

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN
ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST,
CO. LIMERICK, AND ONLINE ON FRIDAY, 6TH DECEMBER,
2024, AT 2 P.M.**

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR: Councillor L. Galvin, Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Collins, Foley, Ruddle, Scanlan and Sheahan.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director, Planning and Place-Making (Mr. V. Murray), Meetings Administrator, Newcastle West (Ms. H. Supple), Senior Executive Engineer, Newcastle West Municipal District (Mr. J. Sheehan), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services, Governance and Customer Services (Ms. V. Kelly), Senior Executive Engineer, Housing Maintenance (Mr. B. Bourke), Head of Property and Community Facilities (Ms. J. Leahy), Staff Officer, Property Services (Ms. D. Ruth), Executive Engineer, Housing, Newcastle West (Mr. D. Toomey), Assistant Staff Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. E. Kelly).

APOLOGIES

Executive Engineer, Roads, Newcastle West (Mr. P. Vallely).
Clerical Officer, Newcastle West (Ms. A. Lenihan).

At the outset of the Meeting, Councillor Galvin welcomed everyone in attendance to the December Meeting of the District.

1. Adoption of Minutes

(a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 6th November, 2024.

Proposed by: Councillor Collins
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 Administrative Officer, Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism Development Directorate, dated 21st November, 2024, concerning proposal to dispose of property at Kerry Road, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick.

Following a brief discussion, Councillor Galvin stated that there is a derelict property adjacent to this property. In replying, Staff Officer, Property Services stated that there is developer interested in this property and it is a private sale.

Members noted the proposal.

4. Housing Directorate

To Discuss Housing Maintenance Budget for the District.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the Senior Executive Engineer, Housing Maintenance, to the Meeting. He outlined the Housing Maintenance Organisational Chart and gave statistics on the number of cases created and closed in Customer Services for Newcastle West Municipal District. He outlined that the budget for maintenance has significantly increased every year due to material costs, increased housing stock numbers, increased output and compliance with Regulations. He also outlined the number of inspections carried out in the Newcastle West District in terms of housing grants.

The Councillors discussed the need for efficiencies with the housing maintenance budget and looked for a breakdown of where the budget is being spent. The use of private contractors was also discussed. The Executive Engineer, Housing informed the Members that the Newcastle West Municipal District has a very skilled workforce on the ground and therefore a lot of work is done by Council staff. Councillor Foley welcomed the initiative in the replacement of doors in Collins Park, Abbeyfeale.

The Councillors welcomed the new housing grant scheme. However, concern was expressed over the decision not to fund oil boilers. A brief discussion took place and following discussion it was agreed by all the Members that the Director would write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage with regard to this matter.

5. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €10,000 to Dromcollogher Respite Centre.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €6,000 to Feohanagh/Castlemahon Resource Centre.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €1,500 to Newcastle West Indian Cultural Association.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Housing Maintenance.

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Noonan Christmas Lights.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Gaelscoil O'Doghair.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scanlan, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 to Courteney Boys School.

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 M. Collins

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the provision of a new playground in Newcastle West.

REPLY: The Council has appointed Consultants for the upgrade and extension to Newcastle West playground. A meeting was held with the Consultants on the 20th November in relation to the project and we await their programme to deliver the project. The Council will be engaging with the community on the requirements for the project. It is intended that this consultation will be held in January 2025.

The Council wishes to advise that there is only funding in place for the Consultants fees. The Council are exploring all avenues for funding the construction of the playground.

ADJOURNED NOTICE OF MOTION

7. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan.

I will move at the next Meeting that traffic flow along Nash's Lane, Newcastle West, be reviewed in the interest of safety.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council can review the need for a bollard at the top of Nash's Lane to prevent traffic entering Nash's Lane from The Square, would that be acceptable to the community.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan stated that it is not safe. Councillor Collins stated that the residents should be contacted in relation to the matter. The Senior Executive Engineer agreed that each resident would be given a key for the bollard and this was agreed by the councillors.

NOTICES OF MOTION

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that proper traffic calming measures including upgraded footpaths, ramps and lighting be installed at Feohanagh Village. The village has had no investment or work done in many years.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

REPLY: Through NTA funding it is the intention of the Roads Section to carry out footpath, drainage and public lighting works during 2025. With regard to the placement of ramps, an application will be made for such works and this will have to comply with the Traffic Calming Policy 2024.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Collins expressed urgency in having traffic calming measures in place in Feohanagh Village.

The following items were also raised.

The Cathaoirleach acknowledged the great service of the Council staff and Fire Service in dealing with the recent flooding in Abbeyfeale.

An update was sought on the clean-up of Oakpark estate, Newcastle West. In replying, Senior Executive Engineer agreed to give an update on the issue at the January meeting.

The Cathaoirleach asked if a representative from Roads, Housing and Planning would come together to address the issues in Collins Park, Abbeyfeale.

A request was made to have speed ramps installed in Radharc na Feille, Pairc Luachra housing estates and St. Ita's Road, Abbeyfeale.

The Cathaoirleach wished the Members, Management and Staff a Happy Christmas and acknowledged their assistance and support during 2024. He also thanked the media for their support throughout the year.

The Director on behalf of Management and staff wished the Councillors a Happy Christmas and, acknowledged the work carried out by the Members and thanked them for their assistance during the year.

It was agreed to hold the January Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 15th January, 2025, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith O'Brien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
