



**Minutes of Special Rathkeale Area Committee Meeting  
Held in the Civic Trust Offices,  
East Square, Askeaton, Co. Limerick  
on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2007 – 10.30.a.m.**

**Present In the Chair :** Councillor D. Naughton.

**Members Present :** Councillors J. Griffin, T. Neville, K. Sheahan.

**Officials Present :** B. Martin S.E.E., T. Breen, S.O.

Councillor K. Sheahan welcomed Members and Officials to Askeaton, and thanked the Chairman for holding the Special Electoral Area Committee Meeting at short notice. The Askeaton Swimming Club was founded in 1958, and through the years had received tremendous commitment and support from the local community, with the previous outdoor pool built in 1970. Councillor Sheahan informed Members the Council were 51% stakeholders in the new Swimming Pool Development, the remaining 49% being in the ownership of the Swimming Club. The Pool Management Committee comprises three Council representatives, and two Swimming Club representatives. It was anticipated the project would be completed and in use before the end of July. Councillor Sheahan described the project as a landmark facility for the Rathkeale Area and it was appropriate the elected Members of the Electoral Area be the first to view the project, as it neared completion. The project was funded with grant assistance of €3.8m from the Department of Arts, Sports & Tourism, €300,000 from Limerick County Council, and €500,000 raised by the local community.

Minister O'Donoghue, Arts Sports & Tourism on a visit to Askeaton, prior to commencement of the project, had been impressed with the care and maintenance of the open pool. Councillor Sheahan stated that no town in the country the size of Askeaton had received comparable grant funding. He stated the Pool Complex would not be a burden on the Council with limited assistance required in the initial two years. Councillor Sheahan acknowledged the support and contribution of all Councillors on the Askeaton Swimming Pool Project. Rumours had recently circulated that admission charges would be prohibitive, these rumours being untrue – the grant award was conditioned for admission/membership fees to be within the means of users. The new pool would also be used for the training of lifeguards.

The new Swimming Pool Complex would be operated by a management company, this being the norm for similar type projects around the country. An application had been lodged to register the Swimming Pool Company for Value Added Tax, and it was necessary to resolve the V.A.T. issues prior to signing of contracts.

Councillor D. Naughton complimented Councillor Sheahan on his presentation to Members, and thanked the Area Councillors for their support in providing a major facility that would benefit the entire electoral area. Councillor Naughton spoke of the voluntary commitment and dedication of the Askeaton Swimming Club Committee Members, and their contribution to the tradition of swimming in the locality. Councillor Naughton also acknowledged the Council's contribution and role in the project.

That concluded the business of the Meeting, with Members adjourning to the Swimming Pool Development for a guided tour of the Complex.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_Chairman.

Dated this 29<sup>th</sup> day of JUNE, 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_Secretary.