

**Minutes of the May 2018 Municipal District of Ennis Committee Meeting
held at 10.30am on Tuesday 8th May, 2018,
in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir,
Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Present:

Councillors: J. Breen, C. Colleran Molloy, P. Murphy, M. Howard, P. Daly, A. Norton, T. McNamara & J. Flynn.

Officials: Cyril Feeney, A/Senior Engineer, Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, Fiona Whelan, A/Meetings Administrator and Orla Shanagher, Assistant Staff Officer.

Apologies: Carmel Kirby, Director of Service.
Bernadette Haugh, Meetings Administrator.

Item No. 1. Minutes of the April Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee held on 10th April, 2018.

The Minutes of the April 2018 meeting of Ennis Municipal District were proposed by Cllr. J. Flynn, seconded by Cllr. P. Daly and agreed by members.

Matters Arising from the April 2018 Minutes

- Members queried if temporary works would be carried out on the Tobertascaín Road as was discussed at the April meeting.
E. O’Dea confirmed that it is intended to lay a thin surface coating on this road. This work will be done next week, weather dependent.
- Members queried if a date has been arranged for a workshop on waste management as was suggested by the Director of Services at a previous meeting. This will be arranged and notified to members.

Item No. 2. Date for AGM of Ennis Municipal District June 2018

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy and agreed by members that the 2018 AGM of Ennis Municipal District would be held at 3pm on Friday 15th June 2018. It was further agreed by members that the July 2018 meeting of Ennis Municipal District would take place at 3.30pm on the same date, directly after the 2018 AGM.

Item No. 3. Declaration of Public Roads in Aisling, Shanaway Road, Ennis.

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

Item No. 4. Notices of Motion.

No. 1 NOM submitted by Cllr. James Breen was seconded by Cllr. P. Daly.

In the interest of Health & Safety and in order to stop cars parking on the footpath outside the four business premises at Upper Turnpike Road, that the kerb be raised or the width of the footpath reduced.

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

There is not sufficient road width adjacent to the pedestrian crossing on Turnpike Road to provide for a footpath and linear parking. Bollards or a raised kerb will be provided along this section of the footpath to prevent vehicles from parking on the footpath and obstructing pedestrians. The Municipal District Office are checking the sightline requirements at the Aylmers roundabout to see if a short section of linear parking can be provided at this location.

Members requested an update on the installation of bollards at the town end of Turnpike Road and also if further parking could be considered in the green areas at both ends of Turnpike Road. E. O’Dea, confirmed he would consult with the Traffic Department to progress works in this area.

It was also highlighted by members that the two disabled parking spaces in the area need to be repainted.

No. 2 NOM submitted by Cllr. Paul Murphy was seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy

I am calling for traffic calming measures, ie rumble strips, to be installed on the straight stretches of road in both Abbeycourt and Abbeyville, Clare road. There is a high volume of young children living and playing in these two estates and their safety needs to be assured.

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

The road network in the scheme is not in charge of the Council. The bond funding will be required to rectify issues on the developments as set out in the planning permission. The Municipal District Office will prepare a traffic calming scheme for the main access roads in Abbeycourt – Abbeyville which can be implemented when the scheme is in charge of the Council.

No. 3 NOM submitted by Cllr. Johnny Flynn was seconded by Cllr. M. Howard

Ennis Municipal District request Clare County Council to accept, archive and to make available digitally the photographic archive from Brookes Studio, Clonroad, Ennis started by the late Pascal Brookes Senior in 1959. Also that consideration be given to having a permanent display of different sections or themes of the archive to be located in the adjacent proposed new Library building.

Helen Walsh, County Librarian, replied as follows:

The new public library is designed to a protocol of what the public require from a library. The library public realm is community focussed and allows for meeting, study and research within the spaces provided. Generally it may not be appropriate to try to facilitate permanent archival material within the new space, however, the local studies area may lend itself to some limited display area.

Tributes were paid by members to the late Paschal Brookes and his family whos’ photography has left a legacy of memories and images in almost every house in the County. Photographic evidence of the past is very important to communities, especially in the current climate, where digital technology has overtaken hard copy images. This is a

huge opportunity for County Clare to showcase this photographic archive and members thanked the Brooke's family for their very kind gesture.

No. 4 NOM submitted by Cllr. Ann Norton was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn

Can Clare county council repair the roads around the roundabout on the Gort Rd near Lynch's Centra entrance, and Kelly's corner at the zebra crossing on the inbound lane.

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

The Municipal District Office is arranging permanent patch works at these locations.

No. 5 NOM submitted by Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton

That Ennis Municipal District explore the installation of a toilet facility at Drumcliff Graveyard.

Colette Costello, Administrative Officer, replied as follows:

Clare County Council is responsible for the management of Drumcliffe Burial Ground. This includes grass cutting, general caretaking/maintenance, sale of plots, recording of deaths etc. While the motion is a positive one, there are no current plans for the provision of toilet facilities at Drumcliffe Burial Ground given that there are public toilet facilities available less than 3km away within Ennis town. As noted in the Burial Ground Bye-Laws there are approximately 150 burial grounds under the management of Clare County Council. It would be a significant capital cost if public toilet facilities were to be provided within burial grounds generally.

No. 6 NOM submitted by Cllr. Pat Daly was seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara.

I request Ennis Municipal District to again seek funding towards developing the proposed link road from the Gort Road to the Tulla Road, particularly due to the chronic traffic delays on the Gort Road presently

Tom Tiernan, Senior Engineer, replied as follows:

While I concur fully with the rationale for this motion, it is important to point out that there are a number of other strategic elements of the town's network which tend to be prone to significant traffic queuing at peak times. However, the delays which arise tend to be fairly short-lived and tend to clear once peak traffic movements associated with school starting times, work finishing times etc. pass over periods not exceeding 15 – 30 minutes. That said, the reality is that this is a symptom of the recovering economy and the delays now being encountered at peak times will probably exacerbate over time.

At this point, it would be appropriate to carry out a mobility study of the road network of the town and its environs which would include a study of current traffic movements and patterns, would identify deficiencies in terms of traffic capacity now and looking into the future and would recommend what links should be prioritised to facilitate traffic relief. I would expect that the Northern Inner Relief Road (Gort Road to Tulla Road) would feature very highly on such a priority list and this in turn would very much strengthen the case for funding when it becomes available in due course through the Department of Transport.

I have already been discussing the concept of a Mobility Study for Ennis with our Planning Department.

Members agreed that this Notice of Motion should be considered as part of the overall Master Plan for Ennis. It was further noted by members that there is huge potential in the Gort Road Industrial Park, Ennis, for further development.

No. 7 NOM submitted by Cllr. Mary Howard was seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara

This Municipal District Council request Clare County Council and TII (NRA) place signs on the Kilrush Road and N85 warning motorists of the possibility of goats on the road. I also request that Ennis Municipal District further requests that the Department of Agriculture relocate the goats to a more suitable location.

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

The Transport Section of the Council is endeavouring to contact sanctuaries – animal welfare organizations to arrange the capture and removal of the wild goats from this area. The Municipal District Office has contacted the Regional Road Design Office in Kerry whom is responsible for the installation of signage on the national road network to provide appropriate wild animal signs on the N85 and N68.

Members further discussed this Notice of Motion and agreed that some action needs to be taken in relation to the goats on Healthy and Safety grounds.

E. O’Dea confirmed the goats are wild and therefore are not tagged. He also confirmed that the goats need to be dealt with in a humane manner and this would be progressed as soon as possible.

Item No. 5. Correspondence

Letter of acknowledgement from Clarecastle Show Society for Festivals & Events contribution for 2018.

This correspondence was welcomed and acknowledged by members.

Item No. 6. Any Other Business

- *Members raised the issue of confusion over parking spaces and ‘right of ways’ in Dromard Housing Estate, Ennis. They requested signage and road markings to be put in place in this regard. E. O’Dea confirmed this will considered.*
- *Ballyalla Lake – Special Area of Conservation. Members requested this item be included on the agenda for the June 2018 meeting of Ennis Municipal District.*
- *All eight Members confirmed they have received correspondence from parents and the Board of Management of Ennis National School in relation to the alleged illegal encampment at Ashline, Ennis. Ashline Lane is used by the “walking bus” for children attending Ennis National School. There is concern in relation to the ongoing problems at this location. E. O’Dea confirmed that both the Council and Gardaí had dealt with some of the issues over the last number of days and that the area is being observed on a continuous basis. Members sought a further update on progress on this matter from the Director of Services.*

- *Members noted the absence of Director of Services, Carmel Kirby, and sent sympathies to her and her family on the recent death of her uncle RIP.*
- *Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy wished to publicly acknowledge the pro-active work done by Carmel Kirby, Director of Services, in relation to illegal dumping and her recent visit to Ballybeg woods.*
- *Cllr. J. Flynn acknowledged and thanked Eamon O’Dea, SEE, and Barry Conway, E.E., for their recent work in Corrovorin.*
- *Cllr. P. Daly congratulated Ennis Rugby Club U16 Munster Champions for reaching the U16 All Ireland Final. They have done Ennis proud as have the Ennis U14 team who recently won the North Munster Rugby Final.*

Signed: _____
Mayor of Ennis.

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator.

Date: _____