

Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting held on Tuesday, 18th April 2023

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

Prior to the April 2023 meeting, a ceremony took place to acknowledge and recognise the fortieth anniversary of the official twinning of Fermoy with Ploemeur, France. After light refreshments, a number of Fermoy representatives of the twinning community were welcomed to the Chamber, some who have been involved with the twinning since its inception. An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Noel McCarthy, the elected Members and Margaret O' Donoghue MDO offered their congratulations on achieving forty years of successful twinning and paid compliment to all involved in this association which has been of cultural, economic, educational and tourism benefit to the town of Fermoy. Fermoy Ploemeur Twinning Committee President Mr. Gerry Feerick and other members of the group in attendance reciprocated the good wishes of Fermoy MD saying they had benefitted immeasurably from being involved in the twinning over the forty years of its existence and expressed their hope to continue long into the future. The Committee were assured of the continued support of Fermoy MD.

1. MINUTES

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

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

2. 2023 PRIDE OF PLACE

a. 2023 Pride of Place Nominations

Margaret O' Donoghue MDO informed the elected Members that the closing date for Pride of Place nominations is 21st April 2023 and that there will be one nomination for each Municipal District.

3. 2023 FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

a. 2023 Town Development Fund Draft Allocations

Margaret O' Donoghue MDO introduced the proposals for the allocation of the 2023 Town Development Fund, the value of which is €110,000 with €55,000 going to each of the two main towns, Fermoy and Mitchelstown. Replies to queries from the elected Members included the following:

- the provision of an outdoor electric socket in Fermoy Town Park will be done as part of the works agreed in 2022.
- Margaret confirmed that the painting scheme is part of the streetscape scheme, application forms for which will be available in due course.
- Brendan advised that the ramps proposed for Kingston College, Mitchelstown will be located on the roadway adjacent to the houses.

The elected Members welcomed the funding proposals under the Town Development Fund and the allocations, as presented, were agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson.

b. 2023 Village Enhancement Scheme Draft Allocations

Margaret O' Donoghue MDO informed the elected Members that it is proposed to allocate €60,000 under the Village Enhancement Scheme funding to Coolagown Community Council to provide for the purchase of a site for the future development of a much-needed community centre in the village. The elected Members concurred wholeheartedly with this proposal saying Coolagown Community Council is a very deserving recipient of this funding and expressed their good wishes for this project. This proposal was formally agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Frank Roche.

c. 2023 Pay Parking Dividend Draft Allocations

Margaret O' Donoghue MDO went through the draft allocation for the 2023 pay parking dividend in the amount of €11,500 which proposes funding public realm enhancement works at Devlin Street / Clancy Street, Fermoy, noting that as Fermoy is the only town with pay parking this fund can only be allocated for expenditure in Fermoy. The elected Members voiced their support of this proposed project saying it is good to see the benefit to Fermoy from the parking fees paid in Fermoy and this should be highlighted publicly. The proposal was approved on the proposition of Cllr. Kay Dawson, seconded by Cllr. Frank Roche.

4. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

a. REPORT : April 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:

- the elected Members said they were pleased with the level of public engagement with the Part 8 process for the Mitchelstown RRDF Project. Seán O' Callaghan SEO confirmed that there were 109 submissions made in total, all of which will be considered and reviewed. A meeting will be then convened with FMMD elected Members to discuss. The statutory process will then continue to include the preparation of the Manager's Report with the final decision to be made at the July 2023 full Council meeting.
- further to a query in relation to the Fermoy RRDF proposal, it was confirmed that works required and planned for the Mallow Road junction, while being a stand alone project under the TII, will have to tie in with the RRDF proposals for Fermoy in respect of style, design, materials etc. Design works are ongoing for the Mallow road junction project.

b. REPORT : RI 2023 Programme - Progress Report

Brendan O' Gorman SEE advised that works on this programme are continuing and going according to plan. Queries from the elected Members included:

- Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien raised the issue of water still lodging and causing a problem on the soccer pitch road, Brigown to which Brendan replied that further alleviation works to deal with springs are planned here in the summer.
- Cllr. Frank O' Flynn raised the issue of the numerous potholes that continue to appear on roads throughout the district, saying this is an ongoing problem for motorists. Brendan replied saying this is the result of having experienced some of the wettest three months on record during the winter season. Brendan advised that works to repair and fill potholes are continuing and that it is envisaged that it will take two months to return roads to an acceptable condition.
- Cllr. Noel McCarthy enquired about drainage work at Richmond Hill, Fermoy to which Brendan replied this will be included in the climate action funded works to be undertaken here during the summer months (when area has less traffic due to school holidays).

c. RECOMMENDATION : Drainage 2023 Programme - Progress Report

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed those present that drainage works on this programme are continuing on schedule and according to plan.

d. RECOMMENDATION : Footpath 2023 Programme - Progress Report

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed those present that 2022 footpath programme works are continuing under the present contractor. Works on the 2023 footpath programme will commence on completion of the tender process to procure contractor.

e. RECOMMENDATION : 2023 CA&R Update

Brendan O' Gorman SEE updated those present of progress to date on this programme, which was uploaded to QuickMinutes and displayed on screen for the elected Members information.

5. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

1. “that this Committee would receive an Engineer’s report on the possibility of ramps or other traffic calming measures being put in place in St. Joseph’s Square, Fermoy”.
St. Joseph’s Loop Square is only 80m deep with two right angled bends and is unlikely to attract speeds over the speed limit of 50kph. Any excess speeds here would be from residents or visitors to the estate. We will undertake speed surveys to confirm the problem or otherwise. (BO’G)

Cllr. William O’ Leary

2. “that this Council would provide an up to date position as to when ASD communication boards will be installed in all playgrounds in the Municipal District as was approved previously”.
The provision of the ASD communication boards in playgrounds is being managed centrally in County Hall. Funding is currently being finalised and I will update Members when works are due to commence. (MO’D)
Seán O’ Callaghan SEO, in addition to this reply, informed the Members that these ASD boards are being procured on a county-wide basis and will be funded from an alternative source of funding. TDF funding previously earmarked for the provision of these boards in Fermoy MD will be returned to the MD for alternative use. Cllr. Kay Dawson, who sits on the relevant SPC, advised that these boards are provided from the outset in all newly constructed playgrounds as a standard feature and that to date twenty-one ASD boards have been installed across the county.

Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien

3. “that this Council would upgrade GAA Car Park in Kildorrery which facilitates Cork County Council bring site and also car parking for nearby Primary School”.
The GAA car park is private property. Cork County Council is happy to support a “Safety At Schools Project” that could utilise the car park as a set down area for the school subject to GAA approval and provide a raised Belisha crossing and footpath links on the public realm to the school under a future safety improvement scheme. In the meantime, Kildorrery National School have to apply for inclusion in the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programme and we will engage with the GAA authorities if a scheme is selected. The programme is an initiative of the Department of Transport and supported by the Department of Education. It is operated by the Green-Schools Programme in partnership with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and the Local Authorities. (BO’G)

Cllr. Kay Dawson

4. “call on Cork County Council in the interest of safety to reduce the hedge at cottage on Brigown road as it causes a major problem for pedestrians on this road”.
The hedge is private property. If we can get some ownership details, we could write formally to the landowner / occupier, requesting attention. (BO’G)

Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn

5. “that Cork County Council would put in place a sign at Manning Cross, Glanworth indicating Glanworth, Kilworth and Ballindangan”.
Will be done. (BO’G)

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

6. “that this Committee would consider putting temporary toilets in the Town Park, Fermoy for the summer season”.
I will consider and revert to Members. (MO’D)
During a discussion it was suggested that any contract for temporary toilet facilities would need to include cleaning and maintenance; and the provision of permanent toilets for the use of those visiting the town park was also proposed for consideration. Margaret O’ Donoghue MDO advised that as there is no budget allocated for this amenity it will need to be examined and she will revert to the elected Members accordingly in due course.

7. “that pothole repairs be carried out on the Loughahilly and the Ballyhindon roads, Fermoy; and could the road get a full resurface in the near future”.

Cul-de-sac and will be attended to in due course. Would be happy to support a CIS here for this route into the future. (BO’G)

This motion was supported by Cllr. Noel McCarthy who said there are twenty-plus households using this road. Brendan O’ Gorman SEO is recommending a CIS here, saying that with twenty-plus families on the road to share the cost it would not be too financially demanding.

Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien enquired what the 2023 CIS allocation is and how it compares to that of 2022 to which Brendan replied there are in excess of fifteen expressions of interest on file for CIS projects, but he will continue to ‘push’ for this finance stream as traditionally Fermoy MD has done very well at these schemes to date. Also, with the local contribution now reduced from 15% to 10% they are a very viable and worthwhile option for road improvements on minor roads.

Cllr. William O’ Leary

8. “that this Council would arrange for urgent road repairs on L-57721-0 cul de sac Prapp, Kildinan”.

Cul-de-sac and will be attended to in due course. (BO’G)

9. “that this Council would consider the possibility off submitting a CLÁR application under measure one of same on behalf of Conna Community Council / Conna Tidy Towns with respect to converting an existing ball alley for another specific use”.

This application will be included as project to be considered. Approval of projects will be decided centrally. (MO’D)

Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien

10. “that this Council would provide update in relation to Columbarium Wall and Rose Garden being proposed for New Kilcrumper Cemetery, Fermoy”.

Works will be progressed in Q3 / 2023. (MO’D)

Further to an enquiry, Margaret confirmed that it is planned to proceed with the installation of both the Columbarium Wall and a Rose Garden burial / interment facility for cremated remains when these works commence later this year.

11. “that this Council provide update with regard to FCA Hall, Mitchelstown, purchased under the grant for vacant and derelict buildings which can be converted for community use”.

I am currently engaging with the County Architects Department and will keep Members updated on progress. (MO’D)

Cllr. Kay Dawson

12. “call on Cork County Council to review ramp on Thomas Street Mitchelstown as a large chunk has come undone”.

Repairs will be attended to here, in due course. (BO’G)

13. “call on Cork County Council to treat weeds on market square Mitchelstown and put in place a plan to have the area swept and cleaned”.

Will be done. (BO’G)

This motion was supported by Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien. Cllr. Dawson welcomed the reply saying one good sweep of the square would have a hugely beneficial effect.

Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn

14. “that Cork County Council would extend the lights up to Ross Park Estate and improve the lighting at Barrett’s Terrace, Killavullen in the interest of safety”.

Will be proposed for inclusion on our 2024 Public Lighting Programme. (BO’G)

15. “that Cork County Council would, on the N72 from Bellevue Cross to Fermoy, cut back the hedge, clean back and improve the verges, and put signs in place indicating narrow road, in the interest of safety of pedestrians and cyclists”.

There is a very narrow verge on a section of this route and the adjacent ditch which is in private property encroaches. We will arrange a cut-back of the front face once hedge cutting restrictions end and roll back the verge to gain whatever width we can. (BO’G)

Brendan reminded the elected Members that this, being a national road, is under the overall authority of the TII, and increased signage/resurfacing on same would fall back on them.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

7. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(1) RE: Item 4(7) Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien - Notice of Motion - “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”.

Cllr. O’ Brien confirmed that a meeting is arranged to take place between the elected Members and the management of Living Health on Monday, 24th April 2023 at 6.30pm.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Cllr. William O Leary : that this Council repair footpath opposite Church in Glenville Village.

Cllr. O’ Leary is requesting work to this footpath further to representations he has received from the public.

(2) Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien : Clonmel Road, Mitchelstown - residents in 1,2, 3 Clonmel Road, near Dairygold carpark have huge incline and footpath in bad state and impossible manage landscape. Can these issues be addressed in future plans.

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE replied that there are future plans for works on this road which will incorporate the alleviation measures requested here. He further advised that Dairygold have a plan of works they need to carry out at this location which will further improve the situation when complete.

(3) Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien : Ballygiblin School - update on previous motion for safety measure.

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE advised that Ballygiblin School need to be proactive and get an application for a School Safety Scheme on the system to facilitate progress on the requests for safety works in the vicinity of the school.

(4) Cllr. Noel McCarthy : that this Council receive an update on why the flood barriers remain erected at Inches, Fermoy close to walkway adjacent to Medical Centre.

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE undertook to make contact with the OPW who have responsibility for the barriers at this location. It is Brendan’s understanding that there was an issue with a storm overflow pump and disconnected audio alarm which required these barriers to remain in situ and he will now enquire of the OPW for an update and resolution.

(5) Cllr. Noel McCarthy : that this Council carry out further traffic calming measures at Rathealy Road Fermoy.

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE advised that there is no budget for such works but he undertook to carry out a speed survey here to ascertain what action may be required.

(6) Cllr. Noel McCarthy : query re: 2023 Grass Cutting Contract.

Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied that this contract is just gone out to tender and it is planned to commence cutting at the end to April to continue until November 2023 with sixteen cuts planned.

(7) Cllr. Noel McCarthy : update on the Pollinator Plan

Margaret O' Donoghue MDO will arrange for an update on the Pollinator Plan to be provided to the elected Members.

Signed _____

Date _____