

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF NEWCASTLE WEST HELD IN ÁRAS WILLIAM SMITH OBRIEN, NEWCASTLE WEST, CO. LIMERICK, ON WEDNESDAY, 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH, 2017, AT 10.00 A.M.**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor J. Sheahan, An Cathaoirleach.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors Browne, Collins, Foley, Galvin and Scanlan.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director, Service Operations (Mr. G. Daly), Senior Executive Engineer (Mr. B. Noonan), Meetings Administrator, (Ms. T. Knox), Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development (Mr. B. Kennedy), Executive Engineer, Roads (Mr. P. Vallely), Technician, Economic Development (Mr. J. O'Connor), Senior Staff Officer (Ms. M. Corbett), Clerical Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. D. O'Kelly).

**1. Adoption of Minutes**

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of Meeting of Municipal District of Newcastle West held on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2017.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;  
Seconded by Councillor Scanlan;  
And Resolved:

“That, the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read and adopted and signed.”

In reply to Members' queries, it was stated that a letter had been issued to the Secretary, Board of Management, Glengurt National School. Members requested copy of correspondence and asked that future correspondence to Deputations be circulated to Members.

In relation to crossing at Boherbui, the Executive Engineer stated that a survey had been carried out and that results were in the process of being compiled.

It was noted that no funding was being provided by the Council for the proposed Fashion Event in Newcastle West.

Members expressed disappointment that no site had yet been identified for the provision of a new Graveyard in Abbeyfeale and asked that the matter be placed on the Agenda for the April Meeting.

**2. Disposal of Land**

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer dated 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2017, concerning proposal to dispose of land at Church Street, Newcastle West.

Members noted the proposal.

### **3. General Municipal Allocation (GMA)**

On the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Foley, it was agreed to allocate €4,000 to Templeglantine for a footpath.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Browne, it was agreed to allocate €1,000 for drainage in Broadford.

### **4. Renaming of The Square, Newcastle West**

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Engineer dated 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2017, in relation to proposal to change the name of 'The Square,' Newcastle West, to Con Colbert Square.

It was stated that no objection had been received in relation to the list of Qualified Electors and that a report would be presented to the March Meeting of the Council for the purpose of adopting an Electoral Roll to be used for the holding of a plebiscite on proposal to rename 'The Square,' Newcastle West.

### **5. Schedule of Works for the Municipal District of Newcastle West**

Circulated, report of Director of Services dated 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2017, setting out details of the Draft Schedule of Works for the Municipal District of Newcastle West.

Members, in welcoming the report, thanked the Staff for the work that had gone into compiling the Schedule of Works. Members asked if there was any funding available for emergency repairs to roads not included in the Scheme. The issue of Daar Bridge was raised and the Executive Engineer Roads, stated that it was proposed to look at a design for this in 2018.

### **6. Economic Development Directorate**

#### **Great Southern Trail**

#### **(1) Part VIII Procedure – Enhancement Works on the Existing Great Southern Trail**

Circulated, report of the Director, Economic Development, dated 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2017, in relation to Part VIII proposed enhancement works on the existing Great Southern Trail from Rathkeale to the Kerry Border.

The Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development stated that the Part VIII Report was being presented to the Municipal Districts of Newcastle West and Adare-Rathkeale for noting and that the matter would be brought to the Full Council for consideration at the March Meeting.

Members welcomed the proposed works and stated that once the Trail was up and running, marketing would be crucial.

**(2) Nomination of Member of the District to the Proposed Consultative Group for the Great Southern Greenway.**

The Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development, stated that he was seeking the nomination of a Member from the Municipal District to the proposed Consultative Group for the Great Southern Greenway.

On the proposal of Councillor Scanlan, seconded by Councillor Sheahan, Councillor Galvin was nominated to the Group.

On the proposal of Councillor Foley, seconded by Councillor Browne, Councillor Collins was nominated to the Group.

It was suggested that the District Cathaoirleach of the Day be nominated to the Group. Following some discussion, Councillor Collins withdrew his nomination and proposed that the Cathaoirleach of the Day be nominated (Councillor Sheahan for 2016/2017). This was seconded by Councillor Foley.

As there was more than one nomination, the Cathaoirleach directed that a vote be taken on the proposal that the Cathaoirleach of the Day would be the nominee. It was agreed to take the vote in the form of a show of hands. The majority of the Members (4) voted in favour of this proposal, with 2 abstentions. Accordingly, the Cathaoirleach declared that the Cathaoirleach of the Day would be the nominee to the proposed Consultative Group for the Great Southern Greenway.

**QUESTIONS**

**7. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

***I will ask at the next Meeting for a detailed report on (a) the remaining 12 houses at Clash Abbeyfeale; (b) who owns each of the houses; (c) does the Council intend buying more of the houses; (d) an update on the footpath.***

- REPLY:**
- (a) These 12 houses are a vacant 'ghost estate' in various stages of completion. The 12 units lie adjacent to a Clúid Housing Development of 12 number units which were completed and occupied in Quarter 3, 2016.
  - (b) The 12 remaining houses at Cois na Feile, Abbeyfeale, are currently in multiple private ownership.
  - (c) Limerick City and County Council is actively engaged in exploring all options to resolve the issue of this unfinished housing development.
  - (d) The contractor has been appointed and has indicated that he will be commencing works in mid-March. The contract is expected to take 8 weeks to complete.

**8. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the Traffic Management Plan for Abbeyfeale.*

**REPLY:** A Meeting will be arranged with Members within the next 2 weeks.

**9. Question submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

*I will ask at the next Meeting (a) for a detailed report on the erosion programme submitted to the Office of Public Works for badly needed works to be carried out on the bank of the River Feale at properties in New Street, Abbeyfeale; (b) cost; (c) start date; (d) programme of works.*

**REPLY:** The Council had made an application for funding of €90,000 to the Office of Public Works under the Minor Works Scheme for works to be undertaken at New Street, Abbeyfeale. The Office of Public Works had advised that the application was still under consideration and that a response would issue shortly.

**10. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

*I will ask at the next Meeting (a) when the lands at Hillside Dromcollogher, formerly utilised for waste water treatment purposes, will be reinstated; (b) what are plans for said lands thereafter.*

**REPLY:** (a) A contractor was employed by Irish Water to carry out remedial works at Hillside, Dromcollogher. The contractor has connected to the foul sewer from the dwellings to the public sewer. The contractor has to remove the redundant wastewater treatment system and this work is due to be completed in March 2017.

(b) Hillside Estate was taken in charge in 2009 and is being maintained by the Council. The Council will provide an update on the plans for the said lands when the works as outlined at (a) above have been completed.

**11. Question submitted by Councillor F. Foley**

*I will ask at the next Meeting (a) for an update on provision of CCTV System for towns of Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale; (b) what funding is available.*

**REPLY:** It is proposed under the Limerick Hinterland Report that a distributed "Smart CCTV System" comprising of 50 to 70 Smart CCTV Cameras (depending on proposals received during procurement) is deployed in a pilot project across the county, according to local needs, in consultation with An Garda Síochána and local community.

The estimated cost is €500,000 which will be required for:

- €350,000 capital of investment in CCTV and communications equipment and installation.
- €150,000 over 3 years for annual maintenance and communication costs.

**Funding:**

€250,000 by Limerick City and County Council and €250,000 by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government.

The aim of the pilot is to develop an integrated Smart CCTV System that can serve local communities in the longer term and can be expanded if more funding becomes available in the future.

A technical assessment has commenced to document the CCTV Systems in use by the Council and to define the standard technical capabilities required for the CCTV. As the CCTV will be deployed in rural towns with limited connectivity options, the Council is also assessing the communications infrastructure required for CCTV recording and monitoring.

Following this assessment, more clarity will be available in relation to the minimum standard technical specifications of cameras, communication interfaces, recording equipment and monitoring options. This will inform the solutions that will be sought during the procurement phase. The proposed locations and the estimated number of CCTV cameras to be deployed in each town will be agreed through public consultation and within the budget constraints once the technical specifications are finalised. A statutory Part VIII will be considered depending on the type and value of the contract that needs to be put in place.

**NOTICES OF MOTION****12. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin**

***I will move at the next Meeting that, arising from the Municipal District Meeting held in the Hall Castletown, on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2015, a footpath be provided from St. Michael's house towards the village of Ballyagran.***

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Galvin stated that this footpath was required in the interest of safety for the residents of St. Michael's house. He asked that funding be sought to complete this work. An up-to-date costing was requested and the Senior Executive Engineer stated that this should be available at the next Meeting.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Scanlan.

**13. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan**

***I will move at the next Meeting that the Council requests the Office of Public Works to carry out a comprehensive clean-up of Desmond Castle.***

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan stated that the exterior of the Castle was in need of a clean-up and asked that the Office of Public Works be contacted in this regard. A request was also made for clarification on extended opening hours of the Castle.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan.

The Members asked for contact to be made with the Office of Public Works in relation to the possibility of holding the May Meeting of the District in Desmond Hall to help raise the profile of this major historical tourist attraction.

**14. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan**

***I will move at the next Meeting that the Environment Section contributes to the repair and resurface of the Car Park at Glin GAA Pitch.***

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheahan stated that damage had been done to the surface of the Car Park from trucks collecting from the bottle bank at this location. He asked if funding could be sought to contribute to its repair.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Foley.

**REPLY:** Notwithstanding the partial use of this car park as a bring bank recycling location, it was not a public car park and therefore the Council was not in a position to fund its repair.

**15. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan**

***I will move at the next Meeting that the Council assists St. Fergus' National School, Glin, in remedial works to alleviate traffic management at the school.***

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheahan asked that similar assistance as that provided to Board of Management, Glengurt National School, would be given to St Fergus' National School. The Senior Executive Engineer stated that a meeting could be arranged and any technical advice required would be given.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Collins.

**REPLY:** Line marking works will be arranged and put in place on both approaches to St. Fergus' National School, Glin. A speed limit review will also be carried out in the area.

With the permission of the Cathaoirleach, the following matters were raised –

**Speed Limit Review:**

The Senior Executive Engineer stated that Members should make submissions in relation to the Speed Limit Review by early the following week. It was envisaged that a report would be prepared by 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2017. He stated that it was hoped that this review would be brought to a Meeting of the District in May or June. The final report would be completed towards the end of the year.

**Briefings:**

It was agreed to hold a briefing with Newcastle West Chamber of Commerce and Community Council at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 and a briefing with Members in relation to Traffic Management Plan for Abbeyfeale at 10.30 a.m. at Áras William Smith OBrien, Newcastle West.

**Update – Policing in the District:**

The Meetings Administrator stated that contact had been made with the Superintendent of the District in relation to an update to be given on policing in the District at the April Meeting. The Members asked for this presentation to include update on New Garda Station for Newcastle West.

Signed:

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**Cathaoirleach**

Dated:

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