

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, 9TH DECEMBER, 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 Housing (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), Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction and Maintenance (Mr. B. Kidney), Senior Executive Engineer, Environment and Climate Action (Ms. C. Lynch), Clerical Officer (Ms. L. Lenihan).

Apologies for her inability to attend were received from A/Senior Executive Officer, Municipal Districts (Ms. K. White).

At the outset of the Meeting All Members expressed their gratitude to the Executive in recognition of their efforts in getting the necessary works completed and Askeaton Pool and Leisure operational again. Members were in agreement that former Director of Finance, Sean Coughlan and former DAC Chairperson Kevin Sheahan also be thanked. Councillor Teskey proposed the District write to both of these individuals to express Members thanks and gratitude for their contribution to have the facility operational again. This was seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed.

1. Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale held on 11th November, 2025.

Councillor O'Donoghue referred to Minutes and asked it be recorded that he and his Elected colleagues had congratulated Catherine Connolly on her election as the 10th Uachtarán na hÉireann and wished her well in her new role.

Councillor Keary also referred to the Minutes and his request for an update on the proposed eight serviced sites for Adare village. The Meetings Administrator advised Brendan Kidney, Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction and Maintenance would provide an update after the adoption of the Minutes.

Proposed by Councillor O'Donoghue;

Seconded by Councillor Keary;
And Resolved:

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

Following the adoption of the Minutes, Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction and Maintenance gave Members an update on the proposed eight serviced sites for Adare village advising his department are currently in the process of preparing tender documents which will issue when the legals associated with landowners is finalised. He further advised the current construction forecast would see development commence in quarter one 2027 and current spend to date on the project is two million euros.

Discussion ensued and the following issues were raised by Members:

- Councillor Collins raised concerns over the affordability of the eight serviced sites due to the determination of the market value of the site stating this project will be impossible to deliver as an affordable scheme for young families who wish to remain in the village of Adare. The Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction and Maintenance advised a workshop would be convened in January to discuss this matter further.
- Councillor Keary concurred with Councillor Collins’s sentiments stating the cost of building materials has more than doubled since the project was approved six years previously. He further queried how Limerick City and County Council could grant planning permission on a site without a storm water connection. The Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction and Maintenance advised planning permission was given in good faith and it is hoped the storm water issue will be resolved in due course.
- Councillor O’Donoghue queried how many houses in total are included in the scheme. The Senior Engineer, LA Housing Construction and Maintenance advised there will be thirty one in total, thirteen dwellings on the north side of the site, ten dwellings on the south side will also allow for eight serviced sites.

The Director, Housing concluded there would be a workshop convened for Members in January 2026 to discuss all concerns raised by Members.

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 19th November, 2025 setting out proposals for the disposal of land at Skagh, Croom, Co. Limerick to the Health Service Executive.

The report, as circulated, was noted by Members.

4. Environment and Climate Action

Landscape Proposal for Askeaton Park

The Senior Executive Engineer, Environment and Climate Action gave Members a presentation on the Uisce Éireann landscape proposals for Askeaton Park which will include the installation of large underground storm tanks, landscape measures to disguise the area around the storm tanks, a walk and cycle track as well as replacing timber railing and the installation of pathways. The Senior Executive Engineer, Environment and Climate Action advised Members that following a presentation to the Askeaton Town Team they had requested no hidden areas remain in the site following these works and requested lighting in the interest of preventing antisocial behaviour in the area. She further added Uisce Éireann will install ducting for CCTV if needed in the future and added Uisce Éireann will fund works to subbase level as part of the reinstatement contract with Limerick City and County Council funding the remainder of the works. She concluded by advising Members that Uisce Éireann are due to lodge a planning application in Q2 of 2026 and construction would be likely to begin in Q4 of 2027.

Councillor Hartigan expressed concern that the Ryder Cup would also be take place in Q4 of 2027 and was concerned about the aesthetics of the site if these works should go ahead. Councillor Hartigan also requested the Senior Executive Engineer, Environment and Climate Action would communicate with representatives from the Askeaton Tennis Club who are not part of the Town Team and have recently been granted a Sports Capital Grant for upgrade works to the tennis courts in an effort to ensure works do not encroach between these projects. The Senior Executive Engineer, Environment and Climate Action agreed to discuss the matter with Uisce Éireann to establish a more definite timeframe for the proposed construction and also agreed to arrange a meeting with representatives of the Tennis Club.

Councillor O'Donoghue questioned the cost of the overall project and what Limerick City and County Council's contribution would be. The Senior Executive Engineer, Environment and Climate Action advised she was awaiting Uisce Éireanns cost estimate

and would provide the Council's contribution costs when that information would become available.

Councillor Keary queried if a flood risk assessment had been completed for the area. The Senior Executive Engineer, Environment and Climate Action advised Uisce Éireann would have to provide this as part of their planning application.

5. Transportation and Mobility Directorate

District Engineers Report

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer, Roads, Traffic and Cleansing dated 9th December, 2025 outlining details of proposed works, projects and future projects planned for the District.

- Councillor O'Donoghue stated the need for funding increases in the Adare-Rathkeale Municipal District roads budget to allow proper maintenance of all local and regional road in the District.
- Councillor Keary queried if a member of staff could carry out an inventory on the condition of all roads within the District with a view to identifying specific areas that require repair.
- Councillor Keary stated that Mullins Cross junction between Ballingarry and the five cross roads needs to be inspected due to local safety concerns at this junction and asked for an update at the January Municipal District Meeting.

6. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)

On the proposal of Councillor Hartigan, seconded by Councillor O'Donoghue, it was agreed to reallocate the following nominations from the June 2025 Municipal District Meeting:

- €500 to Pallaskenry Old Burial Ground.
 - €500 to Kilcornan Burial Ground.
- And reallocate to:
- €800 to Pallaskenry Scouts.
 - €4,000 to Kilcornan Community Development.

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

- €4,000 to Kilcornan Community Council.

- €6,500 to Wood Road Residents, Foynes.

7. Correspondence

Councillor Keary referred to correspondence received from Damien Brady, Senior Manager – Culture, Limerick City and County Council in reply to request regarding the future use of the Bank of Ireland building in Askeaton. Councillor Keary expressed disappointment with the reply received and asked for a further update at the January Municipal District Meeting to include a presentation on the floor plan of the building and its current uses. Councillor Teskey also asked for the presentation to include the Bank of Ireland building in Rathkeale.

8. A.O.B.

- Councillor Keary requested an update on the Ballywilliam Estate in Rathkeale. The Meetings Administrator advised it is currently in mediation and details cannot be discussed.
- The Meetings Administrator advised the January 2026 Municipal District Meeting would take place on Tuesday 13th January, 2026.

The Cathaoirleach concluded the meeting by wishing all present a Happy Christmas.

This concluded the Meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____