

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, 14TH MAY, 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), A/Senior Executive Officer, Traveller Accommodation Unit (Ms. P. Phillips), Executive Engineer, Traveller Accommodation Unit (Mr. J. Butler), Biodiversity Officer, Environment and Climate Action (Ms. S. McDonnell), Senior Executive Engineer, Environment and Climate Action (Ms. A. Mellett), Senior Executive Engineer, Environment and Climate Action (Ms. C. Lynch), Administrative Officer, Housing Support Services (Mr. S. Hayes), Senior Executive Scientist, Environment Strategy (Mr. C. Brodie), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Lenihan).

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 8th April, 2024.

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 Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 9th April, 2024.

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

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

Councillor Sheahan raised the matter of Askeaton Swimming Pool and misinformation regarding the proposed upgrade works and completion date of same which had been circulated in the Askeaton area.

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 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 22nd March, 2024 setting out proposals for the disposal of Freehold Interest in property at 9 Boherbue, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick and the intention to bring the Section 183 Notice to Full Council for approval.

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

4. Housing Support Services

Hillview Halting Site, Rathkeale

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Patricia Phillips, A/Senior Executive Officer, Traveller Accommodation Unit and Jamie Butler, Executive Engineer, Traveller Accommodation Unit to the Meeting.

A presentation was given to Members in relation to proposed plans to upgrade Hillview Halting Site in Rathkeale, which includes:

- Demolition and removal of existing welfare units.
- Installation of 11 new welfare units.
- Increase bay sizes to improve fire safety standards.
- Increase height and install new fencing on top of Northern boundary wall.
- Install new meter boxes in each bay.
- Upgrade boundary walls between and around bays.
- Survey existing foul and surface water systems and upgrade where required.
- Upgrade access road with new tarmacadam surface.

Councillor Keary suggested, in view of the costs outlined to Members to upgrade the current site, consideration be given to small housing units as an alternative which would have a longer lifespan.

The A/Senior Executive Office, Traveller Accommodation Unit replied saying the funding is provided by the Traveller Accommodation Programme for Traveller-specific accommodation such as halting site accommodation and in agreement with the current tenants in Hillview Halting Site. The A/Senior Executive Officer, Traveller Accommodation

Unit concluded the proposed development may go to Part 8 Planning in the coming weeks and her Department would revert to Members for approval.

5. Environment Strategy

Tree Strategy for Limerick City and County Council

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Scientist, Environment Strategy and enclosed Limerick City and County Tree Policy 2024 – 2030 setting out details of Limerick City and County Council's responsibility for the planting, maintenance and management of a large number of trees in public spaces in the City and County.

A presentation was given to Members on the framework to inform and support decisions made by Limerick City and County Council on the management and development of a sustainable tree population in the City and County.

Following the presentation and discussion Members thanked Cathal Brodie, Senior Executive Scientist, Environment Strategy and his Department for their presentation.

6. Environment and Climate Action

Limerick Biodiversity Action Plan

Circulated, report setting out details of the process of drafting the Limerick City and County Council Biodiversity Action Plan 2024/5 – 2030.

The Biodiversity Officer, Environment and Climate Action gave Members a presentation in relation to the aim of the discussion paper and a provisional time frame to draft the Limerick City and County Council Biodiversity Action Plan.

Following the presentation and discussion Members thanked Sinead McDonnell, Biodiversity Officer, Environment and Climate Action and her Department for their presentation.

At this point of the Meeting Councillor Teskey requested a five minute adjournment to speak with his fellow Councillors. On the resumption of the Meeting it was agreed Item 8 on the Agenda would be taken next.

8. Grass Cutting in Green Areas and Housing Estates in Rathkeale Town

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Carmel Lynch, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment and Climate Action to the Meeting.

Following discussion on grass cutting in Rathkeale, the following issues were raised by Members:

- Councillor Teskey stated St. Mary's Park, Rathkeale green area is neglected and also requires weed spraying. The Senior Executive Engineer, Environment and Climate Action agreed to look into the grass cutting rotas for this estate and further advised the Rathkeale Area Office are responsible for weed spraying.
- Councillor O'Donoghue stated grass growing in Housing Estates is causing issues for people with pollen allergies. The Senior Executive Engineer, Environment and Climate Action advised only selected green areas of Housing Estates are not being cut at the present time.

7. Illegal dumping in Rathkeale Town

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Arlene Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment and Climate Action to the Meeting.

The following issues were raised by Members:

- Councillor Teskey asked if CCTV can be put in at the burial ground in Rathkeale. The Senior Executive Engineer, Environment and Climate Action advised Shane O'Doherty and Brian Henry are aware of issues at this burial ground and looking to resolve the issues highlighted by Councillor Teskey. Councillor Teskey requested the Environment Department communicate with Alan Dooley, Head Of Information Systems – Digital to secure CCTV for this burial ground.
- Councillor Teskey expressed concern at the level of illegal dumping on Roches Road, Rathkeale. The Senior Executive Engineer for Environment and Climate Action acknowledged the issue, noting that inspections of the site had been conducted and subsequent actions are being taken. She emphasised that they are required to adhere to legislative procedures.

9. Roads, Traffic and Cleansing

District Engineers Report

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing dated 14th May, 2024 outlining details of proposed works, projects and future projects planned for the District.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

10. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

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

- €1,000 to Adare Soccer Club.

- €1,500 to Ballyhahill Development Association.
- €1,000 to Shanagolden Community Council.
- €1,500 to Pallaskenry Senior Citizens.
- €1,500 to Ballyhahill Community Centre.
- €1,000 to West Limerick 102 Radio.
- €1,000 to Rathkeale Boxing Club.
- €1,000 to Shanid and District Womens Shed.

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

- €5,000 to Croagh Kilfinny GAA Club.
- €2,000 to St. Senan's GAA Club.
- €2,000 to Our Lady's Abbey National School, Adare.
- €2,000 to Kilfinny National School.
- €3,000 to Croagh National School.
- €2,000 to Ballingarry AFC.
- €2,000 to Coolcappa Community Council.
- €2,000 to Kilcornan National School.
- €3,000 to Rathkeale Butterfly Club.
- €2,000 to Croagh Kilfinny Community Games.
- €2,000 to Pallaskenry Community Council.
- €446 to Rathkeale Roads Maintenance.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Keary it was agreed to allocate €38,000 to Askeaton Civic Trust, €5,000 from 2023 GMA funding and €33,000 from 2024 GMA funding.

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

- €1,500 to Pallaskenry Senior Citizens.
- €4,500 to Pallaskenry National School.
- €4,000 to Killurach Burial Ground, Pallaskenry.
- €9,500 to Works to be carried out at Ringmoylan Pier.

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

- €1,000 to Ballyhahill 150.
- €700 to Cappagh LGFA U12's.
- €3,000 to Rathkeale Soccer Club.
- €3,000 to Ratheale GAA Club.
- €500 to Rathkeale Music Club.
- €600 to Kilcornan Soccer Club.

- €500 to Rathkeale Scout Group 3rd Limerick.

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

- €5,000 to Granagh Ballingarry GAA Club.
- €1,000 to Granagh Ballingarry Camogie Club.
- €3,000 to Manister Community Centre.
- €1,000 to Ballyneety Mens Shed.
- €1,000 to Rathkeale Mens Shed.

QUESTIONS

11. Question submitted by Councillor A. Teskey

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the footpath to the Beer Garden in Kildimo.

Reply: Due to the available verge and road widths the culvert must be widened to accommodate the proposed footpath.
Extending the culvert will require a Section 50 application to be accepted by the OPW. This paperwork is currently with them for review.
Limerick City and County Council has drafted tender documents to progress procurement of a Consultant to complete the detailed design of the scheme including the culvert extension and safety barrier design.

Limerick City and County Council are awaiting approval from TII to progress procurement of Consultants for the Scheme.

12. Question submitted by Councillor A. Teskey

I will ask at the next meeting that this District write to Traffic Infrastructure Ireland to carry out immediate maintenance works at the traffic calming in Croagh.

Reply: District office will submit a Geoapp Application to TII for funding to undertake maintenance works along the N21 Traffic Calming at Croagh.

13. Question submitted by Councillor B. Collins

I will ask at the next Meeting how many claims have been lodged against Limerick City and County Council since 2019 for tyre damage due to potholes and has the number of claims been lodged in 2023-2024 increased compared with previous years. How many of these claims have been settled to date since 2019 and what is the total cost of compensation paid out by Limerick City and County Council to date for car damage due to potholes or poor road surface.

Reply: The table below sets out the number of total claims lodged, which is all material damage and claims for tyre damage due to potholes etc. The number of claims settled and total amount of compensation paid between 2019-2024 to date.

It should be noted that not all claims received are a matter for Limerick City & County Council and following investigation may be passed to an appropriate Third Party, eg. utility company, contractor etc.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Claims lodged	103	139	73	71	198	112	
Claims have been settled to date since 2019	46	94	39	28	52	26	
Total cost of compensation paid out	€6819.63	€15,143.15	€7,377.03	€6,002.12	€7,942.63	€3,345.24	€46,629.80

NOTICES OF MOTION

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor A. Teskey

I will move at the next Meeting that this District write to Uisce Éireann to ask are there any proposed plans to upgrade the sewage treatment plant in Croagh.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Teskey, seconded by Councillor O'Brien and agreed.

Reply: Croagh Wastewater Treatment Plant is not in Uisce Éireann's current investment plan RC3 (2019 -2024).

It will however be considered for inclusion when planning future investment cycles, having regard to national prioritisation and available funding.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor A. Teskey

I move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council carry out a safety audit at Kilfinny Cross with a view to making it safer for pedestrians.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Teskey, seconded by Councillor O'Brien and agreed.

Reply: The Council are currently carrying out Traffic Surveys and examining options at Kilfinny Cross with a view to preparing a Preliminary Design and Safety Audit which will form the basis for a future Funding application.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. O'Donoghue

I will move at the next Meeting that an audit of all Housing Estates in the Adare-Rathkeale District be conducted to include parking spaces footpaths and open spaces. The purpose of the audit is to ensure the safety of every person living in, working or visiting these estates.

Councillor O'Donoghue advised he wished to amend his Notice of Motion as follows:
I will move at the next Meeting that we write to the relevant Government Departments for the establishment of a fund for the rehabilitation of our older housing estates. This fund to be used for the upgrade of footpaths and open spaces and to include extra parking spaces if required. This funding is required for the safety of every person living in, working or visiting these estates.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor O'Donoghue, seconded by Councillor Teskey and agreed.

In proposing the Motion Councillor O'Donoghue stated the current footpaths in housing estates are not wide enough and as the Roads Department cannot fund upgrade works funding from Government is needed.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor K. Sheahan (to be referred to Full Council)

I will move at the next Meeting if a recipient of carers allowance is living with elderly parents who are in receipt of the old age pension their carers allowance adds to the rent of the social house they are living in.

I believe that this should be addressed by the Elected Members and the extra charge on the rent account that is now incurred should be removed as I consider this to be unfair and unjust.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Sheahan, seconded by Councillor Keary and agreed.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Sheahan stated his Motion would have to be referred to the next Full Meeting of Limerick City and County Council, recommending a policy change to the calculation of social housing rents at the next estimates Meeting.

Councillor Sheahan is calling for the removal of Carers Allowance when calculating the weekly rent for all Council tenants.

18. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

19. A.O.B

- Councillor Keary stated his disappointment that a member of An Garda Síochána had not attended the Meeting to discuss traffic speeding at various locations in the District.
- Councillor Teskey thanked his fellow Councillors and the Executive for their co-operation in working together over the past five years. He wished outgoing Councillor Sheahan and Councillor O'Brien well for the future.
- Councillor O'Brien wished Members running for re-election well in the upcoming June elections. Councillor Sheahan concurred with Councillor O'Briens sentiments.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____