



**Minutes of Rathkeale Area Committee Meeting
Held in Room 1, Floor 2, County Hall,
Dooradoyle Road, Dooradoyle, Co. Limerick
on Friday 29th June, 2007 – 11.00.a.m.**

Present In the Chair : Councillor D. Naughton.

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

Officials Present : B. Martin S.E.E., G. Liston, E.E., K. McMahon, E.E., T. Breen, S.O.,
R. Gallagher, S.E.E., C. Lynch, E.E., M. Griffin, A/S.E.O.,
J. Ryan, A/S.S.O., G. Naughton, S.E., T. Cassidy, Conservation Officer,

Apologies : T. Tarpey, S.E.

Minutes of Area Committee Meeting held on Monday, 30th April, 2007, and Minutes of Special Area Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 8th May, 2007 :

The Minutes of Area Committee Meeting held on Monday, 30th April, 2007, and Minutes of Special Area Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 8th May, 2007 were adopted. Proposed by Councillor K. Sheahan, and seconded by Councillor J. Griffin.

Matters arising from Minutes :

Councillor J. Griffin requested a response be available to Members, for the following Area Committee Meeting, from the Environment Section in relation to the problem of ongoing illegal dumping at the Five Cross Roads, Rathkeale. Nothing had been done in the Rathkeale Area, the week previous to the Area Committee Meeting, with large quantities of litter being recently exposed following grass cutting. Councillor Griffin the litter be raked and collected by the suction sweeper. Councillor Griffin also requested provision of a water supply to the St. Joseph's Burial Ground, and enquired as to the projected completion date for the surfacing of the car park.

Update on Councillors' Public Lighting in the Rathkeale Electoral Area - deferred item from April Meeting :

A copy of the response detailing Councillors' Lighting allocations for the years 2005/2006 was circulated to Members, and it was confirmed K. Fitzgerald, Exec. Tech., would respond to Members queries on an individual basis.

Councillor J. Griffin confirmed he would be contacting K. Fitzgerald – his public lighting request for 2006 had been allocated to Coolanoran on the N21, this request subsequently refused by the National Roads Authority.

Councillor D. Naughton expressed disappointment that his lighting requests for 2005 had not been completed, and questioned if there was available manpower to undertake the ducting works on the public

lighting listing. Councillor Naughton requested a costing per metre for ducting be available to Members, for the following Area Committee Meeting.

Councillor K. Sheahan described the circulated report on public lighting as the most shameful document to be brought before the elected Members in his twenty-five years as a Councillor. Councillor Sheahan described the document as an admission of failure on the part of the Council in their dealings with the E.S.B., and it was appalling that Members had to discuss public lighting issues dating back to 2005. He questioned the logic in being requested to make lighting submissions for 2007, when the 2005/2006 submissions were still outstanding. Councillor Sheahan spoke of the Council being substantial customers of the E.S.B., and described the public lighting programme as being a shambles, costs excessive, with the service being provided as sub-standard. He referred to the contractor for the Askeaton Swimming Pool contract who had provided public lighting to service the project at a cost of €1,200 per pole with twin head lighting, including ducting. Councillor Sheahan - referring to the circulated lighting report - took issue on the use of individual citizen's names being referenced on official documentation, and recommended any future documentation utilise townlands.

Councillor J. Griffin supported Councillor K. Sheahan's position regarding the use of individuals names on public documentation, and was insistent the practice cease. Councillor Griffin spoke on the E.S.B. being divided and operating as two separate companies that resulted in inflated pricing due to internal inefficiencies and it's monopoly position in public lighting.

Councillor J. Sheahan supported the stance taken by the elected Members in the use of constituents names on official documentation. Councillor Sheahan described the Council as being substantial customers of the E.S.B., and was critical of the service provided to the Council as a public body. He spoke of the prompt response by the E.S.B. to the private sector, and the need for the Council to demand a complete re-vamp in the way business was done, especially in respect of public lighting.

Councillor T. Neville requested Members be given a time frame for completion of the 2005/2006 lighting programme, and in his case for lighting/ducting at Croagh and Faha, Kildimo.

G. Liston, E.E., informed Members ducting works were carried out by the Rathkeale Area Roads Staff, with provision of all new public lighting conditional on the provision of ducting. Any ducting works requested to date had been facilitated, with ducting works at both Faha and Croagh due to commence shortly.

Update on proposals for road improvement/re-alignment works on the N69 at Bolane, Kildimo :

R. Gallagher, S.E.E., Main Roads, circulated copies of drawings detailing the proposed improvement and re-alignment works on the N69 at Bolane, Kildimo, for submission to the National Roads Authority for preliminary approval. Mr. Gallagher confirmed the greater part of the lands required for the works to be in Council ownership, with negotiations due to commence with a local landowner for the remaining lands required. It was anticipated the road improvement works at Bolane would be completed within twelve months from the date of commencement. Mr. Gallagher stated there would be no adverse possession issues arising on the previously purchased lands at Bolane, as an agreement was in place permitting the landowner to use the lands, pending their use for road improvement works.

Councillor D. Naughton spoke on the major road safety benefits associated with the proposed re-alignment works at Bolane, referring to the number of vehicular accidents on the Bolane bend through the years. He suggested the Roads Section utilise J. Kennedy, S.E.E., in the land purchase negotiations for the remaining road lands.

To consider Conservation Officer's Report in respect of Proposed Protected Structures, Rathkeale :

T. Cassidy, Conservation Officer, informed Members that following the adoption of the Rathkeale Local Area Plan, one building at Lower Main Street (Hennessy's Electrical) remained outstanding for addition

to the Protected Structures Listing. He confirmed the Council, as the Planning Authority, held the view the building merited listing. A number of meetings had been organised with the building owner's technical advisor to view/photograph the building interior – on three occasions these meetings had been cancelled at the last minute.

Councillor J. Griffin outlined the history of the Hennessy Electrical building, this being one on the newer buildings on Main Street, and while built to a specific design from an earlier time period, could be best described as a modern copy rather than an original type structure. He queried the significance of the brown pebbledash finish to the front of the building for listing purposes. Councillor Griffin requested the Conservation Officer to liaise directly with the building owner and his technical assistant in order to resolve any issues arising, with any listing to be by agreement rather than conflict.

T. Cassidy, stated the pebbledash finish to buildings was used extensively in Britain during the 1920's/1930's, and that he would once again contact the building owner to discuss listing, as proposed by the Councillor.

Update on progress of Shannon Estuary Water Supply Scheme Extension :

C. Lynch, E.E., confirmed the Ballyshonick and Kilcornan water schemes had been linked to the Shannon Estuary Water Supply, with proposals to lay a six inch main at Castletown, Pallaskenry, towards Ballysteen. Ms. Lynch undertook to refer back to the Members with a projected time frame for the laying of the new Castletown water main.

Councillor J. Griffin referred to recent t.v. footage concerning the visit of E.U. Officials to Bleach Lough, Kildimo, at the request of the Water Retention Committee, and queried if the Council had spoken with the E.U. Officials. He stated his disappointment at the Council's lack of a P.R. response.

Councillor J. Sheahan stated he understood the function of the E.U. Officials was to act in intermediary role only, with no powers extending beyond this remit.

Councillor D. Naughton welcome the extension of the Shannon Estuary Water Supply Scheme towards Ballysteen, with numerous enquiries residents looking for connections. Councillor Naughton spoke on the recently reported media coverage regarding potential water shortages that will arise on the eastern seaboard in the foreseeable future, with proposals to abstract water from Lough Ree. He requested that Officials keep Members briefed on the Lough Ree proposals, especially in regard to the knock-on effect of these proposals on the Shannon river/lake system. Councillor Naughton described Bleach Lough as a valuable local resource, and proposed a feasibility study be undertaken to utilise the Lough as a booster/back-up supply. Councillor J. Griffin seconded the proposal.

Update on Limerick County Trunk Watermains, Croom Link - Part 8 :

C. Lynch, E.E., informed Members the preparation of the contract for the proposed new water supply to service Croom was being finalised, and would be a spur/link from the Raheen/Adare supply. The contract included provision of a new reservoir for the town. Ms. Lynch confirmed there had been previous contamination of the original bore hole, and also confirmed proposals for linkage of the Raheen Adare supply to Stonehall, Kilcornan.

New Council Housing Development at Church Street, Askeaton :

G. Naughton, S.E., Housing, informed Members it was proposed to commence construction of twenty housing units in Askeaton during 2007. This development would include a mix of family, two storey, and elderly type houses, and facilitate future access to the remaining Council Housing lands in Askeaton. It was anticipated the development would be completed and occupied within twelve to fifteen months, and constructed in compliance with the new Housing Guidelines.

Councillor J. Sheahan complimented the Housing staff on the in-house design proposals brought before Members for the Church Street development. He opined that Council Housing Development Design and Site Layout rivaled and exceeded that of the private sector.

Councillor K. Sheahan welcomed the Housing Development at Church Street, Askeaton, proposed the development proceed as outlined. The proposal was seconded by Councillor D. Naughton, and supported by Councillors J. Griffin, T. Neville, and J. Sheahan.

List of proposals for Rathkeale Area under the Community Sports/Cultural Grant Scheme 2007 :

J. Ryan, A/S.S.O., Community & Enterprise, circulated copies of the proposed Community Sports & Cultural Grant Scheme for 2007, with the total grant allocation of €130,000 for various projects in the Rathkeale Electoral Area. Ms. Ryan confirmed the grant scheme was funded from the Development Fund.

Councillor J. Griffin suggested the elected Members should be permitted greater input into the operation of the Development Fund. He spoke of listings provided by the County Manager to the elected Members that informed, but did not permit or facilitate any consultation process. Councillor Griffin referred to the rollout of broadband in the towns of Abbeyfeale, and Newcastle West, and the substantial allocations/contributions from the Development Fund. Due to the draw down of funds for this project, Officials were left trying to balance and fund community based projects across the county with limited funding.

M. Griffin, A/S.E.O., Community & Enterprise, informed Members there had been a substantial increase in grant applications in the Rathkeale Area during 2007. The preference was to make awards as large as possible in order to facilitate the undertaking of substantial works by voluntary groupings.

Councillor K. Sheahan acknowledged the works undertaken by voluntary groups throughout the County, and the need to encourage and recognise their contribution, but also supported the concept in providing significant grant funding for large projects to the benefit of the greater community.

List of proposals for Rathkeale Area under the Village Renewal Scheme 2007 :

J. Ryan, A/S.S.O., Community & Enterprise, circulated Members with copies of the proposed Village Renewal Scheme for 2007, and briefly outlined funding details for the various groupings.

Councillor J. Griffin proposed the Community Sports & Cultural Grant Scheme 2007, and Village Renewal Scheme 2007 for the Rathkeale Area, as presented, be agreed. The proposal was seconded by Councillor J. Sheahan.

Gortadroma Landfill :

Copies of the report from the Senior Engineer, Environmental Section, detailing the Gortadroma Landfill Operations for June were circulated to Members.

Councillor D. Naughton complimented Officials in resolving the overhead E.S.B. line compensation issues with the affected landowners.

Councillor J. Griffin proposed a report be furnished to Members for the next Meeting, detailing the total contributions to date by the Council to the White River Fund, to include an outline of expenditure on projects completed, and details/costings on all proposed/pending projects for the local Community. Councillor Griffin suggested other Counties were less restrictive than Limerick in their use of similar type funding for community based projects located in proximity to landfill operations.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor J. Sheahan, with Councillors Naughton and Neville supporting the Motion.

Councillor J. Sheahan referred to the provision of the water scheme in the Gortadroma locality, that was being funded from the White River Fund, and questioned the use of the fund for this purpose. Councillor Sheahan suggested funding for the water scheme should be from the Council's/Department resources.

Councillor T. Neville informed the Meeting he had not received a response to his question from the May Meeting, requesting the 2 kilometre zone for refuse waiver be extended to 3 kilometres. Councillor Neville suggested the Environmental Section provide a formal written response for the next Electoral Area Committee Meeting.

Question submitted by Councillor T. Neville :

I will ask at the next Area meeting of Limerick County Council for a full update on the establishment of ownership and fencing of the waterway at Shanid Gardens Shanagolden.

Councillor T. Neville accepted the written response circulated to the Meeting.

Question submitted by Councillor D. Naughton :

I will ask at the next Rathkeale Electoral Area Committee Meeting that Limerick County Council consider provision of a macadam road overlay from Hegarty's Cross on the N69, to the Grand Gates, Pallaskenry, (Local Road 1241), under the 2008 Road Works Programme.

G. Liston, E.E., informed Councillor Naughton a review of the Road Works Programme was scheduled for late 2007, with any outstanding works being prioritised, and any additional works considered for inclusion. Mr. Liston suggested it was not practical and of no benefit to upgrade the roadway between Hegarty's Cross and Pallaskenry Village to Regional Road status – the roadway would be considered for surfacing to Regional Road standard.

Councillor J. Griffin requested an inspection/repairs to the roadways at Roches Garage, Whites Filling Station at New Line, and the hard shoulder exiting the Rathkeale By-pass towards Holycross.

Councillor T. Neville requested patching works be undertaken between Stoneville and Kyletaun.

G. Liston, E.E., informed the Members the requested works would be inspected and the repairs, if appropriate, would be undertaken.

A.O.B.

B. Martin, S.E.E., briefed Members on recent correspondence received from the Department of Marine and Natural Resources, providing 75% grant assistance (€30,000) for 2007, to complete macadam surfacing and restoration works to Kiltteery Pier.

Councillor J. Griffin referred to a previous Area Committee Meeting, where discussions and an informal agreement had been taken by the Area Committee Members, for the new Rathkeale Area Headquarters to be named "Áras Sean Finn". Councillor Griffin stated the building was now approaching completion, and was formally proposing the new Rathkeale Area Headquarters be named "Áras Sean Finn", and requested the support of Members. The proposal was seconded by Councillor T. Neville, with Councillor D. Naughton and J. Sheahan supporting.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Signed: _____ Chairman.

Dated this **24th** day of **SEPTEMBER, 2007**.

_____ Secretary.