

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the September Meeting of Kanturk/Mallow Municipal District held on Friday, 4th September 2020 in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork.

PRESENT:

In the chair: Cllr. Pat Hayes

Councillors: Ian Doyle, James Kennedy, Liam Madden, Gearóid Murphy, Gerard Murphy, John Paul O'Shea and Tony O'Shea

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Bernard Moynihan

IN ATTENDANCE:

M. Hayes, Senior Executive Officer, Municipal District Operations & Rural Development, J. Moloney, Senior Executive Engineer, Roads and J. Murphy, Staff Officer.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Kanturk/Mallow Municipal District and the Ordinary Meeting of the Kanturk/Mallow Municipal District both held on Monday, 20th July 2020 in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork - Minutes were approved and signed on the proposal of Cllr. Ian Doyle, seconded by Cllr. John Paul O'Shea.

2. Reports & Recommendations of Officers

(a) **Municipal District Officer's Report** – The Senior Executive Officer presented the report to Members and recommended the following allocations in respect of change of use for Community Fund Grants:

- Freemount GAA – Amenity Grant 2020 allocation of €1,500 - change from erecting new lights & laying a hard playing surface to security fencing at top of pitch.
- Hazelwood Tennis Club – Amenity Grant 2020 – change of use €100 allocation from wildflower biodiversity area installation of all-weather playing surface.
- Cork International Film Festival – Amenity Grant 2020 allocation of €600 – Change of proposal to install AVA free film library in Mallow Library to the extension of the online film library to Mallow Library users.
- Kanturk & District Community Council – Capital Grant 2017 allocation of €20,000 to repair the roof of the hall in the Edel Quinn - Change of proposal for Temperance Hall roof repair and other refurbishment works, €15,000 with €5,000 towards repair of stone walls within the town.

For noting

- Kanturk GAA Club – Amenity Grant 2020 – allocation of €2,000 for seating & wheelchair platform – change of proposal to fencing on health and safety grounds was approved by quorum of Members via email on 12th August last.

The above were approved on the proposal of Cllr. John Paul O'Shea, seconded by Cllr. Gerard Murphy.

The Senior Executive Officer updated Members on Project ACT and spoke of the positive feedback received in respect of the newly installed parklet in Mallow Town. Members were also advised of works completed under Project ACT in Kanturk and Newmarket and commended the Area Engineer regarding same. The Senior Executive Officer provided

Members with information on the various funding schemes currently available. Members were also informed that a special meeting in respect of County Development Plan Review would be held 'in camera' on 16th September.

Members welcomed the comprehensive report and commended the work of the Municipal District. Following Cllr. J. Kennedy's query regarding Restart Grant Plus Scheme, the Senior Executive Officer advised that this query would be forwarded to the Economic Development Directorate for response. Cllr. Gerard Murphy spoke of the €32,000 allocation for footpath improvements in Newmarket and queried the availability of additional funding to extend to existing footpath on Charleville Road. The Senior Executive Engineer advised Members that this proposal was included in projects being considered under Active Travel Funding. Following Cllr. J.P. O'Shea's query regarding timeframe for laying road surface in Ballydesmond, the Senior Executive Engineer advised Members that blacktopping would commence within the next two weeks from the bridge to Bob's Bar and that it was envisaged that blacktopping works would be fully completed next year. Following Cllr. T. O'Shea's query regarding works in Dromahane, the Senior Executive Officer agreed to revert with a timeframe for same and he was also advised that the Area Engineer would contact him regarding the list of works. Cllr I. Doyle spoke of the Town & Village Renewal Scheme and queried the possibility of including a scheme for Newtown new graveyard. Following Members' queries regarding Mallow to Dungarvan Greenway proposal, the Senior Executive Officer advised Members that preliminary work in the background was ongoing in exploring the possibilities and that it was only at feasibility study stage. Members were advised that this was separate to the Mallow to Killavullen walking trail.

(b) Review of current parking arrangements in Mallow Town Centre – the Senior Executive Officer circulated a report to Members outlining the current arrangements in place, parking turnover survey, parking income in 2019/2020 and the impact on pay parking dividend. Members were advised that the M.D. was working with Mallow Chamber to ensure free parking would benefit businesses in the town. Cllr. P. Hayes advised that he had a Notice of Motion seeking an extension of free parking in Mallow Town, but withdrew this as all Members agreed with same and that a report/proposal would be put before them for their approval. He spoke of the positive benefits the town has experienced as a result of the free parking since June and called on Members to support the extension of free parking in Mallow. A discussion ensued whereby Members spoke of the need for an additional car park and adequate signage on approach roads advertising free parking. The Senior Executive Officer advised Members that these suggestions were currently being considered. Members also highlighted the need to standardise time limits in all car parks and to simplify parking arrangements in the town. The Senior Executive Officer advised Members that regularisation of car park time limits was also being looked at and an update would be brought to Members at a future meeting. A consensus was reached and all Members agreed that the current free parking arrangements would remain in Mallow Town until the beginning of March 2021.

(c) Senior Executive Engineer's Roads Reports & Correspondence

The Senior Executive Engineer updated Members on the following items:

- Surface dressing substantially completed
- Grading works continuing with LIS/CIS Programmes
- Boardwalk in Mallow progressing well with night works taking place
- Works at southside of Annabella Roundabout will soon move to eastern parapet which will prohibit pedestrian access across the bridge
- Input with Town Activation Projects such as street cleaning
- Reopening of towns – provision of funds from NTA to facilitate social distancing

Members welcomed the report and raised a number of queries. Cllr. I. Doyle highlighted his concerns regarding the maintenance of gullies in order to prevent flooding, while Cllr. Gearóid Murphy concurred and raised his concerns regarding a gully in Bells Cross, Mallow. The Senior Executive Engineer advised Members that the Drainage Programme was circulated to them earlier in the year. He informed Members that the priority for the winter months would be concentrating on cleaning gullies. Cllr. L. Madden highlighted the need for several pedestrian crossings in Mallow. Cllr. J. Kennedy spoke of the need for a pedestrian crossing from St. Joseph's Road to Spa area. The Senior Executive Engineer advised Members that his office is looking at a pedestrian crossing in this area, in conjunction with the development of the playground in Mallow Castle. Members were advised that a potential pedestrian crossing at the Castlepark entrance would link to Tipp O'Neill Park and to the end of the Muddy Hill on N72. The Senior Executive Engineer informed Members that NTA funding was focussed on improving pedestrian safety and additional pedestrian crossings in the district could only be considered depending on NTA budgets. Following Cllr. P. Hayes' concerns regarding the Central Hotel in Mallow, the Senior Executive Officer advised Members that following a fire, the hoarding was erected for public safety. Members were advised that the Council are in regular contact with the owner and that work is ongoing with the Council's Engineer and the owner of the property. The Senior Executive Engineer agreed that alternative measures can be taken in delineating the site around the hoarding to provide safe access for pedestrians. Cllr. J.P. O'Shea stated that the issue of cutting hedges and overhanging trees should not be the onus of Area Engineers and suggested that a larger project be undertaken to highlight the responsibilities of landowners/farmers. The Senior Executive Engineer advised Members of the Council's annual advertising campaign for hedge cutting and consultation programme with the IFA. Cllr. T. O'Shea referred to the ongoing works on N20 and queried if there was an alternative route for pedestrians. Cllr. Gearóid Murphy sought a timeframe on the works and spoke of the need to communicate updates to the public. The Senior Executive Engineer advised Members that while it was difficult to provide an alternative route for pedestrians, he would contact the TII to discuss trying to minimise disruptions. Following Cllr. P. Hayes' concerns regarding hoarding falling down at Tuckey's Hill, Mallow, the Senior Executive Officer advised Members that these sites are privately owned and not the Council's responsibility except in exceptional circumstances. Members were advised that the Council would be communicating with the owners this week and that an inspection would also be taking place.

On the proposal of the Chairperson, Members agreed that given time constraints, Notices of Motion would be taken one per Councillor and any unheard motions would be deferred to October meeting of KMMD.

3. Notices of Motion

(a) "To seek an update on the timeline for construction of the new playground and walled gardens at Mallow Castle."

Cllr. Gearóid Murphy [23/06/2020] *Deferred at July Meeting of KMMD*

Motion was seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes. The following response from the Executive Engineer, Municipal District Operations & Rural Development was circulated to Members:

- *The tenders for the playground are currently being evaluated and it is envisaged that a tenderer will be recommended following the completion of the evaluation in August. A contractor could potentially be appointed in September and construction begin shortly after that appointment. However, the evaluation and assessment of tenders still needs to be completed along with the other stages of the procurement process.*

Cllr. Gearóid Murphy welcomed the response and sought an update regarding the contractor. The Senior Executive Officer advised Members that tenders were currently being assessed.

(b) “To use the Digital Notice Boards to promote towns and events more so at present with Town Activation Programme.”

Cllr. L. Madden [30/06/2020] *Deferred at July Meeting of KMMD*

Motion was seconded by Cllr. J. Kennedy. The Senior Executive Officer advised Members that this could be considered under long-term public realm works.

(c) “That Cork County Council would install speed ramps on the Kanturk Road out of Buttevant.”

Cllr. T. O’Shea [07/07/2020] *Deferred at July Meeting of KMMD*

Motion was seconded by Cllr. L. Madden. The Senior Executive Engineer advised Members that it was hoped to deliver ramps utilising Town Approaches funds in 2020.

(d) “That this Council would update Members on the progress made on new burial grounds in Dromina, Kilbrin and Rockchapel.”

Cllr. J.P. O’Shea [07/07/2020] *Deferred at July Meeting of KMMD*

Motion was seconded by Cllr. Gerard Murphy. Members were advised that land acquisition was progressing quite well and that some extra land was being sought in Dromina.

(e) “To ask for a list of properties in Mallow where the Derelict Sites Act is being applied, specifically, the number of notices served, the number of compulsory land purchases carried out or proposed to be carried out and to provide a copy of the Derelict Sites Register.”

Cllr. J. Kennedy [10/07/2020] *Deferred at July Meeting of KMMD*

Cllr. J. Kennedy agreed that this motion be deferred to the October meeting on the recommendation of the Senior Executive Officer. Cllr. J. Kennedy asked that a comprehensive report be provided at the October meeting.

(f) “That all HGV’s should be diverted down the Park Road to avoid the centre with clear signage erected to indicate this diversion.”

Cllr. P. Hayes [10/08/2020]

Motion seconded by Cllr. J. Kennedy. The Senior Executive Engineer advised Members that this proposal would be discussed with T.I.I. in order to consider how best to achieve this. He noted that it would be difficult to implement a total prohibition as some businesses in the Town Centre have HGV deliveries. Members were advised that the completion of the Boardwalk Scheme should allow for measures to be implemented at Park Road/Bridge Street junction.

(g) “That speed limits of 30km/h be considered for the roads outside schools and large residential estates in Mallow.”

Cllr. Gearóid Murphy [23/06/2020] *Deferred at July Meeting of KMMD*

Motion seconded by Cllr. J. Kennedy. The Senior Executive Engineer advised Members that speed limits below the default limit of 50km/h in urban areas are deemed as special speed limits under government guidelines. Members were advised that speed limit of 30km/h can be introduced in housing estates and that the Council have committed to a phased introduction of 30km/h speed limit countywide in residential estates. Members were informed that this would be introduced in ten residential estates in Kanturk/Mallow MD this year. The Senior Executive

Engineer advised Members that special speed limits are not suitable for schools in Mallow, but agreed that signage could be improved in the vicinity of local schools.

(h) “St. Joseph’s Road – the need for extra safety measures with the increased traffic expected due to Mallow Castle Development and Spa House plus Mallow Park and proposed housing developments and the need to ensure heavy lorry traffic does not use this road.”

Cllr. L. Madden [30/06/2020] *Deferred at July Meeting of KMMD*

Motion seconded by Cllr. J. Kennedy. The Senior Executive Engineer advised Members that a pedestrian crossing was being considered for the Castlepark entrance, along with some traffic calming measures above the entrance to the estate. He also mentioned the possibility of relocating feedback signs on St. Joseph’s Road. Members were advised that while it may not be possible to stop HGV’s using this road, appropriate signage at Oliver’s Cross may prove effective.

(i) “That Cork County Council would remove the bollards on the Spa Road across from the service station which have chain fencing attached to them.”

(j) “That Cork County Council would install a Disabled Parking bay in the Spa area of Mallow Town.”

Cllr. T. O’Shea [07/07/2020] *Deferred at July Meeting of KMMD*

Motions (i) and (j) were seconded by Cllr. P. Hayes and Cllr. J. Kennedy respectively. In respect of both motions, the Senior Executive Engineer advised Members that both items have been implemented. Members were advised that while the chains have been removed, the bollards will be retained as they afford protection to the drainage system. Following Cllr. L. Madden’s concerns that many Disabled Parking spaces need repainting, the Senior Executive Engineer agreed to follow up on road markings.

(k) “That this Council update Members on the provision of a premises to accommodate the new Library in Kanturk.”

Cllr. J.P. O’Shea [07/07/2020] *Deferred at July Meeting of KMMD*

Motion seconded by Cllr. T. O’Shea. The following response from the County Librarian was issued to Members:

- *The Council has identified suitable premises to lease on a long-term basis and is currently at an advanced stage of negotiations with the landlord with regards to same. The Council continues to provide a library service in Kanturk via the static mobile in the Mart.*

(l) “That this Council update Members on the planned roadworks to be completed as part of the new housing development in Bluepool, Kanturk.”

Cllr. J.P. O’Shea [07/07/2020] *Deferred at July Meeting of KMMD*

Motion seconded by Cllr. Gerard Murphy. Cllr. J.P. O’Shea stated that residents wanted speed ramps in order to slow down traffic, but that this was not in the original planning. The Senior Executive Engineer informed Members that the Housing Department has advised that they, along with contractor have been in discussion with some of the home owners and have also been liaising with the Area Roads Office. The Senior Executive Officer agreed to circulate a drawing which has been prepared outlining the proposed alteration to the road and footpath.

(m) “That this Council shall install traffic control measures at Eglantine Crescent.”

Cllr. J. Kennedy [28/08/2020]

Cllr. J. Kennedy’s requested that this motion be removed and he advised that he would speak to the Senior Executive Engineer regarding the issue.

On the proposal of the Chairperson, Members agreed that due to the time constraints, the remaining Notices of Motion on the Agenda would be deferred to the October meeting of Kanturk/Mallow M.D.

4. Any Other Business

Cllr. J. Kennedy proposed that a letter of thanks be sent from the Kanturk/Mallow Municipal District to Johnny ‘Bongos’ Horgan to acknowledge his musical achievements and his contribution in promoting Mallow Town over the past 25 years. All Members were in agreement and supported this proposal.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Kanturk/Mallow Municipal District will be held on Friday, 2nd October 2020 at 10:30a.m. Location of meeting to be confirmed.

Signed: _____
CHAIRPERSON

Date: _____