

**Minutes of West Clare Municipal District Meeting Tuesday 28th July 2020 at 4pm in
Council Chamber, Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare**

Cathaoirleach sa Cathair:

Cllr. Joe Garrihy

I Láthair:

Cllr. Shane Talty, Cllr. Gabriel Keating, Cllr. Joe Killeen, Cllr. Ian Lynch, Cllr. Cillian Murphy, Cllr. PJ Kelly, Cllr. Bill Chambers.

Officials present:

Mr. Leonard Cleary, Area Co-Coordinator & Director of Service

Mr. John O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer & Meetings Administrator, West Clare Municipal District

Mr. Alan Kennelly, SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Mr. Enda MacNamara, SEE, West Clare Municipal District

Mr. Steve Lahiffe, Senior Staff Officer, West Clare Municipal District

Cllr. Garrihy convened the Meeting. The Chairperson subsequently took the opportunity to formally congratulate Ms. Roisin Garvey on her appointment to the Senate.

1. Minutes of AGM held on 23rd June.
The Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Chambers & seconded by Cllr. Murphy & agreed.
2. Minutes of Meeting held on 23rd June.
The Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Keating & seconded by Cllr. Talty & agreed.
3. Adoption of Plan of Strategic Projects for West Clare Municipal District
Deferred to September for adoption.
4. Proposal to take in charge road at Muckinish West, Ballyvaughan – report attached.
Criteria for taking in charge is currently not met and therefore proposal was not passed.
John O'Malley advised that it could be revisited if it is brought up to the required standard.

Cllr. Lynch proposed that it considered under the Local Improvement Scheme and this proposal was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

Rural Development

5. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Garrihy & Cllr. Talty
“In the Context of utterly changed circumstances and requirements following Covid 19 and impact on public health, public space and sports facilities requirements that Clare County Council engage with the department of education and all relevant stakeholders with a view to leading a collaborative to provide an All-weather pitch and walking

track / amenities at the new amalgamated secondary school site in Ennistymon. Maximum impact and value for money for the community, stakeholders and overall project will result if major facilities such as proposed in this motion are available to the community and clubs of the area outside of school hours.”

Response from John O’Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer

Initial discussions have commenced with the Social Directorate on this Motion. The West Clare MD office will further engage with the Social Directorate and the Department of Education to determine what facilities can be developed with a view to providing for the community as a whole.

6. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Garrihy
“I ask Clare County Council to review the maintenance and operation of all Burial Ground’s in the West Clare MD and following review to establish in collaboration with stakeholders a level of consistency and high standard of upkeep and care across all Graveyards.”

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

Response from Joe Spellissy, Senior Staff Officer, Environment

A countywide review of burial ground maintenance will be undertaken as issues around the reactionary approach to maintenance and resource implication have been raised in recent times. It is intended to include this as an item for the consideration of the Members on the Agenda of the Rural Development SPC later this year. The current charging regime in place since 2009 and the issue of how non-operational/non-revenue generating burial grounds are maintained will be key factors for consideration in any discussion on future policy in this area.

The Council continues to provide maintenance/upkeep by way of our existing network of Caretakers with assistance from Municipal District staff and individual contractors as appropriate.

Clare Co. Council also wishes to acknowledge the substantial work carried out by community groups in burial grounds throughout the County supported by grant aid under the Council’s Community Support Scheme. We have ongoing liaison with existing Community groups/stakeholders and would welcome new applicants when the CSS application framework reopens at year end so we can continue to support the invaluable work undertaken by Communities in our County’s burial grounds.

7. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating
*“In the interests of proper regional tourism development that Clare County Council explore funding opportunities with Fáilte Ireland or other government departments/stakeholders for the development of a coastal walk from Byrnes Cove, Kilkee via Chimney Bay to the village of Coosheen.
This walk would mirror the Liscannor to Doolin Coastal walk via the Cliffs of Moher and with equally spectacular views & vistas would really deliver on the untapped potential of the Wild Atlantic Way. It would greatly enhance the tourism potential of this part of Kilkee and would anchor the walk to Kilkee while making the surrounding countryside & seascape accessible to visiting tourists and the local population as a fantastic recreational walk.”*

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Kelly.

Response from Deirdre O’Shea (A/Head of Tourism) –

The feasibility of this opportunity will be explored in terms of sustainable development in addition to relevant local and stakeholder consultation.

8. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Murphy
“That CCC MD organize a site visit to look at the Integrated constructed wetlands in Dunhill as a potential solution for waste water treatments at Carrigaholt and other west Clare towns and villages.”

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch

Response from John O’Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer

The West Clare MD will organise a site visit to Dunhill to gain an understanding of possible future projects within the MD.

Planning & Economic Development

9. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Chambers
“That Clare County Council would add Miltown House, Spanish Point, Miltown, V95 N6C4, to the record of protected structures in Co. Clare.”

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

Response from Helen Quinn A/ Senior Planner, Planning Department

Clare County Council are commencing a review of the Clare County Development Plan in September 2020. The drafting of the new plan is a 2 year process which will involve the preparation of a Record of Protected Structures. Consideration relating to the addition of Miltown House, Spanish Point, Miltown V95 N6C4 to the record will be given as part of that process and if considered appropriate for inclusion a recommendation will be made to the elected members.

Cllr. Talty wished the Sisters of Mercy well on their retirement with the Order leaving Milford House after 80 years.

Social Development

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch
“I request that Clare County Council develop a master plan for Kilrush Active Sports facility to include a series of interested party and community engagement events to establish how the facility could be further developed and maximised for West Clare and to build on a previous proposal to develop Kilrush as a sports hub”.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Response from John O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer

The West Clare MD will work with the Social Directorate on formulating a Master Plan for Kilrush Active Sports Facility. The Social Directorate have plans to expand the changing facilities and along with the West Clare MD have engaged with interested parties re expanding this project to include for a multi-purpose centre sports hub. This is at an early stage and the members will be kept informed of progress.

Physical Development

11. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Talty

“Ask the Director of Services to address plans for the long term parking needs of Ennistymon. Particularly in view of the part 8 planning application which could see up to 16 spaces being lost around Main Street.”

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Response from Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, WCMD

A number of potential sites in Ennistymon are currently being assessed to determine suitability for parking. Clare County Council is committed to finding a suitable long term solution to the parking issues currently experienced in Ennistymon.

Leonard Cleary added that the need for additional parking was recognized. Timeframe is to go sale agreed on potential property in autumn, with work to commence in 2021. Additional funds will be sought for Ennistymon in Budget 2021.

12. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Talty

“Ask the Senior Engineer to provide an update on plans to repair substandard footpaths around Church Street, Miltown Malbay.”

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Response from Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, WCMD

Repairs to footpaths on Church Street are not included in the 2020 Schedule of Municipal District Works. Clare County Council will review the condition of the footpaths and prepare a cost estimate. If funding is sourced this year, works will be scheduled for 2020. Alternatively, the works will be put forward for inclusion in the 2021 programme of works.

13. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Killeen

“We call on Clare County Council to monitor hedge growth in the road network and put in place a hedge trimming strategy, and undertake trimming where necessary on health & safety grounds.”

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Response from Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, WCMD

Clare County Council's adopted hedge cutting policy specifies the following priorities for hedge cutting:

- All regional and national routes,
- Approaches to towns and villages,
- Strategic routes linking towns and villages,
- Bus routes and important school bus routes,
- Roads being strengthened/surface dressed on roadworks programme.

Hedge growth along the road network is monitored and addressed if deemed a health & safety concern. Each year, the MD office write out to landowners advising them of their responsibilities, under Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993, to maintain trees, hedgerows etc. on or inside their boundaries adjacent to public roads.

14. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Killeen

“We call on Clare County Council to prioritise improvements to the exceptionally busy R477 with a view to improving the ability of this stretch of road to cater adequately, with the volume of tourist traffic while minimising the negative impact on people living in this area and those using the road to conduct their business on a daily basis. The improvements to include:

*re-surfacing and relining the damaged road surface section of the Ballyvaughan, Gleninagh section of the road,
cutting back the overgrown roadside hedges, immediately, on Health and Safety grounds, on the Ballyvaughan, Gleninagh, Murrough, Fanore section of the road,
Carry out a survey looking at the provision of extra pull in areas along this stretch of road. Upgrade the pull in areas that are available on the short term to allow for greater ability to savour the spectacular sea views, increase the opportunity to social distance while improving traffic flow.”*

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Response from Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, WCMD

Resurfacing of the R477 between Gleninagh and Ballyvaughan is not included in the 2020 Schedule of Municipal District Works. A review of the condition of the road will be carried out and if deemed necessary, will be put forward for inclusion in the 2021 programme of works.

Hedge growth along the R477 will be reviewed. Due to limited budget Clare County Council is unable to trim hedges along all regional roads. Priority is given to areas that are deemed health and safety risks. The MD office will write out to landowners advising them of their responsibilities, under Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993, to maintain trees, hedgerows etc. on or inside their boundaries adjacent to public roads.

A Community Hedge Cutting Grant Scheme is also available to communities, groups of local residents and landowners for the cutting of hedges/trees which need attention. This scheme will be advertised in August.

A survey of the pull in areas was previously completed by Clare County Council. Clare County Council in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland, are currently reviewing the results of

the survey as part of the Wild Atlantic Way Route Review project. A number of existing areas will be assessed to determine suitability for upgrades to increase parking.

15. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Killeen
“We call on Clare County Council to examine & report on traffic management improvements for the village of Corofin, looking at the pinch points of the bridge and in Market Street. With a view to improving traffic flow and pedestrian access to the village.”

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Response from Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, WCMD

The MD office has carried out an initial review of the constraints experienced by pedestrians and motorists in the village of Corofin. The findings of this review have been discussed with Clare County Councils Road Design Office (RDO). The MD office will prepare a submission in conjunction with the RDO seeking funding to carry out a design and implement improvements along Bridge Street and Market Street.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Garrihy
“That the West Clare Municipal District engage with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland in establishing an MD Wide Sustainable Energy Community with a view to A regional strategy on Localising the benefits of the Energy Transition in West Clare to include.

A review of the regional needs including:

- *Local Delivery: Scaling up local retrofit and generation operations*
- *Governance and structures required to maximise delivery of energy projects*
- *Gaps in Training and development to ensure local jobs benefit*
- *Project Financing - Leveraging investment and accessing capital funding e.g. BEC, National Retrofit,*
- *Using Just Transition funding to mitigate the local impact of the Moneypoint*
- *Sources of Bridging Finance*
- *Requirements for back room and admin support*

An Action Plan with recommendations for each of the partners on maximising the coherence of MD engagement with the Energy Transition, and the access to SEAI and other state supports/funding in this area.”

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

Response from John O’Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer

I will be meeting with the SEAI on a separate project this week and will use the opportunity to discuss the possibilities of establishing an MD wide Sustainable Energy Community and developing a regional strategy. Supports from the Limerick Clare Energy Agency and other experts in the field will be sought and the MD will work with the Member on this Action Plan into the future.

Cllr. Lynch requested a meeting be held to discuss Moneypoint.

Leonard Cleary advised that Task Force for Moneypoint will be discussed with Economic Development.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating
“That Clare County Council carry out road restoration and surface dressing on the L6170 at Carrowniska North, Kilmurry McMahon”.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers.

Response from Alan Kennelly, SEE, WCMD -

Approximately 350 linear metres of the L-6170 is included in this year’s Schedule of Municipal District Works. The section in question will undergo restoration improvement. In addition, patching & pothole repairs have already been carried out on other sections of this road.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Keating
“That Clare County Council include in the 2020 Schedule of Municipal District Works Programme, the completion of the restoration works at Circular Road, Carrigaholt Road, Chapel Street and Merton Square. If they cannot be completed in this year’s programme they must be included in the 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works in advance of the tourist season”.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

**Response from Alan Kennelly, SEE, WCMD -
For Information:**

Circular Road, Kilkee	L-2009-7	1,112 metres
Carrigaholt Road	R 487-17	1,000 metres
		<i>(estimate – roundabout to speed limit signs)</i>
Chapel Street	L-2015 -0	265 metres
Merton Square	L-6055-0 / 1	170 metres

In relation to Circular Road & as advised at the January 2020 meeting of the West Clare MD, “... .. *Circular Road is not on the current Roadworks Programme*”.

In relation to Merton Square & as advised at the January 2020 meeting of the West Clare MD, “*There was a previous Motion to resurface Merton Square in 2019. It was noted at the time that this is not on the current Roadworks Programme and the cost of carrying out works would be significant as it is a very large area. There was communication in 2019 with residents re a possible Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)*”.

None of the roads listed in the Notice of Motion are included in the 2020 Schedule of Municipal District Works, as adopted by the West Clare MD. The roads to be included in the 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works remain to be finalised, but the roads listed are not currently included on the 3-year programme. The roads included in the 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works will be prioritised in accordance with the requirements of the road network throughout the entire Kilrush engineering area.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly
“The exit view at the junction from the Lisroe road onto the R474 west of Connolly would be improved”.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Response from Alan Kennelly, SEE, WCMD -

Some low cost safety measures are proposed for this junction and should be completed shortly.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly
“That Transport Infrastructure Ireland be requested to introduce Traffic Calming on the N68 at the service station in Darragh, to allow for safe entry & exit from the station.”

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers.

Response from John Corry, AO, Transportation

I have referred this request to Road Design to follow up with the TII regarding consideration of the introduction of traffic calming measures at this location.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Kelly
“Clare County Council’s advises what the Council’s role is in the licensing and regulation of clothes banks in the county.”

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Response from Anthony Considine, A/Executive Engineer, Environment

Clare County Councils role in relation to textile banks involves tendering and awarding the contract for the supply, servicing and maintenance of textile banks at Clare County Council controlled sites. Textile recycling does not fall under the category of waste and as such is not bound by any waste management regulations.

However, if Clare County Council become aware of textile banks (not under Clare Co Co contract) that are not being serviced and are causing a waste nuisance (i.e dumping on the ground etc) a 14 day removal notice may be put on the relevant bank.

The current company responsible for textile banks on Clare County Council controlled sites is Textile Recycling Ltd.

John O'Malley advised that he would work with the Environment Department in relation to this.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Murphy
"That CCC MD undertake to resurface the R487 from the roundabout in Kilkee to Marian Estate".

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Response from Alan Kennelly, SEE, WCMD -

The distance between the round-about in Kilkee to the entrance to Marian Estate is approx. 400 linear metres. This section of the above road is not included in the 2020 Schedule of Municipal District Works, nor is it currently included on the 3-year programme. However, the 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works remains to be finalised.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Murphy
"That CCC MD undertake a needs assessment, to include technical, physical and financial requirements, for the provision of fresh water and electricity at Seafield Pier to ensure the sustainability of our local fishing industry and to cater for its growth in the future."

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Lynch.

Response from John O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer

There is currently water and public lighting at Seafield pier. The provision of electricity will be considered within the current budget.

John O'Malley added at the meeting the WCMD will be looking as assessing piers in general. How the Piers & Harbours grant may help will also be looked at.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch
"That Clare County Council in conjunction with the TII would undertake a review of the N68 from Kilrush to Ennis to ensure existing lay-by areas are safe for traffic and to identify further suitable areas to reconfigure/construct lay-bys to enable slow moving vehicles/ HGV/ agriculture machinery pull off the main carriage way to allow the buildup of traffic safely pass."

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Response from John Gannon, SEE, Road Design Office

Clare County Council has planned to commence work with the National Transport Authority on preparing a Transport Strategy for County Clare in Q3 2020. This review can be included in the Work Programme of the Road Design Office once the Transport Strategy Report is completed. If there are immediate areas of concern regarding existing lay-bys these can be addressed, as part of the TII road Safety Inspection Procedure (HD17 schemes) in County Clare, subject to a proposal submitted by the MD and funding through the TII.

25. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Lynch
“That Clare County Council develop a Shannon Estuary water based recreation master plan, requesting submissions on how best to develop Water base recreation on the Shannon Estuary with future community engagement events to be held in Clare communities along the northern banks”.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

Response from John O’Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer

Discussions have commenced on this proposal with a view to developing a Blueway Plan for the Estuary. Following on from this motion this will be expanded to include for Water based recreational facilities with a view to developing a Masterplan for the Shannon Estuary. Other Sections of Clare County Council will also be engaged with the West Clare MD on this, including Planning, Rural Development and Tourism sections.

26. Notice of Motion submitted by Cllr. Chambers
“That Clare County Council would carry out a survey of the Carniskey Road as the residents are very worried over the condition of the road and it is in badly need of a state of repair”

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

Response from Alan Kennelly, SEE, WCMD -

Approx. 350 linear metres of this road (*the L-6170*) is included in this year’s Schedule of Municipal District Works. The section in question will undergo restoration improvement. In addition, patching & pothole repairs have already been carried out on other sections of this road.

27. Any other business

- Cllr. Lynch raised the bathing water quality issues recurring in particular in Kilkee was discussed. Alan Kennelly, SEE acknowledged there was an issue advised that the ban was there to protect Kilkee’s Blue Flag status.
- It was clarified that as the application received from Labasheeda Community Pride, Tidy Towns Committee seeking funding under the Town & Village Paint Scheme was only application the full funding of €10k would be awarded to them.

- The Chairperson committed to writing to the Minister of Health to urge every effort would be made to now employ the health professionals who had come home.
- Discussion took place in respect of extra resources being deployed for the Bank Holiday weekend to ensure best practice in relation COVID 19 guidelines. John O'Malley advised that extra resources will be put in place working with the Gardaí and Civil Defence.

The Chairperson advised that notification would be sent in regards the next meeting date by the meeting's administrator.

This then concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed: Cllr. Joe Garrihy,
Cathaoirleach**

**Signed: John O'Malley,
Meetings Administrator**

Dated this the 28th day of July 2020.