

Minutes of Meeting of the Blarney/Macroon Municipal District held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Macroon on Friday 26th January 2018.

Present: Cllrs Kevin Conway (Cathaoirleach), Bob Ryan, Ted Lucey, Des O'Grady, Gobnait Moynihan & Michael Creed

Attendance: Mr. Jim Molloy, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. James Dwyer, Senior Executive Engineer
Mr. Andy O'Brien, Executive Engineer
Ms. Claire O'Neill, A/Municipal District Officer
Mr. Conor Shannon, Assistant Engineer
Ms. Catherine O'Shea, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Ms. Marie O'Leary, Municipal District Officer (*Maternity Leave*)

**1. DEIMHNIÚ MIONTUAIRISCÍ
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Cllr. Ryan and seconded by Cllr. Lucey, the Minutes of the proceedings of the Blarney/Macroon Municipal District Meeting held on Thursday 14th December having been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Cathaoirleach and the A/Municipal District Officer.

**ÁBHAIR A ÉIREOIDH
MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor G. Moynihan

Amendment to Item 2 (c) Part 8 – Inniscarra Bridge Traffic Signals

Cllr. Moynihan had queried if there was a way that the bridge could be adapted to suit cyclists.

Councillor T. Lucey

(a) Castleview Cross – Up to Nutricia

Cllr. Lucey said the surface was very bad at Castleview Cross where you turn off the main road for Nutricia and the other end turning left for Toames and right onto the main Inchigeela road
J. Dwyer, SEE said he would have a look at it.

(b) Bus Depot

Members requested that an update from Bus Eireann would be sought by the A/MDO.

(c) Post Office, Macroon – Crossing

No update

(d) Dog Control Byelaws

Ongoing

- (e) Bridge to Millstreet Cross – Resurfacing
J. Dwyer, SEE said that Arkil have been appointed and hope to start the work shortly.
- (f) Manhole covers – Macroom Town
J. Dwyer, SEE said that work will be commencing the following week.
- (g) Cloghduv – Gully Blocked
A O'Brien, EE said the GSS in Blarney is aware of the problem and the gully is cleared when necessary
- (h) Briery Gap
Ongoing

Councillor M. Creed

- (a) Bridge in Inchigeela – Update
C. Shannon, AE said he had a meeting with the Road Design Office and the Contractor and it is hoped that works will commence in February, however, he said it was dependent on the Fisheries Board. He said, according to the drawings, they could gain about one metre on the corner which should help.
- (b) Road from Kilmurry to Enniskeane (R588) – Update
J. Dwyer, SEE said the road markings at the junction would be completed when the Road Marking Contractor is on site.
- (c) Flooding at Clonfadda
C. Shannon, AE said he has had no contact from the landowners. He said the issue was water coming from one landowner's property to another and that the landowners need to contact the Council themselves before the Council will carry out any work.

Councillor D. O'Grady

- (a) Coolmakee Bridge –Update
J. Dwyer, SEE - no update.
- (b) 2018 Anti-Dumping Initiative
C. O'Neill, A/MDO said that the Environment Department has been made aware of two areas and asked that members would forward details of other areas that could be considered. Cllr. O'Grady queried if cameras would be useful.
- (c) Feasibility Study on Pedestrian Access to Crossbarry Village
J. Dwyer, SEE – no update.

Councillor B. Ryan

Junction at Willison Bridge

Cllr. Ryan enquired about the work that needs to be carried out at the Junction at Willison Bridge. A O'Brien, EE said it is dependant on funding allocation.

Councillor K. Conway

- (a) Road outside Blarney Garda Station needs immediate remedial work and eventual re-surfacing
A O'Brien, EE said he will put it on the RI List
- (b) Overhanging branches and trees on the Waterloo Road between the Knocknasubh junction and the Waterloo Inn require cutting
A Brien, EE said the landowners have been written to and trees have been cut.
- (c) Footpath outside no. 3 Waterloo Road needs attention
A O'Brien, EE said it is on the 2018 Footpath Programme
- (d) Update on progress
 - Proposed footpath on Hedge Road, Blarney
A O Brien, EE said it has been surveyed by NNRDO
 - Widening of road and footpath remedial work on Station Road, Blarney north of Woodville
A O Brien, EE said he will have an update for the next meeting
 - Leemount Junction
A O Brien, EE said he will have an update for the next meeting
- (e) Substantial Cork direction sign needed on the Blarney roundabout
A O'Brien, EE said this was in the Glanmire area
- (f) White line on the Blarney to Tower road needs to be repainted
A O'Brien, EE said he will arrange to get the white line replaced

2. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) Part 8 Planning – Proposed Scheme of 18 Houses Units at Station Road, Blarney
Deferred to the next meeting
- (b) Housing Report for Blarney Macroom Municipal District
Members agreed that consideration of this report would be deferred to the next meeting and requested that the A/MDO would write to the Director Of Service, Housing, to request that a representative would attend at the next meeting of the committee.
- (c) 2018 General Municipal Allocation
C. O'Neill, A/MDO said applications were being accepted at present and that the closing date is Friday 16th February 2018. J. Molloy, SEO said they are encouraging groups to use the on-line system. However, he said if there is an issue they can come into the Town Hall.
- (d) 2018 Village Enhancement Fund
J. Molloy, SEO informed the Members that the village of Grenagh was being proposed for 2018.

ClIr. Moynihan requested a report on last years funding. S.E.E. to provide for the next meeting.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

The Members noted the correspondence received from OPW regarding the Flood Relief Scheme in Crookstown.

Cllr. O'Grady said there was a Cost Benefit Analysis carried out in Crookstown and a major flooding incident was not included. He said after the flood last year in Donegal Minister Kevin "Boxer" Moran T.D., Minister of State decided to change the criteria for Donegal and questioned whether Crookstown was considered using this criteria. A discussion took place where all Members agreed that clarification would be sought on the criteria used and whether recent flooding events in Crookstown were taken into consideration. A/MDO to seek a response to these items.

4. DIOL TALÚN DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

N/A

5. CHUN NA RUIN SEO LEANAS ÓN GCOMHAIRLEOIR A MHEAS: TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING NOTICES OF MOTION

Cllr. Des O'Grady

'To seek a written report on the number of roadside fallen tree incidents in Blarney Macroom MD during Storm Ophelia last November. The report to contain separate information on the number of incidents cleared by Council crews, the number of incidents cleared by private contractors with the aid of Council crews and the number of incidents cleared by private contractors or individuals only. The report to also contain the cost to the Council of carrying out this work and how much has been or can be claimed back from private landowners. The report to state how many landowners that had previously been written to regarding dangerous roadside trees were involved in incidents during Storm Ophelia and how many landholders in total have been written to in regard to this issue since'

Report

Storm Ophelia occurred on 16th October 2017 and was an unprecedented red wind warning event which resulted in a large number of trees being blown down or damaged across the area.

The numbers of trees that were cleared by Council crews on their own would have been small and these would have been light branches or trees that could be moved without the use of chainsaws.

Council crews utilising private chainsaw contractors would have cleared approximately 60 locations, some of which would have involved the removal of multiple trees.

I estimate that there were approximately 50 locations where private landowners or individuals would have cleared trees however by their nature these may not have been reported to the Council.

The entire cost of works post Storm Ophelia was approximately €189,000 in the Blarney Macroom MD. No costs were sought from private landowners.

Prior to the storm, I am not aware of any reports in relation to specific dangerous roadside trees in the area.

Since the storm approximately 80 letters have been sent out to landowners in relation to roadside trees and hedge

James Dwyer, Senior Executive Engineer, Blarney Macroom MD

Cllr. O'Grady said that the Council workers are left helpless as they can't use chainsaws, and that chainsaw crews are needed. He said at a cost of €189,000 for 60 incidents, that was approx. 3,000 per incident going to private Contractors with no cost to the landowners. He said these people need to be billed and that the 80 letters that were sent need to be followed up and serious action taken against these people. He said public money should not be used.

J. Dwyer, SEE said this money was spent on labour and out of hours costs, all the money did not go to private Contractors. A O'Brien, EE said this was a national disaster and that the Emergency Plan was put in place. He said there were 90 letters sent to landowners before the storm.

Cllr. O'Grady queried how many landowners out of the 90 letters sent had trees fall. J. Dwyer, SEE said he was not aware of any. He said this was an exceptional event.

Cllr. Lucey said we will need to get more vigilant and suggested carrying out a survey on overhanging trees.

Cllr. Creed said that numerous landowners had cut their own trees and that it was not their fault as this was a once off event.

Cllr. Conway said that in general landowners should clear their own trees but unfortunately many do not and ignore the situation. He said that if people were billed a couple of times, word would get out and this would help solve the problem.

J. Molloy, SEO said it is Council policy on Health and Safety grounds that Council staff cannot use chain saws.

Cllr. O'Grady said the policy should be changed as the storms are getting more frequent.

J. Molloy, SEO said he would take on board the Members comments.

6. VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

N/A

7. AON GHNÓ EILE ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. Gobnait Moynihan

(a) Public Lighting Programme 2017

Cllr. Moynihan requested an update on Aghabullogue and Kilnamartyra.

J. Dwyer, SEE said the Programme was running late and that the work would be taking place in late February/early March this year. In response to Cllr. Moynihan,

J. Dwyer, SEE said he did not know if the work would be completed by the end of March.

- (b) Flashing Lights by the School in Coolea
C. Shannon, AE said he is waiting for the Contractor to do the work.
- (c) E Cars Charge Point, Macroom – not working
J. Dwyer, SEE said this is the responsibility of the ESB
- (d) Grange Manor Estate, Ovens – Taking in Charge
Cllr. Moynihan enquired if there was any update on the snag list.

Cllr. O'Grady said he requested a meeting with the Director of Services, Planning, six months ago and there has been no response. He said the developer is ignoring the residents.

The Members requested that an update is provided and that the Director of Services, Planning would attend the next meeting.

- (e) Newcestown – Potholes
- (f) Kilmurry School Crossing – Update
J. Dwyer, SEE said the Contractors will be carrying out the work during the Mid Term Break.
- (g) Speed Analysis Inchigeela – Cars speeding through village
J. Dwyer, SEE said he would arrange to get a speed survey carried out.
- (h) R590 – On 2018 Roads Programme
A O'Brien, EE said depends on available funding.
- (i) Potholes at Corssbarry Bridge in the Middle of the Village

Cllr. Ted Lucey

- (a) Derelict Sites, Macroom – Update
A discussion took place on dereliction in the area. Members asked that a report would be made available for the next meeting.
- (b) Bridge in Macroom – Loose Bricks
J. Dwyer, SEE he will have a look at the area and see if works can be carried out.
- (c) Castle Grounds Resurfacing – Update
J. Dwyer, SEE said the contractor will be carrying out the work during the Mid Term Break.
- (d) Dripsey – Potholes
Cllr. Lucey requested that some of the roads are revisited. He said there was a huge problem in Dripsey.

Cllr. O'Grady said that the road between the pub and the Model Village going towards the cross is in a shocking state.

A O'Brien, EE said he will have a look at adding this road to the RI Programme. Cllr. Conway said he would like to support the delegation from Dripsey who had requested to attend the Municipal District Meeting. A O'Brien, EE to have a look at Dripsey.

- (e) Public Lighting at Pedestrian Crossing at O'Connor Park, Masseytown, Macroom
Cllr. Lucey said the public lighting has been out of order for 4 months. He requested that the Public Lighting Section is contacted to establish what is their procedure as regards the fixing of lights.

Cllr. Michael Creed

- (a) Bus Station, Macroom
Cllr. Creed said the waiting facilities in the Bus Station were not acceptable and requested that his concerns are passed onto Bus Eireann.
- (b) Potholes – Road Coming Into Ballingearry
- (c) Clonteadmore, Coachford – Road Fenced Off
Cllr. Creed enquired if there was any update on the road being widened. A O'Brien, EE said he would have an update for the next meeting.
- (d) Manhole Cover, Ballyvourney
C. Shannon, AE said this was an Eircom cover and Eircom are responsible for it.
- (e) Ballingearry – Flood Clearance
J. Dwyer, SEE said he will confirm if funding is available for a river clean for the next meeting.

Cllr. Des O'Grady

- (a) Surface on Roovesbridge, Coachford – Shocking Condition
J. Dwyer, SEE said he will have a look at including this in the RI Programme
- (b) Model Village – Traffic Calming Update
- (c) Light at the Junction at the N22 for Farran Village – Traffic Heading West
Cllr. O'Grady said the light has not been working for months and that some of the green bollards have been taken away.
- (d) Staff Parking for McEgan College at Castle Grounds, Macroom
J. Dwyer, SEE said this was private land.

Cllr. Kevin Conway

- (a) Road between Dripsey Cross and Model Village needs immediate attention
- (b) Potholes etc. on Shournach Road 2.2 kms from Blarney Road Junction and also north of Foxes Bridge needs attention
A O'Brien, EE said these have been done

- (c) Pothole on the Cork side of the Waterloo Road junction needs to be filled
- (d) Various potholes on the Waterloo to Garrycloyne Road, particularly at the edges of the roads need attention
- (e) The School Warden for Scoil Croi Iosa Senior School has been absent for a number of months. What is the situation and can the warden be replaced temporarily/permanently
A O'Brien, EE said that personnel were currently in the process of recruiting a School Warden.
- (f) Blarney Relief Road Needs Attention

This concluded the business of the meeting

Kevin Conroy
CATHAOIRLEACH

23/2/2018
DATE

Clare O'Neill
A/MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OFFICER

23/2/2018
DATE