskey.

The voting result was tied with 3 for and 3 against the proposal, as there was an equality of votes the Chairman exercised his casting vote which resulted in the motion not being carried.

10. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

11. A.O.B

- Councillor Sheahan proposed a motion be sent to Full Council that Limerick City and County Council consider erecting a statue of Minister Donogh O'Malley at the Limerick Opera site when complete. This was seconded by Councillor Keary, who asked if the motion could be amended to name the proposed new library at the Limerick Opera Site in honour of Donogh O'Malley. This was seconded by Councillor Sheahan agreed.
- Councillor Teskey requested an update on the Shannon Estuary Water Treatment Plant upgrade works and the Health Service Executive testing of the water in the plant.
- Councillor Keary requested an update on the fire damaged dwelling in Coolanoran, Newcastle West to include what the Council propose for this site going forward.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____