

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY, 2024, AT 10AM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor T. Ruddle, Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Collins, Foley, Galvin, Scanlan and Sheahan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism (Mr. G. Daly), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Ms. H. Supple), Senior Executive Engineer, Newcastle West Municipal District (Mr. J. Sheehan), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Senior Executive Architect, Housing Capital, Strategy and Maintenance (Ms. A. Donegan), Executive Architect, LA Housing Construction and Maintenance (Ms. Y. O'Driscoll), Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

At the outset of the Meeting, Councillor Ruddle welcomed everyone in attendance to the February Meeting of the District.

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 10th January, 2024.

Proposed by: Councillor Galvin

Seconded by: Councillor Foley

And Resolved:

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

- (b) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Special Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 31st January, 2024.

Proposed by: Councillor Galvin

Seconded by: Councillor Foley

And Resolved:

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

2. Declaration of Interest.

The Meetings Administrator stated that, in line with Part 15 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, and the Code of Conduct, she was inviting those present to notify the Cathoairleach 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 Head of Property Management, Rural, Culture and Community Development, dated 29th January, 2024, concerning proposal to dispose of property at Knockfinisk, Carrigkerry, Co. Limerick, V94WDF8, to Mr. David Theodorus Hermanna Geenen and Ms. Arianne van den Heuvel.

The Members noted the proposal.

A discussion followed on a number of housing matters in the District including the level of standard required to bring Council housing stock up to an acceptable rental standard, vacancy of existing stock, length of time taken to get houses into occupancy and affordable housing. In replying, the Director agreed to relay the matters raised to the Director, Housing.

At this stage, Councillor Collins joined the Meeting.

Following discussion and at the request of the Members it was agreed that representatives from the Housing Directorate would be invited to attend the March Meeting to discuss housing issues of concern in the District.

4. Planning, Environment and Place-Making Directorate

To consider the Chief Executive's Report pursuant to Section 179(3) of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended), and Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), in respect of the proposed Part VIII Housing Scheme at Radharc Na Ghleanna, Mountcollins, Co. Limerick.

Circulated, Report of the Chief Executive, dated 23rd January, 2024, in respect of the proposed Part VIII Housing Scheme at Radharc Na Ghleanna, Mountcollins, Co. Limerick.

The Members welcomed the proposed Part VIII Housing Scheme at Radharc Na Ghleanna, Mountcollins and stated that this is a welcome improvement for the village. Reference was also made to progressing more Part VIII's in other villages in the District.

Following a brief discussion, the report was proposed by Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley and agreed.

5. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €5,000 to Broadford Development Association.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €3,500 to Ashford Montessori School.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Ashford/Broadford Walking Trail.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Mountcollins Development Association.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Old Mill Sports Ground.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €1,500 to West Limerick Singing Club.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocated €3,000 to Templeglantine School car park.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Meenkilly National School for defibrillator.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Abbeyfeale Soccer Club for astro turf pitch.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Mountcollins for St. Patrick's Day Parade.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €725 to Abbeyfeale Community Council.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 for drainage works in Carrickerry.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 for drainage works in Athea.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €725 to Abbeyfeale Community Council.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Meenkilly National School for defibrillator.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €500 to Mountcollins for St. Patrick's Day parade.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Ruddle, it was agreed to allocate €8,160 for drainage works at the Grove Road, Abbeyfeale.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Knockaderry Soccer Club.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Feenagh G.A.A. Club.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle , seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Feenagh Soccer Club.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to St. Ita's Soccer Club.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Broadford Hall.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Feohanagh Community House.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to West Limerick Radio.

On the proposal of Councillor Ruddle, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Munster Hurling Wheelchair Camogie Club.

QUESTIONS

Replies to the following Questions on the Agenda were circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting and the Questions were therefore taken as having been dealt with.

6. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for a light to be placed on the ESB pole provided at the top of the new graveyard (Holy Cross) in Athea.

REPLY: The Council will investigate the possibility of lighting at this location. There are access issues for future maintenance if a light is to be placed on the ESB pole. Alternative solutions are being investigated in the vicinity of the ESB pole.

7. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for a litter bin to be placed at the post box above Edmond O'Donoghue's shop, Abbeyfeale.

REPLY: There are two bins within the vicinity of the post box and shop. There is no need for an extra bin at this location.

8. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the vacant social houses in Abbeyfeale town and Athea village.

- (a) How many are vacant*
- (b) How long are each vacant*
- (c) Why are each vacant*
- (d) When can we expect each to be occupied.*

REPLY:

- (a) There are 5 vacant social houses in Abbeyfeale and 1 in Athea.*
- (b) 1 unit vacant since July 22, other 5 units vacant since 2023.*
- (c) Units returned by tenant and refurbishment works required.*
- (d) Works on unit vacant since July 22 are completed and allocation in progress. Other units will be completed under 2024 Refurbishment Programme/SHIP Renew.*

9. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting when will renewal of pedestrian crossing and new lining of road in Monagea take place.

REPLY: The line marking company has been contacted and will be completed on the next available date.

10. Question submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will ask at the next Meeting when will pedestrian crossing works at Feenagh be completed including ramps and lighting.

REPLY: The majority of the works are complete. The final requirement is the ESB connection and we are working with them to expedite the process.

11. Question submitted by Councillor F. Foley

I will ask at the next Meeting can funding be secured for safety improvement works at Lyons Cross, Kilmorna Road, Abbeyfeale.

REPLY: As part of the Municipal District Works for 2024 safety improvement works will be considered under a Low Cost Safety Scheme or GMA funding. In the meantime signage and road markings will be improved.

12. Question submitted by Councillor F. Foley

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the Tournafulla village overlay scheme, which is due to be completed as part of the 2024 roads programme.

REPLY: This will be incorporated into the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2024.

13. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting how many EV Charging points exist in this Municipality as well as where are they located?

REPLY:

There are EV chargers at six locations in the Newcastle West Municipal District. These include:

1	Tesco, Newcastle West
2	Centra Service Station, Newcastle West
3	Longcourt Hotel, Newcastle West
4	Church Street, Newcastle West
5	Tesco, Abbeyfeale
6	Grove Crescent, Abbeyfeale

14. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when footpath renewal is due to occur at the village approach to and within Castlemahon Cemetery.

REPLY: Footpath replacement works are due to commence within the first quarter of 2024 at Castlemahon Graveyard.

NOTICES OF MOTION

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that a speed survey be carried out in Mountcollins village and that necessary measures be put in place to slow down traffic passing the village.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

REPLY: A speed survey will be carried out in Mountcollins Village within the next month.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin referred to speeding through the village of Mountcollins and to the provision of footpaths on the western side of the village. Following a brief discussion, Councillor Galvin requested that traffic calming measures, signage and lighting be put in place in the village.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that the byelaws be reviewed with regard to residential parking in the Newcastle West Municipal District.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

REPLY: As this request is a change of Council policy with regard to residential parking in the Newcastle West Municipal District, it should be referred to the Travel and Transportation SPC for consideration.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin requested that the byelaws be reviewed and that more than one residential parking permit per household should be allowed under the Terms of the Scheme. Reference was also made to safety of residents when having only one permit per household.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would refer this Notice of Motion to the Travel and Transportation SPC for consideration.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will move at the next Meeting when will the Council engage with TII to provide funding to repair the sunken road on the N21 at South Quay, from Cleary's bar, Newcastle West.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council will carry out a survey under the GEO App and forward to TII for inclusion under the Minor Maintenance Pavement Programme.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ruddle expressed dissatisfaction at the sunken condition of the road at South Quay, Newcastle West and following a lengthy discussion on a number of roads matters it was agreed that the Senior Executive Engineer would liaise with the relevant Directorate with regard to securing funding from Transport Infrastructure Ireland and that the Roads Engineer would seek a record of all N21 Geo App applications made over the last number of years to Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Ruddle

I will move at the next Meeting that the Council consider extra safety measures on the R522, as you enter Dromcollogher from Newcastle West. Could raised platforms, additional signage and road markings be considered.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY: All traffic calming schemes will be subject to the new traffic calming policy that is currently with the Transportation SPC for adoption.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ruddle referred to the speed of traffic on the approach to Dromcollogher and requested that traffic calming measures be put in place to slow traffic down at this location. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would seek an update on when the Traffic Calming Policy is to be adopted by Limerick City and County Council.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that the centre lining along the road between Moanroe and Broadford be renewed and upgraded.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin

REPLY: Road markings will be renewed and upgraded at this location as soon as practical. The relevant contractor has been contacted.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan requested that the centre lining of the road be renewed between Moanroe and Broadford in the interest of safety.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that the charge for residential parking permits in Newcastle West be brought in line with the rate which applies to residents of Limerick city.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

REPLY: As this request is a change of Council policy with regard to residential parking in the Newcastle West Municipal District, it should be referred to the Travel and Transportation SPC for consideration.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan requested that the charge for residential parking permits in Newcastle West be brought into line with the charge which is currently in place for residents in Limerick City. Reference was also made to allowing more than one residential parking permit per household in the interest of safety of residents in the District.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would refer this Notice of Motion to the Travel and Transportation SPC for consideration.

The following items were also raised.

An update was sought on speeding in the village of Knockaderry and in replying the Senior Executive Engineer referred to the speed surveys which have been carried out in the village and to the Traffic Calming Policy which is being brought to the Mobility and Transportation SPC.

Reference was made to various issues surrounding the use of IT equipment and in replying, the Director agreed to liaise with the relevant Directorate on this matter.

An update was sought on the issue of speeding on the R523 from The Pike in Ardagh to the Kerry bounds and the use of spot speed cameras in the District. In replying, the Meetings Administrator stated that a representative from the relevant Directorate has been invited to attend the March Meeting to discuss this matter.

Reference was made to the current practice for completion of the Housing Public Representative Nomination form and if an electronic format for submission could be put in place.

An update was sought on the feasibility study which was submitted to Transport Infrastructure Ireland recommending a staggered junction to be constructed on the N21 at Devon Cross, Templeglantine.

The pedestrian access to the Greenway at the bridge in Ballaghbehy was raised and if a handrail could be put in place to assist users of the Greenway at this location. In replying, the Director stated that he would revert to the Senior Executive Engineer on this matter.

Reference was made to the ongoing issue of various street lights not working in the District and to the public lighting services which were due to commence in Daar River View, Newcastle West in Quarter 1 2024. In replying, the Meetings Administrator stated that a representative from the relevant Directorate has been invited to attend the March Meeting to discuss this matter.

The repair of manhole covers in New Street, Abbeyfeale, outside the Pharmacy on the Killarney Road and in front of the National School in Abbeyfeale was raised. In replying, the

Senior Executive Engineer stated that there are two projects commencing in the Abbeyfeale area shortly and a substantial number of these manhole covers will be addressed when these works are carried out.

It was agreed to hold the March Meeting of the District on Tuesday, 5th March, 2024, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

It was also agreed that the Meetings Administrator would arrange a date for the holding of a Meeting of the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) Sub Committee.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated: