

**Minutes of the West Clare Municipal District Meeting  
Commenced at 4.20pm Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July in Council Chamber and online**

**Cathaoirleach sa Cathair:**

Cllr Shane Talty

**I Lathair:**

Cllr Gabriel Keating, Cllr Joe Killeen, Cllr Joe Garrihy, Cllr Liam Grant (online), Cllr Cillian Murphy  
Cllr Ian Lynch (online), Cllr PJ Kelly (online), Cllr Bill Chambers

**Officials present:**

Mr. Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer (Kilrush), WCMD  
Mr. Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer (Ennistymon), WCMD  
Ms. Carmel Greene, Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development  
Mr. Steve Lahiffe, Senior Staff Officer, WCMD

Cllr. Talty convened the Meeting.

1. Minutes of the May Meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 of the West Clare MD  
The minutes were proposed by Cllr. Garrihy and seconded by Cllr. Murphy.
2. Minutes of Special Meeting of the West Clare MD held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022.  
The minutes were proposed by Cllr. Keating and seconded by Cllr. Chambers.
3. Minutes of the AGM of the West Clare MD held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022.  
The minutes were proposed by Cllr. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Chambers.
4. Section 38 – proposed traffic calming measures at Cloonlaheen, Kilmaley.  
Proposed by Cllr. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Chambers.
5. Section 38- proposed traffic calming measures at Dough, Leagard South & Breaffa South,  
Spanish Point, Co. Clare.  
Proposed by Cllr. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

Cllr. Garrihy asked for the landowners concerned to be taken aboard. Enda Mac Namara advised that the landowners had be met and if agreement could not be reached certain sections would have to be omitted.

6. Section 183 – Proposed disposal (by lease) of property at Dough Kilkee.  
Proposed by Cllr. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Keating.
7. Section 183 – Proposed disposal of property (folio CE52628F)  
Proposed by Cllr. Chambers and seconded by Cllr. Kelly.

**Rural Development, Planning & Economic Development, Social**

**8. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Cillian Murphy:**

To engage with offshore wind energy companies in the preparation of a study into the capacity of the smaller piers along the Clare side of the Shannon Estuary as to their suitability for capitalising on the future development of offshore wind. Including, but not limited to, identifying the potential demands of the industry, determining which piers are most suitable, to assess any works required on those piers, determine what planning and environmental assessments would be required and to identify funding streams for those works.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers.

**Reply from John O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer, West Clare MD:**

The West Clare MD will work with the offshore wind companies who have already expressed an interest in this area to consider the possible opportunities for the County in the West Clare area and look at the potential sites involved as regards infrastructural developments and future funding opportunities.

Cllr. Murphy expressed his concern at the lack of progress, that the county was missing a golden opportunity. It is a major economical development opportunity of the county. A capacity audit needs to be conducted and it is critical that this chance is grabbed.

**9. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Ian Lynch:**

The Clare County Council would apply to the National Famine Commemoration Committee for Kilrush to host the National Famine Commemoration, I also request that Clare County Council commission a sculpture/ monument in recognition of the work done by Captain Kennedy during the famine.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

**Reply from John O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer, West Clare MD:**

The West Clare MD will write to the national Famine Commemoration Committee as requested. I have sent a request to our Memorials Committee in relation to the requested sculpture/monument to request approval for this and to discuss this in more detail.

**10. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Ian Lynch:**

That the WCMD apply to the NTA for the development of bus shelters with in parc de plouzane Kilrush, I would further request that the WCMD complete develop a bus/ coach parking facility in Parc de Plouzane to facilitate local link buses and coach tours, similar to the facility at glór.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

**Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer WCMD:**

There are a number of existing bus & coach stops in Kilrush. Bus Éireann stops on The Square, and the smaller TFI buses use the two bus stops on Frances Street.

The NTA had offered to fund a bus stop in Kilrush last year, but a suitable location was not found.

The development of the Kilrush master plan is ongoing, and it may be that a bus stop location forms part of this master plan. The Place de Plouzane suggests itself as an excellent location for a bus and coach stop (*plenty of space, very close to the town centre etc.*) It may be prudent, though, to wait for the final draft of the Kilrush master plan before seeking funding from the NTA.

**11. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Ian Lynch:**

Following the recent no swim notice at Cappa, I request the minister for Housing: Local Government and Heritage to instruct Irish water to install a secondary treatment facility as part of the ongoing treatment plant works to ensure that harmful pollutants have been removed before discharging into the River Shannon. This is the only solution to ensure protection of our fishing & shellfish industry, aquatic life, environment, and public amenities.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

**Reply from John O'Malley, A/Senior Executive Officer, West Clare MD:**

I have requested an update from Irish Water in relation to the plans for the Treatment facilities in Kilrush. The West Clare MD will write to the Minister on behalf of Councillor Lynch as requested.

**Physical Development**

**12. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Bill Chambers:**

That Clare County Council would request Irish Water to take Brisla Water Scheme in their charge.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

**Reply from Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Water & Environment:**

In order to progress an application for taking in charge it is necessary for the scheme to submit a taking in charge application comprising of the following:

- Taking in Charge Application – Scheme Committee members should sign the cover page and provide contact details.
- As-Constructed Drawing of Scheme Network and Connections – Drafts have issued to the Scheme requesting marking up of all connections. These should be marked up numerically commencing from the first connection point.
- Connections Schedule (List of all Connections on the scheme – these shall correspond to the connections as numbered on the scheme drawing. (Enclosed – can be issued via email if required)
- Consent Forms – Must be signed by a minimum of 2/3 of scheme members. An individual only forms one member regardless of holding either a single or multiple connections.

Irish Water are the relevant body for the taking in charge of Group Water Schemes but until the information detailed above is submitted to Clare County Council it is premature to make such an application.

**13. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Cillian Murphy:**

That pull in spaces and the appropriate traffic signs be put in place on the L2000 at Ross Bay to manage the traffic along this very narrow section of busy road.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Keating.

**Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer WCMD:**

I will discuss this proposal with the local Roads Overseer, and I hope that we will be able to put in place the works requested.

**14. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Cillian Murphy:**

To put a pedestrian crossing in the village of Doonbeg.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Chambers.

**Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer WCMD:**

The village of Doonbeg is on the N67 National Secondary Road, and thus the Road Authority is TII. The main thoroughfare through Doonbeg village gets very busy, particularly in the summer months. Clare County Council is aware that traffic calming measures would be very welcome in the village.

As the Road Authority is TII, any traffic calming measures will require their approval. It may be that a pedestrian crossing is not the most appropriate traffic calming measure for Doonbeg, and a pedestrian crossing will only calm traffic in its immediate vicinity. Doonbeg is a long village that may require traffic calming at either entrance.

Before any application for a proposed traffic calming measure is made to TII, the feasibility of various options is discussed between our RDO & TII. This process can take some time and is ongoing at present.

**15. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Gabriel Keating:**

To request Clare County Council to carry out maintenance work at the entrance to Clondegad GAA grounds on the R473.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

**Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer WCMD:**

The R-473 regional road is in reasonably good condition in this area, and this particular stretch of the R-473 was not included in the Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2022 (*although sections of the R-473 around Ballynacally are included in the 3-year RWP 2022 – 2024*). I will look at this section of road with the local Roads Overseer and carry out any necessary repairs to the public road.

**16. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Gabriel Keating:**

Part of the Mountrivers to Shragh road is in danger of subsiding and the County Council is asked to carry out the necessary improvements.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

**Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer WCMD:**

The L-2032 (*Local Primary Road – Mountrivers to Shragh*) is constructed on bog rampart. The road foundations are peat, and the level of the road surface is higher than the level of the surrounding lands, as the peat has been cut from those lands. The road is constructed on the remaining ribbon of uncut peat. Maintaining the road surface on these “bog roads” is notoriously challenging. There are a number of depressions in the road surface, and I will talk to the local Roads Overseer with a view to having these filled as in interim measure.

900 linear metres of this road is included in the 3-year RWP 2022 – 2024.

**17. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Gabriel Keating:**

What plans have Clare County Council to upgrade the road network in the town of Kilkee. Despite numerous motions since 2019 it is now imperative that a special fund be set aside to complete the work.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

**Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer WCMD**

Clare County Council are in discussions with the TII regarding the upgrading of the Minister's Place junction. Design works are at an advanced stage. The revised design at Minister's Place may require an upgrade of Nolan's junction (*Jimmy's Hill*).

Active Travel funding was received to allow design works at the Carrigaholt Road / Strand Line junction (*near the Bandstand / waterfront building*).

Both O'Connell Street (2023) & Church Road (2024) are on the 3-year RWP 2022 – 2024.

Roads within the town boundary of Kilkee are resurfaced by way of a surface overlay, which is a relatively expensive process. If other roads in Kilkee require re-surfacing in the 2022 - 2024 time frame an alternative source of funding will be required.

**18. Notice of Motion from Cllr. PJ Kelly:**

That the Council would bring the L-20681-0 at Derrynalicka, Kilmurray McMahan would be brought up to unacceptable state of repair.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

**Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer WCMD:**

The L-20681-0 is a local tertiary road and as such carries very low volumes of traffic. It is not on the Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2022, nor is it on the 3-year programme for 2022-2024. The local roads overseer has booked the mobile patching unit for this road, and some surface repair work should take place in the next week or two.

A 1,800m section of the adjacent L-2068-0 (*local primary road*) was upgraded this year with a surface overlay.

**19. Notice of Motion from Cllr. PJ Kelly:**

That a report would be made in regards the works in Lissycasey outlining when:

- (a) The footpath would be completed and
- (b) The public lighting would be completed.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Murphy.

**Reply from Alan Kennelly, Senior Executive Engineer WCMD:**

An application was made to the NTA Active Travel scheme for a footpath project in Lissycasey. The initial proposal envisaged that footpaths would be upgraded & provided as necessary to ensure a

continuous footpath to either end of the village. The application was successful, and an allocation was made to Clare County Council to facilitate this proposal.

As Lissycasey is on the N67 National Secondary Route, TII raised a number of concerns relating to road & traffic safety. Following ongoing workshops between the NTA and the Road Design Office in Clare County Council, the NTA requested that a Feasibility & Option Selection Report be prepared. The initial proposal is no longer the NTA's preferred design solution, and the scope of the project will change.

The Road Design Office have prepared the requested report together with a suite of options which includes a Multi Criteria Analysis of the available options to complete Active Travel works in Lissycasey.

The report has been submitted to the NTA for their review and Clare County Council await their response to progress matters.

**20. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Killeen:**

We call on Clare County Council to insist that Iarnród Eireann carry out an assessment of the remaining bridges on the West Clare Railway route, which traverse public roadways, with a view to carrying out necessary repairs. We further call on Iarnród Eireann to repair the buttresses at Clouna Bridge and restore the landmark.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

**Reply from Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, WCMD:**

The West Clare MD office is working with Iarnród Eireann to identify the remaining bridges on the West Clare Railway route to determine what works are required. Works will continue on Cullenagh Bridge in July.

The Councillors expressed their frustration that under the guise of a safety issue that bridge was removed with the opinion that the issue was caused as no works were undertaken by Irish Rail since the West Clare was closed.

**21. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Killeen:**

We call on Clare County Council to give an update on the ongoing work on the waste-water treatment plants at Ballyvaughan and Kilfenora.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

**Reply from Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, Water & Environment  
Ballyvaughan Wastewater Treatment Plant**

A new wastewater treatment plant and pumping station are proposed in Ballyvaughan. EPS is the Design/Build Contractor. Design work is still ongoing. The Natura Impact Statement is due for completion in July 2021. A Landscape Architect has been appointed to the scheme and draft proposals are being prepared in relation to screening of the site from the main road. Following on from the planning process and planning approval, construction is anticipated to commence in late 2023 with completion in mid 2025.

### **Kilfenora Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade**

Construction work is continuing on the WWTP in Kilfenora. Hydrostatic testing and backfilling around the various process tanks has been completed. The storm tank floor and walls are now complete and roof sections have been lifted into place. The works at the harbour are nearing completion and the overall project is anticipated to be completed in mid-2023.

The Councillors broadly welcomed the update as good news, highlighting the plants are critical pillars allowing for development in the area.

### **22. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Joe Killeen:**

We call on Clare County Council to undertake remediation works on the storm drain in the Village of Ballyvaughan.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Talty.

### **Reply from Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, WCMD:**

Clare County Council is responsible for Drainage Districts throughout the county. The storm drain in Ballyvaughan is not a designated Drainage District and is therefore the responsibility of the landowners to maintain.

### **23. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Shane Talty:**

Ask that Clare County Council look at installing a pedestrian crossing on Main Street Lahinch. One could be accommodated outside the site of the old garage without impacting on parking along the main street.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Killeen.

### **Reply from Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, WCMD:**

The West Clare MD office worked with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) prior to the Irish Open to look at installing a number of controlled pedestrian crossings in Lahinch. TII were not in favour of a second controlled crossing at the time. The location where most pedestrians cross is on the southern end of the main street, which is not suitable for a controlled pedestrian crossing due to insufficient sight lines. At the time, an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing was installed near the old garage which resulted in the loss of one parking spot. If a controlled pedestrian crossing was to be installed at this location, a minimum of 3 more parking spaces would be lost to comply with national guidelines. If the local businesses are willing to lose 3 more parking spaces, the West Clare MD office will approach TII to determine if they would revisit the possibility of constructing an additional controlled crossing.

### **24. Notice of Motion from Cllr. Shane Talty:**

Ask that the junction of the Caherbarnagh road and the R478 at Pollboy, north of the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre be realigned to improve sightlines in the interest of safety for motorists joining the regional road.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Garrihy.

### **Reply from Enda MacNamara, Senior Executive Engineer, WCMD:**

The West Clare MD office developed a design for this junction a number of years ago. Funding was made available under the Low-Cost Safety Scheme. Unfortunately, agreement could not be reached with the landowner resulting in the funding being allocated to another project. If the landowner was

willing to agree to the works to be carried out, the area office could look to put the project forward again under the Low-Cost Safety Scheme.

## **25. Any other business.**

- Cllr. Murphy was supported by the other elected members in thanking Margaret Cotter, who was leaving the position of Rural Development Officer for all the good work she had undertaken in the West Clare MD. Thanks were also extended to Jennifer O'Brien who was leaving the Rural Development Officer post with the Shannon MD.
- It was agreed that meetings would continue to be in person with the online option being available to those who wish to login.
- Votes of sympathy were passed, and condolences offered to the family of the late Michael Lenihan, Miltown Malbay and to the family of the late Michael Noel Danaher, Lisdoonvarna.

**Signed: Cllr. Shane Talty,  
Cathaoirleach**

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

**Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022**