

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, 2nd SEPTEMBER, 2025 AT 10.00 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor G. Ward, An Cathaoirleach.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Service, Planning and Place-Making (Mr. V. Murray), Meetings Administrator (Ms. K. Butler), Senior Executive Engineer, Central Services (Mr. J. O'Keeffe), Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. B. Barrett), A/Senior Executive Officer, Municipal Districts (Ms. K. White), Senior Executive Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office (Mr. G. Carey), Senior Executive Scientist, Environment and Climate Action (Mr. C. Brodie), Executive Scientist, Environment and Climate Action (Mr. S. Jennings), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Lenihan).

At the outset of the Meeting it was agreed Items 2, 3 and 4 on the Agenda would be taken prior to the adoption of Minutes.

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 interest was declared.

3. Disposal of Land

Circulated, report of the Head of Property Management dated 21st August, 2025 setting out proposals for the disposal of 7.113 Acres (2.879 Hectares) of Land at Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick by way of a 35 year Lease to the Trustees of Dromore United Football Club and the intention to bring the Section 183 Notice to Full Council for approval.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

4. Environment and Climate Action

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Cathal Brodie, Senior Executive Scientist and Simon Jennings, Executive Scientist, Environment and Climate Action to the Meeting. The Executive Scientist gave Members a presentation on the wind energy policy within the Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028.

Following the presentation, Councillor Collins requested this presentation be made available for public viewing on Limerick City and County Council's website. The Director of Service, Planning and Place-Making advised that as this is not an approved policy document that it cannot be added to the website, however, it would be made available on the link for the Municipal District Meeting. Councillor Collins also requested the District write to the Department for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment requesting a date for when the 2025 Wind Energy Development Guidelines would be made available as the current guidelines have not been updated since 2019.

Councillor Teskey proposed Standing Order be suspended for five minutes to allow Brenda Dowling from Coolcappa Community Action Group speak to Members. This was seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed.

On resumption of the Meeting and following further discussion Councillor Teskey proposed a District Motion – "I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council request that any open noise wind turbines complaints and shadow flicker be referred to the Health Service Executive for proper investigation as a matter of urgency. This was seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed. Councillor Teskey further requested this Motion also be referred to the Biodiversity Strategic Policy Committee Meeting.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 8th July, 2025.

Councillor Collins referred to Item 11 A.O.B of the Minutes of the 8th July, 2025 requesting the name Eoin Collins be changed to Óran Collins.

Councillor O'Donoghue also requested an amendment to the Minutes asking consideration be given by the Mid West National Road Design Office N/M20 Project Team to allow for the inclusion of a dual carriageway on the Patrickswell to Croom section of the proposed N/M20 which would allow for the installation of extra junctions and safer road speeds.

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

“That the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read, adopted and signed subject to the amendments outlined above for amendment and inclusion on the record”.

5. Mid West National Road Design Office

M21 Adare Bypass Project

Members welcomed Ger Carey, Senior Executive Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office to the meeting. It was agreed Item 8 on the Agenda would be taken in connection with this item.

8. Question submitted by Councillor B. Collins

I will ask at the next Meeting that the Mid West National Road Design Office of Limerick City and County Council provides an update on the 3km extension of the Adare Bypass from the end of the motorway to the start of the current Bypass construction at the access junction opposite the old golf course.

The Senior Executive Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office updated Members on the current status of the M21 Adare Bypass Project. He advised that the current contractor cannot be used to complete the proposed extra 3km extension. The Council are currently pursuing other means for delivering this section of the project separately. Councillor Collins queried if there is a commitment from Government to fund these works. The Senior Executive Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office advised this section of roadway would cost approximately in the region of thirty to forty million euro to construct with currently no commitment to funding by Central Government. The Senior Executive Engineer added current indications are positive that funding will be made available and the Mid West National Road Design Office would have to make an application on this at the end of 2025. Councillor Collins requested a public statement be released by the Mid West National Road Design Office to inform the general public of this update. She further requested a site visit for Members to the Adare Bypass Project be arranged when feasible. The Senior Executive Engineer, Mid West National Road Design Office asked the Meetings Administrator to revert with numbers and a suitable date for this visit and he would arrange same.

6. Transport and Mobility Directorate

District Engineers Report

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing dated 2nd September, 2025 outlining details of proposed works, projects and future projects planned for the District.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

Members queried if a Senior Executive Engineer for the District had been appointed. The Director of Service, Planning and Place-Making informed Members he had been advised by the Human Resources Department that the appointment was imminent.

7. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

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

- €3,000 to Gerald Griffin Resource Centre.
- €5,000 to Askeaton/Ballysteen Community Council.
- €4,000 to Askeaton/Ballysteen GAA Club.

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

- €4,000 to Wood Road Residents Association, Foynes.
- €2,000 to Creeves Celtic AFC.
- €2,000 to Ballingarry AFC.

On the proposal of Councillor Teskey, seconded by Councillor Ward, it was agreed €2,000 which was nominated to Broadford Development Association at the March 2024 Municipal District Meeting be amended to Broadford Community Campus Development Ltd.

On the proposal of Councillor Ward, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed to allocate €3,000 to Pallaskenry Soccer Club.

On the proposal of Councillor Ward, seconded by Councillor Collins, it was agreed €1,000 which was nominated to Pallaskenry Playground at the May Municipal District Meeting be amended to Pallaskenry Community Council.

QUESTION

9. Question submitted by Councillor B. Collins

I will ask at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council provides an update to the Councillors at the next meeting of the Adare/Rathkeale EA on the draft proposed routes which are being considered as a solution to the current NM20 plan that is indicating that all traffic travelling from the southern or Cork direction will have to travel through the village of Patrickswell to access the Dublin (M7) motorway.

REPLY: The N/M20 Cork to Limerick Project is being developed by Limerick City and County Council in conjunction with Cork County Council and Cork City Council. The project is currently at Phase 3 Design and Environmental Evaluation. Draft design proposals for the N/M20 Cork to Limerick Project were presented to the Elected Representatives, Property Owners and the wider public with a Project Update on the 16th June 2025 as part of a non-statutory public consultation.

The N/M20 project team provided a detailed briefing on the N/M20 Cork to Limerick Project to the meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale on the 8th July 2025 which addressed the ongoing further design development for local connectivity from the M20 at Attyflin Junction.

The current proposals for the N/M20 project do not require all traffic travelling from the southern or Cork direction to travel through the village of Patrickswell to access the Dublin (M7) motorway. Traffic from Cork would continue along the proposed M20 which will merge free flow with the existing M20 at Attyflin. The request for consideration of further local connectivity at Attyflin is currently being considered by the N/M20 project team and potential options under consideration are being appraised by the various environmental and design specialists within the team.

A Special Meeting has been requested by five Elected Members to receive an update from the N/M20 Design Team on the proposed scheme and to discuss the above issue. This Special Meeting is likely to be early September and therefore it would be appropriate to address any queries regarding the above reply in person at the Special Meeting before the Elected Members given the close timeframe between the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale Meeting and the proposed Special Meeting.

NOTICES OF MOTION

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

I will move at the next Meeting that this District write to the Minister for Agriculture to improve substantially approval times in relation to the Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme grant applications.

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

In proposing the Motion Councillor O'Donoghue requested Members to support his request to write to the Minister for Agriculture as more staff are needed to improve approval times for the grant application.

Following discussion it was agreed the Meetings administrator would forward this Motion to Corporate Service for inclusion on the Agenda of the next Full Council Meeting.

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

I will move at the next Meeting that this District write to the Minister of State at the Department of Education and request that any person regardless of age be allowed to drive school buses under contract by Bus Éireann once they hold the relevant qualifications and meet the health requirements.

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

In proposing the Motion Councillor O'Donoghue highlighted that every September a seventy year old person is no longer allowed to drive a CIE bus resulting in a lack of school transportation.

Following discussion the Meetings administrator agreed to forward this Motion to Corporate Service for inclusion on the Agenda of the next Full Council Meeting.

12. A.O.B

- Councillor Teskey requested a meeting with An Garda Síochána prior to the October Municipal District Meeting to discuss policing issues in the District.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____