

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting
held on 15th November 2022**

In Attendance: Cllrs. Kay Dawson, Noel McCarthy, Deirdre O' Brien, Frank O' Flynn, William O' Leary, Frank Roche;
Seán O' Callaghan SEO, Brendan O' Gorman SEE, Margaret O' Donoghue MDO, Lydia Kelly ASO.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Noel McCarthy, welcomed Seán O' Callaghan SEO to Fermoy MD and wished him well in his position in North Cork.

1. MINUTES

a. Minutes of 'In Committee' Meeting held on 18th October 2022

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

b. Minutes of October 2022 Meeting held on 18th October 2022

The Minutes were agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Kay Dawson, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien.

2. draft FERMOY MD 2023 BUDGETARY PLAN

The Chief Executive's letter and draft budgetary plan for year 2023, having been circulated to the elected Members and uploaded to QuickMinutes for their information, were introduced to those present by Seán O' Callaghan SEO with the Chief Executive's letter being taken as read. The elected Members noted the provisions under the programme groups for Fermoy for the coming year, as outlined by Margaret O' Donoghue MDO. The comments of the elected Members reflected their disappointment in the budgetary provision for 2023, with the consensus being that with reductions in some funding streams and others remaining unchanged it is not feasible to maintain adequate and satisfactory levels of service within the MD for the coming year. Also, as the budget presented today is preliminary and incomplete there is a difficulty accepting it, not knowing the full 2023 funding provision. Accordingly, on the proposition of Cllr. O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. William O' Leary and agreed unanimously by the elected Members it was agreed to reject the draft budgetary plan for year 2023 as presented here today. Seán O' Callaghan SEO undertook to convey this decision back to the Chief Executive. The Members thanked Sean and Margaret for their work in preparing and presenting the budgetary plan.

**3. PROPOSED EXTINGUISHMENT OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY -
Section of L-15334-0**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE explained the background to this proposed extinguishment, saying the location is a cul-de-sac in the east of the district, there is a single landowner involved here and this proposal relates to a recent planning application which required the removal of a gate and post. There are no legal issues and the recommendation is to proceed with this extinguishment. The proposal was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson.

4. COMMUNITY FUND REQUEST

a. Conna Community Council. Request for change of description of 2022 Community Grant (Amenity) from 'Resurfacing of Driveway to Community Hall and Fencing' to 'Resurfacing of Driveway to Community Hall'.

The elected Members considered the information provided in relation to this request and this change of description was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien.

5. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

a. REPORT : MDO November 2022 Report

Margaret O' Donoghue MDO went through her report, uploaded and displayed onscreen for the attendees information. Issues, queries and comments included the following:

- the elected Members asked when the *Part 8* will commence for the RRDF Project in Mitchelstown. Some Members voiced their concern that the level of public engagement during the consultation held earlier in the year was not sufficient or inclusive of all sectors of the Mitchelstown public. Further to a request, Margaret O’ Donoghue MDO undertook to ascertain the scope and content of the submissions received to date on this project and revert to the elected Members accordingly.
- in relation to the RRDF Project proposed for Fermoy, the elected Member requested the public be kept informed and involved from the start, saying public ‘buy-in’ from the outset is vital for the success of the project.
- in relation to both RRDF projects and proposals the elected Members cautioned against imposing a generic plan on both towns, saying the tradition, identity and fabric of the towns as they are must be preserved. In reply, Sean O’ Callaghan said the RRDF schemes intent is to enhance and add to the unique character of both towns, not to impose a new plan on them. He said the schemes for both towns are at different stages, and confirmed that liaison with all stakeholders will take place prior to the *Part 8 Procedure*. The aim is to finalise the Part 8 for Mitchelstown by Christmas 2022 and present to Members. He added, however, that the Part 8 application must meet the criteria of the RRDF Scheme in order to maximise the potential of securing funding.
- Members welcomed the news of the acquisition of the former military barracks (FCA Hall), Mitchelstown, saying it will be a great asset to the community.
- Members welcomed the proposed parking arrangements for the festive season in Fermoy. They suggested businesses in Fermoy be requested to ask their employees to park remotely during this time to free up on-street spaces for shoppers, diners and visitors.

b. UPDATE : 2022 ROADS PROGRAMMES -

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE informed the meeting that all works on the main 2022 Roads Programme are now complete, on schedule and within budget - this includes RI, RM, CIS and LIS works.

Drainage works will continue as required. The Footpaths Programme contractor continues to work through the list, previously circulated, currently working at the Promenade and White Wall, Fermoy and will be progressing to Mitchelstown to work on Lower Cork Street and in Ballinwillin (early December). Brendan further advised that any and all outstanding programmed grant works will be finished by the end of November 2022 to meet year end financial deadlines.

He added that there had been recent substantial weather-related damage to the roads network and repair works will be undertaken as soon as some drying out has occurred. Pothole repair on the diversion route, currently required due to the closure of the N73, will be attended to as required. Further to a request in relation to replacement and cleaning of road signs throughout the district, Brendan replied that some signs will be replaced with the implementation of the new speed limits zones and all signs will be checked. Also, he is hopeful of procuring a sign cleaning contract for some regional roads in 2023.

In relation to hedge cutting, Brendan informed the elected Members that the responsibility for cutting roadside hedges lies with landowner in most circumstances, and letters are often written to them by him reminding them of their obligation in this regard.

The elected Members thanked Brendan for the updates, and for the works done during the year, commending the executive and outdoor crews on the quality and high standard of all the work undertaken on the 2022 programmes.

c. UPDATE : NTA late season Grants

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE informed the meeting that NTA grant funding has been allocated for all proposals except one, this funding will be used to carry out works at Kent Terrace, Castlelyons; the Promenade, Fermoy; the Rathcormac school road and at the entrance to Rathcormac. This frees up Council ‘own’ funds which will facilitate additional footpath work being planned and carried out.

6. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

1. “that this Committee would put a yellow box in place outside the business P61 N599 at McDermott Place, Oliver Plunkett Hill, Fermoy”.

Will be done. (BO’G)

Cllr. Kay Dawson

2. “call on Cork County Council to fill potholes, drain and resurface road L-5661-0 from junction L-5658-0 towards Brigown”.

Potholes will be filled and short sections will be considered for resurfacing in our upcoming Discretionary Programmes. (BO’G)

This motion was supported by Cllrs. O’ Brien, O’ Flynn and McCarthy. Brendan confirmed that natural springs are the issue here and he undertook to get the gully traps checked to ensure they are working as effectively as possible. Resurfacing works / improved drainage works are scheduled.

Cllr. William O’ Leary

3. “that this Council would install two 15-minute parking spaces outside Fitzzy’s Fast Food and Marion’s Hair Salon, Rathcormac”.

Can be proposed but cannot be enforced as there are no by-laws supporting parking regulations and duration control in this village. (BO’G)

Cllr. O’Leary is hopeful that common courtesy will prevail here if and when the fifteen-minute parking spaces are installed.

Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn

4. “that Cork County Council put in place a footpath from Ballygiblin School to the GAA Field in the interest of safety”.

The proposal is under consideration at present and a funding source will be identified. (BO’G)

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE added to this reply saying he has had discussions with the NTA and provisions could be made to support and enhance facilities which will benefit both the GAA and the National School. Cllr. William O’ Leary asked if in the future similar provisions could be made for Ballynoe GAA and Bride Rovers GAA, both of whom would equally benefit from a footpath to their pitches.

Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien

5. “that this Council install ramp on King Street as approaching New Square in the interest of safety”.

Location falls under the future Georgian Quarter RRDF project and traffic calming other than ramps will form a strong design element of the scheme. (BO’G)

With the two existing ramps on King Street, Brendan O’ Gorman SEE does not see the scope to speed up at this junction, but advised that speeding is an issue for the attention of An Garda Síochána. However, it appears the issue here may be that motorists do not know which travel direction has right-of-way at this busy junction. Brendan undertook to check the signs and road markings to ensure they are present and effectively instructional for road users to clarify correct driver movements here.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

6. “that this Committee would put a safety barrier in place on the footpath outside the entrance of Canon Sheehan Primary School, Turnpike, Doneraile where the school crossing is located”.

Safety barriers are no longer put at road edge to corral pedestrians to define locations. Road Audit will be undertaken to ascertain perceived difficulties. (BO’G)

Cllr. McCarthy explained this request had come from the school Parent’s Association.

7. “that drainage works be carried out outside the home of V35 KT21 Westcain, Labbamolaga, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork as water is damaging the entrance of the property”.

Further investigations will be required. (BO’G)

Cllr. Kay Dawson

8. “call on Cork County Council to find solution to divert water from entrance to driveway P67 V290”.

Further investigations will be required. (BO’G)

9. “call on Cork County Council to erect speed radar sign on Limerick Road”.
Speed signs are a joint community / Council initiative except in towns where TDF funding can be used to fund the 50% contribution. Can be proposed under 2023 TDF for the town of Mitchelstown with support of members. (BO’G)
Brendan confirmed the cost of Driver Feedback signs is €5,790 (for two in opposing directions) and he would support TDF funding for such a sign at this location.

Cllr. William O’ Leary

10. “that this Council would consider, under future tranches of the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Funds, devising a drainage upgrade programme for the Knockacappul / Ballynahow area, Fermoy, L-1445-0”.
Will be included in our 2022 CA&R application to the Department to raise the road here. (BO’G)
Cllr. O’ Leary explained that this is an exception to the usual drainage issues being experienced district-wide at present. Brendan O’ Gorman SEE replied that he will endeavour to get funding for every scheme but not all will succeed, however, he is hopeful that this one will be done from discretionary funds.
11. “that this Council would provide an up to date position / report with respect to any roads in Araglen to have suffered severe damage owing to the recent adverse weather conditions and a timeframe for any restoration works that may take place at the effected locations”.
There are two roads damaged (Araglin school road and the L-5694) and both are scheduled for blacktop overlays within the next 2/3 weeks. The damaged bridge on the L-5690-11 will be repaired using CA&R funds under our bridge rehabilitation team. (BO’G)
Brendan O’ Gorman SEE said that this project is being done under Climate Action funding but the bridge is in an SAC which may delay the project slightly on environmental grounds.

Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn

12. “that Cork County Council extend the 60km speed limit on the N73 Mallow road entrance to Kildorrery out as far as Farahy Bridge”.
Does not form part of the current Countywide National Road speed limit review and public consultation and will require TII approval and support going forward regardless. (BO’G)
13. “that Cork County Council would trim and coppice the trees at Rockmills Cemetery”.
Inspection will be carried out and I will revert back to elected Members. (MO’D)
Margaret O’ Donoghue MDO informed the elected Members that this inspection has now been carried out and works will be done accordingly.

Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien

14. “that this Council would cut back trees on Georges Street, Mitchelstown”.
Annual pruning is undertaken here. (BO’G)
15. “that this Council would investigate flooding at Scart, Kildorrery which has been a legacy issue during rainfall (Eircode to be supplied”.
Further investigations and works will be undertaken here. (BO’G)

7. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) EMAIL Bus Eireann 14.10.2022 RE Request for new bus stop at Moorepark, north of Fermoy

The elected Members noted the response from Bus Eireann, saying they hoped this would result in the installation of this requested bus stop at Moorepark.

Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn asked when will the existing unused bus stop on Cork Road, Fermoy be brought into use by Bus Eireann. Margaret O’ Donoghue MDO undertook to check with Jonathon Cahill EE and revert to the elected Members.

8. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Kent Street, Fermoy and Christmas lights switch-on event

Cllr Noel McCarthy, on behalf of the Christmas Lights Committee, sought the approval of the elected Members to partially close off Kent Street Friday 25th November 2022 to facilitate traders for turning on of Christmas lights. The elected Members agreed to this on the basis that the adjacent traders and residents are aware of the proposal and have no objections.

(2) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - proposal to move canopy from Ashe Quay to Mill Island Car Park

Cllr. McCarthy proposed moving the canopy from Ashe Quay to Mill Island Car Park for use by the market traders on Saturdays, a change from the original plan to put it in Fermoy Town Park. This was seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn. On the basis that a litter bin is provided and the use of the area is monitored regularly to ensure no littering, misuse or anti-social behaviour, this was agreed by the elected Members and the executive.

(3) Cllr. William O Leary - query re: re-instatement work in Rathcormac

Cllr. O' Leary enquired when will re-instatement works required to Main Street, Rathcormac take place following the connections to waste water services for the new housing development at Lisnagar, as there is significant disruption to residents. Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied that this is 100% a matter for the Contractor. It relates to the poor quality of a temporary reinstatement by Irish Water and the issue has been raised with them more than once as unacceptable. Brendan undertook to re-emphasise the need for more satisfactory reinstatement / resurfacing work to be done here.

(4) Cllr. Frank O' Flynn - condition of the roads in Shanballymore, Kildorrery and Doneraile

Cllr. O' Flynn highlighted the poor condition of the roads in these three areas which are being used by traffic diverted from the closed N73 Mitchelstown-Mallow road. This was supported by the elected Members all of whom have had representations in this regard. Brendan O' Gorman SEE confirmed that the issue had been raised at full Council and that funding will absolutely be sought to carry out required repair / reinstatement works. However, he strongly recommends that drivers, particularly those of heavy goods vehicles, should stick to the official diversion instead of opting to travel on unsuitable roads thereby causing damage.

(5) Cllr. Frank O' Flynn - resurfacing works on Patrick Street, Fermoy

Brendan O' Gorman SEE confirmed these works are scheduled to be carried out by contractor Tac Coat, as night works, within the next two/three weeks.

(6) Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - Street Sweeper for Mitchelstown

Cllr. O' Brien enquired for the street sweeper schedule for Mitchelstown and the locations for the coming weeks. The reply given was that the suction sweeper is scheduled to be in Kilworth and Mitchelstown in the near future.

(7) Cllr. Kay Dawson work at bridge on Limerick Road, Mitchelstown

O' Gorman SEE confirmed these works are scheduled to be carried out by contractor Tac Coat, within the next two/three weeks.

(8) Cllr. Kay Dawson - road condition at traffic lights on Lower Cork Street, Mitchelstown

Brendan O' Gorman SEE advised that this is an issue with reinstatement by Irish Water/CCC Water Services and he will revert to them again requesting this be remedied to an acceptable standard.

(9) Cllr. Kay Dawson - grass growing from drains, Mitchelstown

Brendan O' Gorman SEE will arrange for appropriate works to be done to clear these drains.

(10) Cllr. Frank Roche - graffiti on signs in Glanworth and Castletownroche

Brendan O' Gorman SEE will arrange for suitable cleaning of these signs to be carried out.

(11) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - traffic congestion, Fermoy

Cllr. McCarthy enquired what can be done to prevent traffic congestion, such as that seen in Fermoy during works by Irish Water on the previous Monday. Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied that these works were commenced without the appropriate permission (non-compliance with time restrictions) and An Garda Síochána had intervened to stop the contractor. In this regard, Cllr. Frank O' Flynn enquired when the plan for the junction at Christchurch, Fermoy will be ready to which Brendan replied it will be presented to the elected Members by the NRO as soon as it is available.

Signed _____

Date _____