

Minutes of the Municipal District of Ennis Meeting held at 3.30pm on Tuesday June 2nd, 2015, in the Council Chamber, Áras an Contae, Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Present:

Councillors: J. Flynn, T. Mc Namara, P. Daly, M. Howard, C. Collieran Molloy and P. Murphy.

Officials: Ger Dollard, Director of Services, Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, Catherine O’ Hara, Meetings Administrator & Fiona Whelan, Staff Officer.

Apologies: Cllrs. A. Norton & J. Breen.

Item No. 1. Minutes of the May monthly meeting held on the 5th of May, 2015.

It was proposed by Cllr. Tom McNamara and seconded by Cllr. Pat Daly that the Minutes of the 5th of May, 2015, monthly meeting, as circulated, be agreed and adopted.

Item No. 1(a) Matters Arising from the Minutes

Members requested an update on the issue of flooding outside the County Hospital and also St. Michael’s Villas.

Eamon O’Dea, S.E.E., confirmed to members that the HSE are progressing the issue of water pooling outside the hospital and that his office are in constant contact with the HSE to ensure the matter will be resolved.

St. Michael’s Villas issue is currently in the public consultation process with regards to the one-way system and progress in being made in this regard also.

Item No. 2. Draft Roads Taking in Charge Policy.

Members noted and welcomed this draft policy. The policy is to be put forward to the full County Council. Members were reminded about budget constraints and the importance of managing people’s expectations in relation to having roads taken in charge.

Item No. 3. Community & Arts Grants

The following Community & Arts Grants and Ennis Environs Allocations were before the members for consideration:-

Community & Arts Grants

- Banner Ladies GAA €1,000 (Ref 14)
- Eire Og GAA €1,000 (Ref 6)
- Cricket Club €500 (Ref 9)

Ennis Environs Allocations

Barefield Allocation

- Barefield Tidy Towns €4,000 (Ref 2 of Community & Arts Grants)

Quin Allocation

- Clare Camogie €1,000
- Toonagh Community Centre €1,000
- Quin Tidy Towns €2,000

Members queried if it was possible to pay the grants before the works were completed in order to pay suppliers. G. Dollard informed the members that no payments can be made until we have proof that the work is completed.

This item was proposed by Cllr. P. Daly, seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara and unanimously agreed by members.

Item No. 4 Festivals & Events – Ennis 2015.

Members discussed the various upcoming festivals and events in Ennis for 2015 and welcomed the various upcoming activities which will bring business to the town and promote Ennis. G. Dollard informed the meeting that the possible pedestrianisation and road closures would be required for some of the events such as the AOIFA flower arranging festival, Ennis Street Festival and in particular the An Post Rás na mBan cycle race which is scheduled from the 9th to the 13th of September, 2015. A lot of traffic management would be required for this event and a total road closure would be necessary for approximately 1.5 hours on Friday the 11th of September, 2015.

Members unanimously supported all the events and whatever pedestrianisation and road closures were necessary to bring such events to Ennis. Members also acknowledged and appreciated all the voluntary work that goes on behind such events taking place.

Item No. 5. Notices of Motion.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy was seconded by Cllr. M Howard.

That the Area engineer address the water logging problem that currently exists outside the entrance to the Moloney dwelling, adjacent to the junction of Claremount road and Lissane road

Eamon O’Dea, SEE, replied as follows:

The Council will examine the location and discuss the drainage issue with the Residents with the intention to provide road drainage at the location.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. A. Norton was seconded by Cllr. M. Howard.

That Clare County Council improve the signage for Kilraghtis Graveyard and replace the missing signs.

Eamon O'Dea, SEE, replied as follows:

The sign to the Kilraghtis Graveyard on the L8122 is in place at the entrance to the graveyard. The Council will provide an additional finger post sign at the junction of the L8122 and the access road from the M18 adjacent to the railway bridge.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. M. Howard was seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy.

This Municipal District Council requests that finance be provided for the redevelopment of the green area in St Michael's Villas.

Eamon O'Dea, SEE, replied as follows:

The Municipal District Office is preparing draft drawings for additional parking and alteration of the green area in St Michaels Villas. There is no funding available for this project in 2015.

Members then requested that this would be put on the 2016 "wish list" of works to be done, especially as St. Michael's Villas is progressing, it would be nice to continue and have the green area completed.

G. Dollard informed the meeting that the approximate cost would be €70,000 and it could be re-visited at budget time and that the Council were on board to try and get the works done.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr T. Mc Namara was seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy.

That this municipal district call on the NRA to erect noise barriers where required along the M18 and in particular along the Quinn Road flyover to protect nearby residences.

Eamon O'Dea, SEE, replied as follows:

This notice of motion has been forwarded to the National Roads Authority (NRA) for their response.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr J. Breen – (DEFERRED)

That the road from Michael Hegarty's house to Kilnamona National School be surfaced dressed for approximately 100 meters long.

Eamon O'Dea, SEE, replied as follows:

This road will be included in the Road Works Programme for 2016

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr J. Flynn was seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy

That the Road section between entrance to Waterville House and the Western Garage, Carmody street be re-shaped, that is the road's camber and ground levels , to deal with long term local water ponding along portions of that stretch of road. This persistent water ponding during and after rainfall impacts on pedestrians and property owners due to vehicles using the road splashing the dirty road surface water.

Eamon O'Dea, SEE, replied as follows:

The Municipal District Office is seeking quotes for macadam work in Ennis at present. Once we have the costs of the works, the works will be prioritized. Work at this location will be considered subject to available funding.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr P. Daly was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn

I call on the Municipal District to investigate the possibility of a Pedestrian Bridge across the Fergus River from New Road to Francis St, Ennis

Eamon O'Dea, SEE, replied as follows:

It is agreed that it would be beneficial to create a new pedestrian bridge across the River Fergus linking Francis Street to New Road and thus improving permeability to the town centre from the northern and eastern side of the town and also importantly providing an alternative route for pupils attending schools on New Road. The land necessary to facilitate this however are not in council ownership and no funding is presently in place for the project. It should also be noted that the River Fergus forms part of the Lower River Shannon SAC and therefore constraints will apply to the design and construction methodology of the bridge.

Members discussed this matter further and sought to establish the ownership of the required lands. It was suggested that the Council should talk to the interested parties involved.

G. Dollard informed the meeting that a lot of work was done on this as part of the Ennis Town and Environs Plan. At this stage it is an idea and there is universal acceptance of it, however, a lot more work needs to be done to make it happen.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr C. Colleran Molloy was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.

In light of the wonderfully completed pathway work on Quin Bridge, that three redundant poles on the opposite side of the new pathway be removed and their wiring be piped through the provided ducting work, and that a commencement date for the new pedestrian crossing--included as part of the new bridge pathway project--be provided.

Eamon O'Dea, SEE, replied as follows:

The poles and the wiring are part of the Eircom network. Eircom provided ducting which has been installed by the Council as part of the bridge footpath works, therefore it is possible to place the cables underground and remove the poles. The Municipal District Office will write to Eircom requesting them to place the cables in the ducting and remove the poles. Work on the Pedestrian Crossing will commence in September after the Road Works Programme has been completed.

Some members queried when the official opening of the pathway would take place. G. Dollard stated that there were no plans in place for an official opening of the pathway, however, a photo opportunity could be arranged if required.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr M. Howard was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.

I call on Ennis Municipal District to formalize pedestrian access from An Sean Dun to the Roslevan Shopping Centre.

Eamon O’Dea, SEE, replied as follows:

The Municipal District Office will proceed with the Part 8 Planning Process for the provision of a pedestrian access from An Sean Dun onto the Roslevin Lane. There is no funding stream for provision of this pedestrian access in 2015.

Members further discussed this matter and requested that it be put on the “wish list” for 2016. E. O’Dea informed members that drawings are done and that it would be a Part VIII process that would be used to start the procedure but that finance would then be required.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. T. Mc Namara was seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy.

I call on Clare County Council when surface dressing local roads within village boundaries in the Ennis Municipal District to insure that a high quality macadam surface is used on these roads.

Eamon O’Dea, SEE, replied as follows:

Whilst it would be desirable to have a macadam surface within villages in the Municipal District of Ennis, it would not be appropriate that it is provided in all locations. There are valid engineering, structural, skid resistance and value for money reasons for using tar and chip surface dressing as a road surface in villages.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr P. Murphy was seconded by Cllr. M. Howard

That the Area engineer addresses the road flooding and subsequent pot - holing that has occurred near the Slob Cross, Islandmcgrath.

Eamon O’Dea, SEE, replied as follows:

The Council will examine the culvert crossing under the road at Slob Cross to confirm if it is damaged or blocked. Repairs will be carried out if required. The land drainage adjacent to the road needs to be cleaned and the local landowners should make arrangements for the cleaning of the drains as this would reduce the flooding of the road.

Letters are to issue to the land owners from the Roads Department to request a full clean up of the drains.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr J. Breen (DEFERRED).

That immediate works take place to eliminate flooding at Cusack Road, Ennis, that is there for the past twenty years.

Eamon O'Dea, SEE, replied as follows:

The Council is preparing a submission to submit to the OPW for a small flood relief scheme adjacent to this location. This submission should be with the OPW in July and the proposed works will assist the drainage of this location.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr J. Flynn:

Ask for an update on any junction improvements to improve road safety at both the Corrovorrin and Oakleigh/Cappahard junctions with Tulla Road.

Eamon O'Dea, SEE, replied as follows:

The Council sought and received funding for a Low Cost Safety Scheme at the junction of the Tulla Road and Kevin Barry Avenue at Corrovorrin in 2013 and the proposal was withdrawn by Ennis Town Council after the public consultation phase due concerns regarding a local business at the junction. Provision of a revised junction format at this location will require significant alteration to the existing layout raising similar concerns to the proposal in 2013.

The Council has no further update on the provision of a roundabout at Oakleigh/Cappahard and we were recently informed that it is unlikely that there will be any significant change in Department of Transport Funding until 2018.

A further discussion took place by members on this matter. E. O'Dea will look at the Corrovorrin again but reminded members that the last proposal was withdrawn due to difficulties with a local business. Further funding is available through the Specific Improvement Scheme but in this instance it is specific to bridges only.

Members were not happy that this roundabout at Oakleigh Wood was not being funded by Clare County Council as levies were paid by developers to the Council as part of the developments on the Tulla Road.

Members further discussed the Ballybeg Road and that it is in a Third World state and now at crisis level from the Water Tower to the Kildysart Road.

Members requested that they wanted an update at the next meeting in relation to a request for emergency funding from the Dept. of Transport.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr P. Daly was seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy.

I request the Municipal District to remove some bends on the road from Knockanean School to the Creamery Cross at Moyriesk.

Eamon O’Dea, SEE, replied as follows:

This matter was previously raised by the Councillor in the Ennis East Area Committee meetings and the Council will look at removing some bends on the Knockanean School to Creamery Cross at Moyriesk with the assistance of local landowners and subject to available resources.

This matter will be looked at further by the area engineer.

Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr C. Colleran Molloy;

That the pedestrian gate to Quin Abbey located directly opposite the Abbey Tavern be changed to accommodate ease of access in light of the difficulty of people gaining access with baby buggies.

Eamon O’Dea, SEE, replied as follows:

The Council will arrange to meet the OPW Monument Service and the Conservation Officer at the location and confirm what works can be carried to confirm what can be done to rectify the access to Quin Abbey. (Note the gates are the responsibility of the OPW)

Any Other Business

Members welcomed the new parking initiatives that are coming into place in public car parks for a trial period in June, 2015. Members also requested that issues for 2016 such as rates & parking etc should be brought to the CPG meeting before 2016 budget process takes place.

The July monthly meeting is scheduled for 2pm on Wednesday the 24th of June and the AGM is to be held at 3.30pm the same day.

The meeting then concluded.