

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 TUESDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY, 2025, AT 10AM.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor L. Galvin, Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Ruddle.

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

Prior to commencement of the Meeting and following discussion, it was agreed that a Special Meeting(s) of the District would take place to seek a detailed update on the following:

- (a)** Design update on the N21 Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale schemes.
- (b)** Distributor roads for Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale.
- (c)** Lack of Capacity in Sewerage Treatment Plants in the District.
- (d)** Abbeyfeale Traffic Management Plan.

The Members requested more specific information on the Distributor Roads for Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale, expenditure reports and the work carried out to date to progress these roads.

It was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would seek a date for the holding of the Special Meeting(s) to discuss these matters.

1. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West, held on 15th January, 2025.

Proposed by: Councillor Foley

Seconded by: Councillor Scanlan

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. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Galvin, it was agreed to allocate €500 to the existing GMA application for Killoughteen National School for the erection of stage and provision of lighting equipment for the 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.

4. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when footpath extensions are likely to be completed at Clooneyskehane along the R520 and R522 towards the speed limit in both instances.

REPLY: The design is expected to be completed in Q2 2025.

5. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when acceptable car parking facilities will be provided to compliment our Greenway facility off Station Road.

REPLY: It is proposed to go to tender in February 2025 for the car park at the Limerick Greenway trailhead at Station Road, Newcastle West. It is proposed that the contract will go to construction in Q3 2025.

6. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting when the footpath extension towards the Community House at Feohanagh will be commenced.

REPLY: The footpath works will likely commence in April 2025. Limerick City and County Council have engaged with landowners along the route.

NOTICES OF MOTION

It was proposed by the Cathaoirleach, that in absence of Councillor Ruddle, the Notices of Motion at Item No.s 7 and 8 on the Agenda would be deferred to the March Meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that the need for enforceable average speed control is identified and implemented on Regional Roads within our Municipal Area.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Galvin.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council do not have the authority or funding to carry out this service.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan referred to the issue of speed control and enforcement of speeding in the District, in particular the Bruff Line. A brief discussion took place on the finding of a suitable location for the placing of a Go Safe Van on the Bruff Line. Reference was also made to the speed of traffic on the Dromcollogher road towards Castlemahon Cross and to the difficulty in finding a suitable place for the Go Safe Van to park on this road.

Following discussion, the Senior Executive Engineer agreed to discuss this matter with An Garda Síochána.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that our Local Authority identify/provide a premises for a much needed Men's Shed facility in the immediate Newcastle West vicinity.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council will engage with the Property Management Department to identify suitable sites in the District.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan requested that a premises for a Men's Shed in Newcastle West be sourced in the interests of wellbeing. He stated that the Day Hospital in Newcastle West had been vacated by the HSE and if this building could be considered as a

suitable location for a Men's Shed. Councillor Scanlan also made reference to the Parish Hall as an option for a proposed location. In replying the Director stated that he would make contact with the HSE to check availability of the HSE building for use as a Men's Shed.

The following items were also raised.

The parking of abandoned cars at Bridge Street, Newcastle West and Main Street, Abbeyfeale was raised and it was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would discuss this matter with the Traffic Warden.

The Executive Engineer gave an update to the Members on the placing of bollards at the Killarney Road, Abbeyfeale, from the Town Park to the Top Shop due to unauthorised parking. Following a brief discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley, that bollards would be installed on the hard shoulder on the N21 between the Top Shop Filling Station and the Town Park in Abbeyfeale to prevent unauthorised parking on the hard shoulder and footpath.

An update was sought on the footpath extension at Clooneyskehane and in replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that a design will be in place from May 2025.

The Director gave an update to the Members on the default speed limit on rural local roads which is to reduce from 80km/h to 60km/h from Friday, 7th February, 2025. In replying, the Senior Executive Engineer stated that a review of the default speed limits when in operation may be carried out on regional roads if required.

An update was sought on traffic calming measures from Moloney's Filling Station, Killarney Road, Abbeyfeale to Dalton's Cross, Abbeyfeale.

The Members Administrator referred to a request received from a representative of Túsla, to attend a Meeting of the District to give a Presentation to the Members on Fostering and Respite Care in the Mid-West. It was agreed that a Workshop would take place on Wednesday, 5th March, 2025, at 9.30 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

It was also agreed to hold the March Meeting of the District on Wednesday, 5th March, 2025, at 10.00 a.m., at Áras William Smith OBrien.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:

