

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, 11th NOVEMBER, 2025 AT 10.00 A.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor G. Ward, 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, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. K. Murphy), Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing (Mr. B. Barrett), A/Senior Executive Officer, Municipal Districts (Ms. K. White), Administrative Officer, Property Management (Ms. T. Knox), Town Regeneration Officer, Rural Development (Ms. K. Burke), Town Development Officer, Rural Development (Mr. S. O'Doherty), Executive Planner, Rural Development (Ms. L. O'Carroll), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Lenihan).

1. Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 7th October, 2025.

Proposed by Councillor Teskey;

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, he 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 31st October, 2025 setting out proposals for the disposal of property by way of 25-year lease at the Courthouse, Main Street, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick to the Trustees of Rathkeale Community Council.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

4. Rural, Culture, Community and Tourism Development

Rathkeale Town Centre First Plan

Circulated, Rathkeale Town Centre First (TCF) Plan dated November 2025. The Town Regeneration Officer, Rural Development advised Members this was a non-statutory document and requested the support of Members for the plan which was produced from consultation with local community and business representatives, with the support of Limerick City and County Council.

Members commended the staff of Rural Development Department for the work they have put into compiling the plan and input into the town of Rathkeale to date. Discussion ensued in relation to dereliction in the town of Rathkeale. The Town Regeneration Officer, Rural Development advised there are measures within the plan to tackle specific derelict properties in the town and to get them back into use. Councillor Teskey asked for an update on the Ballywilliam Estate for the December Municipal District Meeting.

Further discussion ensued in relation to the funding available for the preparation of a business plan for the future use of the Bank of Ireland building in Rathkeale, Councillor Keary asked for a breakdown of where the monies would be spent on this project and asked that the proposed work be designed by in house Council staff. Councillor Teskey referred to a previous question on how many staff had been employed by Limerick City and County Council since Covid in 2020 and was still awaiting an answer to this question. Councillor O'Donoghue and Councillor Keary both asked for the cost per square foot for the refurbishment of the former Bank of Ireland in Askeaton. The Town Regeneration Officer, Rural Development advised the funding available for the Bank of Ireland, Rathkeale refurbishment will get the building through the planning process and agreed to engage with Members in relation to the future use of the building. She further added that she would revert to Members on the cost for refurbishment of the former Bank of Ireland in Askeaton.

Councillor Keary queried where funding for the Town Centre First Plan would be provided from. The Town Regeneration Officer, Rural Development advised the plan would be Government funded.

Councillor O'Donoghue asked if there was reference to the Christmas period in Rathkeale in the Town Centre First Plan. The Town Regeneration Officer, Rural

Development advised the provision of services is escalated at Christmas for all residents of Rathkeale town.

The Town Regeneration Officer, Rural Development concluded that the plan would be launched on the 19th November, 2025 in The Rathkeale House Hotel and an invitation had been extended to all District Members to attend.

5. Transportation and Mobility Directorate

District Engineers Report

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing dated 11th November, 2025 outlining details of proposed works, projects and future projects planned for the District.

- Members referred to recent road works carried out in Adare village which caused significant delays to road users and questioned why these works could not have been undertaken during off peak hours. The Senior Executive Engineer, Road, Traffic and Cleansing advised these works necessitated the use of rock breaking equipment which would have caused disruption to local residents in the locality at night time and added that the hot tar used in the works can only be provided during daytime working hours.
- Councillor Teskey requested details on works being undertaken on the Butchers Field in Rathkeale.
- Councillor Teskey asked if there was a budget in place for the provision of additional staff to carry out litter picking and street cleaning in Rathkeale during the Christmas period.
- Councillor Keary queried what works would be carried out in Ballyhahill and Kiltteery Pier following the recent funding announcement for both areas. The Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised he would look at this and revert in due course.
- Councillor O'Donoghue queried when works would be completed at Banogue GAA field to alleviate flooding. The Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing advised there was a minor alteration to the size of the existing culvert not included in the new design going out to tender shortly, however, this change will not delay the delivery of the project.

6. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Keary, seconded by Councillor Teskey, it was agreed to allocate €2,000 to Rathkeale Road Maintenance.

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

- €2,000 to Kilcornan Active Group.
- €3,500 to Rathkeale Road Maintenance.

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

- €1,000 to Muniter na Tíre.
- €2,500 to Kildimo/Pallaskenry GAA Club.

NOTICES OF MOTION

7. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor B. Collins

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council hold a Civic Reception to honour the contribution at both club and County level, of Declan Hannon on the announcement of his retirement from intercounty hurling.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Teskey and agreed.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Collins stated that this well deserved Civic Reception should be held at full Council level and it was agreed that a District Motion would be forwarded to Corporate Services for consideration.

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

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council assist or remove any dangerous or overhanging items that will potentially damage any current infrastructure along our road network.

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

In proposing the Motion Councillor O'Donoghue referred to ongoing works by utility companies installing and upgrading broadband in the county and asked Limerick City and County Council assist in the removal of overhanging trees and vegetation which are in danger of damaging the newly installed infrastructure.

Reply: It is the responsibility of the respective utility company to maintain their own infrastructure and to manage any potential risks to it.

It would not be prudent for Council staff or Sub-Contractors to work in close proximity to live services.

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

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council make provision for apprentices in every code possible within the Local Authority.

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

In proposing the Motion Councillor O'Donoghue stated that he was referring to manual trades like Plasterers, Plumbers and Electricians. Councillor Keary supported Councillor O'Donoghue's motion adding that when a staff member is due to retire or has received a promotion their replacement should be appointed to shadow them in their existing position for a minimum of six months before their departure from the role.

Reply: Over the last 2 years, the Council has engaged with FIT-FAST Access to IT programme. Following on from this, there are currently 3 ICT apprentices in the Council in Cybersecurity and Network Engineering.

The Council is engaging with TUS (Technological University of the Shannon) on the 'Access to Apprenticeship' programme. The Access to Apprenticeship (ATA) supports the transition of young people (16-24 years old) from disadvantaged backgrounds into an apprenticeship scheme. It is intended now in 2026, via this access programme, to offer a number of plumbing apprenticeships withing the Housing Maintenance Section. Existing plumbers are reassigning from Water Services to Housing Maintenance, and the opportunity is there now to utilise their skills and through further training, to have these staff act as mentors to the new apprentices.

The Council is working closely with the LCETB with the commencement of the Level 5 QQI Public Sector Administration Traineeship in January 2026. This is an initiative of the Outreach to Employment Programme, developed in partnership with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB). The Council, alongside other participating public sector employers, will be offering on the job training as part of our participation with the LCETB. The fully funded 11-month program equips participants

with the knowledge and practical skills essential for a career in office administration within the public sector. Learners will gain valuable experience in administrative support, IT and digital skills, communication, and customer service across various sections of the Council.

The Council has participated in the Accounting Technicians Ireland apprenticeship programme whereby a number of staff have been trained as Accounting Technicians.

10. A.O.B.

- Councillor Teskey requested a visit be arranged to the newly refurbished Halting Site in Rathkeale.
- Councillor Keary requested a report, for the December Municipal District Meeting, outlining when the proposed eight serviced sites for Adare village will be available to the local community for purchase as well as details of the costs to date for the overall scheme.
- Councillor Teskey requested an update on The Orchard housing scheme in Pallaskenry. Councillor O'Donoghue asked for details of the Council nomination entitlements in this estate.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Dated:
