

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting
held on Tuesday, 20th June 2017**

In Attendance: Cllrs. Kay Dawson, Ian Doyle, Noel McCarthy, June Murphy, Deirdre O' Brien, Frank O' Flynn; Brendan O' Gorman SEE, Mary Hayes SEO, Pauline Moriarty MDO, Lydia Kelly ASO; Séamus de Faoite SEO, CCC Housing, Mary Fitzgerald SSO, CCC Housing.

DEPUTATIONS

Standing Orders were suspended to hear two deputations.

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn - Notice of Motion 7(1)

Deputation from Fermoy Residents with reference to maintenance of Old Kilcrumper Cemetery.

Cllr. O' Flynn introduced Mr. Jerry Keating and Mr. Oliver Lillis, comprising this deputation. Mr. Keating addressed the meeting, stating how appalled he is at the neglect of Kilcrumper Old Cemetery. He said that this burial ground could be the 'Glasnevin' of county Cork, having the Republican grave, the (ruins of the) Church and being the burial place of many notable citizens. He said that about sixty percent of those buried in this cemetery have no-one to look after their graves and that it is incumbent on Cork County Council, whose responsibility it is, to look after the cemetery properly and to maintain it to a high standard. He said the cemetery had always been beautifully kept in the past. He implored those present to rectify the highly unsatisfactory strimming work that had been recently carried out (saying the cemetery was worse after this than before) and to restore the cemetery to its rightful condition, which should be 'a haven of rest and beauty'. Photographs in support of the deputation were circulated showing the unkempt condition of the cemetery.

All the Members in turn welcomed the Deputation and wholly agreed with the sentiments expressed, saying concerns had been raised previously and offering apologies that it had required a deputation to highlight the issue. Assurances were given by the Members that a programme of works would be introduced immediately to resolve the maintenance issues here. Pauline Moriarty MDO stated that a Contractor had been appointed to carry out the necessary work and advised that whilst this work had commenced, it would take a number of weeks to restore the cemetery to its previous high standard. She undertook to prepare a report for the next meeting of Fermoy MD. The Deputation thanked the Members for their attention and response and left the meeting.

Cllrs. Kay Dawson and Noel McCarthy - Notice of Motion 7(3)

Deputation from O'Neill Crowley Terrace Residents with reference to maintenance of back lane for 2017.

Cllr. Kay Dawson introduced the Deputation comprising of Séamus Gilmartin, Patricia Cahill and Karen Walsh who were in attendance to request the clearance and restoration of the rear laneway serving the backs of house numbers 31, 32 and 33 O' Neill Crowley Terrace. Photographs showing the current state of the laneway, which is completely overgrown and is full of dumped rubbish and large household items, were circulated to those present. Séamus informed the meeting that the laneway is currently a health hazard, and a health and safety concern as access to the rear of the properties is completely blocked if an emergency occurs. Also, items going into the houses (such as fuel) and coming out (such as wheelie-bins) have to be brought through the houses.

A garage to the rear of Karen Walsh's property cannot be used as there is no access, with Karen having to park her car on the street in front (on a bend). Building materials have had to be delivered over an adjoining neighbour's wall as access through from the rear is impossible. Seamus acknowledged works carried out by Cork County Council to date in the vicinity and voiced their appreciation for same. They are now requesting the appropriate measures be taken to clear and clean the laneway and restore access to their houses; the maintenance of which thereafter they are willing to undertake themselves.

All the Members concurred with the Deputation, welcoming them to the meeting and supporting their request. It is fortunate that there is a laneway in place, which many houses are seeking and cannot get, and the Members agreed that the requested works should be carried out.

Whilst speaking with the deputation members, Cllr. June Murphy was called to order by the Cathaoirleach quoting Standing Orders which prohibit a conversation or discussion to take place with those in deputation. Cllr. Murphy requested that standing orders be applied as strictly to all Members at MD meetings in future.

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the meeting that the matter was under the remit of Housing Operations and undertook to forward the issue to them for their consideration and resolution. Mary Hayes SEO acknowledged the deputation saying their concerns would be forwarded to the Housing Department, but also mentioned that as there were Housing Operations personnel present at the meeting, they would note the issues raised and refer them on to the appropriate section. The Deputation thanked the Members for the opportunity to attend and left the meeting.

1. MINUTES:

(1) Minutes of Fermoy Municipal District meeting held on 20th January 2015.

The Minutes were agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy.

2. CCC HOUSING: REPAIR AND LEASING SCHEME

Presentation by Séamus de Faoite SEO, CCC Housing Operations.

Comprehensive documents outlining the scope of the Repair and Leasing Scheme, which commenced in April 2017, were circulated to those present. Séamus de Faoite SEO went through the procedures, protocols and guidelines of the Scheme, highlighting the advantages to property owners. The scheme will be instrumental in combating dereliction as it targets property owners who cannot afford or access funding to carry out required works. It will also increase the availability of housing options and reduce waiting lists. He said uptake of the scheme had been slow at the start, but with recent additional coverage and media attention, it is now starting to gain momentum. The Members in turn welcomed Séamus to the meeting and thanked him for his presentation. They welcomed the introduction of this scheme, saying apart from the advantages outlined above, it will be beneficial as it will encourage people back to living in village and town centres when properties therein are refurbished under the scheme. Séamus answered any questions the Members had and thanked them for the opportunity to attend the meeting.

3. REPORTS and RECOMMENDATIONS

1. PROGRESS REPORT 2017 RI and Discretionary RI Programme

2. PROGRESS REPORT 2017 RM Programme

3. PROGRESS REPORT 2017 Drainage Programme

Brendan O' Gorman SEE updated the Members on the on the progress to date of these programmes, referring to the reports circulated, and saying that works are progressing according to plan and on schedule. The 'blacktop' contractor has commenced work, the grader is in the area working through the programme and the three CIS schemes have been completed. Further to a query from Cllr. Noel McCarthy in relation to the Duntaheen Road, Fermoy, Brendan replied that road-lining will be reinstated as before (no changes) but that additional 'concealed entrance' signage will be provided.

4. PROGRESS REPORT 2017 Footpath Programme

Brendan O' Gorman SEE updated the Members on the progress of this programme to date, advising that works on Lower Cork Street, Mitchelstown are to finish on Friday next, there is a small section to be done on Upper Cork Street and then work will commence on Abbey Street, Fermoy. The Members in turn complimented the works carried out to date and welcomed the start of the Abbey Street project. Brendan answered any questions, including in relation to snagging work required on Thomas Street, Fermoy which is to be carried out both by the utility provider and County Council Wastewater Services/Irish Water here.

5. PROGRESS REPORT MD Derelict Sites

Pauline Moriarty MDO went through the updated report circulated, telling the Members that there are a number of new files now on the report. She further advised that inspection reports are pending from the Engineer on a number of cases and when these are available, appropriate action will be taken to progress these files. Pauline answered all queries the Members had in relation to derelict sites.

4. Proposed CAR PARK, JAMES STREET, MITCHELSTOWN *Preliminary Design*

Brendan O' Gorman SEE introduced this item, bringing the Members attention to the preliminary design drawing, which had been uploaded for their consideration, and saying it is now hoped to advance this proposal to Part VIII stage. He answered any questions the Members had which included in relation to the position and height of the proposed palisade fencing at the rear of the site and in relation to the timescale proposed which, with Members approval, is planned to proceed to Part VIII in July 2017.

The Members said they were satisfied with the information and proposal as provided and, as additional car parking is greatly warranted in Mitchelstown, agreed that the proposal should now go forward for Part VIII planning. Careful consideration and public awareness will be required during the planning process. Brendan advised that a further update will be prepared for the next meeting.

5. UPDATE St. Bernard's/Marian Square Laneway Bollards

See Minutes of Special Meeting.

6. TOURISM SECTION UPDATE to Members - June 2017

Noted by the Members and agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn.

7. NOTICES OF MOTION

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

- (1) "that Cork County Council receive a Deputation from Fermoy Residents".
See start of Minutes.

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

- (2) "that this Council put in place 'Raised Speed Tables' in the following locations (a) Glenahulla and (b) Kildorrery".

Both locations are on National Roads and the TII have stated that they do not permit speed tables / ramps on National Roads. As the request is for roads funded by the TII, we have no choice but to follow their line here. (BO'G)

This motion was supported by Cllrs. O' Flynn, Dawson and McCarthy. As the situation in the vicinity of Glenahulla NS has now become more dangerous than ever with the closure of a private site which had been used for parking, Brendan O' Gorman SEE undertook to again contact the TII with the Members' concerns.

Cllrs. Noel McCarthy and Cllr. Kay Dawson - Joint Motion

- (3) "that this Committee receive a Deputation from the residents of O' Neill Crowley Terrace, Mitchelstown".
See start of Minutes.

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

- (4) "that Cork County Council put in place traffic safety measures including traffic calming, lines, advance signage at the cross roads between the old and new graveyard in the interest of safety of all road users at Kilcrumper, Fermoy".
No funding currently available for traffic calming in the MD. Area is outside of any speed limit zone and is not covered by public lighting - the default speed limit of 80kph applies here. All warning lines and advance signage are already in place for the junction. (BO'G)

Cllr. O' Flynn supported this motion saying this road is being used by many motorists to access the motorway, Brendan replied that he would re-examine the junction with a view to improving safety.

- (5) "that Cork County Council realign the road, resurface the road and alleviate water ponding in the interest of safety of all road users at Ballinahoun Cross, Fermoy".
For future resurfacing consideration. Routine drainage maintenance will be carried out. (BO'G)
- (6) "that Cork County Council put in place signs indicating Araglin in the following positions: Rathealy Road, Fermoy, junction at Ballyderown Bridge and at Molly Barry's Cross, Kilworth in the interest of safety".
No to Rathealy Road, Fermoy but we will arrange for the two other locations in due course. (BO'G)
- (7) "that Cork County Council replenish and upgrade the car parking marking at Araglin Community Hall and squash court in the interest of health and safety".
Private property. (BO'G)

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

- (8) "that this Council repair/replace the gate at Marshalstown Graveyard".
For investigation. (BO'G)
As there is an historic (listed) building on this site, this request will be forwarded to Mona Hallihan, CCC Heritage Unit for her attention.
- (9) "that this Council provide an update on the provision of a Rose Garden at Kilcrumper Cemetery".
This matter requires careful consideration to ensure compliance with Cemetery Bye-Laws and other guidelines for Columbariums. The matter is currently under investigation and I will revert to Members with a concept when it is available. (PM)
This motion was supported by all the Members present at the meeting. Pauline Moriarty MDO advised that all aspects and possibilities will be examined and included in the forthcoming report.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

- (10) "that Cork County Council develops the Triangular Field in Fermoy, installing new seating areas, to maximise its potential following the installation of the Tower art piece there".
Cllr. McCarthy is proposing that this area be developed as a public amenity area; this was seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn.
Pauline Moriarty MDO said she would develop a concept and revert to the Members. Mary Hayes SEO suggested this area be incorporated in the proposed Blackwater Blueway, and further to an enquiry from Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien, explained the proposed Blueway is still at exploratory stage and pending the co-operation of the relevant landowners. Cllr. Kay Dawson requested that any proposal being prepared be 'age friendly'. Brendan O' Gorman SEE cautioned on the safety of this site, saying there is a significant drop to the river level at the bank and ideally a new river side fence would be required, and said that the OPW would need to be involved with any proposals here as the flood hydraulics would need to be considered under high flood scenarios with the provision of any new fence.
- (11) "that the rainwater channel at Lower Monument Hill, Fermoy be rectified to enable household have an adequate vehicle access to his house".
Cllr. McCarthy clarified the location and situation here and Brendan O' Gorman SEE undertook to examine the location with a view to facilitating this request.
- (12) "that we receive an Engineer's report on the restoration of the back entrances to the homes of residents living in Clancy Street and Devlin Street, Fermoy".

Road in charge of Cork County Council (Housing Directorate) but it is not a public road as it is not on our road schedule. I expect the housing directorate have no funds to attend to this so I will arrange to get the laneway onto the public road schedule and make preparations to include for resurfacing in 2018 from Discretionary Restoration Improvement. (BO'G)

- (13) “that we receive an Engineer’s report on the restoration of the back entrances to the homes of residents living in St. Josephs’ Square, Fermoy between numbers 21 to 28 inclusive”.

Road in charge of Cork County Council (Housing Directorate) but it is not a public road as it is not on our road schedule. I expect the housing directorate have no funds to attend to this so I will arrange to get the laneway onto the public road schedule and make preparations to include for resurfacing in 2018 from Discretionary Restoration Improvement. (BO'G)

Cllr. Kay Dawson

- (14) “that an update be provided on grass-cutting operations to date this year in the Limerick road area of Mitchelstown, which is being cut in a haphazard manner”.

Limerick Road R513 West: only the western flank of this road is in the Municipal District grass cutting contract. The contract stipulates this area to be cut once per fortnight but this timetable is frequently thwarted by rain meaning a cut is missed. The next time the area is visited would be a fortnight later when the grass may be over-length and look bedraggled when cut. The contractor does not keep a formal record of cuts. John O’Leary will meet the contractor on the R513 next Thursday 22nd June 2017 and go through the cut requirements on site with him.

Limerick Road R513 East: the eastern flank of this road is maintained by the Fermoy MD Hedgecutter North for 2017. This contractor maintains all the approaches and margins to roundabouts for Mitchelstown. The normal cutting frequency for these grass margins and grassy banks at roundabouts is once per fortnight. In this work, depending on the steepness and roughness of the terrain, the contractor may use either a flail, a strimmer or a small lawn-mower. All three will leave a different finish on the grass and hence give a different impression as to the diligence of the contractor. John O’Leary will contact contractor to remind him of the cut schedule on approaches. (PM)

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn. Cllr. Dawson said this road has only been cut once this year to date. Pauline Moriarty MDO undertook to follow up on this with John O’ Leary AE, who manages this contract.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

1. EMAIL Fermoy Ploemur Twinning Association 10th May 2017 RE: Civic Reception

Noted. Cllr. Noel McCarthy said this was a very good event and was very well received by all those in attendance.

9. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Cllr. Ian Doyle - Request for bollards at Batt Donegan Place, Charleville

Cllr. Doyle enquired if bollards could be installed to prevent the grassway here being used as a sulky track. Pauline Moriarty MDO said as this is a housing issue it will be referred to the Housing Department for their attention.

(2) Cllr. Ian Doyle - Query in relation to the ‘flooring’ at the Playground in Charleville

Pauline Moriarty MDO replied to Cllr. Doyle’s query that she is awaiting an overall proposal for the park including this playground for Charleville.

(3) Cllr. Noel McCarty - Thank You.

Cllr. McCarthy thanked Brendan for the hedge cutting carried out on the footpath to SCI, Fermoy, complimenting the contractor on a job well done; and also for the removal of the spoil at the Mallow Road, Fermoy.

(4) Pauline Moriarty MDO - Obsolete Aircoach signs and phone box

Pauline informed the Members that progress is being made with the removal of these items.

(5) Cllr. Ian Doyle - Query re: to the car park at Ballyhea Church

Further to Cllr. Doyle's enquiry, Pauline undertook to ascertain if this car park is in the ownership of Cork County Council or privately owned, as the only access to the car park is on Church property.

(6) Brendan O' Gorman SEE - Anti Skid surfacing, Glanworth

Brendan informed the Members that this surfacing work is due to commence on Thursday, 22nd June.

Signed:  Date: 18/7/2017
