

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting
held on Tuesday, 16th May 2017**

In Attendance: Cllrs. Kay Dawson, Ian Doyle, Noel McCarthy, June Murphy, Frank O' Flynn; Brendan O' Gorman SEE, Marie McMahon EE, Mary Hayes SEO, Pauline Moriarty MDO, Lydia Kelly ASO.

Apologies: Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

Vote of Sympathy: At the outset of the Meeting, Standing Orders were suspended to propose a vote of sympathy by the Members on the death of Mrs. Anna O' Keeffe, mother of Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien (Cathaoirleach Fermoy MD) and Deputy Kevin O' Keeffe (former MCC); and wife of Ned O' Keeffe (former MCC and Minister of State). *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam.*

In the absence of Cathaoirleach Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien, the meeting was chaired by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, Leas-Cathaoirleach. Cllr. O' Flynn welcomed Marie McMahon, newly-appointed Fermoy MD Executive Engineer to the meeting and wished her well in her post.

1. MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Fermoy MD meeting held on Tuesday, 18th April 2017.

The Minutes were agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Ian Doyle.

2. PRESENTATION OF PART VIII PLANNING APPLICATION

1. Presentation of Part VIII Planning Application:-

"Proposed development by Respond! Housing Association in partnership with Cork County Council of 46 no. houses at Duntahane, Fermoy".

Séamus de Faoite SEO, CCC Housing Operations and Clara O' Neill, Respond Housing Association were in attendance to make this presentation. The Manager's Report and supplementary documentation were circulated at the meeting in support of the presentation. Seamus de Faoite SEO advised the meeting that the proposed development, comprising 46 varying size houses and a community room, has successfully completed the Part VIII process, receiving only one submission (from Irish Water stating they have no objections) and now requires Fermoy MD approval to progress to full Council. He acknowledged the great need currently for housing in Fermoy and said this proposed development will help to alleviate this need.

Seamus then introduced Clara O' Neill from Respond Housing Association who said that varying housing proposals for this site have been ongoing for seventeen years. She explained that this project's design and layout reflects a new approach to the provision of housing, incorporating features and styles which meet the changing family unit of modern society. On receipt of full Council approval the timeframe for the project is to advance procurements concurrently (where possible) and as promptly as possible and to go to tender this year. It is envisaged the construction timescale will be in the region of eighteen months.

Both Seamus and Clara answered all the Members queries in relation to the proposed development. The Members, in turn, wholeheartedly welcomed the proposal, unanimously agreeing it is very good news for Fermoy. The location, the concept of integration, the design and layout of the scheme were also complimented by the Members.

The adoption of the scheme, as presented, was proposed by Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. June Murphy and unanimously agreed.

3. RE: N73 Glenahulla - National Speed Limit Revisions

Brendan O' Gorman SEE raised this matter in relation to recent discussions pertaining to the TII's proposal to raise the speed limit through Glenahulla to 60kph with a 40kph periodic covering a portion. He advised the Members that if they opt to retain the 50kph speed limit, the option of the 60kph to 40kph periodic may be lost. He answered any questions the Members had, including in relation to retention of the flashing signs and control over the timing for the lower speed limit (this will be in consultation with the School Principal); and recommended the TII proposal as the best option here. Further to a discussion, the Members agreed to let this proceed to full Council, where any further issues can be raised.

4. DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST

1. To consider the Disposal of Freehold Interest at No. 77 Love Lane, Charleville, Co. Cork to William Coakley for the consideration of €350.00.

The Members noted the information submitted and the Disposal of Freehold Interest was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Ian Doyle, seconded by Cllr. June Murphy.

5. REPORTS and RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) PROGRESS REPORT 2017 RI and Discretionary RI Programme

Brendan O' Gorman SEE updated the Members on the on the progress of this programme to date; saying there would be no wet-mixing work for three weeks and that Mitchelstown surface dressing works are due to commence.

(2) PROGRESS REPORT 2017 Footpath Programme

Brendan O' Gorman SEE updated the Members on the progress of this programme to date, answering any queries they had in relation to these works.

(3) PROGRESS REPORT 2017 Drainage Programme

Brendan O' Gorman SEE advised the Members that work in this programme are progressing according to plan and on schedule.

(4) Proposed 2017 Public Lighting Programme

Brendan O' Gorman SEE presented the final programme for 2017 for the Member's approval. He informed them that the Clár programme provides for public lighting installations at national schools, and proposals to the value of €77k are included (marked red) here. Brendan went through the locations proposed saying, at approximately €5k per light including ducting, and with limited resources, it is a matter of prioritising the most essentially required lights of the numerous requests on hand. The Members welcomed the programme, and on the proposal of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Ian Doyle, the 2017 Public Lighting Programme, as presented, was agreed. Brendan added it is hoped to have the programme complete by September 2017 in time for the winter months.

(5) Proposed Part VIII Planning - James St. Car Park, Mitchelstown

Brendan O' Gorman SEE gave a verbal update to the Members on the proposed car park on James Street, saying that while noting objections from residents, the car park proposal is wholly supported and desired by the business community as there is a significant parking deficit, especially on Thursdays. Currently, in the background, the Part VIII is being prepared, a preliminary version of which will be presented to the Members in (circa) three months. The proposal will incorporate safety features on the street to protect vulnerable road users and pedestrians. Brendan highlighted the financial implication of not proceeding here, where the funds from planning contributions which are in place will have to be refunded if not used; and he is now seeking the Members approval to proceed with the proposal. The Members raised some issues of concern in relation to the proposal and further to a discussion it was agreed to have a preliminary drawing available for the Members consideration at the next meeting where the project will again be discussed; following which the Members will revert to the concerned residents.

6. 2017 SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL WORKS

Pauline Moriarty MDO presented the Members with a report showing the budget and expenditure to date on all programme groups in the district for 2017. She went through the report, saying the total budget for the year across all works is €7.3 million (including roads programmes). Expenditure to date in municipal works is running at 35% which is correct and acceptable for the time of year. The Members queried the high cost of the USL (universal superloo) in Mitchelstown, to which Pauline replied the MD is locked into a contract here. Further to a discussion on the provision of public toilet facilities, and the problems being experienced in relation to vandalism and maintenance, Pauline agreed to prepare a report on public conveniences in the district for the consideration of the Members at the next meeting. The Members commended the street cleaning works that are being carried out throughout the district. On the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. June Murphy, the report was agreed.

7. COMMUNITY GRANT RE-ALLOCATIONS

1. To divert Ballyhea GAA 2017 Capital Fund Scheme 2017 Grant from "install gym floor and access surface to connect old to new hall" to "install gym floor and water treatment plant".

On considering this request, the re-allocation was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Ian Doyle, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson.

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

1. "that Cork County Council request and consider submissions from community organisations in relation to the future use of the former Fire Brigade Station in Fermoy".

Cork County Council will continue to consider submissions from Community Organisations in relation to the future use of the former Fire Brigade Station in Fermoy, through the Council's Property Department. Previous negotiations with a community organisation fell through due of the cost of developing the site and this is likely to be the case with other community organisations. Fermoy MD is currently liaising with the Property Section in relation to other options for the site and will keep the Elected Members updated in due course. (PM)

Pauline Moriarty MDO further advised the Members that this matter is being dealt with by CCC Property Section, who are open to any expressions of interest from any interested parties.

Mary Hayes SEO informed the Members that she had inspected the building to find it in a very bad state of repair; but that with time she would formulate proposals for the building/site and revert to the Members, to which the Members agreed.

Cllr. June McCarthy

2. "request additional car parking spaces in Moher Crescent, Mitchelstown".

The responsibility for this lies with the Housing Directorate. See previous response from the S/Director of Housing in relation to a similar request in Doneraile. (BO'G)

"The Housing Department is not in a position to fund the provision of additional parking in Council Housing Estates. The limited funding available for estate management, which is used for day to day maintenance of public areas, grass cutting, support for residents associations etc; is stretched to meet the demands and cannot extend to the provision of parking spaces."

This Motion was agreed by all the Members, who said that this is an issue in many estates, is causing problems between neighbours and needs to be resolved, even with the potential forfeit of some green space in estates. It was suggested by Mary Hayes SEO that a meeting be sought with the Housing Directorate to discuss a solution to this problem, this was agreed by the Members.

Cllr. Ian Doyle

3. "that Cork County Council would replace ambulance parking with disabled spaces outside former doctor's surgery in New Line, Charleville".

Proposal will follow our agreed policy in relation to the provision of disabled spaces on public property. (BO'G)

Brendan O' Gorman SEE agreed to prepare a report for the next meeting (and then to consult with An Garda Síochána as per CCC policy).

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

4. "that this Council make safe the junction from Kiltrislane onto R639 at the Mitchelstown side".
For discussion.
Deferred.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

5. "that this Committee would carry out temporary works on footpath with immediate effect adjacent to the SCI factory until permanent works are undertaken to provide a proper footpath on the location at Rathealy Road, Fermoy".
Further efforts will be made to identify the existing / new owners with a view to dealing with the encroaching hedge and issue will be dealt with accordingly under the 1993 Roads Act. (BO'G)
This motion was seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn. Cllr. McCarthy stated there is a danger to the public using this footpath and this issue needs to be resolved. Brendan O' Gorman SEE said there are limited options here for re-aligning the footpath; but that a Contractor had been appointed to cut back the hedging as far as possible which should improve safety.

Cllr. Kay Dawson

6. "call on Cork County Council to get an Engineer's report on the possibility of continued footpath on the ring road in Mitchelstown from Kildorrery Road roundabout to Cork Road roundabout".
This is a repeat request and under current tender prices for a 1.8m concrete footpath would cost in the order of €245,000 excluding public lighting as far as the Cork Road roundabout. There is no pedestrian link back to the town from here either, so another €90K on top of that. Based on these projected costs, there is no feasibility of doing this, any time soon. (BO'G)
This motion was seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn and supported by Cllr. Noel McCarthy; who acknowledged there is great merit to this proposal to encourage a healthier lifestyle and promote exercise. Mary Hayes SEO said projects need to be strategically identified and considered for future development and Cllr. Dawson, acknowledging Brendan's reply and Mary's suggestion, said she would arrange for this project to be considered by Mitchelstown Forum.

Cllr. June McCarthy

7. "ask that telephone/ESB poles near Station Road, Mitchelstown be inspected as residents have concerns about rotting".
A request has been sent by us to both ESB Networks and Eir regarding the issue, with a view to an inspection and report. (BO'G)
Location here confirmed as Railway Road, Mitchelstown.
8. "request Cork County Council to look into pioneering a pilot scheme to making Mitchelstown an "Autism Friendly Town" ".
This motion was supported by all the Members, who recognise the merit of the suggestion and also realise how beneficial this could be from an economic and tourism perspective. It may be possible to incorporate this with the designation of Mitchelstown as an 'Age Friendly Town'. Mary Hayes SEO stated this should be referred to the 'Social Inclusion Committee SPC' who will identify and discuss the requirements here and revert to the Members in due course. Cllr. Ian Doyle said personnel in St. Joseph's Foundation, Charleville would have the relevant knowledge and experience and would support this initiative in any way they could.
9. "update on improvement works to Mitchelstown Fire station".
The current situation with Mitchelstown Fire Station is as follows:
1. *There is some water ingress into the building, reasonably localised.*
 2. *It is difficult to see the water ingress points due to the sarking felt inside the roof sheeting.*
 3. *We have removed a panel of sarking felt to view the roof sheeting.*
 4. *This showed that water appears to be ingressing at the panel joints and not just at the fixings.*
 5. *There is no diagonal cross bracing to the steel angle iron trusses, and this may be putting strain on the panels, increasing leakage.*
 6. *Following on from this investigation it appears that a full new roof will be needed.*

7. *The existing trusses are old, and they sit on simple blockwork walls.*
8. *We are currently preparing a report on the overall building to see if the significant outlay of a new roof, possibly with new supporting trusses are justified, or should we apply for capital funding for a new station?*

I hope that this clarifies. (Andrew Macilwraith ME MIStructE, Senior Executive Fire Officer)

This motion was discussed with Item 4(5) in relation to the proposed car park at James Street. It was agreed that this motion would be referred to the Fire Department for their consideration and reply (in conjunction with the proposed car park plans).

Cllr. Ian Doyle

10. "that Cork County Council would put Footpath Repair programme in place at entrance to Broomscourt Estate and (outside numbers 54 and 55) Harrissons/Cooleens Estates in Charleville". For future consideration. (BO'G)
11. "that Cork County Council would clean and landscape ditch opposite Beechwood Drive, Ballyhea". To be considered under future planned works in consultation with residents. (BO'G)

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

12. "that Cork County Council would provide traffic calming in Ballynoe Village in the interest of safety of residents, pedestrians and road users".
No funding currently available for traffic calming in the Municipal District. We will carry out some covert speed surveys in the area in the coming weeks and will request additional Garda enforcement of the existing speed limit, in the interim. (BO'G)
13. "that Cork County Council extend out further the 50km speed limit on the Araglin road entrance to Mitchelstown, road number LP-1418, in the interest of safety of residents and users of Bright Sparks Childcare".
Under our next speed limit review, will be proposed. (BO'G)
Motion No. 7(23) - Cllr. Kay Dawson considered with this motion.

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

14. "that this Council include in the repair programme, Ballinree Bridge to Ned Kelly's Cross, Skehanagh".
Routine repairs will be carried out in due course. (BO'G)
Deferred.
15. "that this Council undertake flood relief works and strengthen the road from Charlie Burkes Junction to Carrigdownane Junction".
Routine drainage, localised repairs and surface dressing is planned for this route in the coming weeks, as per our 2017 RM programme. (BO'G)
Deferred.
16. "that this Council would consider continuing the footpath to beyond the entrance to Ballybeg Road from R639 in the interest of safety for pedestrians".
No funds currently available to entertain the request. (BO'G)
Deferred.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

17. "that this Committee write to Direct Route seeking a meeting to address the growing numbers of HGVs coming through Fermoy Town Centre".
Cllr. McCarthy informed the meeting that numerous people had contacted him in relation to the growing number of HGVs opting to drive through Fermoy town instead of paying the toll to use the motorway. He said this is unacceptable and pointed out that it is in Direct Route's interest to address this issue as for every vehicle that goes through Fermoy, they are losing income. A survey has been carried out by Avondhu Blackwater in conjunction with Fermoy Forum and the Business

Association, the results of which will be available in due course. The motion was seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson and agreed.

Brendan O' Gorman SEE suggested also writing to the Irish Road Haulage Association to ascertain their views on the situation. This was proposed by Cllr. Kay Dawson, seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn and agreed.

In relation to the review of the Mallow Road junction, Brendan informed the Members that this is with the NRDO at present who will revert to the Members in due course with their findings.

18. "that Cork County Council outline what percentage of Kilcrumper New Cemetery has already been used and what percentage of the remaining portion is unsuitable for use due to the underground rock".

Approximately half of the Kilcrumper New Cemetery has already been used. Following site investigation works in July 2014, single burials are achievable for the majority of the remaining cemetery, some sections of rows will achieve two burials per plot. The site investigations works have determined one small portion of Section M which is unsuitable for burials. (PM)

Further to Cllr. McCarthy's enquiry in relation to the provision of a 'Rose Garden' (Columbarium) style burial space for cremated remains, Pauline Moriarty MDO replied that she does not consider Kilcrumper a suitable location for such a burial facility.

In relation to the upkeep of both cemeteries in Kilcrumper, Pauline answered the Members queries and allayed the concern that, despite there not being a full-time Caretaker, maintenance is a priority and that the level of upkeep is not being compromised in any way.

19. "that a yellow box be put in place outside the home of Gerry and Bernie McCarthy, College Road, Fermoy".

Can be done in due course, but from experience, existing yellow boxes are not been respected on this street. (BO'G)

20. "that this Committee receive an Engineer's report on the possibility of bollards being put in place on the footpath outside the home of Ray O' Sullivan, Main Street, Kilworth to prevent vehicles parking on same".

Bollards can be placed at footpath edge, once the existing long stay private vehicles are removed. (BO'G)

Cllr. Kay Dawson

21. "call on Cork County Council to paint yellow box on road adjacent to both emergency exits to St. Fanahan's College".

Will be done. (BO'G)

Cllr. Dawson thanked the executive for the work done graduating the footpath for ambulance access, saying it is working very well.

22. "call on Cork County Council to carry out road repairs on L-5834 Ballynoe".

Routine repairs will be carried out in due course. (BO'G)

23. "call on Cork County Council for traffic calming measures on the approach road L-1418 from Araglin to Mitchelstown".

No funding currently available for traffic calming in the Municipal District. We will carry out some covert speed surveys in the area in the coming weeks and again will request additional Garda enforcement of the existing speed limit, in the interim. I propose to bring in the speed detector and radar sign into this area also. (BO'G)

Discussed with Motion No. 7(13).

24. "call on Cork County Council to resurface road on R513 immediately after Aldi roundabout".

The surface will be monitored over a period of weeks and an appropriate response will then be formulated. (BO'G)

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. **LETTER Michael Lynch, Senior Planner PPU 4.5.2017 RE: MD LAP (submissions) and former Town Councils.**

Noted.

2. **EMAIL Aileen Walsh, Liaison Officer 8.5.2017 RE: Pride of Place Competition 2017.**

Noted.

10. **TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None.

11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

(1) **Cllr. Kay Dawson - Traffic Lights at AIB corner, Mitchelstown**

Cllr. Dawson highlighted the fact that the traffic signals cannot be seen by motorists coming down Chapel Hill, with a resulting danger for pedestrians crossing (during the *green man* phase). Brendan O' Gorman SEE agreed to look at providing additional signage here.

(2) **Cllr. Kay Dawson - Árd na Gréine stop line**

Cllr. Dawson said it is great to see construction work ongoing again at this location, and requested the 'stop line' be moved back as it is unsafe in its current position. Brendan O' Gorman SEE agreed to look at making the requested change here.

(3) **Cllr. Kay Dawson - Speed Signs at Doneraile**

Further to Cllr. Dawson's enquiry, Brendan informed the meeting that new speed limits are to be installed here.

(4) **Cllr. Kay Dawson - Query re: Aircoach signs and the extinct phone box**

Further to Cllr. Dawson's enquiry, Pauline Moriarty MDO replied that she had had no reply from either agency in relation to these obsolete items, but would contact them again.

(5) **Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Compost/Spoil heap at Fermoy Town Park entrance**


Further to Cllr. McCarthy's request in relation to this spoil accumulation; Brendan O' Gorman SEE said he would arrange for its removal.

(6) **Cllr. Ian Doyle - Route for proposed M20**

Cllr. Doyle requested that Fermoy MD highlight the importance of the new M20 between Cork and Limerick going along the original route adjacent to Charleville and not any other route as it is a vital economic link for the town.

(7) **Cllr. Kay Dawson - Enquiry re: Weed Spraying contract in Mitchelstown**

Further to Cllr. Dawson's observation that the effect of the spraying is all the vegetation being 'burnt' and unsightly looking; Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied that long spell of dry weather previous had meant there was no dilution of the treatment with additional rainwater which meant the areas sprayed had got the maximum concentration of chemical over a longer period of time, resulting in these 'burnt' areas. This is evidenced throughout the county, from local gardens to long stretches of road. The chemical treatment basically worked stronger and better than ever witnessed before.

Signed: 

Date: 2016/2007^{res.}