

**Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 at 9.45am at Treacy's Oakwood Hotel, Shannon, Co. Clare.**

**Councillors Present:** Councillors Michael Begley (Cathaoirleach), Donna McGettigan (Leas-Cathaoirleach), PJ Ryan, Pat McMahon, Gerard Flynn, John Crowe and Pat O'Gorman.

**Officials Present:** Helen Quinn A/Director of Service, Tom Mellett Senior Executive Engineer, (Meetings Administrator), Carmel Greene Senior Executive Officer, Niamh Madden Senior Executive Engineer and Patricia O'Neill Staff Officer.

Cathaoirleach Michael Begley opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

Cllr. PJ Ryan requested to address the meeting to pay tribute to his fellow Councillors and staff of Clare County Council for their support and co-operation which enabled him to fulfil his role over the last 12 months as Cathaoirleach of Clare County Council and the Shannon Municipal District.

1. Minutes of the Shannon Municipal District Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. PJ Ryan and agreed by all.
2. Minutes of the AGM of the Shannon Municipal District held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022 were proposed by Cllr. PJ Ryan and seconded by Cllr. John Crowe and agreed by all.
3. Section 183 - Disposal of a portion of lands at Radharc an Oir, Boheraroan, Newmarket On Fergus, Co. Clare was proposed by Cllr. Pat McMahon and seconded by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and agreed by all.
4. Proposed disposal (by lease) of lands to the rear of Meadows and Byrnes, shop and restaurant in Bunratty was proposed by Cllr. PJ Ryan and seconded by Cllr. John Crowe and agreed by all.
5. Disposal of property adjacent to 38 Carraig Hill, Shannon, Co Clare was proposed by Cllr. Gerard Flynn and seconded by Cllr. PJ Ryan and agreed by all.
6. Section 38 – From the Junction of the R462 / L3016 to 170 Metres South of the Junction on the R462 Leverstown, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare was proposed by Cllr. John Crowe and seconded by Cllr. PJ Ryan and agreed by all.
7. Economic Development - update by Helen Quinn, Acting Director of Services.
  - On behalf the Economic Directorate Ms. Helen Quinn extended congratulations to Jason Murphy on his recent promotion to A/Director of Service and wished him well in his new role.
  - The Design Brief for the One Shannon Hub is still in progress and will form an integral part of the procurement process.
  - The Lease agreement for the site in the Shannon Town Centre is currently being finalised.
  - The Chief Executive's report on the submissions received on the Co. Development Plan 2023 to 2029 was circulated to the Members on 10<sup>th</sup> July. The Elected Members have now a period of 15 weeks to consider this report. A series of workshops will be held to facilitate their consideration of the Chief Executive's Report.

- Sixmilebridge Town Centre Masterplan – the first meeting was held on site in Sixmilebridge. The Members were thanked for attending. The feedback from the meeting was positive and productive. Public consultation engagement will commence in September.
- An Event Licence application has been received for the Women's Irish Open due to take place in Dromoland in September. A decision is due in relation to this application in the coming weeks.

The Members also commended Mr. Jason Murphy for his contribution and commitment to the various projects in the Shannon MD and for working closely with the Members during his time as Senior Executive Officer in the Shannon MD. The issue of staff turnover in the Shannon MD office was also highlighted by the Members. Cllr. Gerard Flynn proposed that a meeting be held with Senior Management to address the staff turnover within the office. This was supported by all the Members.

#### **8. Roadworks Programme – update by Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer, Shannon MD.**

- The Low Cost Safety Scheme for Clonmoney is completed.
- The Low Cost Safety Scheme for Cratloe has now commenced.
- Hedgecutting is being undertaken at junctions to improve sight lines
- Westbury Wall is substantially complete with remaining items to be completed by the end of the summer.
- Parteen TVR – contractor appointed. Start date to be confirmed.
- Solar display units in Sixmilebridge have been repaired.
- The upgrade to the Pedestrian crossing in Newmarket On Fergus has been completed.
- The Local Improvement Scheme in Bunnabinnia has been completed
- Contractors are continuing with the treatment of giant hogweed along the Blackwater River.
- Edging has been carried out in the Tradaree area.
- Footpath from leverstown to the GAA grounds in Sixmilebridge has commenced.
- Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) in Drumgeely is now complete.

In response to the above the Members raised the following:

- The vandalism of signs in Sixmilebridge was condemned and the significant cost of repairing and replacing these signs was highlighted.
- A request that hedgecutting and cutting back the grass be carried out on the Gallows Hill Road as the overgrowth is causing a hazard for cyclists.
- Local Improvement Scheme – it was highlighted by the Members that there is not enough funding available under this scheme and there is currently a huge backlog of applications. The current process of prioritising applications under this scheme does not benefit the MD and alternative criteria for processing applications needs to be considered. The Shannon MD Office to raise this with the Transportation Section.
- Footpath edging to be carried out in Cluain Airne and Tradaree.
- TVR in Drumgeely to be advanced.

- The methodology for dealing with overhanging trees and hedges from private property on to footpaths needs to be reviewed particularly if the owner is not in a position to cut their trees/hedges.
- Trimming required on the Ballymurtagh Roundabout.
- Hedges on the Road to Ballysheen Graveyard are overgrown and need to be cut back.

**9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan**

**Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

That this MD would request the TII to erect directional signs to direct people to Shannon Aviation Museum and Educational Centre on the N18/M18 and N19

**Anne O'Sullivan, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads & Transportation replied:**

*This request has been forwarded to TII for their consideration & response.*

This Motion received the support of all the Members.

**10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan**

**Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat O'Gorman**

That this MD would erect directional signs at the Gullet Cross, Cratloe indicating Cratloe, Sixmilebridge, Gallows Hill and Kilfintinan burial ground.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*Shannon MD will include this work in our road maintenance program.*

Cllr. PJ Ryan added that these signs have been replaced recently and measures to prevent ease of removal should be considered.

**11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. PJ Ryan**

**Ar molagh Cllr. PJ Ryan**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Pat McMahon**

That this MD would carry out repairs at Limerick Road, Newmarket on Fergus, adjacent to the pedestrian crossing as road is subsiding.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*Shannon MD will include this work in our road maintenance program.*

**12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe**

Arising from a large number of enquiries from individuals, various organisations and voluntary bodies, I am requesting Clare County Council to draw up a Masterplan for Newmarket On Fergus.

**Helen Quinn, A/Senior Planner replied:**

*As the members are aware a Town Centre First Masterplan is currently underway for Sixmilebridge. The locations and programming of further town centre first masterplanning exercises have not been identified to date. However, it is intended that Newmarket on Fergus would be the next recommended location for such a masterplanning exercise within the Shannon Municipal District area.*

Cllr. Pat McMahon added that it is vital that the Masterplan would run in parallel with the upgrade of wastes water treatment plant which it is envisaged will allow for the growth of the village.

This Motion was supported by all the Members, emphasising the role the community, Councillors and all stakeholders play in having their input into the Masterplan.

**13. 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 appropriate signage regarding dog fouling in Newmarket On Fergus.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*Clare County Council currently operates a leave no trace policy. Appropriate signage will be placed in Newmarket on Fergus.*

A discussion followed in relation to this Motion, with Members emphasising the need to remind people of their responsibilities and educating the public of the health risks associated with dog foul. Signage throughout the MD, provision of bins and audio devices were also discussed

Cllr. Gerard Flynn stated that he had received complaints from members of the public that the audio activation device in the Drumgeely area near Foyle Park and Corrib Drive was causing a nuisance during the nighttime for residents of this area.

Tom Mellett advised that the audio devices are set on timers and they will look into adjusting the time settings.

**14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat McMahon**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Pat McMahon**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe**

That Clare County Council would carry out repairs and upgrade the Blessed Well at Clenagh, Newmarket On Fergus.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*Shannon MD will carry out an assessment on the work to be carried out.*

**15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan**  
**Ar molagh Cllr. Donna McGettigan**  
**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

I call on this MD to remove the speed reduction "Gateway System" in place on the road from Purcell Park , Tradaree, leading into Cluain Airne. This system does not seem to be working in the area but speed is still an issue on this road which has only one way in and one way out for those living in Tradaree and Cluain Airne.

I would further ask that a meeting take place with residents as to how best going forward to help reduce speed on this road.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*Shannon MD is currently carrying out speed and traffic volumes surveys in this area to assist with an assessment of the existing infrastructure. A meeting with residents can take place when this assessment is complete.*

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

I call on this MD to assess the type and size of speed signs, particularly leading into small cul de sac areas where the speed limit should be 30 but some signs are not visible enough to be seen.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*The design & size of speed signs is regulated by the Traffic Signs Manual issued by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. If signs are missing or inadequate the Shannon MD will replace them.*

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

I call on this MD to create a video using volunteer groups, drone and photo footage to showcase the positives in our town, in particular those community volunteer groups who help make our town what it is. This could include Tidy Towns, meals on wheels, staff who help clean our park. Our town has some beautiful spots such as the loop and pump track for people to come to visit.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*Shannon MD will assist in any way we can. We will discuss this with colleagues in other relevant departments in order to develop a brief for this project.*

This Motion received the support of all the Members.

**18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O’Gorman**  
**Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman**  
**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

That this MD would redo the road markings at the junction of lower Meelick with L3120 Knockroe known locally as Gavin’s cross. As this junction has become unsafe due to the fading road markings.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*These works will be added to our current road maintenance programme.*

Tom Mellett added that the line marking contract has commenced.

**19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O’Gorman**  
**Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman**  
**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

That this MD would provide and put in place the following signs “Children at Play” and “Drive Slowly” at Kyleavoher, Meelick. There is a lot of children living and playing in this area, also a lot of car movements coming and going from the GAA grounds.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*New road markings are to be installed in this area during July, the additional signage will be added to our current road maintenance programme*

**20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Pat O’Gorman**  
**Ar molagh Cllr. Pat O’Gorman**  
**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

That this MD would dismantle a walled area that is located at Grianán, Westbury, located within the vicinity of house numbers 83 to 96, which was once used to house wheelie bins and that this area be incorporated into the green space. This area at present is attracting antisocial behaviour and is not being used by the residents for any purpose.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*These works will be added to our current road maintenance programme and will be completed by the end of August.*

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

I am requesting this MD to take urgent steps to secure the south boundary fence and hedgerow of Doonass Graveyard to prevent the continuous trespassing through the graveyard by walkers and Licenced Fishermen trying to access the riverbank.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*Shannon MD will arrange for an assessment of the existing boundary to identify what works are required.*

**22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. John Crowe**

That the grass cutting/hedge/verge trimming during the closed season be reviewed to ensure road safety is maintained at all times.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*This office continually reviews grass cutting / hedge / verge trimming during the summer months and where necessary carryout remedial works in the interest of road safety in line with the parameters of the Wild Life Act.*

**23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Michael Begley**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Michael Begley**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

That the ESB be asked to move the pole from the centre of the footpath between Clonlara NS and the Headrace Canal Bridge

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*Shannon MD will ask ESB Networks if this pole can be moved.*

**24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

**Ar molagh Cllr. Gerard Flynn**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Donna McGettigan**

I am requesting an update in regard to previous motions concerning the difficulties experienced by the local community in Shannon when they are visiting the Graveyard in Illaunmanagh.

(i) Vehicles attending The Crematorium services parking in the spaces provided for the graveyard.

(ii) The closing of the parking area near the main entrance due to illegal encampments causing massive inconvenience.

(iii) Sight-lines when exiting on to Slí na Mara, a very busy road is causing safety issues.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*Shannon MD will be installing a new footpath and improved public carparking area in the Illaunmanagh area. The works include the installation of new drainage infrastructure, kerbing, a new macadam footpath, a new car parking area and improving the entrance to the Illaunmanagh area. These works will be completed by early September.*

The issue of illegal dumping at this location was highlighted by Cllr. Donna McGettigan.

Cllr. PJ Ryan stated that the carpark should be lined and opened up and by-laws enacted to ensure no overnight parking. Tom Mellett agreed that he would examine this proposal.

**25. 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 renew the road markings in Shannon Town as a number of road marking was obliterated during resurfacing . Double Yellow Lines at the exit of Corrib Drive that was put in place to improve sight lines is covered over and some marking around speed cushions on Gort Road still need to be reapplied & Bóthar Mór (N19). These are a number of examples needing attention.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*A new road surface was applied to the Gort Road early in the summer, any markings that need to be renewed will be completed during July.*

**26. 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 put in place a link footpath to join up with the recent enhanced River Walk adjacent to the Airport road and near the Drumgeely Apartments. This very important facility is a well established facility in Shannon Town and just needs small additional work to improve its access for the public.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*Shannon MD will carry out an assessment to identify what works and funding are required.*

**27. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe**

**Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. Michael Begley**

I am requesting that the L3070 road in Clonlara gets immediate attention regarding an upgrade as it is in bad condition.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*Shannon MD will include any repairs in our current road maintenance programme and will consider inclusion of this road in future road improvement works*

**28. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe**

**Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

I am requesting an update as to know why a gully on the L7114 road has not been installed. There is a major flooding problem in the area.

**Tom Mellett, Senior Executive Engineer replied:**

*Shannon MD will include this drainage work in our current drainage maintenance programme, this work will be completed during September.*

**29. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. John Crowe**

**Ar molagh Cllr. John Crowe**

**Cuidithe ag Cllr. PJ Ryan**

There has been a submission by the residents at Deerpark, Sixmilebridge for their estate to be taken in charge by Clare County Council. As this request has been submitted for a number of years, I am looking for an update.

**Kieran O'Donnell, Administrative Officer, Planning replied:**

*The Planning Department are progressing this Taking in Charge application and plan to advertise it before the end of August 2022. Assuming that there are no objections raised as part of the public consultation process, this proposal will be brought back to a meeting of Shannon MD before the end of 2022, for a formal resolution to take the development in charge.*

*The members should note that there are works required to this development and as there are no funds available to carry out these works at the current time, a funding source will need to be identified in the future.*

This Motion was supported by all the Members.

**30. AOB**

This concluded the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cathaoirleach**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Meetings Administrator**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_