

Minutes of the November Meeting of Kilkee Town Council held on Monday 6th November 2006 at 8.00pm at the Sweeney Memorial Library, Kilkee.

Cathaoirleach sa Cathair: Cllr. Claire Haugh

I Lathair: Cllr. PJ Lardner, Cllr. Carmel Deloughery, Cllr. PJ Linnane, Cllr. Tom Nolan, Cllr. Brian Keane, Cllr. Michael McGrath, Cllr. Lily Marrinan Sullivan, Cllr. Michael Martin.

I Lathair: Bernadette Kinsella, Director of Service & Town Manager
Steve Lahiffe, Town Engineer
Siobhán Curran, A/Town Clerk

1. Minutes of the October Meeting of Kilkee Town Council held on Monday 2nd October, 2006 at 8.00pm at the Sweeney Memorial Library, Kilkee

The minutes of the October Meeting of Kilkee Town Council held on 2nd October 2006 were adopted having been proposed by Cllr. Linnane and seconded by Cllr. Lardner.

2. Set Date for Annual Budget Meeting

It was agreed to hold the annual budget meeting at 7.30pm on Monday 4th December. The December monthly meeting will follow the budget meeting. A / Town Clerk to circulate notice to members.

3. Draft (Regulation and Control of the Consumption of Intoxicating liquor in public places) Bye-Laws 2006

A/Town Clerk, Siobhán Curran confirmed that the statutory consultation period had ended on the 24th October and that no submissions had been received.

It was also confirmed that as part of the public consultation period a public meeting had been held on 5th October and that the consensus had been that Kilkee would be better with than without these bye-laws. At that public meeting a query had arisen regarding special events / festivals. A/Town Clerk advised that Shannon Town Council had inserted a clause into their Bye-Laws to allow for the local authority to issue an exemption to resident groups / local organisations in respect of a special event / festival. Legal advice had been sought regarding whether a further public notice would be required if this clause was to be inserted into the Kikee Bye-Laws. A/Town Clerk recommended that the Bye-Laws would go to public notice again to ensure that the Bye-Laws would not be open to challenge.

A/Town Clerk advised that a further advert would be placed in next weeks paper which would commence a period of public consultation again. If adopted, the draft bye-laws would come into effect in Feb 2007.

4. Update on Allenders Field and Hodges Green UVR Schemes

The following updates were submitted by Mairead Corbett, Administrative Officer, Economic Development & Planning Section, Clare County Council.

Progress Report for Urban and Village Renewal Scheme at Allenders Field, Kilkee.

The Allenders Field Amenity Park at Kilkee under the Urban and Village Renewal Programme for 2005-2006 is nearing completion. The boundary to Waterworld is in place. The posts for the protection fencing around planting are in place. The fence will be erected once planting is completed. Planting will commence once the weather has turned cold enough for bare root planting. It is anticipated that this will be around the second week in November.

The Urban and Village Renewal Scheme will continue to be managed by the Clare County Council Urban and Village Renewal team, which includes the Planning Department and the Council's Architect.

Progress Report for the Urban and Village Renewal Scheme at Hodges Green, Kilkee.

The Urban and Village Renewal Scheme at Hodges Green Kilkee is being undertaken in-house by Clare County Council. A total allocation off €100,000 is available for this work, which involves the upgrading of Hodges Green Open Space.

Hodges Green is under progress and the boundary wall is currently being constructed in stonework. It is expected to have works completed within a six week period. Public Lighting will then be installed.

5. Report on Flooding in Kilkee

The following written report was read by Steve Lahiffe, Town Engineer.

Flooding in Kilkee

There were two incidents of flooding in Kilkee over the last two months, on 21/09/06 and Wednesday 25/10/06. The areas affected were the Carrigaholt Road, Well Road and Russell's Lane. Clare County Council staff were deployed from 10.30a.m. to 3.00a.m. on the first occasion and from 5.00p.m. to 2.30a.m. on the second occasion.

Three large pumps were deployed at strategic locations in accordance with a prearranged plan. Sandbags were provided for residents. On both occasions, Clare County Council staff were reinforced by the Fire Service. However, on the 25/10/06 they had to deal with flooding in Lisdeen and Carrigaholt also.

A number of dwelling houses were flooded. Two on Russell's Lane and two at Shackellon Terrace. Flooding was prevented at Marine Parade and the Carrigaholt Road.

The recorded rainfall levels from the Shannon Weather Station for the nights in question were 49mm and 34.9mm respectively. On examination of the details it is clear that the rainfall was torrential and over short periods of time.

Report Ends

S. Lahiffe, Town Engineer went on to stress that shock loading cannot be dealt with by any infrastructure. S. Lahiffe also referred to a consultants report carried out on behalf of Clare County Council by UCG and advised that many of the recommendations made in that report had been implemented.

At this stage, Mayor Haugh advised that the council had not been informed in advance, in line with protocol, of any deputation attending this meeting. The elected members agreed to suspend standing orders to allow a deputation of residents from Marine Parade. Mayor Haugh advised that they must nominate two people to speak on their behalf. Ellen Downes and Fionnuala Murnane were nominated as spokespersons.

Ellen Downes pointed out that their properties had been flooded in May, Sept, August and October and during that flooding that they could not gain access to their gardens. She called for the well road car park to be turned back into a wetland. She advised that the proposed development on the track field at the end of well road should not be allowed as this would contribute further to the problem.

Fionoula Murnane said that the council cannot expect residents of Marine Parade to park around the back of their house if gardens are flooded. She proposed that a piece would be taken off the existing footpath to allow residents to park safely. She added that with the present climate changes serious action had to be taken.

Town Engineer, Steve Lahiffe advised that the priority should be the new Sewerage Treatment Plant. He again referred to the consultants report and the fact that many of the recommendations have in fact been implemented.

Cllr. Tom Nolan pointed out that the rain was coming up through manholes. He advised that there used to be 2 overflows to the treatment plant but that these were now boarded up. He called for these to be unblocked even if that meant that sewerage would be going onto the beach rather than the street feeling that this was the lesser of two evils.

Ellen advised that she had carried out a survey of the car park and at a maximum at any one time there were only 2/3 cars with the exception of mass times when there would be 6/8 cars.

Cllr. Marrinan-Sullivan pointed out that this council was assured when Tom Carey was Manager that Clare County Council would consider returning this car park to a wetland.

Steve Lahiffe referred to the consultants report from UCG who had advised that this would not have any impact as a storage of floodwaters. Cllr. Marrinan-Sullivan however felt that even a little difference could make all the difference and that Clare County Council should take advice from the local residents as they are the best source of local knowledge.

The consensus from elected members and residents was that the car park and flooding are related and that the car park needs to be returned to a wetland.

6. Report on Status of new Sewerage Treatment Plant for Kilkee

The following written report was submitted by Walter Walsh, Senior Engineer, Transportation and Infrastructure, Clare County Council.

Kilkee Sewerage Scheme

Kilkee Sewerage Scheme is grouped with Kilrush Sewerage Scheme for the preparation of a Preliminary Report. Following receipt of the Preliminary Report in April 2005 from the Consultants, the report was forwarded to the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government for approval. The Department's Engineering advisor has commenced his examination of the Preliminary Report and it is expected that some feedback will be given to the County Council in the next 2-3 months.

Approval of the Preliminary report is required before the Council can proceed to the next stage, which is preparation of Contract Documents. The Part 8 planning process has yet to commence and a foreshore licence must be sought from the Department of the Communications Marine and Natural Resources. Part 8 planning and the application for a foreshore licence also cannot commence until the approval of the Preliminary Report is received from the Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government.

7. Correspondence

(a) The notice of motion received from Clones Town Council was proposed by Cllr. Haugh and seconded by Cllr. Martin.

All other correspondence was noted.

8. A.O.B

Lighting

Members expressed concern at the amount of public lights out of order around the town. A/Town Clerk is to draft a letter to ESB setting out this council's concern.

St. Senan's GAA Pitch

Cllr. Marínan-Sullivan raised concern regarding a rumour that was circulating that the local GAA pitch is to be sold and would move a couple of miles outside of Kilkee. Cllr. Keane and Cllr. Haugh supported these concerns. Cllr. Marínan-Sullivan requested a meeting with the officials of St. Senan's Club to relay public concerns.

Cllr. Martin confirmed that there were no concrete facts at this stage. He committed to keep this council informed of any developments and requested that a request for any meeting with officials of the club would be left for a month or so.

Kilkee Traffic Management Plan

Cllr. Martin queried whether a reduction in the width of the footpath in Marine Parade had been considered. Town Engineer, Steve Lahiffe confirmed that this had been considered and stressed that in fact 18 out of 20 submissions from the public had been taken into account in the Traffic Management Plan. Town Engineer stressed that the Local Authority were governed by safe width of carriageway. Cllr. Martin asked that discussions would continue to find a solution.

At this point, Ellen Downes, a member of the Marine Parade deputation advised that Sergeant Gerry Lernihan was against a two-way system of traffic in Marine parade.

As there was no further business the meeting concluded.

Cathaoirleach

A/Town Clerk