

Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District special meeting held on Monday 22nd February 2016 at 9:45 am at the Offices of the Municipal District, Town Hall, Shannon, Co. Clare.

Present: Councillors PJ Ryan (Cathaoirleach), Pat McMahon, Gerard Flynn, Mike McKee & John Crowe.

Apologies: Cllr Cathal Crowe.

Apologies: Niall Barrett, Area Coordinator

Present: Fiona Mooney, Meetings Administrator, Pádraig Malone, Staff Officer.

Discussion on Disposal of Land for Development of Crematorium in Shannon

Cllr Ryan opened the meeting by stating that he had convened the meeting because of the continued concerns expressed by residents in the area about the disposal of the land for the development of a crematorium. He stated that six months had passed since it was previously on the agenda, but contracts had not yet been signed.

Cllr Flynn outlined the background to the Council discussions about this at district and full Council level. He stated he had been consistently opposed to the disposal but was not opposed to a crematorium in Shannon, so long as he considered the site was suitable. Cllr Flynn proposed to revoke the decision to dispose the land in question and this was seconded by Cllr Ryan.

Cllr McMahon commented that he had further considered the matter and was now in support of the proposal to revoke the decision to dispose. The meetings administrator confirmed that as of this morning, the contract had not been received back by the Council.

Cllr McKee referred to the background to the disposal at district and full Council level and stated that since the decision had been made at both levels of the Council, nothing had in fact changed in the meantime. He was in favour of the disposal of land and the crematorium and did not agree with proposal to revoke the earlier decision.

Cllr J Crowe said he was sticking with his own earlier decision and was supporting the land disposal.

Cllr Ryan indicated that he supported Cllr McMahon & Cllr Flynn and summarised that there were three members in favour of revoking and putting it back on the agenda of the full Council and two members were against this – Cllr John Crowe and Cllr McKee.

Cllr McKee stated that the graveyard in Shannon would be at its capacity in 2-3 years and that in most countries now, cremation was seen as a better solution than burial. Cllr Flynn disagreed and said that there was adjacent land currently used for allotments that was available to become part of the cemetery, in due course.

Cllr Ryan commented about the likelihood that European regulations may change how the country as a whole deals with graveyards and crematoriums in the future. He brought the meeting to a close, summarising that the majority at this meeting of Shannon Municipal District was in favour of revoking the earlier decision and putting the item back to full Council at the April meeting.

The date for the March meeting of the Shannon Municipal District was agreed and it will take place on Friday, 4th March at 15:00hrs.