

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF
ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN ÁRAS SEÁN FINN, NEW LINE ROAD, RATHKEALE, CO.
LIMERICK AND ONLINE ON TUESDAY, 8TH OCTOBER, 2024 AT 9.30 A.M.**

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Collins, Hartigan, Keary, O'Donoghue and Ward.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director Rural, Community and Culture Development (Mr. S. Duclot), Meetings Administrator (Ms. K. Butler), Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. J. O'Keeffe), Senior Executive Engineer, Environment and Climate Action (Ms. A. Mellett), Senior Executive Engineer Limerick Clare Energy Agency, Environment and Climate Action (Mr. C. McDonagh), A/Senior Executive Officer, Housing Support Services (Ms. P. Phillips), Assistant Engineer, Housing Support Services (Mr. S. Neylon), Executive Engineer, Active Travel (Mr. J. O'Callaghan), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Lenihan).

APOLOGIES:

Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. G. O'Connor).

1. Adoption of Minutes

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

Proposed by Councillor Keary;
Seconded by Councillor Ward;
And Resolved:

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

Following the adoption of the Minutes, Councillor Teskey referred to the proposed renovation of the Adare Heritage Centre. Discussion ensued and Members requested a comprehensive report should be given in advance of the consideration of the Part VIII proposal for this project.

Councillor Collins referred to the allocation of the Development Fund towards the renovation of the village hall in Adare. Councillor Collins requested the Executive follow up on release of this Development Fund contribution to enable the much needed works to proceed on the village hall in Adare.

Councillor Keary raised concerns in relation to an issue which arose in Asgard Cove, Loughill with a farmer spreading slurry in the green area of the estate. Members had

reported their concerns to the Environment Department in Limerick City and County Council and asked for an update on how this matter was being addressed.

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 24th September, 2024 setting out proposals for the disposal of Freehold Interest in property at Toureen, Croom, Co. Limerick and the intention to bring the Section 183 Notice to Full Council for approval.

The report, as circulated, was proposed by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue and agreed.

4. Housing Support Service

Part 8 Procedure – 11 Lismakeera, Askeaton, Co. Limerick

Circulated, report of the Director of Services, Planning, Environment and Place Making dated the 22nd August, 2024 and Mayor's report dated 25th September, 2024 setting out details in relation to the development at No. 11 Lismakeera, Askeaton, Co. Limerick. The report had been prepared in accordance with Section 179 3(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and noted that it was proposed to proceed in accordance with Section 8 of the report.

Patricia Phillips, A/Senior Executive Officer, Housing Support Services and Shane Neylon, Assistant Engineer, Housing Support Services gave Members a presentation on the proposed development of 11 Lismakeera, Askeaton which includes the construction of a 46.73 square metres two bedroom extension and all ancillary site development works.

Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor O'Donoghue, seconded by Councillor Teskey and agreed to defer this item to a future Municipal District Meeting.

5. Environment and Climate Action

Gortadroma Landfill

Arlene Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment and Climate Action and Conor McDonagh, Senior Executive Engineer, Limerick Clare Energy Agency, Environment and

Climate Action gave Members a presentation on maximising potential future usage of Gortadroma Landfill.

The Senior Executive Engineer, Limerick Clare Energy Agency advised there is an existing water-to-energy enterprise in operation in Gortadroma whereby waste gas is used to generate electricity. However, financial support provided under a renewable energy support scheme ceased in June 2024 and as gas is becoming non-viable due to its diminishing volumes it was agreed that proposals should be sought to explore innovative and cost-effective options available in the marketplace to utilise undeveloped areas of the former landfill site. This process would involve an expression of interest being advertised in Q4 2024 whereby interested parties would be invited to submit proposals for the future usage of the facility. Any proposal submitted would be subject to a briefing to the Elected Members as well as a public consultation advising them of the outcome and how the process will proceed.

Members thanked Ms. Mellett and Mr. McDonagh for their presentation. Discussion ensued among Members and the following issues were raised:

- Councillor Teskey queried if the site could be sold privately. The Senior Executive Engineer, Environment and Climate Action advised this is not possible due to a 20 year licence agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency for the site.
- Councillor O'Donoghue queried what other European Union countries had done with similar sites. The Senior Executive Engineer, Environment and Climate Action advised some countries had turned their sites into parks or solar farms among other things.

6. Active Travel

Bus Shelter Enabling Works

John O'Callaghan, Executive Engineer, Active Travel gave Members a presentation on the installation of new bus shelters at Ballyneety and Shanagolden saying. In Ballyneety the new bus shelter is proposed to be relocated from its current position. In order to facilitate this installation it is proposed to increase the width of the existing footpath by 800mm and minor modifications to the exiting road centreline will also be required.

In Shanagolden the new bus shelter is proposed to be located at its current position in the village. In order to facilitate this installation it is proposed to increase the width of the existing footpath by 200mm and minor modifications to the exiting road centreline will also be required.

Members thanked the Executive Engineer, Active Travel for his presentation. Discussion ensued in relation to the issue of buses stopping on the public road. Councillor O'Donoghue queried if the stop could be moved into the green area and off road. The

Executive Engineer, Active Travel advised the green area is privately owned and it would not be cost effective to re-locate the bus stop to this area. He further added a safety audit had been carried out and it had concluded it would not pose a danger to road users if the bus stop were to be located on the public road.

Councillor Teskey also raised the issue of some Bus Éireann buses not turning up as per the schedule as listed in Rathkeale Town. Councillor Hartigan added there is also an issue with the 314 bus route at Barrigone, Askeaton and has been told the driver can be very abusive to passengers. The Executive Engineer, Active Travel advised Members to forward details of both routes and he would have the issues investigated with the Head of Service Delivery in Bus Éireann. Councillor Keary asked if the Executive Engineer, Active Travel could contact Dublin Coach with a view to introducing a bus route at the Palatine Museum in Rathkeale as it would greatly benefit students travelling to University of Limerick. The Executive Engineer, Active Travel agreed to examine this proposal in conjunction with representatives of Dublin Coach.

7. Roads, Traffic and Cleansing

District Engineers Report

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing dated 8th October, 2024 outlining details of proposed works, projects and future projects planned for the District.

Following discussion the following issues were raised by Members:

- Councillor Teskey expressed his thanks to the outdoor staff for their maintenance of potholes on the Districts roads and queried what the position in the District was with a velocity patcher at the moment. The Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised there is one patching unit that rotates between the West and East of the District every two weeks. There are currently no funds to purchase a second unit and the respective crews will continue to patch with the velocity patcher and top up with the roads crew.
- Councillor Teskey queried if there is a programme in place to resurface the junction to the National School in Rathkeale. The Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised he is currently in the process of putting together a five year programme for all Regional Roads in the Adare Rathkeale Municipal District.
- Councillor Teskey also queried if footpath rehabilitation works could be carried out at Coláiste na Trócaire, Rathkeale. The Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised there is currently no budget in the District for footpath rehabilitation works and an application would need to be made to the Active Travel Department for consideration.

- Councillor Keary raised the issue of street furniture on the footpath outside Chawke's Bar in Adare which is obstructing traffic. The Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised Planning Enforcement completed a survey on the street scape in Adare recently as there had been a number of issues referred to them regarding this matter.
- Councillor Keary also raised the issue of cars parking on the footpaths in Ballyhahill which is obstructing wheelchair users from using same. The Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised he would refer this issue to Garda Enforcement.

8. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

It was noted that no new allocations under the General Municipal Allocation (GMA) were currently proposed.

9. Correspondence

Correspondence was noted and taken as read.

10. A.O.B

- Councillor Teskey queried when the timber structure in front of Dr. Curtin's office on Main Street, Rathkeale would be removed. The Meetings Administrator agreed to follow up with the Planning Enforcement team and revert in due course.
- Councillor Teskey also queried when the timber structure next to the Spar supermarket on Main Street, Rathkeale would be removed. The Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised the building next to the supermarket was at a high risk of collapsing and advised the Environment Section were dealing with this matter. Councillor Keary suggested the Health and Safety Authority should carry out an audit of Rathkeale Town.
- Councillor Teskey advised the Meetings Administrator he would revert with a date for previous proposed Civic Receptions in the near future.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____