

**Minutes of the September 2018 Municipal District of Ennis Committee Meeting
held at 10.30am on Tuesday 11th September, 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: Carmel Kirby, Director of Services, Eamon O’Dea, Senior Executive Engineer, Leonore O’Neill, Senior Executive Officer, Bernie Haugh, Meetings Administrator, and Fiona Whelan, Staff Officer.

Item No. 1. Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis held on the 15th June, 2018.

The Minutes of the 2018 AGM were proposed by Cllr. P. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. A. Norton and agreed by members

Item No. 2. Minutes of the July Meeting of the Municipal District of Ennis Committee held on 15th June, 2018.

The Minutes of the July 2018 meeting of Ennis Municipal District were proposed by Cllr. A. Norton, seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn and agreed by members.

Matters Arising from the Minutes.

E. O’Dea, S.E.E., referred to an issue raised by Cllr. James Breen in relation to illegal parking at Upper Turnpike Road, Ennis, following complaints he had received from residents in this area. It had been suggested to install bollards in the area to alleviate this problem. However, a number of objections to the proposed bollards have since been received by the Council from the businesses in the area and the matter will now require further consultation. In the meantime, and considering health and safety, the Gardaí and traffic wardens will be notified in order to manage and enforce any illegal parking in the area.

Following a query from Cllr. J. Flynn, Carmel Kirby, D.O.S., confirmed to members that a meeting had taken place between the Cloughleigh residents and Housing Dept of Clare County Council on the 4th September, 2018. A further meeting is scheduled for the 18th September, 2018, with both the residents and the Gardaí.

Members welcomed the updates.

Item No. 3. Declaration of Public Roads regarding the following developments:

- **Orchard Drive**, Clarecastle, was proposed by Cllr. P. Murphy seconded by Cllr. M. Howard and agreed by members.
- **Clover Hill**, Tulla Rd, Ennis, was proposed by Cllr. J. Flynn seconded by Cllr. M. Howard and agreed by members.
- **Church View, Garden View, Hill View & Roughan Ave**, Creggaun na Hilla, Clarecastle, was proposed by Cllr. P. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. A. Norton and agreed by members.

Item No. 4. Section 183 – No. 6 Childers Road, Ennis.

This item was proposed by Cllr. A. Norton, seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy and agreed by members.

Item No. 5. Section 183 – Property at Ballyalla, Ennis, Co. Clare.

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

Item No. 6. Section 183 – No. 40 Elm Park Ennis, Co. Clare.

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

Item No. 7. Section 38 – St. Flannan’s College to Kilrush Rd, Ennis.

Ann Cronin, S.E.E., Road Design, attended the meeting for this item and summarised the plans as outlined in her report on same. She further recommended the approval of this scheme as outlined.

Members had a lengthy discussion on the proposed traffic calming measures from St. Flannans College to the Kilrush Road, Ennis. While members supported the plans in principle and welcomed, in particular, the promotion of the healthy lifestyle of children cycling to school, it is also important that the concerns of residents in the area are considered further.

Residential parking was of major concern in the area, however, E. O’Dea confirmed that this could be provided in the proposed extended bus lane outside of school drop off and collection times.

The concern of residents reversing out of their driveways onto the public road could be alleviated by reversing into their driveways instead and as per the rules of the road.

The proposed bollards in the area are intended to stop illegal parking on footpaths, however, it is possible that the bollards could be removed, in due course, if the new layout changes the habits and behaviour of drivers in this regard.

Members further confirmed that they are not objecting to the traffic calming measures or the cycle lane. Members want to ensure that residents from St. Flannans College to Suttons Lighting are further communicated with to alleviate their concerns where possible.

C. Kirby, DOS, confirmed that these works were proposed following on from a previous Notice of Motion and it is important that we do our best to facilitate the concerns of all parties involved.

Cllr. J. Flynn proposed to defer this item to the October meeting, Cllr. A. Norton seconded this proposal. It was agreed to arrange a further discussion with the residents and revert to the item at the October meeting at the latest as it is important that the Council does not lose the funding for this project.

Item No. 8. Town & Village Centre Paint Scheme

Members welcomed the extension of the Paint Scheme 2018 and acknowledged its success in Ennis during Fleadh Ceoil na hEireann for both 2016 and 2017.

The area proposed for 2018 is from Captain Macs Cross to the Tesco Roundabout. Educate Together and Cois na hAbhna on the Gort Road will also be included. It was further agreed that other areas within the Ennis Municipal District area would be approved if there was a balance of funding available.

It is important to note that the funding is required to be spent in the current calendar year in this instance. There is a budget in place of approx €15,000 and a maximum of €700 per property is available, which is inclusive of materials and labour.

This item was proposed by Cllr. A. Norton, seconded by Cllr. M. Howard and agreed by members.

Item No. 9. Nomination of Elected Member to the Market Advisory Committee.

Cllr. A. Norton was proposed by Cllr. P. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara and agreed by members to be the elected representative on the Market Advisory Committee.

Item No. 10. Notices of Motion

No. 1 NOM submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.

That the parking congestion and speeding in or about Woodstock Hotel be assessed and addressed in the interests of health and safety.

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

The MD Office has examined the location and a VMS Speed sign will be placed on the approach to Woodstock from the Lahinch Road direction. The location and number of intermediate speed limit signs is being examined and additional intermediate speed signs will be installed.

Further examination of the parking congestion is required as the Municipal District Office is of the understanding that this is not the norm at Woodstock and happens on occasions at larger events at the Hotel and Golf Club.

No. 2 NOM submitted by Cllr. A. Norton was seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara.

Can Clare County Council make contact with the new owner of Our Lady's site and see if they have any plans for the site and also the issues around security and health and safety.

Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, replied as follows:

The Council understands that the site was recently sold. The Council will endeavour to establish the details of the new owner, if the sale has been closed and if the registration has been processed by the Property Registration Authority. Issues around security and health and safety on the site are a matter for the owners of the property.

There is currently a live planning permission for Our Lady's Hospital, Gort Road.

Cllr. J. Flynn excused himself from the meeting during the discussion on this Notice of Motion as he has a connection with the new owner.

Members discussed the possibility of Clare County Council engaging with the new owner of Our Lady's site to establish future plans for same. This is a prime site within Ennis and while parts of the building are a protected structure, plans needs to be put in place to ensure its upkeep. The possibility of on-site security should also be considered to prevent anti-social behaviour and illegal dumping in the area.

The H.S.E. had already confirmed that they were not in a position to purchase the property and had no interest in pursuing the matter.

Cllr. J. Breen publicly called on the H.S.E. to do a feasibility study on the possibility of St. Joseph's Hospital being re-located to the site at Our Lady's. Cllr. Breen further aired his grievance at comments made by sources within the H.S.E. that he was being mischievous in his work as a public representative by requesting progress on this matter.

C. Kirby, D.O.S, confirmed that consideration will be given to this site as part of the Ennis 2040 Plan.

Cllr. J. Flynn resumed his chair at the meeting.

No. 3 NOM submitted by Cllr. M. Howard was seconded by Cllr. J. Breen.

I request that this Municipal District Council provide for more parking at Roslea on the Drumcliff Rd.

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

This location was inspected and there was sufficient parking available. Each house has a driveway and there is a parking bay for six vehicles provided. The parking areas are provided at the correct location away from the entrance area.

No. 4 NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Daly was seconded by Cllr. M. Howard.

I request Ennis Municipal District to replace the existing boundary wall, which is in a poor state of repair, located at the Bungalows, Drumcliff Road, (adjacent to Lees Road).

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

The wall at the western side of the entrance to the housing scheme at Lees Road needs to be replaced. This work will be included in the schedule for the MD work crews.

No. 5 NOM submitted by Cllr. T. McNamara was seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy.

I call on Clare County Council to install traffic calming measures on the R474 west of Kilmaley village in the interest of the safety of people entering and exiting the businesses in the village.

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

The Ennis MD Office will refer this to the Road Design section for consideration under Low Cost Safety Scheme applications for 2019.

It was also suggested that if the VMS sign that is already in place was re-located it may be more beneficial in reducing speed in the area.

No. 6 NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Breen was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn.

That the overhanging trees at Corrovorin Drive be cut back.

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

The Birch trees at the boundary of Corrovorin Drive and the wet lands area are in good order and have been recently inspected. The Ennis MD Office will raise the tree crowns beside the footpaths in October – November when the leaves have fallen.

No. 7 NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn was seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy.

Development of Ennis as Walking & Cycling Hub

That Ennis Municipal District commission a review of the designs and costings of the ETC commissioned 2008 Earthroute Recreational Trails for Ennis & Environs Report.

Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner, replied as follows:

It is planned that an overall traffic and mobility management plan for Ennis will be prepared which will investigate, on an evidence-based approach, the mobility requirements of the existing and future development of Ennis whilst also looking at patterns of development and trip generators. It is anticipated that any such plan would look at all forms of pedestrian, cycle and others forms of transport in a holistic and sustainable manner. The development of the *Ennis 2040 - Economic and Spatial Plan* will also inform the preparation of this traffic and mobility management plan. As with all plans and strategies, it is important to review existing and previous surveys and strategies to inform the preparation of future plans. In this regard, it is considered appropriate and indeed valuable that the *Earthroute Recreational Trails for Ennis & Environs Report – (February 2009)* together with all subsequent cycle and green infrastructure strategies will inform the preparation of this traffic and mobility management plan for Ennis.

Members and the Director of Services, C. Kirby, welcomed this Notice of Motion and confirmed that all recommendations would be considered in conjunction with the Ennis 2040 Plan.

No. 8 NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy was seconded by Cllr. P. Daly.

I wish to be briefed on what works are required to be carried out in order to have Abbeycourt and Abbeyville taken in charge by Clare County Council and that monies are made available in order for Ennis Municipal District to proceed with these necessary works and traffic calming measures.

Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner replied as follows:

The Planning Authority is in receipt of bond monies in relation to Abbey Court & Abbey Ville and it is our intention to prepare tender documents in the coming months in consultation with Irish Water. The works to be carried out will be prioritised subject to available bond monies and the provisions and condition of the planning permission on the sites – however it is clear that additional funds would be required to provide traffic calming measures.

It is anticipated that the taking in charge process of these developments would commence in advance of carrying out the works. Notwithstanding, we arranged for the Municipal District office to carry out some essential repairs to two sections of the road earlier this year.

No. 9 NOM submitted by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.

That Members be advised of the current status of the planning and building of the extension to the Christian Brothers School.

Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner replied as follows:

The development, the subject of this Notice of Motion, comprises of permission for the demolition of some existing school buildings at CBS Primary School, Ennis and construction of a new School Building comprising of a 2 Storey, 24 classroom primary school building, with a total floor area of 4530 sq.m. The site works to the school grounds will consist of the provision of ball courts, project gardens, landscaping and boundary treatment within the site. The works also consist of the provision of 43 No. car parking spaces within the site and traffic calming measures along New Road and surface treatments.

On the 29th June 2017, permission for this development was granted by Clare County Council subject to a number of pre-development conditions. As of date, there are a number of planning conditions that require to be complied with and this is on-going with Clare County Council.

The timing and commencement date of works is a matter for the School and/or Department of Education. To date the Local Authority has not received a Commencement Notice.

Members welcomed the response to this Notice of Motion and acknowledged Cllr. J. Flynn's input as a member of the Board of Management of the CBS. Ennis Municipal District was also to the fore in the progression of this project and this was acknowledged also by members.

No. 10 NOM submitted by Cllr. A. Norton was seconded by Cllr. T. McNamara.

Is it possible that Clare County council maintain the Ballymaley roundabout as it is one of the main roads into Ennis.

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

The Landscape Maintenance Contractor for the Ennis MD cuts the grass on the margins at the approach to this roundabout. The raised area of the centre of the roundabout will be cut and the condition of approach signs will be inspected.

Members queried if there was a particular reason that the grass was not being cut on some roundabouts approaching Ennis. E.O'Dea confirmed this is part of a Biodiversity Programme which is included in the submission under the Tidy Town Awards. This is increasing marks in the application process whilst assisting with the rare species of orchids as well as increasing the bee stock which is under threat at this time. The grass cutting on the roundabouts will re-commence shortly. Members welcomed the clarity on this matter.

No. 11 NOM submitted by Cllr. M. Howard was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.

It is now necessary and as a matter of urgency that Ennis Municipal District proceed with detailed design and costings to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for

Drehidnagower Bridge. A solution needs to be found to ensure that pedestrians, cyclists and motorists can traverse the bridge safely.

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

As requested in previous Notice of Motions by Cllr Howard and representations from the Ennis MD Councillors, the Ennis MD Office has started the detailed design process for this section of footpath-cycleway. There are a number of items that need clarification before the detailed design process will be completed.

As stated in previous Notice of Motions the means of funding of this work is not available under the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport Grants until the Specific Improvement Scheme funding becomes available for this work. Presently the Specific Improvement Scheme funding is used for necessary structural works on bridges and masonry bridges following flooding events over the past decade. The works at Latoon Bridge, Drehidnagower Bridge and Bank Place Bridge are from that funding source.

Members suggested that these works be considered under the next round of funding under the Specific Improvement Grants allocation.

It was also queried if there was an original name for the bridge now commonly known as Bank Place Bridge, possibly previously known as Carroll’s Bridge. E. O’Dea undertook to establish the original name in this regard.

No. 12 NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Daly was seconded by Cllr. C. Colleran Molloy.

I ask Ennis Municipal District to carry out road repairs at Collins Park, Gallows Hill, Ennis.

Ian Chaplin, A/Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

The location has been inspected by the MD office and the necessary repairs have been carried out.

No. 13 NOM submitted by Cllr. T. McNamara was seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy.

I call on Clare County Council to ensure that all roadside hedges in the Ennis Municipal District are maintained to an acceptable standard.

Ian Chaplin, A/Senior Executive Engineer replied as follows:

The roadside hedges along the National roads and Regional roads are cut in line with the Council hedge-cutting policy and in so far as the allocated budget allows. Particular emphasis is given to junctions to maintain sightlines and at advance warning signage and other locations to maximise road safety. Local roads are cut at locations where road maintenance work is being carried out or along bus routes. Also locations that are identified to the Area office are followed up by contacting the landowner.

Landowners should ensure that trees, hedges or other vegetation are maintained in such a condition that they are not a hazard to road users or that they do not interfere with the maintenance of the public road. In particular, branches, which jut out onto the road, should be cut back. Dead and unsafe trees should be removed and hedges should be cut and trimmed. The Community Hedge Cutting Grant Scheme is available to assist landowners with this responsibility.

Section 40 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 as amended by Section 46 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 restricts the cutting of hedges during the growing season i.e. between March 1st and August 31st. Therefore, unless such hedge cutting has to be carried out during this period to facilitate public health and safety, all works of this nature should be implemented between September 1st and the end of February.

No. 14 NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Breen was seconded by Cllr. P. Murphy.

That the area between Tierneys shop and the bungalows in Lifford be cut back on a once off basis in order to eliminate dumping.

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

The small planting area has been cleared by the Ennis MD Office and we are discussing with the Gardening Section about planting of this area with low maintenance shrubs or convert it into a small green area. The tree that overhangs the location is in private ownership and the MD Office will make contact with the owner.

No. 15 NOM submitted by Cllr. J. Flynn was seconded by Cllr. M. Howard.

Update on Ennis Covered Market.

That an update be provided on how effective has been the management plan, as required under the Planning permission, for the running of the Ennis Covered Market.

Bernadette Haugh, Administrative Officer, replied as follows:

The Planner's report proposed that a Management Plan be drawn up to look at operational issues for the use of the building and a plan was prepared in August 2017 and is used for the management of the services including electrical, security, fire, waste management, cleaning, health & safety etc. The plan is scheduled for an annual update to reflect any changes and will be considered as part of a review of recent market events held in 2018.

Ennis MD in conjunction with Facilities Staff are managing the day to day operations of the facility.

Members acknowledged that while Ennis Covered Market has been a challenge, it has also been a very successful event venue during both 2016 and 2017 Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann and other successful festivals and events in the town over the last couple of years. This is in addition to its use as a car park on a daily basis.

It is now time to address the future use of Ennis Market and decisions need to be made in this regard. It was suggested that it may be time to outsource the running of this facility to the private sector who are more qualified in the area of markets.

A Market Advisory Committee meeting will be scheduled and comments from today's meeting will be part of those discussions therein.

No. 16 NOM submitted by Cllr. P. Murphy was seconded by Cllr. A. Norton.

Re Commemorative Plaque to the late Paddy Hogan T.D. at 7 Clonroadmore, Ard na Greine. I am requesting that whatever necessary works are carried out in order to prevent water logging and the continuous damage being done to the aforementioned wall, pier and commemorative plaque

Ian Chaplin, A/Senior Executive Engineer, replied as follows:

The location has been inspected by the Area office. The plaque is in need of maintenance and the required works will be carried out. The indicated issue of water logging on the roadway will be further assessed to ascertain why this is happening and if a practical solution can be implemented.

Item No. 11. Correspondence

None

Item No. 12. Any Other Business.

Members wished to acknowledge the following on their recent successes:-

- Ennis Swimmers – Lifesaving Competition in UL
- Reece Williams – Showjumping Achievements
- Valery Larkin - Worlds largest knitted blanket - World Book of Records
- Clarecastle Show Committee & it's Chairperson Michael Slattery – Clarecastle Show 2018 sponsored by Ennis Municipal District
- Ennis Purple Flag Award – Successful renewal for 2018
- Ennis as Ireland's Friendliest Town – Finalist again this year.
- Gardening Dept. Clare County Council – flowers/shrubs in Ennis.
- Clare County Council Staff – removal of illegal encampments from the Kilrush Road and Rocky Road roundabout.

Members requested the following:-

The three main traffic black spots in Ennis be included in the Master Plan for Ennis:-

1. Ballymacahill Cross on the Tulla Road.
2. Shanaway Junction on the Lahinch Road.
3. Industrial Estate Junction on the Gort Road.

That the pedestrian lights at the junction of Tobertascaín and Clonroad be adjusted to allow more time to pedestrians crossing.

Members proposed a vote of sympathy on the recent deaths of the following:-

- The late John Joe Coyne R.I.P.
- The late Michael Nunan R.I.P.
- The late Cllr. Tim McMahon R.I.P.

Signed: _____
Mayor of Ennis.

Signed: _____
Meetings Administrator.

Date: _____