

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLONMEL BOROUGH DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING, HELD AT 11.00 a.m. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, PARNELL STREET, CLONMEL ON WEDNESDAY, 16th October, 2024

Present: Councillor Michael Murphy, Mayor
Councillor Pat English
Councillor Siobhán Ambrose
Councillor John Fitzgerald
Councillor Richie Molloy (Zoom)
Councillor Niall P. Dennehy

In Attendance: Mr. Jonathan Cooney, A/ Director of Services
Ms. Carol Creighton, District Administrator
Ms. Nicola Keating, District Engineer
Mr. Adam Coffey, Executive Engineer
Ms. Mary Irwin, Staff Officer
Ms. Georgina O'Loughlin, A/Staff Officer.

Also in Attendance: Ms. Sarah O'Callaghan, Financial Management Accountant

Apologies: Mr. Mark Connolly, Director of Finance.

1.1 Zoom Protocol

The Mayor confirmed with Councillor Molloy who was joining the meeting by Zoom that he could see and hear all other Speakers.

2.1 Disclosures and/or Conflicts of Interest

Ms. Carol Creighton, District Administrator confirmed that there were no conflicts of interest disclosed.

3.1 Minutes of Meeting held on 25th September, 2024.

The minutes of the monthly meeting of Clonmel Borough District held on the 25th September, 2024, as presented, were proposed by Councillor Pat English, seconded by Councillor John Fitzgerald and agreed by all.

4.1. Clonmel Borough District – Draft Budgetary Plan 2025

Ms. Sarah O'Callaghan, Financial Management Accountant referred to the draft budgetary plan 2025 circulated to Members. Ms. O'Callaghan stated that the total General Municipal Allocation, which refers only to the discretionary funding that is allocated to the Municipal Districts, for 2025 is €1,381,283. This is allocated to the Districts based on the population of the Municipal Districts at the time of the 2022 census. The provisional General Municipal Allocation 2025 for Clonmel Borough District is €202,723. Ms. O'Callaghan informed the members that the main, strategic, non-discretionary expenditure of Clonmel Borough District will form part of the main local authority budget and workshops will be held with the Members in advance of the Budget Meeting.

General Municipal Allocation	€ 202,723
Gross Revenue Expenditure	€ 202,723
Housing	€1,033,190
Road Transport & Safety	€3,591,778
Environmental Services	€ 749,858
Recreational and Amenity	€ 795,746
Relevant Directorate Expenditure	€6,170,572

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Councillor Dennehy stated that he could not support the budget based on this figure of €202,723 being the only discretionary spend available to a town the size of Clonmel which is the capital town of the County, when prior to the merger of Tipperary County Council this discretionary spend was in excess of €20m.

Councillor English concurred with Councillor Dennehy and voiced his concerns regarding the amount of discretionary spend available.

A vote was taken and the draft budget was supported by 4 votes to 2.

The draft budget was proposed by Cllr. John Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose.

5.1 Report of District Administrator

The District Administrator's Report was circulated to Members with the agenda.

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:

- Councillor Ambrose asked for a timeframe for completion of the works at Mary Street Car Park
- In relation to the Sports Hub, Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the installation of the refuse bin, the erection of signage and the provision of all-day toilet facilities which, at present, are only operational when the Manager is on site.
- Councillor Ambrose asked if there was an update on the meeting to be arranged with the Minister for Justice in relation to the delay in the sign off for the installation of CCTV in the town. Members concurred with Councillor Ambrose and expressed their disappointment at the lack of progress on same.
- Councillor Ambrose asked if there had been engagement with Thurles Municipal District in relation to the procedural arrangements to be followed for sports clubs to offer their facilities for use by camper vans during festivals.
- Councillor Ambrose asked if there had been further engagement with ETB/TUS regarding the provision of student accommodation.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the signing of the contract for the Suir Island Gardens stating that it is great to see works commencing on a Project which will provide a wonderful amenity in the town and thanked Eamonn O'Connell, Executive Engineer for his work on this.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update in relation to the proposed meeting with Minister Eamonn Ryan regarding the N24 and the lack of a by-pass for Clonmel. Members concurred with Councillor Ambrose stating that the by-pass for Clonmel needs to be put back into the overall proposal for the N24.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the Jimmy Keating Site.
- Councillor English asked for an update in relation to security issues at the Sports Hub.
- Councillor English requested an update on the Marlfield Flood Alleviation Scheme.
- Councillor English expressed his disappointment with the delay in the progression of the Clonmel Public Realm and requested that a meeting be sought with Minister Eamonn Ryan to expedite this matter as this funding is necessary to revitalise the town centre.
- Councillor English referred to his previous notices of motion requesting the provision of a dog park and asked for an update on same.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the Tree Strategy and the reason for the delay.
- Councillor Dennehy requested an update on the closure of Wolfe Tone Street.
- Councillor Dennehy asked if the letter received in relation to the Clonmel and Environs Local Area Plan has been acknowledged and a reply issued.

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- Councillor Dennehy raised the issue regarding Section 183 notices in relation to the disposal of land. Councillor Dennehy asked for categoric reassurance without delay that the S. 183 adopted by the Plenary Council on 9th December, 2019 was not flawed in any shape or form.
- Councillor Murphy referred to the planning permission granted to Remcoll and asked if there was an update regarding the development of the Site.
- Councillor Murphy requested that initial engagement be sought with the owners of Dunnes Stores, the Ormond Centre and Heaton's. The District Administrator, Town Manager and himself, as Mayor to meet to discuss the redevelopment of these key strategic sites in the town.

Queries raised by the members were responded to as follows:

- The District Administrator confirmed that the Contractors are on site in the Mary Street Car Park and the system is now back up and operational.
- In relation to the installation of the refuse bin in the Sports Hub, the District Administrator informed the members that the designers are preparing a new wrap for the bin and it will be installed in partnership with TUS.
- The District Administrator stated that TUS are working on the signage for the Sports Hub in tandem with their three other sites.
- The District Administrator stated that she will talk to TUS again on the issue regarding the toilet facilities to see if a solution can be achieved.
- In relation to the installation of the CCTV cameras, the District Administrator informed the members that the Commissioner's Office are now in direct contact with her which is very positive.
- The District Administrator informed the members that the camper van facilities in Thurles were for a specific external event run by an outside group. The District Administrator will ask the sports clubs in town if they can facilitate this should such an event be run in the town.
- In relation to the provision of student accommodation, the District Administrator stated that the requirements of TUS/ETB need to be assessed before land can be acquired for the construction of accommodation.
- In relation to the N24, the District Administrator stated that she is aware that the Municipal Districts along with the Plenary Council are actively seeking engagement with Minister Ryan. The District Administrator to follow up with the Roads Section.
- In relation to the Jimmy Keating Site, the District Administrator stated that she will follow up with the Housing Section who are progressing with same through the CPO process.
- The District Administrator informed the members that she has been in contact with TUS regarding the security issues at the Sports Hub requesting that the entrance be closed and only used in an emergency situation as agreed at contract stage.
- In relation to the Marlfield Flood Alleviation Plan, Michael Scully, A/Senior Executive Engineer to be asked to attend at the November Meeting to give an update on same.
- The District Administrator stated that she will follow up on the provision of the dog park to see if it can be progressed.
- In relation to the Tree Strategy, the District Administrator stated that the final draft is ready for circulation to Members but that she is awaiting the screening for Appropriate Assessment from the Ecologist to ensure future compliance.
- The District Administrator stated no further update was available on the Public Realm since the last meeting but that the Borough District is continuing to actively engage with the Department of Transport on this matter.

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- Regarding the query raised on the Section 183 issue, Johnathon Cooney, A/Town Manager informed the members that this is a decision taken at Plenary Council.
- In relation to the Local Area Plan, Mr. Cooney stated that it has been the practice of the Planning Authority to present the Local Area Plans to the full Council for adoption.
- The District Administrator stated that she will follow up with the Planning Section to see if further correspondence has been received from Remcoll.
- The District Administrator stated that the owners of the Ormond Centre have been in contact with her and she will correspond with the owners of Dunnes Stores and Heaton's.

5.2 Report of District Engineer – Roads Programme

The District Engineer's report was circulated to Members with the agenda.

Queries raised by the Members were as follows:

- Councillor Ambrose asked if funding has been ringfenced for the new entrance and additional spaces at St. Patrick's Cemetery.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for the timeframe for the announcement of the funding under the Low-Cost Safety Schemes.
- Councillor Ambrose asked for an update on the progression of works on the bend at Rathronan and Ballybeg Junction.
- In relation to Lus na Gréine, Councillor Ambrose asked for the timeframe involved for the erection of the speed reducing signage and the pruning of the trees to improve sightlines.
- Councillor Ambrose welcomed the works at the Loretto School and Gaelscoil under the Active Travel Scheme and the commencement of works at the Davis Road.
- Councillor Ambrose asked that the provision of toilet facilities and a water refill station on the Blueway be reviewed stating that Mayo County Council had installed similar facilities.
- Councillor Fitzgerald asked that road safety works be carried out at Ballinattin Lower on the Rosegreen to Clerihan Road as 3 accidents had occurred at this location since July.
- Councillor Fitzgerald asked for an update on speed reducing measures at Poulmucka.
- Councillor Fitzgerald requested that the flashing lights at Killurney National School be repaired.
- Councillor Fitzgerald asked for a request to be forwarded to TII to extend the Town Bus Service to Clerihan and other areas. Councillor Murphy proposed that John Knott, TII be asked to an upcoming meeting. All members concurred with this.
- Councillor Fitzgerald asked that the speed limit on the Redmondstown Road to Medite be reviewed.
- Councillor Fitzgerald asked that the road at Monroe where it narrows at Moyle Rovers be looked at.
- Councillor English asked for a commencement date for the resurfacing works at Queen Street.
- Councillor English raised the issue regarding the grass encroachment on the footpaths on the by-pass and asked that this be addressed.
- Councillor English asked if there was an update in relation to the maintenance works to be carried out in the River Suir by the OPW.
- Councillor English asked for the timeframe for the repair works on the wall at Gordon Place Car Park.
- Councillor English asked if the quality of road reinstatement works were being inspected after utilities carry out repair works. All members spoke on this issue.
- Councillor English asked for a commencement date for the works at Rathronan Crossroads.

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- Councillor English stated that a lot of the public lights need to be repaired and asked that this issue be addressed especially with the winter evenings approaching.
- Councillor English asked that street lights be taken in charge in the new housing scheme in Wheatfields.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the road markings to be relined at Dunnes Stores, Oakville and the Cashel Road/Fethard Road Roundabouts.
- Councillor English asked for an update on the installation of the raised platforms at Summerhill, Ard Fatima and Honeyview Estate.
- Councillor Murphy acknowledged the great work carried out along the by-pass from the Cahir Road Roundabout to the Cashel Road Roundabout and asked that this be passed onto the staff.
- Councillor Murphy noted that the Blueway is subject to flooding and asked that it be maintained as much as weather allows during the winter season from the Gashouse Bridge to Mulcahy Park.
- Councillor Murphy expressed his thanks to Clonmel Borough District for their continuing support to the Tidy Towns Committees in the District and wished the groups every success in the upcoming National Tidy Towns Awards Ceremony.
- Councillor Murphy asked for an update on the maintenance works at the Quaker Burial Ground.
- Councillor Murphy asked for an update on the condition of the entrance at the new housing estate on the Glenconnor Road.
- Councillor Murphy asked for an update on the laneway at College Avenue behind house no.'s 46 to 57 and the laneway at Fairfields behind no.'s 55 – 59.
- Councillor Murphy requested that a further speed survey be carried out at Dromard. Members spoke in support of same.
- Councillor Murphy asked that the trees be pruned at Ardgeeha as you approach the Cashel Road Roundabout.

Queries raised by the Members were responded to as follows:

- The District Engineer confirmed that funding of €40,000 is secured for the works at St. Patrick's Cemetery with a commitment for a further €20,000 in 2025.
- In relation to the Low-Cost Safety Scheme, the District Engineer stated that this is with the Roads Department for approval and confirmed that Lisronagh and Rathronan have been included in the list of works for approval.
- The District Engineer informed the members that the tree surgeon is commencing works at Lus na Gréine and that the signage will be erected in the next week or two.
- Regarding the installation of toilet and water facilities on the Blueway, the District Engineer said that she will review and also talk to Mayo County Council.
- The District Engineer informed the members that the location at Ballinattin Lower will be reviewed.
- In relation to Poulmucka, the District Engineer stated that a speed survey has been requested.
- The District Engineer stated that the issue regarding the lights at Killurney National School will be followed up.
- The District Engineer stated that the location at Monroe where the road narrows will be looked at.
- The District Engineer stated the speed limit on the Redmondstown Road to Medite will be looked at when the review of the speed limits is taking place.
- In relation to the resurfacing works at Queen Street, the District Engineer informed the members that the Contractor will be on site within the next 2 weeks.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLONMEL BOROUGH DISTRICT MONTHLY MEETING, HELD AT 11.00 a.m. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, PARNELL STREET, CLONMEL ON WEDNESDAY, 16th October, 2024

- The District Engineer stated that maintenance works will commence on the footpaths along the by-pass in the next week.
- In relation to the maintenance works on the River Suir, the District Engineer informed the members that an Environmental Impact Assessment needs to be carried out by the OPW before works can commence and this will be followed up with the OPW.
- The District Engineer stated that the repairs to the stone wall at Gordon Street Car Park will be followed up.
- In relation to the reinstatement works, the District Engineer stated that reinstatement works are inspected and that there is a road opening licence system in place which details the procedure for reinstatement.
- The District Engineer informed the members that a Contractor will be appointed by the end of the month to carry out drainage works at Rathronan.
- In relation to the raised platforms, the District Engineer stated that further quotations are being sought for these works.
- The District Engineer informed the members that TII are commencing refreshment of the road markings on the By-Pass.
- The District Engineer stated that the road markings at Oakville will be assessed and refreshed, if needed.
- The District Engineer informed the members that the public lighting outages will be referred to the Roads Section.
- In relation to the provision of street lights in the new Housing Scheme at Wheatfields, the A/Town Manager informed the members that this issue is in hand.
- The District Engineer stated that maintenance of the blueway will be monitored as it is subject to flooding.
- The District Engineer stated that resurfacing at Glenconnor will be included in the programme for the New Year but explained that the road cannot be finished until the footpaths are completed by the Developer.
- The District Engineer informed the members that a clean up of the laneways at the back of College Avenue and Fairfields will be undertaken in the next week or two.
- In relation to Dromard, the District Engineer stated that a further speed survey will be arranged.
- The District Engineer informed the members that Wolfe Tone Street is temporarily closed for a day or two to facilitate a gas connection.

5.3 Report of District Engineer – Housing Voids Programme

The Report was noted by the Members.

5.4 3-Year Roads Restoration Programme 2025-2027

This Programme, as presented, to the Members by Nicola Keating, District Engineer was proposed by Councillor Pat English and seconded by Councillor John Fitzgerald and agreed by all.

Item 6.1 Chief Executive/Delegation Officers Orders – Period up to 11th October, 2024.

These were noted by the Members.

Items 7.1 Notice of Motion

Motion 2883 was proposed by Cllr. Michael Murphy

That the Council would install a disability parking bay at 17 Morton Street, E91 WY92.

REPLY:

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Unfortunately, due to the lack of width at Morton Street, it is not possible to provide a disabled parking space at 17 Morton Street.

Seconded by Councillor Siobhán Ambrose.

The reply to the motion was noted.

Item 8.1 Correspondence

There was no correspondence for noting.

Item 9.1 Votes of Congratulations

A vote of congratulations was extended by the Members to the Staff and Board of Management of CBS High School Clonmel to mark their 125th Anniversary.

The Mayor congratulated Denis Holland, Senior Engineer, on the informative talk given by him at the Clonmel Historical and Archaeological Society about the role of the Town Hall in Municipal Government in Clonmel.

10.1 Any other Business

The District Administrator asked the Members present for their preference in relation to the organisation of workshops and all agreed to have the workshops, where possible, before the commencement of the Monthly Meeting.

The District Administrator spoke of the success of the Applefest and Culture Night and complimented everybody involved in the organisation of same.

She also highlighted the upcoming Zombie Walk and activities organised for Kickham Plaza on Halloween Night.

Signed:  _____

Deputy Mayor of Clonmel Borough District

Dated: 20/11/24

Signed:  _____

District Administrator

Dated: 20/11/24