

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting
held on Tuesday, 28th November 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.

At the outset of the Meeting, a vote of sympathy was passed by the Members to Mr. Tom Stritch, Director of Services on the death of his mother, Mrs. Bridget Stritch. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam.*

1. MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Fermoy MD October Meeting held on Tuesday, 31st October 2017.

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

2. PRESENTATION TO ELECTED MEMBERS

1. Unfinished Estates Fermoy MD. UPDATE by Andrew Hind, Senior Planner.

Andrew Hind, Senior Planner circulated an update to the Members and went through the contents thereof in relation to the thirteen currently unfinished estates in the district.

He answered all the Members queries which included the following:

Cllr. Ian Doyle in relation to The Pastures Estate, Charleville.

Cllr. June Murphy in relation to Luí na Gréine, Mitchelstown. Cllr. Murphy's Motion No. 7(10) was replied to at this time. Cllrs. Kay Dawson, Deirdre O' Brien and Frank O' Flynn also had enquiries in relation to Luí na Gréine estate. Mr. Hind recommends the residents here making an application to be 'taken-in-charge' and further to a request by Cllr. Dawson, he agreed to email the criteria for this to all the Members.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy in relation to Shanowen Estate, Rathcormac.

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn in relation to Mullavale, Castletownroche and Crann Árd, Fermoy.

The Members requested Mr. Hind consider changing the comment 'no action required' on the report as this could indicate to some readers that the estate is in a satisfactory condition. Mr. Hind explained that this comment means that progress is ongoing and that Cork County Council has no action to take at this time, but he agreed to reword the comment accordingly. The Members thanked Mr. Hind for attending the meeting and acknowledged him, and his predecessor Mr. John Aherne, for the huge amount of work they have done in reducing the numbers of estates on this list over the past few years.

3. LEASE OF ROOM at FERMOY TOWN HALL

Lease of Room on second floor for two years (by way of lease), plus right of way over general areas in the building to Bantry Rural Transport Partnership Ltd. (NTA) for a consideration of €6000 per annum.

The Members noted the documents submitted from the Property Section. This lease of room, as detailed above, was agreed on the proposition of Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson.

4. REPORTS and RECOMMENDATIONS

1. REPORT: HOUSING REPORT for FERMOY MD November 2017.

On examining the report uploaded for their consideration, the Members acknowledged the critical shortage of housing in the area and the huge numbers of people on the housing list in need of accommodation, a situation which is continually worsening with little being done to alleviate it. The Members stated their dissatisfaction with the non-attendance of Housing Section staff at MD meetings to answer queries. They also expressed their discontent with the lack of response to other housing issues that arise, including the request for additional parking in housing estates and representations for maintenance and repairs. The removal of the role of Housing Allocation Officer from the district further exacerbates the situation. Mary Hayes SEO pointed out that the report, as presented, is the format agreed by the Directors and is for information purposes.

Further to a discussion, and on the proposition of Cllr. June Murphy, seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn and agreed by all the Members, it was decided that correspondence be sent to the Housing Section executive outlining all their concerns and seeking a response, and the regular attendance of Housing personnel at future meetings. Pauline Moriarty MDO undertook to prepare a draft letter for the Members' consideration and approval prior to forwarding to the Housing Executive.

2. UPDATE: RE: Provision/Recruitment of School Wardens for Mitchelstown and Charleville. Pauline Moriarty MDO said that this update is also included in her MDO report. She informed the Members that applications have been received for both positions. She will revert at next meeting with clarification on funding options and Personnel approval (if required).

3. UPDATE: Fermoy MD Public Lighting 2017 Programme.

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that all items on this programme should be in place by year end. Airtricity have secured a number of (required) road opening licences and they are working their way through the programme. Cllr. Noel McCarthy complimented the upgrade to the lighting in McCurtain Street, Fermoy and Cllr. Frank O' Flynn said that Abbey Street, Fermoy is much improved on completion of the works there.

4. Castletownroche - 2017 Village Enhancement Project.
and

5. Clar 2016 - Castletownroche Pedestrian Crossing.

Brendan O' Gorman SEE went through the proposals for Castletownroche shown in the drawing circulated at the meeting. These works include the Plaza Village Enhancement Project for Castletownroche which has already secured planning permission in 2013 and the proposed Castletownroche Pedestrian Crossing which is out to public submission under a Section 38 Roads Act notice until 4th December 2017.

The proposed Castletownroche Pedestrian Crossing has the approval of the Gardaí. However, the proposal is pending a TII audit approval. A final report and recommendation to the Members will be issued in due course.

The current plaza scheme includes modifications made to the original parking proposal here, as the original necessitated a reduction in parking spaces which was not welcomed by the business community. Brendan answered any queries the Members had on the proposals and the Members noted the plan as circulated.

6. Emmet Street, Fermoy: proposed Part VIII - Pedestrian Crossing.

Brendan O' Gorman SEE circulated a drawing of the proposed pedestrian crossing at this location and Cllr. Noel McCarthy stated that the business and residential community of Emmet Street (whom he represents, having a retail outlet here) are happy with the proposals. Brendan informed the Members that the Part VIII should be available at the December 2017 meeting for the Members consideration; and funding from the Safety Improvement Scheme (Low Cost Scheme) has been sought for 2018. Brendan answered any queries the Members had and they declared themselves satisfied with the proposals as presented.

7. FINAL REPORT: Part VIII - Conna Storm Water Pipeline.

Brendan O' Gorman SEE advised the Members that the timeframe for the Part VIII for these works is now complete and that the Final Report will be available for their consideration at the December 2017 meeting. There were no objections.

8. MDO Report.

Pauline Moriarty MDO highlighted some contents of her report, as uploaded for the Members. She outlined the Christmas parking arrangements for the district and advised that these arrangements (for the three towns) will be advertised in the media. The Members welcomed the free Christmas parking as it provides an incentive for people to shop locally and supports local business.

It has been agreed that each Municipal District will host a Civic Reception for the 2017 Tidy Towns winners in the district and to this end, four winners in Fermoy MD will be invited to attend at Charleville on December 19th next to receive their certificates.

These are Coolagown (Gold Medal Award), Castletownroche (Bronze Medal Award), Nora Ahern (Highly Commended in Community Heroes Category) and Charleville (Endeavour Award). This ceremony will commence at 1.30pm, prior to the MD meeting.

The Members noted the contents of the report under other headings.

7. NOTICES OF MOTION

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

1. "that this Council provide the update position on transfer of site to Glenahulla N.S."
The transfer of the site is currently with land registration in their dealings with the Board of Management of Glenahulla NS. Cork County Council has concluded their part of the transfer here. (BO'G)

Cllr. June Murphy

2. "Seeking an update on the requested improvement works to Kilworth woods parking area".
Cork County Council has concluded their drainage works for some time now. Coillte have not carried out any of the works promised by them. (BO'G)
Brendan O' Gorman SEE advised that this is private property under the authority of Coillte who have been written to in this regard and have not carried out the works they promised. Cllr. Murphy requested Brendan to write again, which he agreed to do.

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

3. "that Cork County Council indicate the timeframe for renovating and repair of the much needed footpath on the N72 by Fermoy Town Park in the interest of health and safety".
Note recent update from Eddie Murphy, NRDO:
'We have Consulting Engineers preparing contract documents for the works on the footpath/retaining wall in Fermoy. The NRDO have a contract ongoing at the moment in Kerry, Cork and Clare. It is proposed to invite the Contractor to submit a price for the works. If this price is acceptable, then we will instruct the contractor to carry out the required works. If not, it is proposed to include the works in a Task Order being prepared for letting in 2018.

Please note that the contracting firm of Priority Geotechnical Limited have just applied for a road opening licence in connection with these refurbishment works which will facilitate geotechnical investigations. (BO'G)

Cllr. O' Flynn enquired as to the timeframe involved and Brendan O' Gorman SEE explained that the works required are for a structure, not for a footpath, which makes it a more complex issue.

Mary Hayes SEO said that the reply as received here (also included at Agenda Item Correspondence 6.1) is positive in that it indicates that something will now be done.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy supported the motion, saying the TII have treated Fermoy badly on this issue leaving it so long without resolution.

Cllr. Kay Dawson

4. "call on Cork County Council to unblock storm drains on James Street".
Will be done. (BO'G)

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

5. "that this Committee receive an Engineer's report on the possibility of the roadway at the entrance to Avona House, Pike Road, Fermoy being taken in the charge of Cork County Council".
It is not advisable for Cork County Council to start taking in charge private roadways albeit in this case an area of only 233 sq.m is involved. Taking over this section of private roadway could lead to an unwelcome precedent. (BO'G)

Cllr. McCarthy advised that there are three houses using this roadway, to which Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied that with the Members approval he could start the process to take this roadway in charge. On the proposition of Cllr. McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, it was agreed this process should commence.

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

6. "that this Council install traffic calming measures at Dr. Barry's Bridge, Rathcormac".
Area is outside any current public lighting zone and the maximum speed limit of 100kph exists on this regional road. There is no funding in place for traffic calming measures requested at this time but I believe there is some merit in considering creating a new 80kph from the village that encompasses this junction and proposal will feature in our next speed limit review. (BO'G)
This motion was supported by Cllrs. Frank O' Flynn and Noel McCarthy. Brendan O' Gorman SEE indicated that it may be possible to provide additional public lighting here which would also improve safety at the junction. The Community Council have received a community grant for public lighting from the Bride Footbridge to the junction.
7. "that this Council include Johnstown/ Killgullane Road (L-5641-0) in its road repair programme for 2018".
Please be advised that 560m of this road is already down for strengthening/resurfacing in 2018 (subject to final budgetary confirmation) and drainage/preparatory works for this will commence in early 2018. (BO'G)
8. " that this Council continue the footpath from Kildorrery village, Mitchelstown Road to the Bridge".
No funds currently in place in meet the request but the issue will be logged on the NRA Geo App for future funding consideration. (BO'G)

Cllr. June Murphy

9. "improvements works to the road from the grotto to the Church in Araglen".
Some small scale margin / edge repair will be required in Q1 2018. (BO'G)
This motion was supported by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn. Brendan O' Gorman SEE explained that the works proposed here include a concrete channel which will require dry weather for construction.
10. "update on the taking in charge of Luí na Gréine, Mitchelstown".
Reply from Liam Murphy, Estates:
'No taking in charge application has been received to date. The matter will receive due consideration after a valid application has been submitted by either the developer or a majority of the house-owners in the estate.'
This motion was considered and a reply given by Mr. Andrew Hind, Planning Department during his presentation on unfinished estates.
11. "update on the proposed meeting with the Director of Housing relating to car parking spaces in Estates".
No meeting agreed to date. Will follow up with Housing and revert to Members with update at the December meeting. (PM)
12. "Update on this Councils written request to the MBA to consider Chemists opening on rotation on a Sunday".
Request sent to Chairperson of the MBA on 1st September. No response received to date. (PM)
Further to a request from Cllr. June Murphy, Pauline Moriarty MDO undertook to write again to Mitchelstown Business Association.

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

13. "that Cork County Council put in place traffic calming measures including ramp at Church View, Bartlemy in the interest of health and safety".
No funds currently available to cede to the request. Village has only recently received a new speed limit zone that includes this estate. The estate road is so narrow (encroaching on-street car parking also) and short that excessive speeds would be a rarity. (BO'G).
Issue appears to be more on the main road outside the estate and Brendan O' Gorman SEE agreed to look at the location again.
14. "that Cork County Council put a public light in place at the junction of Main Street and Doneraile Road, Castletownroche in the interest of safety".
Will be forwarded to our public lighting section for consideration. (BO'G)
15. "that Cork County Council outline its plans and timeframe for upgrading the N73 at Waterdyke, Shanballymore in the interest of safety of all road users".
Until a formal announcement of funding is put in place by the TII/National Government, Cork County Council cannot confirm its plans and timeframe for upgrading the N73 at Waterdyke. All objections to the proposal have been removed so there is now no requirement for an Oral Hearing to be held. (BO'G)
Brendan further informed the Members that the CPO is complete here and there had been no objections; this has now been referred to the High Court for final declaration on the 12th December 2017.
16. "that Cork County Council would provide WIFI in the towns of Fermoy, Mitchelstown and Charleville and key villages in the Fermoy Municipal area and that as part of the roll out of the scheme that Fermoy would be considered the pilot project for this much needed initiative".
Recommend referral to Corporate Affairs / CE as this is a Countywide issue. (PM)
This motion was supported by all the Members. Pauline Moriarty MDO and Mary Hayes SEO will firstly check with Mallow as to how this service is working there. They will then consider formulating a proposal, taking into consideration the cost involved, for the provision of WIFI in the three towns and possibly other public areas, such as parks, in the district.

Cllr. Kay Dawson

17. "call on Cork County Council to re-instate litter bin outside 'Mister Mister' on Upper Cork Street".
Will be done. (BO'G)
18. "call on Cork County Council, in the interest of safety, to review the right turning on R513 to L5658 Ballybeg Road".
Right turn is on a long straight with good visibility. There should be no difficulties here, considering volumes on the local secondary/regional road concerned and crossing demand would be low. I will continue to monitor the junction and propose changes if required. (BO'G)
This motion was supported by Cllrs. June Murphy and Deirdre O' Brien. Brendan O' Gorman SEE undertook to again look at this junction with a view towards identifying a resolution here.
19. "to call on Bus Eireann to re-instate the 9.00am bus service from Mitchelstown to Cork".
Will be done, subject to Members approval. (PM)
All the Members supported this motion and Pauline Moriarty MDO agreed to correspond with Bus Eireann seeking a positive response in relation to re-instating this service on Route 245.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

20. "that potholes be filled in on the Gurteen and Ballymacalum road areas, Ballyhooly".
Will be done. (BO'G)

21. "that this Committee would carry out repairs on one section of the old footpath not replaced in Oliver Plunkett Place, Doneraile".
More refurbishments are proposed in Doneraile under our 2018 Footpath Programme to be agreed in Q1 2018 by Councillors. (BO'G)
22. "that this Committee receive an Engineer's report on the possibility of the double yellow lines being removed on Elbow Lane, Fermoy".
The double yellow lines were installed as a direct representation from the Councillor in agreement with adjacent business/land owners. (BO'G)
Brendan O' Gorman SEE does not recommend any change to the lining here as the double yellow lines are required at this location to maintain access for all road users.
23. "that this Committee would put financial provision in place to upgrade the traffic lights at the junction of Cork Road and Emmett Street, Fermoy".
New controller has just been installed and additional works to the lighting heads are proposed in early 2018. (BO'G)
Brendan O' Gorman SEE updated the Members in relation to the work carried out to upgrade these traffic signals which had cost €21k. The Members enquired if An Garda Síochána could attend at the junction if, for any reason, the lights are off and Brendan agreed to request same.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- 1. EMAIL TH 8.11.2017 RE: Footpath works in Fermoy (on N72 adjacent to Town Park).**
Noted.

7. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Cllr. Ian Doyle - Laurel Trees at Pike Farm Housing Estate, Charleville.

Pauline Moriarty MDO confirmed that a Contractor had been appointed to 'top' the eight laurel trees at this location.

(2) Cllr. June Murphy - Suggestion to have a Fermoy MD Awards Ceremony

Cllr. Murphy enquired if Fermoy MD could consider introducing an awards scheme for people and volunteer groups in the district, in comparison to the many awards ceremonies which are held for buildings. Further to a discussion, it was decided that Pauline Moriarty MDO would research and investigate the possibility of instigating such a scheme and would revert to the Members in due course.

(3) Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - Query re: obsolete water pumps

Further to a query from Cllr. O' Brien as to whether or not the public are allowed remove/take obsolete water pumps, she was advised that they could not as these are the predominantly the property of Irish Water.

(4) Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - Fermoy Weir update.

Cllr. O' Brien was informed that a meeting is scheduled to take place on 29th November, following which an update will be provided to the Members.

(5) Cllr. Frank O' Flynn - Fermoy Weir update.

Cllr. O' Flynn was advised, further to his enquiry, that, in due course, if necessary, a meeting can be convened between the relevant authorities involved in the works to the weir and other interested parties. A plan of action needs to be devised first before any such meetings can take place.

(6) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Potholes in Mellifontstown, Bartlemy.

Brendan O' Gorman SEE will arrange for these potholes to be filled.

(7) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Speed Limit at Kilmagner NS

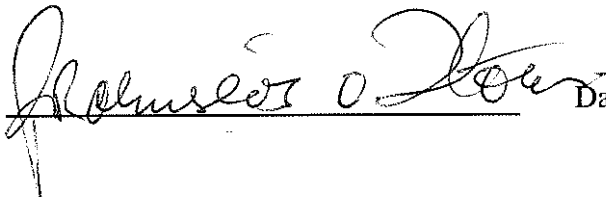
Brendan O' Gorman SEE advised that the new periodic speed limit signs will be installed by the TII in early 2018.

(8) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Fermoy Pay-Parking Dividend

Pauline Moriarty MDO advised that she is still awaiting the payment of this dividend, which is overdue to be paid (this was paid in May of 2016). Cllr. Frank O' Flynn (CPG Chairperson who has been notified of allocation at a recent CPG meeting) undertook to email the relevant section with a view to expediting this payment.

(9) Cllr. Kay Dawson - Fermoy Tourist Office

Cllr. Dawson enquired if Fermoy Tourist Office could be funded from the Pay Parking Dividend, when it is received, to which Pauline Moriarty MDO replied it will certainly be considered for funding from this resource. She will revert to the Members with proposed allocations when this dividend has been advised/remitted.

Signed:  Date: 19/12/17