

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ADARE-RATHKEALE HELD IN ASKEATON CIVIC TRUST OFFICE, EAST SQUARE, ASKEATON, CO. LIMERICK ON TUESDAY, 10TH DECEMBER, 2024 AT 10.00 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, Culture and Tourism 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), Deputy Chief Executive (Mr. G. Daly), Chief Executive Officer, Discover Limerick DAC (Ms. E. Donohue), Senior Project Manager, Discover Limerick DAC (Mr. B. Lynch), Rathkeale Development Officer (Mr. S. O'Doherty), Administrative Officer, Property Management (Ms. T. Knox), A/Senior Executive Planner, Forward Planning, Public Realm & Heritage (Ms. C. Brislane), Executive Planner, Forward Planning, Public Realm & Heritage (Ms. N. O'Connell), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Lenihan).

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 12th November, 2024.

Proposed by Councillor Hartigan;
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, 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.

Councillor Collins advised board members of her membership of the board of Discover Limerick DAC.

It was noted as Councillor Collins is a nominee on this Council owned DAC she did not have a pecuniary or beneficial interest in the Part VIII proposed remodelling and extension of the Adare Heritage Centre.

3. Disposal of Land

Circulated, report of the Head of Property Management dated 27th November, 2024 setting out proposals for the disposal of Property, acquired compulsorily under the Derelict Sites Act, 1990 at Brewery Lane, Askeaton, 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 Hartigan and agreed.

4. Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism Development

Part VIII – Proposed Remodelling and Extension of the Adare Heritage Centre

Circulated, report of the Director General dated the 4th December, 2024 setting out details in respect of the proposed Remodelling and Extension of the Adare Heritage Centre in accordance with Section 179(3) (a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 – 2015 and Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 – 2015.

The Senior Project Manager, B. Lynch, Discover Limerick DAC gave Members a presentation on the proposed works to be carried out to upgrade and refurbish the Adare Heritage Centre.

Discussion ensued in relation to the costs associated with the overall project proposal. The Deputy Chief Executive, G. Daly, advised Members the Part VIII report before Members was to approve the planning aspect of the proposal and added the financial aspect of the project needed to be separated and a Private Workshop would be arranged to discuss this matter separately.

Following discussion it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow Members have a private discussion on the matter.

On resumption of the Meeting, the report, as circulated, was proposed by Councillor Collins and seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue. Councillor Teskey counter proposed the item be referred to An Bord Pleanála for adjudication, this proposal was seconded by Councillor Keary. The Director, Rural, Community, Culture and Tourism Development advised Members the legislation states a Part VIII planning application on behalf of a Local Authority cannot be referred to An Bord Pleanála, it is either amended or rejected by the Elected Members.

Following discussion Councillor Teskey proposed the project to upgrade the Heritage Centre go ahead subject to a maximum cost of ten million euro, the costs originally advised for the project. This was seconded by Councillor Keary, however, the Deputy Chief Executive advised that it was not possible to insert this caveat on the proposal.

Councillor Keary proposed to suspend Standing Orders in order to speak with Councillor Teskey on the matter. This was seconded by Councillor Teskey and agreed. On resumption of the Meeting Councillor Teskey requested the following statement be read into the Minutes of the Meeting:

“We the Fine Gael Councillors wish to state in writing that we are not against the refurbishment works proposed for the Adare Heritage Centre. Initially these works were costed to be in the region of eight to ten million euro but at today’s meeting dated the 10th December, 2024 we were asked to vote on a Part 8 application costing between eighteen and twenty million euro of tax payers money. We are not prepared to accept this excessive level of proposed expenditure on the tax payer. We further wish to note that we lobbied for more balanced and equal spending of money in the Adare-Rathkeale area.

Signed: Adam Teskey & Stephen Keary”

Proposed by Councillor Collins;
Seconded by Councillor O’Donoghue;
And Resolved:

“That the Part VIII in relation to the Remodelling and Extension of the Adare Heritage Centre at Main Street, Adare, Co. Limerick be approved in accordance with Section 179 (3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part VIII of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)”.

5. Forward Planning and Public Realm

Croom Local Area Plan 2020 – 2026

Circulated, report of the Mayor of Limerick dated the 29th November, 2024 setting out details in respect of the proposal to extend the life of the Croom Local Area Plan 2020 – 2026 in accordance with Section 19(1)(d) to defer the sending of notices under Section 20(3)(a)(i) and the publishing of notices under Section 20(3)(a)(ii) for the Croom Local Area Plan for a further period of 4 years and thereby extending the duration of the Local Area Plan.

Proposed by Councillor O’Donoghue;
Seconded by Councillor Hartigan;
And Resolved:

“To extend the duration of the Croom Local Area Plan 2020 – 2026 for a further period of four years, in accordance with the Mayor’s Report dated 29th November, 2024 and Section 19 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)”.

6. Roads, Traffic and Cleansing

District Engineers Report

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing dated 10th December, 2024 outlining details of proposed works, projects and future projects planned for the District.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

Councillor Teskey expressed his gratitude to all the Roads outdoor staff for their hard work especially during the recent storm and wished all a Happy Christmas.

7. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

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

8. Deputation from Askeaton Civic Trust, Tourist Office and Genealogy Centre

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Kevin Sheahan and Ms. Carmel Ryan, representatives from Askeaton Civic Trust, Tourist Office and Genealogy Centre to the Meeting.

Mr. Sheahan addressed the Meeting and thanked Members for accepting his invitation to convene their December Monthly Meeting in the Civic Trust Office, Askeaton. He outlined the great work done to date by the Members of the Askeaton Civic Trust and outlined some of the plans for promoting the Castle, Franciscan Friary, Celtic Fort and the town of Askeaton in general as a tourist attraction due to it being the oldest town in County Limerick.

Ms. Ryan further added the Askeaton Civic Trust wish to have a plaque erected on the bridge in Askeaton to honour the memory of local hero Paddy O'Neill as well as a historical sign outside the cottage in Brewery Lane and asked Members for their support on these proposals.

Members thanked the delegation for facilitating their Meeting and for their hospitality in hosting the District Meeting in Askeaton. Councillor Teskey and Councillor Ward agreed to allocate €2,000 from their 2025 General Municipal Allocation to Askeaton Civic Trust. The delegation then withdrew from the Meeting.

9. A.O.B

- Councillor O'Donoghue expressed concern in relation to the new Housing Aid for Older People grant scheme, which will no longer grant aid oil or gas boiler replacement. The Meetings Administrator advised the Department of Housing,

Local Government and Heritage guidelines are to provide funding for the repairs of oil or gas boilers, the grant system will no longer provide for boiler replacement with effect from the 1/1/2025.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____