

# **Minutes of Annual Meeting of West Clare Municipal District held on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 at 12.00 p.m. in Ennistymon MD offices**

## **Cathaoirleach sa Cathair:**

Cllr. B.Slattery,

## **I Láthair:**

Cllr. R. Nagle, Cllr.C.Curtin, Cllr. I. Lynch, Cllr. M. Hillery, Cllr. B. Chambers, Cllr. G. Keating,Cllr. P.J. Kelly,

## **Officials present:**

Mr. L. Cleary, Area Co-Ordinator & A/Director of Service,  
Mr. J. Corry, Administrative Officer & Meetings Administrator.  
Mr. S. Lahiffe, A/SEE West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Slattery welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked the members for their support during the past 12 months indicating that it had been an honour for him to serve as Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of West Clare. He indicated that the Municipal District was the largest of all four Districts in Clare & that consequently, resources made available for road improvements and general maintenance projects were more stretched. He added that as Cathaoirleach of West Clare, he looked for additional funding and received approval for an additional €500,000 for the county bringing to €200,000 the additional amount allocated to the District for local tertiary and secondary roads for 2017.

He added that he welcomed the fact that progress was being made regarding a solution to Blakes Corner.. He said he was disappointed that the matter had not been resolved in the year since he assumed the role of Cathaoirleach but he wanted to acknowledge that the Council were much closer to a resolution today than they were 12 months ago. He added that the Council was continuing to work with Transport Infrastructure Ireland and local stakeholders to reach a solution to the traffic congestion at the junction & he accepted that the solution to the problem was complex, & that the Council was making progress whilst following proper procurement procedures.

He indicated that he would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the huge amount of work that had been carried out in delivering coastal remediation projects throughout North and West Clare over the past 12 months. He particularly wanted to acknowledge the fine work completed to date on the Lahinch promenade which he said had received a very positive reaction from the public. He particularly wanted to thank Steve Lahiffe for his work in progressing this project. He said that as the Part 8 planning process had already been approved for the second phase, that he hoped that the remainder of the

proposed works would commence in September 2017 and would be completed in time for the 2018 tourist season. He also added that he hoped that the remainder of the proposed works along the Clare coastline as a result of the 2013 and 2014 storms could be completed on schedule and on budget.

He indicated that one of the highlights for him during the year had been working to ensure West Clare featured prominently in the objectives of the new County Development Plan. He wanted to thank his fellow Councillors for their input, patience and assistance given to him as Chairperson at all of the workshops hosted over the period of almost 6 months in bringing this Plan to fruition.

He also indicated that he was delighted that he was Cathaoirleach during the development of the Doolin Masterplan which had now proceeded to public consultation stage.

He concluded by acknowledging the staff of Clare County Council for their support during the past year especially John Corry, Leonard Cleary, Siobhan McNulty, Morgan Lahiffe, Tom Tiernan, Brian McCarthy, Steve Lahiffe & all the overseers & general operatives. He wished the incoming Cathaoirleach the very best in the role and looked forward to working as a member of this Committee for the people of this Municipal District in the months and years ahead.

The members and executive thanked Cllr. Slattery and complimented him on his leadership over the past year.

## **1. Election of Cathaoirleach for 12 months**

Cllr. Curtin proposed Cllr. Hillery for the position of Cathaoirleach. This was seconded by Cllr. Nagle. There were no other nominations & Cllr. Hillery was deemed elected.

Cllr. Hillery thanked Cllr. Slattery for his role as Cathaoirleach. He indicated that the Rural Development Plan was a very important plan & he indicated that it would be very important that the plan would be launched & funding secured for the towns & villages throughout the District. He mentioned the Cliffs of Moher as being a tremendous tourism asset with over 1.4m visitors annually. He welcomed the funding recently being received from CLAR which was very important for local communities. He referred to the Doolin Masterplan that was on display & he hoped that it would come to fruition over the coming years. He also referred to the Sustainable Tourism plan & he emphasized that sustainable tourism was essential for a county like Clare. He referred to the additional construction of Local Authority houses in Quilty & he hoped that same would be completed by next year. He referred to Blakes Corner & hoped that a solution could be found to resolve the traffic issues here. He referred to the funding for roads & he hoped that same could be increased as he felt that the present funding was insufficient. He referred to flooding & the plans to alleviate flooding in Miltown Malbay & he acknowledged that a submission had been made to the OPW re same. He referred to the 9 Blue Flags that Clare Co Council had been recently awarded & that it sent out a very positive image of the county. He referred to Broadband & his wish that same could be

improved in rural areas. He referred to storm damage & plans that had been submitted to the OPW to try & secure funding for strengthening works here. He thanked the Executive of Clare Co Council for their help & he was looking forward to working closely with them over the next year. He said that he would also like to take this opportunity to compliment the road engineers & outdoor workers & thank them for all the work they do.

The members all wished Cllr. Hillery well in his role as Cathaoirleach.

There was a discussion on the lack of staff in the Planning department & the need to have sufficient staff to assess planning applications. The lack of resources in Road Design was also mentioned. There was also a discussion on the necessity to keep Cllrs updated on progress with projects etc.

## **2. Election of Leas Cathaoirleach for 12 months**

Cllr. Lynch was proposed by Cllr. Slattery for the position of Leas Cathaoirleach and was seconded by Cllr. Kelly. As there were no other nominations, Cllr. Lynch was elected to the position. All members wished Cllr. Lynch well in his role as Leas Cathaoirleach.

## **3. Approval to payment of Allowance to Cathaoirleach of Municipal District**

The approval to the payment of an allowance to the Cathaoirleach of the MD of €6,000 was proposed by Cllr. Curtin and seconded by Cllr. Slattery.

## **4. Schedule of Meetings**

It was agreed that the West Clare would meet on the following dates:

28<sup>th</sup> July 2017

5<sup>th</sup> September 2017

7<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Jan Mtg date to be agreed at Nov Mtg

6<sup>th</sup> March 2018

1<sup>st</sup> May 2018

It was agreed that if there was a need to change the date or time of any scheduled meeting during the year that same would be agreed by the members.

## **5. S38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 proposed Traffic Calming measures at Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare**

The proposed traffic calming measures were proposed by Cllr. Kelly & seconded by Cllr. Curtin.

## **6. S38 of the Road Traffic Act 1994 proposed Traffic Calming measures at Kildysart , Co. Clare**

The proposed traffic calming measures were proposed by Cllr. Kelly & seconded by Cllr. Curtin.

## **7. Correspondence**

*Email from Paul O' Brien, Kilrush & District Historical Society dated 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 seeking approval for funding for improvement works at Kilrush Churchyard*

J. Corry referred to the fact that funding of €10k had been ringfenced for the Church of Ireland when Kilrush TC was abolished in 2014. The cllrs agreed that ringfenced monies be used for development works taking place here.

## **8. A.O.B.**

There was a discussion on the Speed Limit review & the draft bye laws which were being prepared. The members mentioned that they were not in favour of a blanket reduction of the speed limit on the N67. There was also a discussion on the role of the TII with regard to setting speed limits on national roads. J Corry clarified that the TIIs consent was required to introduce a new speed limit on a national road but that it was a reserved function of the Council to change an existing speed limit on a national road & to adopt the bye laws.

L Cleary suggested that going forward that Directors of Service from other Directorates might attend future meetings to brief the members on relevant issues related to that Directorate. He also added that he would keep the members updated on any staffing changes related to the District. Cllr. Lynch indicated that an invitation had been extended to the West Clare MD to hold a meeting in Chemfab & to tour the plant.

Cllr Hillery indicated that he wanted to invite everyone to lunch in the Falls Hotel immediately after the meeting.

This then concluded the business of the meeting

**Signed :**

**Cllr. M. Hillery**

**Cathaoirleach**

**Signed :**

**J. Corry**

**Meetings Administrator**

**Dated this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of September 2017.**