

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting
held on 21st March 2023**

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

Apologies: Seán O' Callaghan SEO

Prior to commencing the business of the meeting, Standing Orders were suspended to propose a Vote of Sympathy on the recent passing of Fermoy MD staff member, Pat Cunningham.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.

1. MINUTES

a. Minutes of Fermoy MD February 2023 Meeting held on 21st Feb 2023

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

2. COMMUNITY FUND REQUESTS

a. Fermoy Concert Band - Request for change of description of 2020 Community Grant (Amenity)

The elected Members considered this and the request for the reallocation of 2020 Community Fund for Fermoy Concert Band was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson.

3. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

a. REPORT : March 2023 MDO Report

Margaret O' Donoghue MDO went through her report which was uploaded to QuickMinutes and displayed onscreen. Queries and items raised in relation to this report included:

- Cllr. Frank O' Flynn requested an update on Fermoy Weir which Margaret O' Donoghue MDO undertook to seek from the relevant section and forward to the elected Members.
- Cllr. William O' Leary asked when the 2023 Painting Scheme will be available, to which Margaret replied this will be in April 2023. Margaret also confirmed that the Painting Scheme may be rolled out to the villages in the MD this year.

• Further to an enquiry, Margaret confirmed that Fermoy MD will be supporting the Spring Clean campaign in the district in conjunction with community groups.

The elected Members welcomed the news of the launch of Fermoy Town historic map and thanked Margaret for the report.

b. REPORT : RI 2023 Programme Progress Update

Brendan O' Gorman SEE confirmed that the RI programme commenced in early February and works are ongoing. Crews are currently working in Fermoy and will proceed to Mitchelstown at month end. Brendan advised that the 2023 budget now stands at €3,646,812 which will enable one additional project to be done and accordingly, Brendan is proposing to include a section of the Bog Road in Shanballymore on the programme.

c. REPORT : Drainage 2023 Programme Progress Update

Brendan O' Gorman SEE advised that works on this programme, which are done prior to the commencement of the resurfacing programme works, are ongoing and going according to plan.

d. REPORT : Footpath 2023 Programme Progress Update

Brendan O' Gorman SEE advised that the current Contractor is continuing on the 2022 footpath programme works, and we are currently tendering for works on the 2023 schedule as approved at the February 2023 meeting of Fermoy MD.

e. RECOMMENDATION : Amenity Park at Promenade, Rathealy, Fermoy

Further to the email sent to the elected Members by Brendan O' Gorman SEE with proposals for this area Brendan advised that he is now recommending that the trees which are overlooking private properties be cut down (causing damage to property) and more suitable trees planted in their stead. Brendan is also recommending the installation of more seating and planting to enhance the amenity value of this location. The elected Members responded that they welcome the seating and planting proposals, however, if the cutting down of the trees could be avoided that would be preferable. Brendan replied there was very little planning involved in the original planting of these trees which are now problematic for a number of reasons, including the damage to property / walls, sap and leaves falling on private property and Council staff having to access private property to carry out work (lopping etc.) on the trees. Brendan thanked the elected Members for their feedback and said he will now arrange to progress the amenity element of the proposal and go back to the landowner with the negative outcome on the tree removal.

f. RECOMMENDATION : Cycle Stands, Doneraile Main Street

Brendan O' Gorman SEE updated the elected Members that he has considered their replies to his email in relation to this topic and he is happy to not proceed with this cycle stand at the location requested. The proposal is therefore 'off the table' for now. The bicycle stand may be installed elsewhere. He will liaise with the Cork County Council Tourism Section going forward to identify / secure a more suitable location. The elected Members thanked Brendan for this update. Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien asked if other sites or locations can be offered for use. Cllr. Frank O' Flynn said he had had three or four offers of sites which he would discuss with Brendan.

g. RECOMMENDATION : Proposed Draft B Speed Limit changes of National Routes Fermoy MD

Having considered the proposal contained herein to change the speed limit to 80kph on the N72 from Leacht Cross to Ballyhooly village, this draft B Speed Limit changes of National Routes were agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien.

h. RECOMMENDATION : Proposed Public Lighting Programme Fermoy MD 2023

Having considered the proposed 2023 Public Lighting Programme for Fermoy MD, this was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson. Cllr. Noel McCarthy requested that additional public lighting be provided at McCurtain Street, Fermoy which has lighting on only one side which is inadequate and ineffective.

i. RECOMMENDATION : Confirmed CIS Programme Fermoy MD 2023

Brendan O' Gorman SEE confirmed there are four CIS schemes agreed for this year, and there are other expressions of interest for CIS jobs on file pending future budgetary provision. Further to a query from Cllr. William O' Leary in relation to 2023 LIS jobs, Brendan replied there are three LIS this year, pending funding.

j. RECOMMENDATION : 2023 CA&R Update Fermoy MD

Brendan O' Gorman SEE went through this programme which has twelve projects to be carried out with a total budget of €305,000. Brendan advised that, to date, two of these projects have been done.

4. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Cllr. William O' Leary

1. "that this Council would consider the possibility under future national funding schemes the purchase of the old Fitzgerald Barracks in Fermoy. The Department of Defence currently retain one hectare of the over all ten hectares. The one hectare in question is where the buildings of the old barracks are located. There is a demand locally for these buildings to be put to community use".
The cost of acquisition of such a building is only one part of the consideration. Cork County Council is bound by the requirements of the Public Spending Code, and the renovation and refurbishment costs would also have to be funded and a robust business case put forward. Cork County Council has to be satisfied that it is not taking on a future liability. (MO'D)

The elected Members agreed if the opportunity should arise for this property to become available for acquisition, Fermoy MD should be ambitious for the site and go for it 100% as it is disappointing to see these historic buildings falling into disrepair and not being used. Further to a discussion, it was agreed that Fermoy MD would write to the Department of Defence, owners of the site, requesting that clearance works and maintenance on this site be undertaken. Also, a request for an update on any future plans for this site to be included in this correspondence.

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

2. "that Cork County Council would approve Disabled Parking Bay on Lower Cork Street, Mitchelstown".

For discussion. Proposed for eastern side of carriageway, outside No. 2 Lower Cork Street. (BO'G)

This item was deferred for decision to the April 2023 meeting of Fermoy MD pending clarification on the most suitable and exact location for this disabled parking bay.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

3. "that this Committee would write to the IDA asking them that a representative would attend a meeting of this Council to update us on their plans for the IDA site on Dublin Road, Fermoy".

For discussion. (MO'D)

This motion was fully supported by the elected Members who said it is unacceptable to see this site, which is ideally located with proximity to the motorway and with all required amenities available, being left idle and unused. Further to a discussion it was agreed Fermoy MD would write to the IDA requesting an update on future plans for this site on Dublin Road, Fermoy.

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

4. "that Cork County Council would resurface the Main Street, Ballyhooly and update the road markings in the interest of safety".

We applied for and have recently received additional TII defect funds for resurfacing a section of the carriageway directly north of the pedestrian crossing adjacent to the Church and we are within two weeks from commencement of these works. Relining of the N72 is a matter for the TII but a relining works contract is imminent and is been rolled out by Kerry RDO on behalf of the TII. (BO'G)

Cllr. William O' Leary

5. "that this Council would consider under future tranches of active travel measures consider applying for funding for a footpath and pedestrian friendly measures from Rathcormac out as far as the Mondaniel junction on the R639".

Will be proposed if a future call for projects is made and the projects meets NTA criteria. (BO'G)

6. "that this Council would consider the provision of an extra speed ramp, if a suitable funding scheme should ever become available, on the L-1516 Conna in or around the location where the speed signs were recently located".

The local Community Council rejected previous proposals by the executive for additional ramps in this location so we will respect their wishes. The speed feedback sign is still in place. Additional speed surveys will be undertaken here. (BO'G)

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

7. "that Cork County Council call on the HSE to investigate the workings of Living Health in Mitchelstown, which is causing undue stress on public needing urgent medical treatment".

For discussion. (MO'D)

This motion was seconded by Cllr. William O' Leary and it was agreed Fermoy MD would write to the HSE asking for an explanation on the workings of the Living Health centre in Mitchelstown.

8. "that this Council remove tree from river Funcheon which is stuck in eye of bridge at Marshalstown".

Order to remove same has been raised with our tree services contractor. (BO'G)

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

9. “that this Committee would write to Estates Management of Cork County Council to update this Council on the taking-in-charge of Rathowen Estate and Glencullen / Ardkeen Estates, Fermoy”.
There are valid Developer’s Taking in Charge applications for both Rathowen Estate PI Ref 00/4949 and Glencullen Estate PI Ref 02/5788. The bonds on both estates have been claimed and settled; and initial snag lists have been prepared for both developments. It is intended to concentrate the next North Cork bundle on the Fermoy area (which will include Rathowen Estate and Glencullen Estate), with scoping of works and preparation of documentation scheduled to commence in Q3 2023. (Claire Looney O’Sullivan SEO, Planning and Development)
Cllr. Noel McCarthy asked if the Estates Management section could be requested to fast-track this process for completion before Q3 / 2023, which was agreed and will be done.
10. “that this meeting receive a report on the possibility of funding being made available to update the playground in the Town Park, Fermoy with new equipment etc.”.
Existing playground equipment in good condition. (MO’D)
Cllr. McCarthy explained he is requesting these upgrades to bring this playground in line with recently upgrades in Mitchelstown and Mallow. He is also requesting if the installation of a railed-off area for smaller playground users could be considered on safety grounds.

Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn

11. “that Cork County Council would replace and refurbish the cement fence railings at Liam MacGearailt Place, Fermoy in the interest of safety”.
MDO / Estate Management
Margaret O’ Donoghue MDO undertook to bring this request to the attention of the Estate Management Section, Housing Department, Mallow for consideration.
12. “that Cork County Council refurbish, renovate and paint the White Bridge on the Demesne Road, Mitchelstown”.
We will make budgetary provision for same in 2023. Painting and removal of vegetation is required. Refurbishment / renovation is not required. Bridge is in good structural condition. (BO’G)
Cllr. Kay Dawson requested ‘No Dumping’ signs be provided at this location as there is ongoing bad dumping at this location. Brendan O’ Gorman SEE undertook to convey this dumping issue to the Environment Section of the Council for attention.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None

6. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. RE 5(7) Cllr. Kay Dawson - Clonmel Road, Mitchelstown

Cllr. Dawson enquired if road marking for parking spaces could be included as part of the proposed works as this lining is now worn away and not visible. Brendan O’ Gorman SEE replied he will arrange for this to be done.

2. RE 5(5) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - location for proposed Skate Park, Fermoy

Cllr. McCarthy asked if the park area in Clancy Street could be included for consideration as a potential site for a skate park in Fermoy.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn - I welcome the opening of the Clogher Waterdyke road on Wednesday 15th March 2023 and I ask that Cork County Council put in place a planned programme of road renovation on the alternative road routes that were used during the N73 road realignment works, especially in the areas of Kildorrery, Shanballymore, Doneraile. and Castletownroche.

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE advised that the TII have agreed funding for works on local and regional roads damaged during the diversion period and these works are due to commence imminently.

(2) Cllr. Frank O' Flynn - that Cork County Council would renovate and upgrade the main thoroughfare in Castletownroche.

Brendan O' Gorman SEE advised that he has made representations to the TII for emergency funding for defects in Castletownroche and Ballyhooly and works will be done in due course, possibly within two weeks.

(3) Cllr Noel McCarthy - Do the Council have any plans to carry out resurfacing on McCurtain Street, Fermoy near the vegetable & flower shops, and Stacks Chemist.

Brendan O' Gorman SEE advised that work at this location is expected to be included within the scope of the RRDF proposals for Fermoy.

(4) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Can the council provide update on installation of Columbarium wall at Kilcrumper Cemetery.

Margaret O' Donoghue MDO replied that it is hoped to progress this project in Q3 or Q4 of 2023 and she will provide the elected Members with an update in due course.

(5) Brendan O' Gorman SEE - 2023 LIS

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the elected Members that there are three LIS projects proposed for this year, subject to funding confirmation. These locations are Gurteenatariffe, Gortnahown and Ballymurphy.

(6) Cllr. Kay Dawson - request for update on Fermoy to Mitchelstown cycleway

Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied that he had previously submitted a proposal for NTA funding which was unsuccessful, but another application for funding for this project will be made in due course, if a further funding call is made.

(7) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Letters of Congratulations to organising committees of St. Patrick's Day Parades

Further to Cllr. McCarthy's suggestion, it was agreed that Letters of Congratulations would be sent to the organising committees of St. Patrick's Day Parades in Fermoy and Mitchelstown, giving special mention to the two Grand Marshalls - John Murphy (Fermoy) and Fionn Herlihy (Mitchelstown).

Signed _____

Date _____