

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting
held on 27th September 2022**

In Attendance: Cllrs. Kay Dawson, Noel McCarthy, Deirdre O' Brien, Frank O' Flynn, William O' Leary, Frank Roche; Brendan O' Gorman SEE, Pauline Moriarty MDO, Lydia Kelly ASO.

1. MINUTES

a. Minutes of 'In Committee' meeting held at 11.00am on 19th July 2022 RE: Mitchelstown RRDF Project

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

b. Minutes of 'In Committee' meeting held at 2.00pm on 19th July 2022 RE: Update on February 2021 Fermoy Flood Event

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

c. Minutes of Fermoy MD July 2022 Meeting held on 19th July 2022

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

2. DISPOSALS, GRANTS, LEASES ETC.

a. To consider Disposal of Land at Stagpark, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork :: From Whom Acquired - property registered to Cork County Council since 2005 :: To Whom It Is Proposed To Dispose - Vincent Piggott :: Consideration - €10,000.00

The Members considered the information provided for this proposal and the Disposal of Property, as detailed above, was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson.

3. COMMUNITY FUND REQUESTS

a. Kildorrery Community Hall. Request for change of description of 2019 Community Fund (Capital)

This request for change of description was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson

b. Mitchelstown Community Leisure Centre. Request for change of description of 2021 Community Fund (Capital)

This request for change of description was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson

c. Captain Keane's Grove Residents Association, Mitchelstown. Request for change of description of the approved Amenity Grant 2022

This request for change of description was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson

4. ADDITIONAL PAINTING SCHEME 2022 APPLICATIONS

a. Members approval required for additional Painting Scheme 2022 applications - Total Allocation: €3000

Pauline Moriarty MDO confirmed, further to a query from Cllr. Kay Dawson, the locations of these applications. This approval for additional allocation to Painting Scheme 2022 was then approved on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson.

5. **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

a. REPORT : MDO September 2022 Report

Pauline Moriarty MDO went through her report; issues and queries arising included the following:

- Pauline asked the elected Members to remind applicants who have yet to drawdown grants from 2020 and 2021 Community Fund to do so as soon as possible as re-allocation of 2020 unclaimed grants will take place at year end similar to previous years.
 - approval to relocate the canopy from Ashe Quay to Fermoy Town Park was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn.
 - further to a query from Cllr. William O' Leary Brendan O' Gorman SEE advised that works in Rathcormac will recommence as soon as the developer / Irish Water works required here are complete, which should be within the next few weeks.
 - Cllr. William O' Leary asked if the painting scheme could be extended to the villages to which Pauline Moriarty MDO replied yes, potentially in the proposed village plans. This was welcomed by the elected Members who said this scheme has been a great success to date in the two main towns.
 - further to a query from Cllr. Kay Dawson, Brendan O' Gorman SEE advised that a trial solar lighting scheme will be installed on the Kildorrery Road between Stag Park and the roundabout.
 - Pauline Moriarty MDO informed the elected Members that Mitchelstown Community Council will most likely be given charge of the newly acquired FCA Hall, the acquisition of which should be complete by November; and Town and Village funding will be sought in 2023 to carry out the necessary upgrade / refurbishment works.
 - further to a query from Cllr. Noel McCarthy Pauline confirmed that works on Barnane Walk are scheduled to start soon.
 - following a brief discussion in relation to the date for turning on Christmas lights this festive season, Pauline Moriarty MDO undertook to enquire from Corporate Affairs if there is a countywide date determined for the 'switch-on' and will revert accordingly to the elected Members.
- The Members noted the contents of the report under other headings and thanked Pauline for her comprehensive update.

b. PROGRESS REPORT : 2022 RI / CIS / LIS Programme (*verbal update*)

c. PROGRESS REPORT : 2022 RM Programme (*verbal update*)

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the elected Members that wetmix and blacktop works in these 2022 RI and RM programmes are now substantively complete. Of the six CIS jobs, three are finished, the fourth is in progress and the two remaining will be done; the one LIS job in Fermoy is finished.

Brendan sought approval for the recommendation he had emailed to the elected Members to defer two RI schemes and one RM from the 2022 programme to 2023, this was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson.

d. PROGRESS REPORT : 2022 Drainage Programme (*verbal update*)

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the elected Members that all planned drainage works are nearing completion.

e. PROGRESS REPORT : 2022 Footpath Programme (*verbal update*)

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the elected Members that the appointed contractor is continuing to work through this programme. Additional NTA funding is pending which will be used for these works. Further to a query from Cllr. Kay Dawson, Brendan confirmed work on Lower Cork Street is due to be done during October / November 2022 and will not be ongoing during December.

f. PROGRESS REPORT : 2022 Public Lighting Programme

This progress report was uploaded to QuickMinutes for the elected Members information. Brendan O' Gorman SEE advised that there is currently a difficulty with procuring contractors to carry out the civil works associated with this programme, which is leading to delays. Further to a query from Cllr. Noel McCarthy in relation to the poor quality of the public lighting on McCurtain Street, Fermoy Brendan replied that the installed lighting here does meet the required minimum standard but will again ask the Public Lighting Section to investigate further.

g. PROGRESS REPORT : 2022 Safety Improvement Scheme (verbal update)

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the elected Members in relation to the first of the two proposed schemes (at O' Leary's Cross) that landowner interaction is ongoing. A second planned project under this SIS scheme is now 'off the table' as the landowner in question is not willing to cooperate with the proposal. Further to a query from Cllr. Kay Dawson Brendan confirmed this funding will be lost to Fermoy MD as it would have needed to be drawn down by mid-November 2022. There are other schemes in the N&E region that will pick up the savings here.

h. PROGRESS REPORT : 2022 CA&R Scheme

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the elected Members that the replacement of the storm sewer in Fitzgerald Place is planned under this scheme. Closure to one gateway of the Mart carpark will be required to facilitate this work, while other accesses will remain open. Additionally, there are some resurfacing works being carried out under this scheme.

i. PROGRESS REPORT : 2022 Late Season NTA Works

Brendan O' Gorman SEE advised that he is continuing to work on securing additional funding here in the hope of carrying out additional projects throughout the district

j. RECOMMENDATION : Clarke Street, Fermoy; One Way System - Final Report

The Final Report and schematics for this proposed one way system on Clarke Street, Fermoy were uploaded to QuickMinutes and Brendan sought approval from the elected Members to proceed with this recommendation. He confirmed that there will be no change to the number of parking spaces on the street, but warned there will be increased enforcement of the existing double yellow lined area. He added that there have been no objections from An Garda Síochána to the proposal. On the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr Kay Dawson the one-way system for Clarke Street, Fermoy was agreed. It was decided that the new layout will be on trial for six months to show if the changes are successful. If proving unsuccessful, the process to revert back to two-way can be re-commenced, subject to agreement with Garda Authorities.

k. RECOMMENDATION : Speed Limits 2022, Draft A Consultation, National Roads

Brendan O' Gorman SEE highlighted two items in relation to this National Roads speed limits review:

(i) the speed limit from Ballyhooly village to Leacht Cross will be reduced from 100kph to 80kph, which is to be welcomed. Brendan also said he would like to consider stopping vehicles coming onto the N72 from the south at this junction as this is a dangerous traffic movement with poor sight distance. The elected Members were not in favour of this proposition and further discussion will be needed on this.

(ii) Curraghprevin - request by Direct Route. The TII are not in favour of these recommendations / requests by Direct Route for 50kph limits at all roundabouts and Cork County Council agree with this. There will be no changes here. The proposals as presented were approved on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson.

6. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

1. "that Cork County Council call on the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to carry out road safety improvement works at Tobin's bend, Kilmagner, Fermoy on the N72 road (Eircode: P61 W718) as this has been the scene of many road accidents, to include realignment, resurfacing and advance signage".

The TII are committed to a new surfacing project covering this entire 7km to the county bounds and not just this localised locus. When funding announcements are made/confirmed, our NRO office will advance said project. (BO'G)

Brendan O' Gorman SEE undertook to request An Garda Síochána to monitor speeding at this location; and also to refer this request to the NRO and TII for their attention and resolution.

Cllr. Kay Dawson

2. “call on Cork County Council to clean and unblock storm water drains through out Mitchelstown”.
Winter maintenance urban drainage works have already commenced in the district. We started in Fermoy Town and environs and are about to move over to Mitchelstown. Localised issues in Mitchelstown are already routinely addressed. (BO’G)
Cllr. Dawson highlighted the regular flooding at the Maxol corner entrance to Ballinwillin to which Brendan replied there is a pipework issue here for which remedial works are being arranged which will resolve this issue.

Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien

3. “that this Council request the OPW to clarify its position with regard to public access / right of way from the public road to Glanworth Castle and St Dominic’s Well”.
It was agreed that Fermoy MD would contact the OPW seeking a response to this issue.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

4. “that this Committee would put ‘concealed entrance’ signs at Glenarousk on the hill before Kenny’s Cross for the safety of residents entering and exiting their homes”.
Will be done. (BO’G)

Cllr. William O’ Leary

5. “that this this Council would consider removing the small step and gap at the entrance into Kilcrumper New Cemetery creating a level access point at this location”.
There is no funding available. Level access to Kilcrumper New Cemetery is provided at the main entrance. (PM)
Further to a brief discussion it was agreed that a sign indicating the accessible entrance further on would be placed near the stile, and that hi-viz paint would be applied to the stile steps to visually aid users to navigate safely.

Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn

6. “that Cork County Council would put a Disabled Parking Bay in place at McCurtain Street, Fermoy”.
Will be proposed when updating our new parking bylaws for the town. (BO’G)
7. “that Cork County Council improve the sight distance and on road signage in the interest of safety of all road users at the Curraghadermot / Firmount Cross, Castlelyons”.
Will be re-assessed and improvements made. (BO’G)
Brendan O’ Gorman SEE added that landowner cooperation is required here to reduce / remove hedges. Cllr. O’ Flynn undertook to speak to the landowner in question.

Cllr. Kay Dawson

8. “call on Cork County Council to repair and resurface road at approach to Ballyaghaderg bridge from Mitchelstown”.
Not currently on our short term horizon. Some damaged patches have already been replaced in the past year. Will likely feature in our next three year RI Programme. (BO’G)
Brendan O’ Gorman SEE said he will arrange for remedial work to be arranged in early 2023 on the patch of road which has ‘fatted up’ or earlier if remaining funding permits.
9. “call on Cork County Council to remove / treat grass, weeds throughout Mitchelstown”.
There is a reduced spraying regime in all our towns and villages this year to comply with draft pollinator and biodiversity plans as well as a well documented 50% reduction in the Council spraying of Glyphosate. The square in Mitchelstown is the exception where a second application is confirmed. Going forward, Councils will require additional voluntary support. (BO’G)
This motion was supported by the elected Members who think that non-spraying of town centres is impractical where there are few volunteers available to carry out supplementary weed removal. Ideally a sweeper in Mitchelstown would reduce the accumulation of grit near kerbs which

promotes weed growth, could this be budgeted for going forward? Brendan replied that there are new products and options coming onstream to deal with this problem, and he will have further information available in due course.

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

10. "that Bus Eireann install a cigarette receptacle at the newly installed bus stop at Lower Cork Street, Mitchelstown and perhaps investigate installation at all Bus Stops".
Pauline Moriarty MDO undertook to contact Bus Eireann with this request.
11. "that this Council would provide update with regard to restoration works required to be carried out on the church wall at Killgullane Graveyard".
The Council has no source of funding for these construction works. Costs were estimated at €84,000 including VAT in February 2022. Application under the 2022 Community Monuments Fund was unsuccessful. Will resubmit in 2023. Funding was previously provided from the department in 2020 to carry out a conservation report and in 2021 to facilitate archaeological testing at the site. (PM)
Pauline Moriarty MDO reminded the elected Members that this graveyard is currently closed to the public.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

12. "that this Committee would write to the TII asking them to consider putting a walkway and cycle on the N72 from Belleview Cross to Fermoy as this stretch of road is not pedestrian friendly".
In our regular briefings with the TII/ NRO we will raise the request which can be explored along the timelines of the future resurfacing project confirmed for the location here, subject to suitable funding and successful land acquisition. (BO'G)
This motion was supported by the elected Members who wish to support the population of this area and Clondulane. They agreed that this is a very busy road and walking, running or cycling is unadvisable at present. Brendan O' Gorman SEE advised that Clondulane may be linked to Fermoy with the offline *Greenway* proposal and that this could provide the ideal resolution.
13. "that this Committee would put speed radar signs on the R628 either side of O'Leary's Cross, Castlelyons to help reduce speed in this location".
Can only be considered on the Conna eastern approach for now as there is no suitable grass margin on the Rathcormac side. We will bring in one of our signs for a period of six weeks and move around. (BO'G)
Further to a discussion it was agreed that An Garda Síochána would be requested to monitor speeding and arrange for a *GoSafe* speed van to be deployed at this location.

Cllr. William O' Leary

14. "that this Council would consider adding the L-5857-0 and L-5856-15 Ballytrasna / Ballymurphy to next year's RI programme".
1.2km of the L-5856-0 is on the next year's 2023 RI programme. 0.4km of the upper section of the L-5857-0 will likely feature on the 2024 RI programme. (BO'G)
15. "that this Council would consider the provision of improved traffic calming at the junction servicing Quarter Lane / Dispensary Lane / the R639 Rathcormac".
We have a junction tightening design for the location that will improve visibility but take away some parking on the R639. There is already traffic calming either side of the junction on the main road. The locus will be proposed under a 2023 safety improvement scheme. (BO'G)

7. CORRESPONDENCE

a. EMAIL Damien Tobin, Local Link Cork RE Rural Link Bus Clondulane to Fermoy

On considering this reply it was agreed that Fermoy MD would now contact the NTA requesting the introduction of a local link bus on this route.

b. EMAIL Frances McCarthy, Bus Eireann RE Bus Stop at Cork Road, Fermoy
Noted.

8. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Public Lighting on Kent Bridge, Fermoy

Cllr. McCarthy reported some of the lights are not working leaving the bridge very poorly lit up to which Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied he had reported this issue to the relevant Public Lighting section.

(2) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - seeking update on by-laws for Columbarium in Kilcrumper

Pauline Moriarty MDO said this update has not been received and she will enquire further and revert to the elected Members.

(3) Cllr. Kay Dawson - seeking update on the Pollinator Plan

Pauline Moriarty MDO replied that this plan is due to be finalised within the next few weeks and will be circulated to all stakeholders when available.

(4) Cllr. William O' Leary - re: Bus Eireann Route 245 issues

William O' Leary raised the issue of limited capacity for passengers during busy times on the bus services between Mitchelstown, Fermoy and Cork city. With the increased cost of fuel, many people are now opting to travel by public transport but finding there are no seats on the bus service they want to use. It was agreed Fermoy MD would contact Bus Eireann with details of this issue requesting they undertake a survey and make adjustments on this route, such as the provision of double decked or additional buses, to meet this increased demand.

(5) Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - Flooding at Maxol, Ballinwillin entrance

Brendan O' Gorman SEE advised there is an undersized pipeline issue here which will be rectified shortly.

(6) Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - Request for signage at Skeheen

Cllr. O' Brien is requesting signage further to a recent accident. Brendan undertook to investigate if additional signage would improve safety for motorists at this location.

(7) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Request for Meeting with Fermoy Forum

Fermoy Forum are requesting a meeting with Fermoy MD elected members which was arranged for 5.00pm on Tuesday, 18th October 2022 following the October monthly meeting.

Signed _____

Date _____