

**Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday 17th November, 2020 at
9.45am in Glór, Causeway Link, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

Present: Councillors Pat McMahon (Cathaoirleach), Donna McGettigan, PJ Ryan, Gerard Flynn, John Crowe, Pat O’Gorman, Michael Begley.

Liam Conneally Director of Service, Jason Murphy Senior Executive Officer, Carmel Greene Senior Executive Officer, Aidan O’Rourke Senior Executive Engineer and Patricia O’Neill Staff Officer.

Cathaoirleach Pat McMahon opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

1. Minutes of Shannon Municipal District held on 15th September 2020 were proposed by Cllr. PJ Ryan and seconded by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and agreed by all.
2. Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Budget Meeting held on 10th November 2020 were proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. John Crowe and agreed by all.
3. Declaration of Public Roads at Ard Ratha, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare (serving houses 1 to 33). Proposed by Cllr. John Crowe and seconded by Cllr. PJ Ryan and agreed by all.
4. Disposal of strip of land adjacent to No. 1 Tullyvarraga Heights, Shannon. Proposed by Cllr. Donna McGettigan and seconded by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and agreed by all.
5. Burial Ground Review – Nomination of 2 Elected Members from the Shannon MD.
On the proposal of Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. Donna McGettigan, it was agreed that Cathaoirleach Pat McMahon and Leas Cathaoirleach John Crowe would represent and participate in the review process on behalf of the Shannon MD.
Liam Conneally, Director of Services added that the feedback from the Elected Members is important in this review process but, in his view that the service be retained where funding and management of the service resides.

6. Roadworks Programme

Aidan O’Rourke updated the Members in relation to the Road Works Programme

- Three month delay to the commencement of Road Works Programme due to the month lost to flooding in February and the two month COVID lockdown period.
- Surface Dressing works fully complete.
- Drainage Grant Projects complete
- Restoration Improvement works 80% complete with two overlay locations currently outstanding and some minor works required at some locations
- Larkins Cross traffic signalisation project 90% completed with installation of the traffic signals and road marking works outstanding
- Westbury Junction upgrade underway
- Works to Sixmilebridge bridge completed. Repairs to the riverbank walls have been carried out allowing the removal of Harris fencing at the town square.
- Tír Na NÓg playground work complete & playground reopened.
- The footpath rehabilitation contract tender 70% complete with footpath GMA works now underway.
- Roadmarking works substantially complete with remarking occurring across the district.

- Contract preparation is currently underway for the Sixmilebridge town and village renewal scheme project which will comprise the rehabilitation and renewal of the majority of footpath within the town centre.
- Funds have been received under climate change emergency funds for an investigation into the condition of stormwater pumps at Westbury housing estate and we are progressing these investigative works.
- Jetting works on blocked slit drains at Bóthar Na Luchara and Bóthar Linne Shannon under active travel measures are underway.
- Funding has been received under the active travel measures for a section of footpath in Meelick to connect housing estates and this is currently being completed
- Funding has been received via an application by the road design office for a complete refresh of the road markings for the cycle lane between Ennis and Shannon. These works are currently out to tender and are expected to be carried out in early 2021.

The Elected Member raised the following points

- The Members commended the surface dressing works done to date.
- It was noted that one Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) was completed in the district this year when considering the overall budget under the LIS for the whole county. The Members also requested that consideration be given to extending the works to the end of the road on the LIS in Gallows Hill, Cratloe.
- More works and expenditure on drainage and outlets which in turn would lead to less damage to road surfaces.
- Capital Budget for the Shannon MD in comparison to the other MD's.
- N19 Shannon Airport Access Road Improvement Scheme – the Members agreed that the access road should be a dual carriageway instead of a single lane carriageway and should be of a standard that is consistent with the Airport's role as an International Airport.

Jason Murphy, Senior Executive Officer outlined the Capital projects within the Shannon MD included URDF application, Shannon embankments, N19 Airport Access Road and the Bunratty to Shannon Greenway. He stated that these projects can take a 3 to 5 year period to be developed and delivered. Liam Conneally reiterated that there are a number of capital projects in the pipeline for the Shannon MD and they can take a number of years to bring to fruition. In relation to the N19 Airport Access Road, he stated that this comes under the radar of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and is currently at the public consultation stage. He stated he agreed with the views of the Members and believed that there should be a strong co-ordinated and unified pitch for the provision of a dual carriageway.

The Member welcomed the approval by An Bord Pleanála for the proposed flood relief scheme in Springfield, Clonlara. Aidan O'Rourke stated that water levels are under daily observation and materials and equipment are available at short notice should the need arise to deploy these.

7. Economic Development

- A number of large planning application, particularly for the Shannon MD, have been lodged with Clare County Council this year.
- Biopharmaceutical company MeiraGTx is currently under construction and is a significant capital investment into the future for Shannon and the region.
- Planning application for a 4 storey office block near Rineanna House for office use.

- Carbon Sole - bioenergy plant for Stonehall is currently in the planning process
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- Shannon Town Masterplan – Jason Murphy is taking the lead on this project and is currently working with the design team.

The following Motions – No. 8 from Cllr Michael Begley and No. 13 from Cllr. PJ Ryan were taken together.

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley
Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley
Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

That the signage and traffic calming measures at Brennan’s Cross, Meelick be reviewed in light of recurring accidents at this junction and that provision for remedial works be included in the 2021 Roads Programme.

Aidan O’Rourke replied as follows:

A low cost safety scheme was completed at this junction in 2017. While the Council’s road accident database does not indicate a road accident issue at this particular location it will be monitored with a view to assessing whether improvements can be made. The cause of traffic-related collisions is most likely associated with driver behaviour including excessive speed and driver distraction and these issues may best be dealt with through educational / advertising campaigns. A review of the measures in place at this junction will be carried out to determine the extent of this issue.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan
Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Michael Begley

That this MD carry out reconfiguration/alignment works at Brennan's cross Meelick as it has become extremely dangerous for cyclists, pedestrians and vehicles. This has occurred because of increased traffic volume in the area.

Aidan O’Rourke replied as follows:

A low cost safety scheme was completed at this junction in 2017. While the Council’s road accident database does not indicate a road accident issue at this particular location it will be monitored with a view to assessing whether improvements can be made. The cause of traffic-related collisions is most likely associated with driver behaviour including excessive speed and driver distraction and these issues may best be dealt with through educational / advertising campaigns. A review of the measures in place at this junction will be carried out to determine the extent of this issue.

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley
Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

That the L-70382, Oakfield, Clonlara, from its junction with the R463 for a distance of 500 meters be included in the 2021 Roads Programme.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The review of the condition of all district roads to formulate the 2021 Roadworks Programme will commence in early 2021. This road will be examined and considered for inclusion in the 2021 programme.

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley

Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat O'Gorman

That the L-70481, Cappavilla, Clonlara, be included in the 2021 Roads Programme.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The review of condition of all district roads to formulate the 2021 Roadworks Programme will commence in early 2021. This road will be examined and considered for inclusion in the 2021 programme.

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan

Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

That this MD would carry out alterations to the Woodcock Hill road, Cratloe at the point where it joins the Windy Gap road to prevent damage been done to the wall of the adjacent property as it has been damaged on several occasions.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Surface improvement works were carried out at this location in recent years. The issue will be examined to see if a facility exists to improve the turning movement at the junction.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan

Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat O'Gorman

That this MD would extend the footpath on the R462 from the Portdrine flyover Cratloe to the junction with the old R462 and install LED street lights on same.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Whilst funding is not currently available for this project, a preliminary estimate of the cost of construction can be prepared in order that it can be considered for funding or applied for via the appropriate grant.

Notice of Motion No. 13 from Cllr. PJ Ryan was dealt with earlier.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe

I am requesting Clare County Council to erect safety barriers in the vicinity of Mamma Mia's Take Away premises in Newmarket On Fergus due to health and safety concerns raised by pedestrians.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

This location will be examined to determine if the installation of a barrier is possible and the impact such barriers might have on both pedestrian traffic, vehicular traffic and disabled access.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe

That Clare County Council extend the safety barriers at the entrance to the Primary School, Newmarket On Fergus for the safety of the children in the school.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

This location will be examined to determine if the installation of a barrier is possible and the impact such barriers might have on both pedestrian traffic, vehicular traffic and disabled access.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

I am requesting Clare County Council to provide a parking area for the residents of Glencragga, Newmarket On Fergus due to restrictions in traffic movement in this area.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The Glencragga estate is one of the most well established estates in Newmarket on Fergus and was constructed when vehicular ownership was less common. The estate will be examined to see where it might be possible to provide such additional parking. As source of funding to progress works would need to be identified.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat McMahon

Can this MD look at installing street lighting along the Shannon Loop /River walk or where funding could be got from to make this possible. Due to Covid restrictions a lot of people are using the walkway as a form of exercise and with evenings coming in quicker now this leaves less daylight time to walk there.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The Shannon Loop /river walk is an "off –road" trail in an area of natural beauty and biodiversity. These trails are intended for use in daylight. Installation of lighting would have a negative impact on the bird and animal life in the location and would likely also require a further upgrade to the trail surface to prevent trip hazard. As an alternative walking location for the dark evenings, Clare County Council prioritised the completion of a Slí Na Slainte route around the Bealach Buí, Bóthar Linne and Bóthar Na Rinne route to provide for the winter period.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Can this MD look at or source funding for a wheelchair swing to be installed in the play park. We really should have our playgrounds all inclusive and this would go a long way to making all children feel welcome.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

This proposal will be progressed with a view to identifying a suitable location and obtaining prices for such an installation with a source of funding to be identified.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Can this MD look at the removal of trees and tidying up of footpaths around the ESB substation beside Shannon Town pitch. The substation is openly accessible and children tend to gather on its roof accessing it through the trees.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

This location will be examined to determine what maintenance is required and progressed as soon as resources permit.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan

The weir gate at the Battlement at Fredericks Square has to be replaced as a matter of urgency. They are incapable of controlling the flow of water downstream . The gates have not been replaced in over 50 years and now is the time considering the good work that has already been done on the bridge and the river downstream.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

The weir gate is located in private property and as such is not a Council asset to be replaced. This matter will be referred to the dangerous structures section of the Councils Building Control team.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe

Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat O'Gorman

The slip road joining the dual carriageway at the Sixmilebridge side in Cratloe onto the Limerick road needs to be extended because of the volume of traffic on both the dual carriageway and also the traffic coming from Sixmilebridge. If this isn't extended there will be a major accident at this section.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

This matter will be raised with Transport Infrastructure Ireland and examined in conjunction with the motorway maintenance contractor to determine the extent of the issue described.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe
Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan

Now that we are coming into the Winter, I am asking that Insurance Companies, as part of their current review, to consider the inclusion of flood damage to the residents of the Shannon Municipal District. *This Notice of Motion was supported by all the Members. It was agreed that the Meetings Administrator would write to the Review Committee, highlighting the concerns of the Members.*

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn
Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan

I am requesting Clare County Council to include Cycle Lanes to the design of the new Airport Road N19 and that in the meantime some temporary measures might be applied to facilitate cyclists as currently no cycle lane exists.

Seán Lenihan, Senior Engineer, Physical Development Directorate replied as follows:

The Motion is timely in that the N19 Shannon Airport Access Road Improvement Scheme has just gone out on Public Consultation last week (November 12th) and is open for comment and feedback until December 2nd 2020 next. Maps are available for viewing in the Shannon MD Office and at the Airport as well as at Council HQ in Ennis. To reflect that not all will be able to physically inspect these due to Covid 19 restrictions, an online consultation platform has been developed which can be accessed via the Project website www.shannonaccess.ie This online consultation experience will allow stakeholders and the general public to view and download the consultation brochure and maps and submit feedback on the constraints and preliminary route options. Notices were also published and communicated in the Clare Champion and Clare Echo Newspapers, Clare FM Radio and across all of the Councils Social Media Platforms.

In relation to the specifics of the motion, I would agree that cycle lanes and improved pedestrian access should be included for in the scheme design. Subject to the project passing all the approval stages, the scheme chosen will be designed and constructed in accordance with TII Standards which incorporate requirements for vulnerable road users. As the scheme is currently in Phase 2, no detailed design has yet been carried out but a number of the options brought forward to the public consultation include proposals for new shared use two-way cycle and pedestrian pathways. As part of the schemes on going consultation process, all inputs will be considered as the design progresses to ensure that we have a scheme that can safely meet the needs of all users including vehicle, cyclist and pedestrian.

Furthermore, we will work with the Shannon MD Office and consult with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and other relevant bodies regarding what can be done for Vulnerable Road Users presently to ensure connectivity between the Town, the Industrial Estate and the Airport in a safe manner for the use, enjoyment and benefit of all.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn
Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn
Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan

I am calling on Clare County Council to urgently put in place a safer design for the exit/entrance to Illaunmanagh Graveyard/Crematorium /Sport And Recreation facilities in Tullyvarraga. There is very

little sight lines available to road users at this location and the area has experienced a lot more activity over the last number of years.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

This location will be examined to determine the measures required to improve sightlines at this junction. Should significant works be required a source of funding will need to be identified.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat McMahon

I am calling on Clare County Council to put in place safety measures at Monument Cross, Urlanmore, Newmarket on Fergus. For many years on foot of many calls from local residents I have put forward this request and I am of the opinion that Clare County Council has a duty of care on the grounds of health and safety to carry out improvements to this junction.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

A review of the file on this location has shown that a design was produced by Clare County Councils Road Design office for this location in 2011 and funding provided. The design provided for the construction of a T junction onto the R472 from the L 3162 Urlan More road. Due to significant resistance from locals to the proposed design the project was not completed as intended and instead works took place to improve sight distance at the junction. This location was put forward to Clare County Councils Road Design section for consideration for low cost safety funding, amongst eleven other locations where such issues have been raised by Elected Members in the recent past.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O'Gorman

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O'Gorman

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan

That this MD would request the gritting machine to grit the road from the junction of R458/old N18 to Drumline roundabout and also the Wells Church car park. To make this stretch of road safe on frosty mornings with parents dropping children to school in Clonmoney.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Clare County Councils winter maintenance programme is detailed on the Council website. Deviation from the scope of the programme is not currently possible within the machinery, driving pool and funding currently allocated to this function. The winter maintenance programme caters for the main routes in County Clare and driver care is advised in freezing conditions on all other routes.

A discussion ensued in relation to this motion and was supported by All the Members. Aidan O'Rourke informed the meeting that the winter maintenance programme is drawn up by the Roads Transportation Section and he will convey points raised by the Member to the Transportation Section of Clare County Council for consideration.

27. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O'Gorman

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O'Gorman

Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn

I call on this MD to repair the digital display speed limit sign on the approachroad to Cratloe from the Limerick side on the R462.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

Repair to this speed limit sign will be carried out at the earliest opportunity.

28. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O'Gorman

Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O'Gorman

Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe

I request this MD to review the crossroads known as Sheahans Cross on the Quinpool to Parteen/Ballycannon road with the view of updating the road markings and widening the junction.

Aidan O'Rourke replied as follows:

This location will be examined to determine the measures required to improve sightlines and markings at this junction. Should significant works be required a source of funding will need to be identified.

29. Correspondence

- Irish Water re Ballycannon WWTP (Reply to Notice of Motion from September 2020 Meeting).
Cllr. Pat O'Gorman welcomed the response from Irish Water.
Liam Conneally added that this is a big issue for the South East Clare County Development Plan. It should be kept high on the agenda for Clare Co Co and Irish Water. Engagement with Irish Water is critical on this issue.
- Dúchas Na Sionna – progress report on Shannon Wetlands Restoration Project and Hastings Farmhouse Restoration Project.

The Members supported the submission from Dúchas na Sionna in relation to Hasting Farmhouse Restoration Project. Jason Murphy outlined that he has liaised with the Property Management and Planning Departments regarding the proposal. While acknowledging the historical and architectural significance of Hastings Farmhouse it was agreed that a feasibility study outlining the phasing, costing and viability of the project should be carried out to enable greater access to various streams of funding.

Liam Conneally commended Dúchas Na Sionna for their commitment to the project and added that assistance will be provided by Clare Co Co where possible.

30. AOB

Cllr. Gerard Flynn requested an update of the GMA allocation for 2020. It was agreed that a workshop would take place in the coming weeks in relation to this.

Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____