Minutes of Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District
Held in Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim
On Monday 4th December 2017 at 3.30 pm

Members Present: Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire
Councillor Des Guckian
Councillor Sinead Guckian
Councillor Séadhna Logan
Councillor Sean McGowan
Councillor Enda Stenson

Officials Present: Ms. Kathryne Bohan, Meetings Administrator
Mr. Shane Tiernan, A/Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transportation
Mr. Shay O’Connor, Senior Engineer, Roads Department
Mr. Darragh O’Boyle, District Engineer South Leitrim
Ms. Pamela Moran, Economic Development, Planning, Environment and Transportation

CMD 17/166 Minutes of the Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District
04/12/17 held on Monday 13th November 2017

Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire, Seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the Minutes of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District meeting held in Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim on Monday 13th November 2017 be adopted.”

Matters arising from Minutes:-

Councillor Des Guckian referred to Item No 1 of Correspondence (Ref. Item CMD17/152 13/11/17) relating to the disposal of Septic Tank Waste to the Irish Water Waste Water Treatment Plant in Carrick on Shannon. He enquired as to the update in relation to this matter. Cathaoirleach Councillor Séadhna Logan said that this matter would be dealt with under the item of Correspondence at today’s meeting.
Councillor Des Guckian also referred to Item Number CMD17/156 of the Minutes of 13th November, 2017 (last line on Page 7 of these Minutes) which states that Councillor Des Guckian stated that there should be public sewerage schemes provided. He requested that the minutes be amended to reflect the context in which this statement was made which was that where Septic Tanks are found to be deficient, then a public sewerage scheme needs to be put in place. Councillor Des Guckian requested that the minutes be corrected to reflect the context in which this statement was made.

Councillor Sinead Guckian said that the motion concerned had been raised by her and that she was happy with the record of the minutes taken. Councillor Sinead Guckian also stated that in accordance with the adopted Standing Orders, Minutes are a record of the resolutions passed at each meeting and that there was no requirement to amend the minutes.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Séadhna Logan said it was not expected that the Minutes are a direct quotation of everything said at a meeting and he advised Councillor Des Guckian that if he wanted an amendment to the Minutes that under Standing Orders the amendment would have to be proposed and seconded.

Ms. Kathyne Bohan, Meetings Administrator, said that it was impossible to record everything which is said at a meeting.

Mr. Shane Tiernan stated that in accordance with the Standing Orders, the Minutes are a record of decisions taken and are not a transcript of the entire meeting.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Séadhna Logan stated that in the absence of any resolved proposal to amend the Minutes he was satisfied that the matter was dealt with.

CMD 17/167 Minutes of Special Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District held on Monday 27th November 2017

Proposed by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire, Seconded by Councillor Sinead Guckian AND UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED;

“That the Minutes of Special Meeting Carrick on Shannon Municipal District meeting held in Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon, Co. Leitrim on Monday 27th November 2017 be adopted.”

CMD 17/168 Speed Limit Review

04/12/17

A copy of report from Senior Engineer, Roads Department dated 1st December 2017 was circulated to the Members (Appendix I to the Minutes of this meeting in the Minute Book).

Mr. Shay O’Connor went through the report with the Members and in particular went through the roads pertaining to the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District Area as follows:-
1. On N4 National Primary Road in Carrick on Shannon the existing 50km/h speed limit on the Dublin Road will remain at 50km/h from its outer limit at Keenaghan/Attirory. This had been requested by Councillors and in submissions made by the public following the public consultation process and has now been agreed by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).

2. On N4 National Primary Road at Aghamore the existing 60km/h speed limit on both approaches to the village will remain unchanged. This had been requested by Councillors and has now been agreed by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).

3. Slip Roads on the N4 National Primary Road at Drumsna - the 80km/h speed limit will be changed to 100km/h. Mr. O’Connor outlined that these slip lanes are now been categorised as National Roads whereas they had previously been designated as local roads. Therefore the speed limit will be increased from 80km/h to 100 km/h.

Mr. O’Connor also advised that as part of the design of the Greenway between Carrick on Shannon and Leitrim Village and considering the number of vulnerable road users which will be using this Greenway, the following speed limit amendments are now being proposed:-

4. On the R280 Carrick on Shannon Road, Leitrim Village the 80km/hr speed limit will be changed to 60km/hr at the location of the new Greenway footpath.

5. On the R284 Keadew Road, Leitrim Village the 80km/hr speed limit will be changed to 60 km/hr out as far as Battlebridge.

Mr. O’Connor also outlined changes proposed in respect of roads in the other 2 Municipal District Areas. He further outlined that in light of the fact that we now propose a total of 10 changes to the speed limit schedule which had previously been advertised for public consultation, it is now recommended that that the new Speed Limit Schedule incorporating all of the proposed changes be advertised again for public consultation. This public consultation phase will commence in January 2018 and it is hoped to have the new speed limit bye-laws ready for adoption at the March Meeting of Leitrim County Council.

Councillor Des Guckian asked if the speed limit change on the N4 at Aghamore related to both approaches to the village and Mr. O’Connor confirmed that it did. Councillor Guckian welcomed the proposed changes.

Councillor Sinead Guckian enquired as to the exact area that the amendment would relate to regarding the slip roads at Drumsna and she asked if the approach into the village would be affected. Mr. O’Connor confirmed that it is only the speed limit on the Slip Road which will change and that the speed limit on the approach road to the village will not be altered. Councillor Guckian requested that public lighting be provided as Drumsna is a village on the N4 and by designating this slip road as a national road the TII are acknowledging this.

Councillor Enda Stenson supported all the proposed changes particularly the ones in relation to the Greenway at Leitrim Village.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire said that she hoped that the public would engage in the public consultation process on these proposed speed limit changes.
Councillor Sean McGowan welcomed the proposed changes and supported Councillor Sinead Guckian with regard to the request for extra public lighting for Drumsna.

It was agreed to proceed to public consultation with regard to the new speed limit schedule incorporating all of the proposed changes as set out in the Report attached.

CMD 17/169 Correspondence
04/12/17

Mr. Shane Tiernan made reference to Item No. 1 of correspondence raised on 13/11/2017 (CMD 17/152 refers).

The matter was in relation to the disposal of septic tank waste into the Irish Water Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) in Carrick on Shannon. Mr. Tiernan outlined that a response had been received from Water Services in relation to this matter and that Irish Water have been asked by the Department to facilitate, where possible, the acceptance of septic tank sludge at their facilities, where there is a capacity to do so. Irish Water want to provide this service on a trial basis at the Carrick on Shannon WWTP and if it is feasible they will invest in improved reception facilities to allow for the limited importation of septic tank sludge at this facility. Irish Water require local contractors who wish to dispose of septic tank sludge to register with them for this purpose. Mr. Tiernan advised that we can e-mail all Councillors the details of where and how local contractors can register for this service.

Councillors Sean McGowan and Enda Stenson welcomed this response.

Councillor Des Guckian said he understood from the meeting on 13th November, 2017 that there was no spare capacity at the facility in Carrick on Shannon but he stated that at the time of construction of this facility it was to cater for all of South Leitrim.

Mr. Darragh O’Boyle explained that the Waste Water Treatment Plant in Carrick on Shannon is currently working at half of its capacity and he explained that Irish Water and the Design Build Operators (DBO’s) appointed by Irish Water are responsible for the operation of these WWTP’s and that this was a matter for Irish Water and the DBO’s.

Part 1 – Notices of Motion

CMD 17/170 Survey of Lanes and By-Roads needing urgent repair/surfacing
04/12/17

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Des Guckian;

“That a survey be carried out in this Municipal District to discover the lanes and by-roads that are most in need of urgent repair/surfacing, especially those that have many houses and a lot of usage, and that a Programme be put in place to ensure that the most deserving twenty such roads be surfaced in 2018.”
Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;
"The Restoration Improvement Programme for 2018 under the 2016 to 2018 Roads Programme has already been approved by the elected members of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District. There is also a Pavement Condition Survey carried out on all public roads in charge of Leitrim County Council. This identifies the roads that are in need of surfacing. However, the final approval of the proposed roads to be surfaced in the Carrick on Shannon Municipal District will be agreed with the Municipal District after we are informed of our funding, which will be in the New Year."

Councillor Des Guckian said that he was unhappy with this reply and that these roads are urgently in need of being surfaced. He stated that all people in County Leitrim require a good standard of road and that there is no such thing as a second class citizen in Leitrim and he compared people not getting their rural roads repaired to the past treatment of the “n*****” in South America and said this should be long gone.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Séadhna Logan immediately cautioned Councillor Des Guckian on his use of a racial slur and he said that these comments were not acceptable. He requested Councillor Guckian to withdraw the remark.

Councillor Des Guckian refused to withdraw his comments and said that this is how black coloured people were referred to. Councillor Des Guckian stated that his motion asked that roads requiring attention be identified so as to ensure that ordinary people would not be discriminated against.

Councillor Sinead Guckian stated that this was appalling on so many levels and added that his remarks were not acceptable in the Council Chamber.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Séadhna Logan said that the comments made were racist and were totally unacceptable and he outlined that he and all of the other elected and executive members present disassociated themselves from such comments. He again stated that the comments made should be withdrawn.

Mr. O’Connor informed the meeting that the funding available for roads is limited and is not sufficient to allow us to improve all roads in need of upgrade and that the funding for 2018 will be similar to the funding available in 2017 and will not allow the Council to deal with the roads referred to by Councillor Des Guckian in this motion.

CMD 17/171 Funding for Major National Monuments – Site of Annaduff Abbey 04/12/17

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Des Guckian;

“That we, the elected members for this electoral area, put pressure on the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ms. Heather Humphreys, to ensure that major National Monuments, such as the site of Annaduff Abbey (beside St. Ann’s Church of Ireland), are not just listed as monuments, but that dedicated money be made available by her Department so that they can be made safe, archaeologically surveyed and restored.”
Councillor Des Guckian stated that Minister Humphreys had done nothing in the context of his motion and went on to say that he wanted something done. He further stated that the Department had not shown interest in this monument and that he had a right to say what he believed was factual.

In concluding the matter, it was agreed that a letter would be issued to the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht with regard to this matter.

CMD 17/172  
Traffic Congestion – Scoil Muire Primary School, Carrick on Shannon  
04/12/17

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire;

"Please outline what plan is in place to relieve the growing congestion of traffic caused by limited space at Scoil Muire Sol on Dublin Road, Carrick on Shannon. School start and finish times are particularly frustrating for all commuters and the situation is made most difficult in winter months. As a growing town we must address this situation. The congestion is dangerous at present. Parents are concerned and the Town Plan must provide for the safety of all."

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;

"This Council has had numerous discussions with the school and the parents association regarding the crossing and parking arrangements at this school. Leitrim County Council provided a pedestrian crossing using traffic lights and a ramp to help with the school children crossing. We will continue to help in any way we can within our limited resources to improve the situation at the school."

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire said that as a growing town this matter needs to be addressed and she enquired as to what can be done in relation to town planning going forward particularly plans to relieve the growing congestion and also what are the future long term plans for primary education in the town.

Mr. Darragh O’Boyle informed the meeting that the council has had numerous discussions with the school and the parents association regarding the crossing and parking arrangements at the school. The Council have provided a pedestrian crossing with traffic lights and a ramp to help and the Council will continue to help in any way it can within the limited resources available to improve the situation at the school. He also stated that in relation to the matter of parking that there was ample parking available at Circular Road which is just 200 metres from the school but which people are not using.

Councillor Enda Stenson supported the motion and said that Carrick on Shannon needs a new primary school and that all of the primary schools in the town should be incorporated into one campus on a site on the outskirts of the town where there would be proper and adequate facilities and adequate parking.

Councillor Sinead Guckian supported this motion and agreed that an educational campus was
needed which would incorporate all schools in the town.

Councillor Des Guckian commented that the matter of a new school was a matter for the Department of Education to deal with and he added that parking is difficult in bad weather on Circular Road.

Councillor Sean McGowan agreed and suggested that the Department of Education be contacted to highlight the issue.

Councillor Finola Armstrong McGuire asked that the Council write to the Department of Education in relation to the anticipated population growth of the town. She added that any future town plan must deal with this issue and a new greenfield site is needed to build a proper primary school for the town with all the required facilities. She stated that the matter needs to be addressed from a Town Planning context.

All members were in agreement with this.

CMD 17/173 Leitrim Sub Aqua – Provision of accommodation for Boat and Equipment
04/12/17

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sinead Guckian;

“At the December meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District I will ask the A/Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transportation to hold discussions with members of Leitrim Sub Aqua Club, with a view to the Council assisting with the provision of accommodation for the club’s boat and equipment. The work of Leitrim Sub Aqua, which is voluntary, has increasingly become more relevant and important to the County and the safety and management of our rivers and lakes.”

Report by A/Director of Services, Economic Development, Planning, Environment & Transportation

“The most appropriate approach for the club, is to identify and develop their own facilities. The funding for provision of such facilities can be pursued through the various funding schemes administered by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The Council can assist Leitrim Sub Aqua Club in identifying a suitable scheme and in making an application in 2018 subject to calls under the various schemes and funding allocation.”

Councillor Sinead Guckian noted the response and commented that her motion is not in relation to funding for the Sub Aqua Club but rather in relation to position they are at today regarding the immediate accommodation of their boat and equipment. She informed the meeting that the Leitrim Sub Aqua Club are a voluntary group who fund themselves, and who provide an important service in the County assisting the Gardai, Local Authorities and at many festivals. She asked that members of Leitrim County Council meet with them in relation to this matter.

Councillor Enda Stenson said that all the members would be in support of this motion.
Councillor Des Guckian enquired as to whether Leitrim County Council had some place available which the Club could use to store equipment.

Mr. Shane Tiernan said that Leitrim County Council did not have any storage space available but that Council Staff would be willing to facilitate a meeting with the Club with regard to this matter. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged.

Councillor Sinead Guckian welcomed this.

CMD 17/174  Overhanging Trees – Health & Safety concerns for school children
04/12/17

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

“At the December Meeting of Carrick Municipal District I will ask the District Engineer, South Leitrim, to contact the landowners along the road from Moffatt’s cross towards Cornageeha Community Centre (Road No. L-1572-0), and also the Drumshanbo South Road (Road No. L-5611-1) in Gortletteragh, with regard to getting the overhanging trees/hedges cut back or removed as they are hitting off the school bus. The driver of the school bus is concerned for the health and safety of the children.”

Senior Engineer, Roads; the responsibility for trees along public roads rests with the landowners. Leitrim County Council will issue notices to landowners at this location where they deem trees or hedges to pose a hazard to road user’s safety. In the event that landowners do not comply with the relevant notices Leitrim County Council must follow the Roads Act 1993 in arranging for the trees or hedges that pose a hazard to road safety to be removed in order to comply with our legal obligations.”

Councillor Sean McGowan noted the reply. He highlighted issues raised by bus drivers regarding the health and safety of the children. He asked could this matter be followed up as soon as possible.

Mr. O’Boyle said that it is his intention to issue hedge cutting notices in December and he stated that with the Hedge Cutting Grant Scheme, there is now no excuse for people not to cut trees/hedges along the public road.

CMD 17/175  Drainage Gullies along Shannon Road & Boffin Avenue, Dromod
04/12/17

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Sean McGowan;

“At the December Meeting of Carrick on Shannon Municipal District, I will ask the District Engineer, South Leitrim, to investigate the drainage gullies along the Shannon Road and Bofin Avenue in Dromod, and carry out whatever works are necessary. It would appear that the road
has sunk in certain areas leaving the gullies higher which is resulting in water pooling in both locations."

Report by Senior Engineer, 
"Leitrim County Council will investigate the issue with the drainage gullies adjoining Local Road L-1486-0 Shannon Road and L-14863-1 Boffin Avenue, Dromod to establish what the issue is. Leitrim County Council will arrange to have the drainage network cleaned in this area. However, depending on the results of the survey a complete rehabilitation programme may be required and Leitrim County Council may have to seek a specific grant to carry out the necessary rehabilitation works."

Councillor Sean McGowan stated that he was happy with the reply.

Mr. O'Boyle said that the issue at Bofin Avenue was due to a settlement issue which has left the gullies higher than the road but that the matter will be investigated.

CMD 17/176    Footpaths in Mohill Graveyard
04/12/17

To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;

“May I request that the footpaths in the Graveyard in Mohill be powerwashed as they are in a very dangerous state, covered in slimy green coating, and extremely slippy to walk on”.

Report by Senior Engineer, Roads;
"Leitrim County Council's Burial Ground Policy has set aside funding for Burial Ground Committees to apply for funding for a grant which would include similar type maintenance works as requested. We will contact the committee again to make them aware of the policy and to establish if this is part of their proposed maintenance works."

Councillor Enda Stenson said that the footpaths in the cemetery are dangerous to walk on at present.

Mr. O'Boyle asked that the Graveyard Committee contact him and he would advise them of the suite of works that can be done under the above mentioned grant.

Councillor Sean McGowan supported the motion.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Séadhna Logan also supported the motion and made reference to a motion made approx. 2 years ago regarding the installation of a water connection in the new cemetery. He informed Mr. O'Boyle that his predecessor had given a commitment to have one installed. Mr. O'Boyle said he would look into this matter.
To consider the following Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Enda Stenson;

“There is a Camper Van parked on the Roadway in a dangerous place in the Breffni Crescent Estate. This has been reported to both the Gardaí and to Leitrim County Council. However, it is still in place and nobody appears to know who owns it. What can be done to have this Camper Van removed?”

Report by Director of Services, Housing, Corporate, Culture and Emergency Services;

“It has been reported to the Council by residents that this camper van has now been removed. If this camper van returns and is again parked on the roadway it will be a matter for the Gardaí Siochana to deal with as it is not an Irish registered vehicle.”

Councillor Enda Stenson said that he had been informed that the situation has now been resolved as the Camper Van has been removed.

Before the order of “Any Other Business” Councillor Enda Stenson made reference to Motion CMD17/163 from meeting held on 13/11/17 regarding the inclusion of a Stretch of R201 at Drumdoo, Mohill in the 2018 Road Works Programme. Councillor Enda Stenson had not been present at this meeting. Councillor Enda Stenson explained that this stretch of road is in a particularly bad condition following the installation of a water main on this road.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Séadhna Logan said that this road needs to be properly reinstated and is dangerous at present.

Mr. O’Connor advised that the matter will be taken up with Irish Water as the Contractor engaged to complete the installation of this water main is responsible for the road reinstatement.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Séadhna Logan extended Christmas wishes to all members and staff of Leitrim County Council.

Mr. Shane Tiernan on behalf of the Executive and staff of Leitrim County Council wished the members and citizens of the county a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

This concluded the business of the meeting.
Signed: ____________________________  ____________________________

Councillor Séadhna Logan  Kathyne Bohan
Cathaoirleach  Meetings Administrator

Date: ____________________________