

These Minutes are edited for Data Protection purposes because in effect putting them on the Internet is publishing them. An unedited paper copy is available on request.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF LISTOWEL HELD IN ÁRAS AN PHIARSAIGH, LISTOWEL ON 11TH JANUARY, 2016

MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA CRUINNITHE SPEISIALTA DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH LIOS TUATHAIL A THIONÓLADH IN ÁRAS AN PHIARSAIGH, LIOS TUATHAIL, AR AN 11 EANAIR 2016

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Councillors/Comhairleoirí

**Cllr. R Beasley
Cllr. J Brassil
Cllr. M Kennelly
Cllr. J Moloney
Cllr. D Nolan
Cllr. L Purtill
Cllr. A Thornton**

In attendance/i láthair

Ms. J McCarthy	MD Manager
Mr. G Riordan	SE
Mr. D Doyle	A/SE
Mr. J Sheehan	SEE
Mr. M McEnery	EE
Mr. M Griffin	EE
Mr. D Ginty	EP
Ms. J Foley	Listowel MD Officer
Ms. S Broderick	SO Corporate Support

The meeting commenced at 3.00pm.

Ms. J McCarthy said that this Special Meeting was convened at the request of the Cathaoirleach to allow the members the opportunity to raise issues of concern resulting from the severe weather conditions which occurred throughout the county during the month of December.

She said that as a Local Authority Kerry County Council has dealt with the storm and flooding events extremely well due to significant advance preparation and team effort. She expressed appreciation for the hard work and co-operation, in difficult conditions, of all individuals and agencies involved in the management and response to the extreme weather conditions, in particular An Garda Síochána, the HSE, the staff and volunteers of the Civil Defence, the Fire Service and the staff members of Kerry County Council who worked around the clock and were accessible to people who had concerns about flooding.

She thanked the media for their assistance in keeping the public informed and members of the public who brought flooding incidents to the attention of the public and the Council. The number of hits on Kerry County Council's Twitter account increased from approximately 14,000 to 615,000 during the month of December. She paid tribute to the people of Kerry for the great community spirit and resilience demonstrated throughout the county during this time.

Ms. McCarthy said that while an estimate of the cost of some of the remedial work has been prepared an assessment of the damage caused is ongoing. She invited members to submit details of any additional locations on roads and bridges which have been damaged by flooding for inclusion in the assessment. She welcomed Mr. D Ginty to the meeting and advised the members that he has responsibility for Kerry County Council's Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CEFRAM).

16.01.11.01: Weather events including flooding in December 2015

Mr. D Doyle A/SE briefed the members on the following report which was circulated:

Kerry has experienced a number of severe weather events since the 1st December 2015.

- The first event, Code Level RED Rainfall Alert, occurred on the weekend of the 4th and 5th December 2015.
- The second event, Code Level ORANGE Rainfall Alert, occurred on the weekend of the 11th and 12th December 2015.
- The third event, Code Level ORANGE Rainfall and Wind Alert, occurred on the 29th and 30th December 2015.

The first event, Code Level RED, occurred on the weekend of the 4th and 5th December 2015

The event of the 4th and 5th was a code level RED Severe Weather Rainfall Alert. The alert projected very heavy rainfall, with accumulations in excess of 70mm, and strong gale force winds. There were also flood alerts from the OPW in respect of the River Shannon but these primarily related to the water levels upstream of Limerick. However we were mindful of any impacts that this could potentially have with the high rainfall predicted in the county.

The Council activated its Severe Weather Response Plan immediately and put in place procedures to deal with the most likely outcome, based on the forecast. Road crews were deployed to fill sandbags; re-check drainage outlets and culverts in known areas of high risk; notify property owners in areas that have flooded in similar circumstances in recent years and to be prepared to respond to flooding as it may occur.

The Civil Defence was activated at 3pm on the Friday to assist in the filling and distribution of sandbags. Approximately 100 Civil Defence volunteers assisted in the response over the weekend and almost 10,000 sandbags were filled and distributed

throughout the county. 6 units of the Fire Service were deployed to respond to flooding of properties.

The Council's Flood Emergency Management Team convened 8 times over the period of the storm and there were 7 conference calls with management in An Garda Síochána and the HSE, who are members of the Kerry Emergency Flooding Steering Committee. There was also a conference call with the Cork Kerry Major Emergency Regional Steering Committee, in case of a need for any specialised equipment or additional resources to be put on standby. A flooding support helpline was established and a communications team issued information and advice on the situation to the general public through our PPN, Radio Kerry, social networks, and the Council website.

The worst affected areas were in Tralee (River Lee Catchment, including Ballyseedy, Ballymullen, Killerisk, Manor West, Caherwisheen, Camp, Skahanagh and Ballyard); Kenmare (Market Square & Finnihy Court in the River Finnihy catchment); Glenflesk and Killarney (Ballycasheen and Ross Road), both in the River Flesk catchment, where properties were flooded. Almost 500 properties in these areas were at risk of flooding and 7 families had to be rescued from their homes on the Saturday night by the Council. Volunteers from the Red Cross, Kerry Mountain Rescue, and Killarney Inland Shore rescue were called in, to assist in the evacuation of residents in a house at Foilduane, Glenflesk. The HSE arranged for 2 high wheeled army carriers, to be deployed on Saturday evening from Cork to Tralee General hospital and to Kenmare Community Hospital, to assist in recovering any casualties / patients from high floods.

Sections of key access routes in the county, including the N22 Killarney to Cork Road, the R569 to Kenmare, the N71 Killarney to Kenmare Road over Molls Gap, the N70 Castlemaine Road in Tralee, the Tralee By-Pass were closed as well as a significant number of local and urban roads. The high winds on the Friday evening also resulted in fallen trees which were addressed promptly.

The rainfall recorded varied significantly throughout the county, with less than 50mm recorded in Valentia and Ardfert but gauges around Tralee indicating between 77mm and 114mm, over a 36 hour period. The water level recorded on the gauge on the River Lee at Ballymullen was the highest since its installation in 1975, exceeding the previous high in 1986, when significant areas in Tralee Town centre were flooded. The levels recorded on the River Flesk, and the flooding witnessed in Glenflesk, equated to a 1 in 1000 flooding event, based on modelling done by the OPW under the CFRAMS study. The flooding in Kenmare was consistent with flooding events previously recorded, though not to the same extent as in 2008.

The emergency response to the severe weather over the weekend of the 4th to the 6th December was stood down at 7 am on the Sunday when flood waters had abated, but some staff assisted in the cleanup operations on the Sunday and following Monday.

The second event, Code Level ORANGE, occurred on the weekend of the 11th and 12th December 2015

The Council received a code level ORANGE rainfall alert at 8:30 on Friday 11th December 2015, with prolonged heavy rain totalling up to 50 mm projected on the Saturday. The Council's Severe Weather Response Plan was again activated as there was a risk of further flooding to properties, particularly in high risk areas, with saturated ground and predicted high tides. Given the increased risk, a further 10,000 sandbags were made available, particularly targeting properties flooded the previous week. All of these homes and businesses were contacted directly by staff in the areas, with crews on standby in advance of the high tides on the Saturday morning. Civil Defence crews were also on standby and called to a number of properties on the Cashen, in advance of the high tides on the Saturday evening.

Approximately 38mm of rainfall was recorded in Valentia and whilst river levels in Castleisland, Kenmare and Sneem, were very high, no properties were flooded and a limited number of local roads and the N70 Castlemaine Road in Tralee, were closed for a few hours on the Saturday.

Again the Council's Flood Emergency Management Team convened 7 times over the weekend and there were 3 conference calls with management in An Garda Síochána and the HSE. A dedicated flooding helpline was established in County Buildings with a Communications team established to inform the public and elected members.

Weather conditions improved on the Saturday afternoon and river levels receded before the high tides. The Flooding Response Teams were stood down at 6:30pm on the Saturday, in consultation with An Garda Síochána, HSE and the Civil Defence.

An assessment of the damage to public infrastructure as a direct result of the flooding was estimated at "860,000. An application to the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government was made and we are awaiting the announcement of this funding. However, the costs of responding to the event (staffing, pumps, filling and distributing sandbags; fire service response, emergency accommodation) was "244,447. The Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government has provided this amount of funding to Kerry County Council.

The third event, Code Level ORANGE Rainfall and Wind Alert, occurred on the 29th and 30th December 2015

The Council received a Code Level ORANGE alert on the 28th December, valid from 12.01 Tuesday, 29th December until 23.59 Tuesday, 29th December.

The Council activated its Severe Weather Response Plan again and put in place procedures to deal with the most likely outcome, based on the forecast. Operational staff were recalled from leave and together with the Civil Defence were deployed to fill sandbags; re-check drainage outlets and culverts in known areas of high risk; notify property owners in areas that have flooded in similar circumstances in recent years and to be prepared to respond to flooding as it may occur. The Emergency Telephone number was re-established along with the contingency backup call centre.

Met Éireann confirmed that 130m of rainfall was recorded at Cloon Lake, Glencar over this period.

This worst affected areas were Killorglin, Beaufort, Fossa, Killarney, Glenflesk, Ballyheigue and Ardfert. The N22 at Glenflesk, the N72 between Beaufort and Killorglin, the N71 at Dinish and the R569 at Loo Bridge were both closed for a number of hours on the 30th December. A number of local roads at Foiladown, Beaufort, Caragh Lake, Ballyheigue, Banna and mid-Kerry were closed on the 30th December. 4 properties were damaged in the Killorglin area due to flooding. A number of other properties were under threat of flooding. A minor land slippage occurred on a local road in Currow.

Again the Council's Flood Emergency Management Team held 7 conference calls with management of An Garda Síochána and the HSE. A dedicated flooding helpline was put in place with a Communications team established to inform the public and elected members.

An assessment of the damage to public infrastructure, from the 19th December to the year end, as a direct result of the weather event was estimated at " 607,000. An application to the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government was made. The costs of responding to the event was " 162,535. We are awaiting the announcement of this funding.

Damage to Piers and Harbours

Following the weather events in December the following piers and harbours were damaged. An application for funding was submitted to the LGMA/DAFM for the following locations:-

- Tralee / Fenit Regional Road: coastal protection works - " 250,000.
- Cliff Road, Rossbeigh: further damage to coastal embankment - " 500,000.
- Provision of a new road to replace existing road, Lower Road, Rossbeigh, which is extensively damaged due to recent storm damage - " 1.1m.
- Ballinskelligs Pier: further structural damage/undermining of pier - " 160,000
- Scraggan Pier - further damage/undermining of pier - " 80,000
- Cliff Road, Ballyheigue /adjacent to the fishery slipway - Coastal Protection Works required due to storm damage, approx. 280m of rock armour revetement - " 500,000.

Resources Deployed

- 250 staff in total involved/ mobilised throughout storm events in December
- 100 outdoor operational staff, including supervisory and technical professional staff
- 30 Retained Fire Services staff
- 100 Civil Defence Volunteers assisted in structured rosters
- Up to 20 senior staff involved in Emergency Management Team and support throughout the events.
- Council staff and Civil Defence mobilised in advance of all weather events. All high risk areas were visited - properties and businesses called to or contacted

to make them aware of storm and forecast. High risk areas provided with supplies of sandbags for removal and deployment by public. Road closure signs and numerous road diversions were put in place. Pumps to prevent properties from flooding were also deployed at various locations throughout the county. Staff alleviated drainage issues along the public road network. A presence was maintained in high risk areas throughout the weather events.

- Council staff and Civil Defence worked long hours in difficult conditions through these three weather events.
- Approximately 18,000 sand bags were filled and deployed as necessary during the weather events in December

Media

Kerry County Council kept the public informed at all times throughout these weather events, with daily weather updates on local Radio, Twitter, website, etc.

Properties affected

The details outlined are based on information provided to Council staff and from property owners who contacted the Council:-

- The total number of evacuated residential dwellings since 3 December is 17
- The number of residential dwellings evacuated where residents have now returned is 15
- The number of residential dwellings damaged by flooding but habitable is 48
- The number of residential dwellings not flooded but inaccessible due to road flooding is 506
- The number of residential dwellings currently under threat of flooding is 27
- The number of business premises affected by flooding is 24

Issues arising

- Details of the extent of the recent flooding are being recorded and will be submitted to the OPW, who are the lead agency for flood risk management and have been tasked by the Government to identify options to mitigate for the future risk of flooding. All of the areas severely impacted by the floods in Tralee, Kenmare, Killarney and Glenflesk are included in these CFRAM studies. These studies involve very complex modelling of flood predictions, taking into consideration the changing environment, and various assessments on the impact of climate change.
- The National Primary Road N22 at Glenflesk, sections of the N72 at Beaufort and the N71 at Muckross had to be closed during these events. Sections of the National Road network, critical for access, will be reassessed with TII.
- Both access routes to Kenmare within the County again severely flooded and closed. Kenmare was essentially cut off from access within Kerry (alternative access from Cork route available but with significant additional journey distance).

- Many local roads throughout the county were flooded at various times during these weather events.
- Following these weather events the entire road network has suffered significant damage. Pothole and drainage issues will continue to exist over the coming month. Council crews will focus on drainage and road surface repairs to address these issues.
- Scouring may have occurred at a number of our bridges but this is difficult to assess due to the high river levels at present. Surveys of these bridges will take place over the coming months.

The Council is also assisting the Red Cross in processing any claims from small businesses for emergency funding.

Mr. J Sheehan acknowledged that the Listowel Municipal District escaped the worst effects of the recent storms but there were isolated flooding problems in the western part of the MD including a number of locations in Ballybunion identified by Cllr. R Beasley and a property in Ballyheigue was vacated for a short time.

He said that sections of the R552 Listowel/Ballylongford road were flooded. Key Street in Ballylongford did not have sufficient drainage capacity to deal with the excess water. In Causeway flooding occurred because of insufficient capacity due to drains not having been cleared by the riparian owners. The Tralee/Ballyheigue road was flooded as was the road from Causeway to Ballyduff. There was a threat of flooding in Listowel town but fortunately this did not occur. The Cliff Walk in Ballybunion has been damaged. It will be necessary to carry out drainage works in Ballyduff and at Clashmealcon, Causeway. Land slippage has occurred on the access road to the car park at Kilmore and the roadway to Meengahane Pier has been badly damaged.

Ms. J McCarthy said that so far Kerry County Council has made a submission for funding of "1.5m for flood damage repairs for the county. She reiterated that the assessment is ongoing and details of any additional locations should be forwarded to Mr. D Doyle or Mr. J Sheehan.

Cllr. J Brassil thanked and commended the Cathaoirleach for calling this meeting. He congratulated the staff of Kerry County Council and all the other agencies involved in dealing with the impact of the recent severe weather conditions. While he acknowledged that there were no major flooding incidents in the Listowel Municipal District he said that the excess water has had a huge impact on the condition of the roads. Blocked drains and water run off from land results in serious damage to roads and must be addressed.

Cllr. Brassil said that the provision of sandbags to a property at Sandhill Road, Ballyheigue was appreciated and asked that this location be examined as there may be an issue of a blocked soakpit. The Mountain road at Kilcolman, Asdee is in poor condition as is a section of the L6074, Urlee . Lisselton road. He said that many of the damaged roads are not included on any Roads Programme and the extent of the damage requires that extensive long term repairs need to be carried out.

Mr. D Doyle said that currently all of the Council's repair crews are in the process of carrying out urgent repairs.

Mr. J Sheehan acknowledged that the members had submitted a list of roads for inclusion in the 2016-2018 Multi Annual Restoration Improvement Programme and said that roads raised by way of Notice of Motion for previous meetings will also be taken into consideration.

Cllr. R Beasley paid tribute to the staff of Kerry County Council and all the other agencies involved in dealing with the impact of the recent severe weather conditions. In particular he thanked Water Services staff members, Mr. Tim Riordan and Mr. Pdraig Hennessy for their help and co-operation.

He said that a number of roads have been seriously damaged by the flooding.

A solution must be found to the flooding from land in Ballyduff which is coming into the village and causing flooding at a business property. The Knopogue road from Lacca Cross and the road in Clashmealcon in the vicinity of the monument must be examined. He also expressed concern about the condition of the Clahane road, the Meenagahane road, the Slieve dqMhadra road and the North road where inlets need to be cleaned and opened.

Cllr. L Purtill congratulated the staff of Kerry County Council and all the other agencies involved in dealing with the impact of the recent severe weather conditions. He said that Ballylongford has been hugely affected by flooding in the past but this did not occur on this occasion. He said that the road on the Ballylongford side of Ballydonoghue Church and a section of the coast road from Ballylongford to Tarbert were flooded. Skirting is required on the Kilbaha road in Moyvane. He asked if the local landowners are responsible for the cleaning of the Ballyline river.

Mr. J Sheehan said that the riparian owners are responsible for the cleaning of the channels on the Ballyline river.

Cllr. D Nolan said that she would like to be associated with the comments of the previous speakers regarding the excellent work carried out by Kerry County Council and the other agencies in dealing with the impact of the recent severe weather conditions. She said that the road at Coolthoosane on the Clounmacon road is flooded on the right hand side. This road is only wide enough for one vehicle therefore this is a health and safety issue. The road into Murhur Burial Ground is also damaged and needs urgent repair work.

Cllr. A Thornton commended the staff of Kerry County Council and all the other agencies involved in dealing with the impact of the recent severe weather conditions. She said that she had emailed a list of the roads about which she is concerned, directly to Operations.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. J Moloney acknowledged that the Municipal District of Listowel escaped the worst effects of the flooding in December 2015 but it is important to remember that Listowel town and parts of the MD were severely affected by flooding in September 2015 and May 2014. He said the condition of the Ballygrennan road,

the road by St. Senan's Club and the road from Ahanagran to Tullahinell must be addressed.

Cllr. M Kennelly asked that the condition of the road at Derry Cross, Tournageehy and the roads at Dirha East and Dirha West be addressed.

Cllr. R Beasley asked that the roads at Kilkeel and Killanarda also be examined.

Cllr. A Thornton said that the road at Killocrim is in very poor condition and asked that it be examined.

Flooding at Clieveragh, Listowel

Ms. J McCarthy said that consultants have been appointed to address the flooding which occurred at Clieveragh, Listowel in September, 2015.

Mr. D Ginty said that the homeowners and community will be consulted when the consultants report is being prepared.

Shortage of staff resources

Cllr. M Kennelly said that reduced outdoor operational staff numbers is a major issue in the carrying out of maintenance and repair works.

Cllr. R Beasley agreed that additional staff resources are required.

Ms. J McCarthy acknowledged the concerns of the members and said that the embargo on recruitment has been lifted to a limited degree.

She said that Mr. M McEnery now has an enormous workload as the Listowel Municipal District has the largest area of roads in the county.

Mr. M McEnery said that a staff member retired in December and has not been replaced. Others are due to retire over the next three years.

He said that the number of roads listed for repairs could easily be doubled, it will be a case of choosing the most urgent cases as the funding is not available.

Cllr. J Brassil said that he is very concerned that there is no additional funding for road maintenance as extensive maintenance work is needed to keep the road network up to a reasonable standard.

William St. Listowel

Cllr. M Kennelly asked for an update on the progress of the scheme for William St. Listowel.

Mr. D Doyle said that the amendments to the scheme as requested by the members at the September 2015 MD meeting had been made and the amended scheme had been forwarded to TII at the end of December 2015.

An allocation of " 100, 000 has been made for the scheme by TII.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. J Moloney said that this will only fund works on a section of the road.

Cllr. A Thornton said that consideration should be given to going ahead with work on a section of William St.

Cllr. D Nolan said that she too would like to see works going ahead on a section of this road.

Ms. J McCarthy said that Director of Operations, Mr. C O'Sullivan is also of the opinion that works on a section of the road should proceed.

CEFRAM Study

Mr. D Ginty advised the members that the CFRAM study is currently under the remit of the OPW who are the lead agency responsible for flood risk management. The OPW works in close partnership with Local Authorities in delivering the objectives of the CFRAM Programme.

The CFRAM study has 4 stages:

1. Identification of areas at risk of flooding. (complete, 14 areas in Co. Kerry)
2. Preparation of predictive flood maps showing the extent and depth of anticipated flooding. Completed Oct 2014.
3. Consideration of all options to mitigate flood risk and the selection of a preferred option. Completed Sep 2015.
4. Preparation of a flood management plan. June 2016.

The following areas in the Listowel MD have been identified and included in the CFRAM study and will have a flood management plan published by June of this year:

- Tarbert (Power station)
- Ballylongford.
- Listowel.
- Abbeydorney.
- Moneycashen.

The flood management plans will include specific measures including new infrastructure to mitigate the flood risk in each area identified in the CFRAM study. These plans (for each area) will be published in June of this year and will be placed before the full Council in July / August for adoption.

Mr D Ginty outlined that there is, at present, a statutory phase of public consultation ongoing. Kerry County Council may make a submission / observation on the draft flood maps. This is a reserved function. If any of the members have any comments or views in relation to same they can be collated and submitted as part of the Councils submission. In addition, Mr D Ginty outlined that any of the members who wished to view the maps could meet him after the meeting.

With reference to Clieveragh, Kerry County Council have appointed JBA Consulting Engineers, Limerick, to prepare a preliminary report to analyse the water courses and combined sewers in the Clieveragh area to ascertain the cause of recent flood events. This report when presented to the Council will also contain an option to mitigate / deal with flooding in this area.

Ms. J McCarthy said that a report will be prepared on the outcome of the meeting and referred to Mr. C O'Sullivan Director of Operations.

The meeting concluded at 16.20pm

Gerard O'Brien
Gerard O'Brien
Meetings Administrator
Municipal District

Cllr. J Moloney
Cathaoirleach of Listowel