

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting
held on Tuesday, 19th June 2018**

In Attendance: Cllrs. Kay Dawson, Ian Doyle, Noel McCarthy, June Murphy, Deirdre O' Brien, Frank O' Flynn; Brendan O' Gorman SEE, Mary Hayes SEO, Lydia Kelly ASO.

Apologies: Pauline Moriarty MDO.

1. MINUTES

1. Minutes of Fermoy MD Special Meeting held (at 2.15pm) on Tuesday, 15th May 2018.

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

2. Minutes of Fermoy MD May 2018 Meeting held on Tuesday, 15th May 2018.

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

3. Minutes of Fermoy MD Special Meeting held (in Mallow) on Monday, 21st May 2018.

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

2. REMOVAL OF DISABLED PARKING BAY

1. To consider request from resident for REMOVAL of Disabled Parking Bay at 28 Thomas Street, Mitchelstown.

Brendan O' Gorman SEE explained that family members have requested the removal of this DPB as the beneficiary is now deceased and it is no longer needed. The Members noted Brendan's comments and all agreed to its removal.

3. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) REPORT MDO Report June 2018

In the absence of Pauline Moriarty MDO Mary Hayes SEO updated Members in relation to 2018 MD works. Further to a query from Cllr. Ian Doyle, Mary confirmed that the funding for the Town and Village Renewal Scheme is ring-fenced and these works are pending the recruitment of the dedicated MD Engineer for North Cork. Cllr. Doyle further queried if monies allocated to works which are now delayed (with particular reference to Charleville CCTV and Town Park work), could be re-allocated to other projects, to which Mary Hayes SEO replied yes, if a formal request is lodged. Cllr. Frank O' Flynn requested an update on the provision of wi-fi and Mary Hayes SEO replied that four towns in Cork county have been selected for the provision of wi-fi, which do not include any of the towns in Fermoy MD. The Members said they were dissatisfied with this decision which had been made without their knowledge. Further to a discussion, Mary undertook to make enquiries and provide an update, including a realistic timeline, on the provision of both CCTV and wi-fi facilities in the district.

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn requested the provision of signs for Mitchelstown, Charleville and Doneraile giving the local website address, similar to those recently provided in Fermoy. Mary Hayes SEO informed the Members that "Visit Cork" and "Pure Cork" are now the county-wide tourism platforms which are to be embraced and used when providing visitor information. There are corresponding websites and only these brands are to be used going forward.

Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied to Cllr. Doyle's enquiry in relation to 2018 Village Renewal that Kilworth works will be complete in time for the festival there in August; and that plans for Newtownshandrum works are currently with the Architect's Department. Cllr. Doyle emphasised the need to complete the works in Newtownshandrum also this year.

Mary Hayes SEO informed the Members of the provisions of the three funding streams available through the Outdoor Recreation Fund. Up to €20k includes for improvement works/signage to be done in conjunction with Leader groups; up to €200k to potentially provide a cycle route from Fermoy to Mitchelstown; and up to €500k which will be used for one county-wide project.

Further to a query from Cllr. Noel McCarthy in relation to the procurement of planters, Mary Hayes SEO replied that it is taking time to examine and ascertain the requirements in each location, but that the selection process is now ongoing and some planters have been ordered.

Cllr. McCarthy remarked that the Tidy Towns judging will be complete before the planters are in place and said it is important going forward that monies allocated to projects for a particular year should be spent and the work done within that year.

(2) REPORT 2018 RI Progress Update

Brendan O' Gorman SEE went through the progress to date on this programme, referring to the uploaded report and copy circulated to all present. He advised that progress is steady, on schedule and on budget and the programme will be completed as planned.

Cllr. June Murphy asked what could be done in relation to the very poor quality of road re-instatement by Irish Water (IW) when they carry out repairs, citing Liam Lynch Terrace, Mitchelstown as an example. Brendan acknowledged that some of the IW/Water Services temporary re-instatement is poor, adding that permanent re-instatement is not being adequately funded in a timely fashion by IW leading to an inconsistent standard across the MD. He undertook to highlight this issue to IW / CCC Water Services on behalf of the Members.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy enquired in relation to works planned at St. Bernard's Place, Fermoy requesting that the traffic lights system and traffic be managed in order to minimise disruption. Brendan assured him that the work will be planned and executed with as little disruption as possible. Brendan advised Members that he will send them a preliminary schedule for these works.

(3) REPORT 2018 RM Progress Update

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that work on this programme is being done on a three-week rotation between areas within the MD and is progressing satisfactorily and on schedule, with 90% of regional roads and 40% of local roads now complete.

In relation to CIS jobs for 2018, Brendan informed the Members that, to date, three schemes have been sanctioned (at Ballynahalisk, Rockmills; Cloonleigh, Newtownshandrum and Clashaganniv, Conna) and for LIS jobs this year, four schemes have been approved and all contributions paid (Ballynoulty(Kildorrery) , Ballyhoura(Doneraile) and two in Killavullen). Works on CIS and LIS should commence in August / September 2018.

(4) REPORT 2018 Drainage Progress Update

Noted.

(5) RECOMMENDATION

2018 Safety Improvement Scheme / Part VIII - Emmet Street, Fermoy

Brendan O' Gorman SEE briefly outlined the history to date with this proposal and gave the Members a copy of the proposed new lay-out (drawing D7) for their consideration and comparison with the original proposed location, copy lay-out of which he also circulated (drawing D1).

He informed them that the new proposed location does not affect any residences, only business premises, and the owners of these businesses, to the north of the crossing, have accepted and agreed to this new lay-out. He further advised that funding (€30k) is in place, the tender has been completed, the Contractor is ready to start and, if agreed by the Members and at full Council, the work will commence in July 2018 with a completion date planned in time for schools restart date in September. Brendan answered any queries the Members had in relation to the scheme.

Cllr. June Murphy voiced her pessimism to the proposal saying she can see problems down the road with it; whilst the other Members thanked Brendan for his work and diligence in progressing this project to a universally acceptable resolution and welcomed the provision of this much-needed pedestrian crossing at this location.

The proposal, at the new location (as per drawing D7), was adopted on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy.

(6) REPORT Fermoy MD Housing Report June 2018

Noted.

4. NOTICES OF MOTION

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

1. "that this Council would have trees topped at the Stag Park Estate, Mitchelstown to include Fanahan's Court, Market Place, Stagpark Avenue, Stagpark Close and The Green".
A Tree Specialist will be engaged to survey the trees in order to determine the quantity of tree topping required and provide an estimate of the cost. (Pat O' Connor AO, Housing Dept.)
This motion was supported by Cllr. Kay Dawson.

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

2. "that Cork County Council would cut the edges and the white weed on road verges in the interest of safety of road users".
It is not feasible for Local Authorities to cut the verges on **all** of our road network, we have to concentrate on our regional and national road junction network and approaches to towns / villages first and then our local road junctions. The white weed has a short life span and dies down on its own accord. (BO'G)
Cllr. O' Brien said she receives numerous requests for this work to be done. Brendan O' Gorman SEE advised that funding is not available for all roads to be cut, and if Members want this work done they should be mindful of this when presented with the budget for adoption. He did say, however, that 'critical' locations can be considered for cutting if notified to him.

Cllr. Kay Dawson

3. "call on Cork County Council to provide bins in the area of Brigown, Mitchelstown to facilitate the safe disposal of dog litter".
For discussion.
Cllr. Dawson read out a letter she had received from the children attending 'Bright Sparks Childcare Centre' in Mitchelstown who are participating in a 'Green Dog Walkers' campaign to encourage dog owners to clean up after their dogs. In the letter they requested the provision of a litter bin on the Mulberry road. Cllr. Dawson said there is no bin on this walking route (c. 2 miles) which discourages people walking their dogs to pick up and bin their dog waste.
The motion was seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy and supported by the Members. Mary Hayes SEO replied that a county-wide multi-agency steering group is to be set up to develop a policy around this issue and undertook to update the Members on this in due course.
Cllr. June Murphy asked if a bin could be provided on a trial basis in the interim pending the steering-groups recommendation and, further to a discussion, it was agreed that 'one bin at this one location only' would be provided as a pilot scheme (strictly pilot, no precedent) to support the incentive by the Bright Sparks children. This was welcomed by the Members and Cllr. Dawson thanked them for their support.

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

4. "call on the Housing Directorate for an up to date report on funding to clean the access road at the rear of the houses in O' Neill Crowley Terrace, Mitchelstown, as previously agreed".
The Housing Directorate is awaiting submission of quotations from Licensed Waste Collection / Disposal Contractors ahead of undertaking the clean up in the near future.
(Pat O' Connor AO, Housing Dept.)
Cllr. Noel McCarthy asked that this motion stay on the agenda for the next meeting pending notification of a timeline for this work to be done.

Cllr. June Murphy

5. "report on the works to Mitchelstown Firestation".
We have engaged the services of a roofing contractor who is presently assessing the situation and we are hopeful that it will be rectified in the coming weeks. (Barry Collins, Fire Department)
This motion was seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn. Cllr. Murphy said works to the Fire Station have been indentified and promised for over a year and that this reply is unacceptable and unsatisfactory as it does not give the full scope of the works required and an update as to their progress to date. She is now seeking a full report on Mitchelstown Fire Station.

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

6. "that Cork County Council would remove the dangerous bend at Ballinroe, Glanworth".
Please advise the landowner(s) to make contact with the Council with a view to ceding the appropriate land to the Council to possibly kick start a safety improvement scheme for the locus in 2019/2020. (BO'G)

7. "that Cork County Council would call on Irish Water to investigate the reason for the very low water pressure and at times non existent supply at Lios Árd Estate, Ballyhooly and have it rectified for the families and furnish a report".
(Irish Water).
This motion was supported by Cllrs. Deirdre O' Brien and Noel McCarthy. Cllr. O' Flynn is requesting Fermoy MD write to Irish Water requesting them to identify the problem here and provide a solution as a matter of urgency. Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied that he has corresponded with Pat Walsh SEE, CCC Water Services requesting a response for the next meeting.

8. "that Cork County Council would give a commencement date for the putting in place the much needed footpath by the Fermoy Town Park on the N72 road, Fermoy".
We have been advised by the NRO/TII that construction works on the supporting wall are due to commence in July. Included in Task Order 298 - Cork Footbridges and Parapet Replacement. Contract went to tender on 04/05/2018 and were returned on 08/06/2018. (BO'G)

9. "that Cork County Council would put traffic calming measures, including road markings, speed detector monitors, and advance signage, in place on the approach roads to Ballynoe in the interest of safety of pedestrians and road users".
No funds available for traffic calming (ramps/buildouts) schemes in the district. When a new funding stream becomes available, then a public consultation can commence on the proposals identified. The village has already refused speed feedback units. Additional warning signs and markings can be installed in Q3 / Q4. (BO'G)
This motion was supported by Cllr. Noel McCarthy. Brendan O' Gorman SEE recommended the Members liaise with the Ballynoe Community Council with regard to their refusal of a speed detector unit in the past and revert to him in due course.

Cllr. Kay Dawson

10. "call on Cork County Council to repair loose cobblelock on footpath on Bridge Street, Castletownroche (No. 5)".
Will be done. (BO'G)

11. "call on Cork County Council to organise the lowering of the evergreen trees in Broomscourt, Charleville".
The Housing Directorate will arrange to have the matter investigated and action taken if deemed appropriate. (Pat O' Connor AO, Housing Dept.)
Cllr. Ian Doyle confirmed that this work is to be done.

12. "call on Cork County Council to update Members on the availability of EV charging points in the municipal district generally, and in particular Newmarket Square, Mitchelstown".
For discussion.
Cllr. Dawson explained she had been asked about the availability of EV charging points (for charging electric cars) in the locality and is now requesting Cork County Council compile and publish a list of these points. This motion was supported by Cllrs. McCarthy and O' Flynn. It was suggested that planning permissions for commercial developments should now include as a condition the provision of an EV charging point. Further to a discussion it was agreed that the Transport SPC, the Planning Department and the Communications Office be contacted to consider the issue with a view to forming a relevant policy; identifying the locations of EV points available in the county and publishing this list through the various media available.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

13. “that the elected Members of the Fermoy Municipal Authority receive with immediate effect the programme of works to be undertaken by grass cutting contractors approved by Cork County Council, giving details of when and where and what works will be carried out”.
- The grass cutting contract for housing estates in the Fermoy Municipal District provides for the cutting of grass in each listed estate at intervals of two weeks during the period April to October, 2018. The contract provides for a total of seventeen cuts using a mulching ride-on mower. In addition, the Contractor is required to strim and spray, as appropriate, within the green areas. Following examination of the standard of the completed works in a number of estates, a meeting with Contractors was held to address the shortcomings. It is intended to closely monitor the situation to ensure full compliance with the terms of the contract. (Pat O’ Connor AO, Housing Dept.) This motion was supported by Cllrs. Doyle, Dawson, Murphy and O’ Brien. It was agreed that the grass-cutting contract work is not at all satisfactory this year, particularly in LA housing estates. Cllr. McCarthy thinks the selection process for this contract needs to be changed with the Members having an input; and suggested that as the scope and area involved is so big, the contract should be split. Brendan O’ Gorman SEE said the setting up of this contract is an executive function of Fermoy MD and that the executive will consider adjusting the contract parameters prior to the tendering process for 2019, possibly splitting the contract and appointing more than one operator. The 2018 contract will remain in place, but meetings have been arranged with the contractor to discuss the non-performance to date.
14. “that Cork County Council would erect signage indicating cul-de-sac at the entrance to St. Colman’s Park, Fermoy”.
- For discussion.
- Cllr. McCarthy said this request had been made as several drivers had mistakenly driven in to this location and had to do a ‘turnabout’ to exit. The motion was seconded by Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn. Brendan O’ Gorman SEE said it is not feasible to erect such signs at each cul-de-sac housing area in the MD, of which there are many, on the basis of a few drivers making an error.
15. “that this Committee would remove Japanese Knotweed as a matter of urgency at the rear of McDonagh Terrace and Larchwood Manor, Fermoy”.
- We are collating locations for Japanese Knotweed in a centralised database and map and commenced treatment on foot of this previously in November 2017. All new locations will be added to the three year treatment cycle in Q4 / 2018. (BO’G)
- Brendan O’ Gorman SEE, further to a query, clarified the actions required by private property owners in respect of Japanese knotweed; and confirmed that the two locations here, and The Orchard Estate, Charleville, are on the database for treatment. He reminded the Members that there is no dedicated funding available for this eradication.
16. “that this Committee would fill potholes on the Corrogorm road, Mitchelstown”.
- Will be done. (BO’G)

Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien

17. “that this Council would provide update on necessary works to be carried out on our heritage graveyards and churches to include Killgullane Graveyard, Old Court Doneraile, Coole Church and Glanworth Tomb”.
- For discussion.
- Cllr. O’ Brien acknowledged with thanks that the work in Coole is to be done, but would welcome something being done to maintain the other named historical heritage buildings. Mary Hayes SEO said the Council could engage with ‘Avondhu Blackwater’ and their Tús workers to carry out this type work. She undertook to refer to them with this suggestion, saying they could operate under the supervision of the County Council Architect’s Department.
18. “that this Council would investigate traffic calming and parking issues at the entrance to Beechwood Grove from O’Neill Crowley Terrace”.

No funds available for new traffic calming (ramps/buildouts) schemes in the district. When a new funding stream becomes available, then a public consultation can commence on the proposals identified. Dangerous parking is a matter for the traffic authority, i.e. the Gardaí and not the local authority. (BO'G) Brendan agreed to look at installing some double yellow lining at the entrance.

19. “that this Council would investigate traffic calming measures on the approach to the inner entrance to Beechfield Estate from the Pike Road and also inside the entrance on the estate”.
This estate is governed by the new 30kph pilot speed limit zone. No funds available for additional traffic calming (ramps/buildouts) schemes in the district. When a new funding stream becomes available, then a public consultation can commence on the proposals identified. (BO'G)
Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that any such works (traffic calming etc.) will now have to come through public consultation; but added that these works cannot currently be planned as there is no funding in place.
20. “that this Council provide an up to date report on grass cutting contracts”.
Council, giving details of when and where and what works will be carried out”.
The grass cutting contract for housing estates in the Fermoy Municipal District provides for the cutting of grass in each listed estate at intervals of two weeks during the period April to October, 2018. The contract provides for a total of seventeen cuts using a mulching ride-on mower. In addition, the Contractor is required to strim and spray, as appropriate, within the green areas. Following examination of the standard of the completed works in a number of estates, a meeting with Contractors was held to address the shortcomings. It is intended to closely monitor the situation to ensure full compliance with the terms of the contract. (Pat O' Connor AO, Housing Dept.)
* discussed at item number 4(13).

Cllr. June Murphy

21. “report on plans / future plans for The Mart, Mitchelstown and report on the upgrade for Ballinwillin Park, Mitchelstown”.
Issue No. 1 is private property.
Issue No. 2 - For discussion.
Mary Hayes SEO said that the Mart property in Mitchelstown had previously been proposed for consideration as a holiday/motorhome/campervan facility but this had not been progressed. Cllr. Murphy was hopeful that a skateboard park could be incorporated into any development plans here. In relation to Ballinwillin Park, Mary Hayes SEO said the work here is pending the recruitment of the dedicated North Cork MD Engineer and confirmed this project will be put forward for future funding schemes.
22. “this committee write to Housing requesting anyone in emergency accommodation be treated with the utmost urgency. A Liaison Officer would keep weekly contact with them. That they be kept fully informed of progress on their case and timeframe to be housed”.
The Housing Directorate provides Emergency Homeless Accommodation for families and individuals in need. The Tenancy Support Worker provides direct assistance to the individuals in seeking alternative private rented accommodation and any other assistance necessary. She is in regular contact with Estate Agents, Department of Social Protection, Threshold etc. on behalf of people in such difficult situations. Homeless persons are given high priority under the Allocations Scheme for vacant units within the Councils Housing Stock. (Pat O' Connor AO, Housing Dept.)
Mary Hayes SEO undertook to refer this issue to Pat O' Connor AO and request him to revert to Cllr. Murphy directly.
23. “this MD put serious attention and focus into a housing build for Mitchelstown”.
Housing Directorate.
Cllr. Murphy stated there is a serious lack of housing in Mitchelstown and a huge number of applicants on the housing list awaiting houses. Brendan O' Gorman SEE read a late reply he had received via email from Pat O' Connor AO, which had also been circulated to the Members.

24. “up to date report on unemployment figures for the three main towns and how we as a Municipal District can facilitate growth in gap areas, also to include report from Mitchelstown Enterprise Centre”.

For discussion / Economic SPC

In response to this motion Brendan O’ Gorman SEE said the information sought here is possibly available from the Economic Development Directorate of Cork County Council and Mary Hayes SEO undertook to seek a written response to this motion for a subsequent meeting.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

(1) LETTER An Taisce 08.05.2018 RE: IBAL Anti Litter League 2018.

Noted.

(2) Notice of Motion - Protocol for Municipal Districts

Noted.

6. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Cllr. Kay Dawson - Update on removal of obsolete Aircoach signs/Eir phone boxes.

Cllr. Dawson again requested an update on the removal of these items of obsolete street furniture.

(2) Cllr. Kay Dawson - Missing pieces of speed ramp in Ballinwillin Estate.

In relation to these missing pieces of this speed ramp, Brendan O’ Gorman SEE undertook to have the ramp repaired/ missing parts replaced.

(3) Cllr. Kay Dawson - Boundary between Ballinwillin Estate and COPE property.

Cllr. Dawson said that saplings have now started to grow in the boundary here and it is a ‘wilderness’, can anything be done? Brendan O’ Gorman SEE replied that he will arrange for clearance work to be done here.

(4) Cllr. Ian Doyle - Recruitment of School Warden for Charleville.

Cllr. Doyle noted that the Chief Executive’s report now indicates the availability of funding for the appointment of School Wardens and asked that a formal letter of request be submitted requesting this appointment in Charleville, if this has not already been done.

(5) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Back entrance lanes at St. Joseph’s and Devlin St., Fermoy.

Further to Cllr. McCarthy’s enquiry, Brendan O’ Gorman SEE replied that these lanes are to go on future RI programmes for future works.

(6) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Footpath at Oliver Plunkett Hill, Fermoy.

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE advised that the contractor to carry out footpath works for the MD has been appointed and this work will be carried out as part of this contract, under the guidance of CCC Heritage Section and mindful of the protected structure status of steps and other features in the area.

(7) Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien - Vandalism to Playground at Cork Road, Fermoy

Cllr. O’ Brien voiced her disappointment at the vandalism which had occurred at this playground resulting in the damage to and removal of the astro-turf play area. This was agreed by Cllr. Noel McCarthy. Brendan O’ Gorman SEE said the playground had been temporarily closed to facilitate an inspection by the MD Engineer and to arrange for a clean-up and repair work to be carried out. The Members requested that Fermoy MD report this vandalism to An Garda Síochána.

Signed:  Date: 17/7/2018