

**Minutes of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee Meeting
held at 3.30pm on Tuesday April 5th, 2016, in the Council
Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, Clare County Council, New
Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Present:

Councillors: P. Daly, J. Flynn, C. Collieran Molloy, A. Norton, J. Breen, P. Murphy and T. McNamara.

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

Apologies: Cllr. M. Howard

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Breen and seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn that the Standing Orders for the Municipal District of Ennis be suspended for 10 minutes in order to discuss the concerns raised by businesses in relation to the proposed new road layout at The Turnpike, Ennis, as part of the Part V111 R458 Ennis Active Travel project.

It was noted that there were two separate proposals which could negatively impact on the area: the proposed Cycle route under the Part V111 and proposed new traffic management plan under S 38 of the Roads Act 1994.

Members welcomed the development of cycle ways within the town but cautioned that these proposals should not be to the detriment of local businesses or reduce the linkage with the town. It was also noted that a Traffic Management Plan was need in the Turnpike area and that this is an opportunity to get things right including parking in the area.

Members agreed that a meeting would be held with all parties involved, to discuss the proposed new road layout at the Turnpike further.

Item No. 1. Minutes of the March 2016 monthly meeting held on the 2nd of March, 2016.

It was proposed by Cllr. T. McNamara and seconded by Cllr. A. Norton that the Minutes of the March 2016 monthly meeting, held on the 2nd of March, 2016, as circulated, be agreed and adopted.

Item No. 2. Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 - Declaration of Public Roads at Woodstock Drive and Woodstock View.

G. Dollard informed the meeting that Irish Water had been consulted in relation to this matter but no response had been received to date.

This item was proposed by Cllr. J. Flynn, seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara and agreed by members.

Item No. 3. Draft Clare County Council Street Performers Bye-Laws 2016 (Ennis)

G. Dollard briefed members on the Draft Street Performers Bye-Laws which had been on display from January to March 2016. No formal submissions were received. He advised that these proposed Bye Laws were a basic framework which will allow Clare Co Council to put same in place. He advised that additional measures (such as permits / spotaí Cheoil) may need to be included in the future at which time the matter will revert to the Elected Members for consideration. Members welcomed the introduction of the draft bye-laws.

This item was proposed by Cllr. J. Flynn, seconded by Cllr. A. Norton and agreed by members.

Item No. 4. Community & Arts Grants 2016

G. Dollard briefed members on the applications and advised that while he is a Director of Clare Youth Service he had no part in their application or the discussions of same for financial support.

The following Community & Arts Grants 2016 were proposed by Cllr. T. McNamara, seconded by Cllr. A. Norton and agreed by members:-

Rape Crisis Centre	€ 500.00
Clarecastle Men's Shed Assoc	€ 500.00
Kilmaley Voluntary Housing Assoc	€1,000.00
Ennis Fairtrade Steering Committee	€ 500.00
Clarecastle Community Garden	€ 500.00
Clarecastle Show Society	€1,000.00
Clare Youth Service	€1,000.00
Ennis Fringe Festival	€ 750.00
Coiste Chairde Mhichil Ciosog	€ 500.00
Clare Garden Festival	<u>€1,000.00</u>
Total Allocation agreed	€7,250.00 from €10,000 budget.

It was agreed that:

- the Alternative Arts Venue was to receive no funding as it was deemed a commercial entity.
- no funding is to be allocated to Cuimhneamh an Chláir as it is a County wide project application and not specifically for Ennis Municipal District area.

Kilmaley Allocation

Cllr. T. McNamara also proposed to allocate €800 towards the planting of hedging in Kilmaley and a further €700 to the Kilmaley Voluntary Housing Assoc. This was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton and agreed by members.

Item No. 5. Notices of Motions

- 1. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr A Norton was seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy**

"Is it possible for Clare County Council to make addition disabled parking in the market area of Ennis. When market trading is taking place it is frustrating that there is not enough disabled parking in the market area. "

Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:

Parking in locations of casual trading are set out in regulations as Road Traffic (Traffic & Parking) Regulations 1997, SI No 182/1997, Section 36(2) A vehicle shall not be parked- (j) on a part of the roadway which is a casual trading area, during hours of trading, unless the vehicle is for the time being in use for the purpose of casual trading.

The Council has provided additional disabled parking on Cabey's Lane to offset the disabled parking used during trading days. There is disabled parking available in the multistory car park immediately adjacent to the market area. Casual Trading is set out under the Ennis Town Council - Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2011 made under Casual Trading Act, 1995.

These byelaws take precedence over the parking byelaws on market days. The matter of retaining or relocating position of disabled parking spaces can be considered at the time of the revision or drafting of new byelaws and on completion of Phase 1 of the Market Rejuvenation project at Garaunakilla.

2. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr C Colleran Molloy was seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara.

"That the Ennis Municipal District detail the estates in the District that are as yet not taken in charge and those that are in the process of being taken in charge."

Bernadette Haugh, Administrative Officer, Planning & Enterprise Development replied as follows:

The Planning Authority has attached the list of developments on our residential estates register within the Ennis Municipal District advising of the status of each development with regard to Taking in Charge.

G. Dollard confirmed that progress is being made in relation to this matter but not as quickly as we would like. Bonds are in place but the drawing down of the bonds is quite complicated as in some cases they have been sold on to investments companies. There is a huge range of issues including ESB involved as well as ongoing maintenance and operation costs.

G. Dollard advised that the list as circulated can be put on the Council's website.

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

"I ask that Ennis Municipal District Committee call on both the Minister for Transport & the National Transport Agency to support any licence application to initiate a trial bus route , eg from Clarecastle through Ennis out to Gort Road Business park, as phase 1 of what would be an important transport option for students ,residents , visitors and workers in Ennis. "

No reply required

Members discussed this Notice of Motion and supported the initiative. This had been considered in the past through Ennis Town Council but had not materialised as there was little interest in this proposal by bus operators. It was noted that should there be an appetite there at this time, that members would support it. Dublin Coach has shown an interest.

4. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr T. Mc Namara was seconded by Cllr. J. Breen.

"In the interest of road safety I call on Clare County Council to surface dress the junction at Kilmaley post office and reline the road to assist traffic flow as this junction which will see a huge increase in the volume of traffic as a result of the proposed road closures on the R474."

Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:

The Municipal District Offices in Ennis and West Clare has an outline design to adjust the junction at Kilmaley Post Office. The junction from the Kilmaley direction is in the MD of Ennis and the through road from Inch to Cree is in the MD of West Clare. There is no funding stream at present for this work as it has not met requirements for a Low Cost Safety Scheme. There are specific road fund levies included in the Windfarm Developments and it is intended that this work will be considered as part of that fund subject to receipt of same by the Council.

5. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr P. Murphy was seconded by Cllr. J. Breen.

"I am requesting that the waterlogging that occurs on the road outside of the O'Keeffe dwelling in Ballybeg is investigated and that appropriate works are undertaken to prevent this in future".

Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:

The Municipal District Office will provide a gully and section of storm drain to eliminate a local hollow on the Ballybeg Road at this location.

6. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr P. Daly was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.

"I ask that the Municipal District of Ennis put in place a digital speed sign on the Gort Road (adjacent to Ennis side of the Pine Grove Estate), similar to what is in place on the Lahinch, Kilmaley and Tulla Roads"

Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:

The Municipal District Office will examine this location with the Road Design Section to seek inclusion of digital speed signs in the Low Cost Safety Works this year.

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

"That new surfacing be applied to the Tulla Road exiting Quin Village and the main street as you approach Quin from Ennis."

Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:

The Tulla Road, Quin is in this year's road works programme, however the Main Street as you approach Quin from Ennis is not included in this years programme.

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

"That the current Phase 2 construction works being carried out to improve pedestrian and vehicular movements at the Ennis Town Centre Coach Park and in the adjoining Templegate Car park , allow for secure cycling and Taxi facilities at this stage or in the future."

Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:

The present works are completed at the Friars Walk Carpark. There is existing cycle stands adjacent to the County Museum and there are locations in the vicinity of the Credit Union and Museum building that could be considered for further cycle parking if required. The provision of Taxi facilities would be subject to an overall review of Taxi facilities in the town.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy was seconded by Cllr. J. Breen.

"I am requesting that works are undertaken to prevent surface water entering the driveway of the Maxwell dwelling in Knocknamana, Clarecastle."

Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:

The Municipal District Office will examine the location to find a solution to the surface water entering the driveway at Maxwell's dwelling in Knocknamana.

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

"I request that the Municipal District of Ennis to prioritise the upgrading of the Turnpike Road from O Keefe's Butcher to the roundabout at the Alymer's Rest in the near future"

Eamon O'Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:

The Turnpike Road had additional traffic due to the local diversion routes during the Watermain Rehabilitation Project which has caused deterioration of the thin layer surfacing on the road. The Council will consider this road along with other roads affected by the watermain works in determining the works to be carried out using long term damage funding provided by Irish water as part of the road Opening Licence. It should be noted that priority of use of the funding will be on Regional Roads in the town. Road surfacing was carried out on the Clare Road last month using this funding.

Any Other Business

- The Mayor of Ennis, Cllr. Pat Daly, invited all elected members, management, tidy towns and media to Parnell Street, Ennis, on Tuesday the 12th of April, 2016, at 2.30pm, to view all the vacant properties and see the condition of the Street. Members queried the feasibility study which is currently being progressed.
- Members expressed dissatisfaction with amount of cable ties on poles in the town and throughout the County, that are littering the County following the election posters which had been in place for the General Election. Cable ties were not removed properly and have resulted in widespread littering. It was suggested that all candidates would come together and make a combined effort to resolve this matter, otherwise it will fall on Clare County Council and Tidy Town organizations to clean up.
- It was noted that the Draft Beach Bye-Laws which are currently on public display had not included Ballyalla Lake. Members requested and agreed that a submission is to be made on behalf of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee requesting that Ballyalla Lake is included in the Bye Laws and that previous facilities such as children's playground, beach, public toilets and lifeguards to be re-established at Ballyalla Lake.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed:

Mayor:

Pat Daly

Meetings Administrator:

Patricia O'Flaherty

Date:

2/5/16.