

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting
held on 20th June 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

1. MINUTES

a. Minutes of Fermoy Municipal District 'In Committee' meeting (at 11.30am) on 16th May 2023.

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

b. Minutes of Fermoy Municipal District meeting on 16th May 2023.

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

c. Minutes of Fermoy Municipal District 'In Committee' meeting (at 2.00pm) on 24th May 2023.

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

2. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

a. REPORT : MDO Report May 2023

Margaret O' Donoghue MDO went through the June 2023 MDO report the contents of which were noted by the elected Members. Margaret highlighted to the elected Members that the AGM of Fermoy MD will take place at the July 2023 meeting (on 18th July 2023).

b. REPORT : RI / RM June 2023 Progress Update (RM verbal)

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the elected Members that works on the 2023 RI and RM Programmes continue in both Fermoy and Mitchelstown areas on schedule, within budget and according to proposals presented earlier in the year.

c. REPORT : CIS / LIS June 2023 Update (verbal)

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the elected Members that there are four CIS projects approved for 2023, with local contributions for three paid to date. Also, there are three LIS schemes proposed for this year, all contributions for which have been paid in full. These scheme works will commence imminently and will be completed along with all RI and RM works by season end and in time for grant drawdown at year end (November 2023). Brendan also advised that if additional funding is available later in the year, there are three further LIS schemes earmarked which may be progressed for completion this year.

d. REPORT : Safety Improvement Scheme June 2023 Update (verbal)

Brendan O' Gorman SEE updated the elected Members in relation to the two projects being undertaken in the 2023 SIS works schedule. At O'Leary's Cross embankment works continue according to plans and, in relation to the proposed Duntahane Relief Road works, a tender pack is being prepared for the appointment of contractor. All works proposed for 2023 under the SIS are projected to be complete by end of November this year. The additional works required to complete the project at O'Leary's Cross are planned for 2024 and Brendan said, responding to a query from Cllr. O' Leary, that he is hopeful the required funding will be made available at some stage to enable these works go ahead. Brendan confirmed, further to a query from Cllr. McCarthy, that the speed radar signs previously approved are now in place on two approaches to O'Leary's Cross.

e. REPORT : Drainage Programme June 2023 Progress Update

Brendan O' Gorman SEE stated that all RI and RM job pre-drainage works are quite well advanced and are being carried out according to plan and on schedule.

f. REPORT : Footpath Programme June 2023 Progress Update

Brendan O' Gorman SEE updated the meeting that the majority of works on the 2022 Footpath Programme are now complete. Works on the 2023 Footpath Programme, previously presented and agreed, will commence following completion of the 2022 works and on the conclusion of the contractor appointment process - 2023 tender .

g. REPORT : CA&R June 2023 Progress Update (verbal)

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed those present that of ten schemes proposed under this programme, two have been completed. The remaining works will be done alongside the completion of the 2023 RI and RM programmes by a combination of Council outdoor staff and contractor led works.

h. RECOMMENDATION : King Street, Mitchelstown - relocation of Disabled Parking Bay

Brendan O' Gorman SEE explained the request he has on hand to relocate the current Disabled Parking Bay on King Street from its current location (where it is no longer needed) closer to a residence where a more pertinent need exists, and he sought the elected Members approval to proceed with this recommendation. This was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. William O' Leary.

3. NOTICES OF MOTION

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

1. "that Cork County Council would put in a footpath from the waterworks at Skahardgannon, Doneraile down as far as Turnpike Cross, Doneraile to replace where an old footpath existed along Doneraile park wall in the interest of safety and as an amenity walk".

No funding in place currently but we will keep the request on file. We do need to concentrate on existing footpaths in poor condition rather than bringing back old historic pathways. (BO'G)

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

2. "that this Committee would put a dog fouling bin on Cork Road near the side entrance to St. Colman's sports grounds and walkway, Fermoy".

For discussion. (MO'D)

This request was supported by all the elected Members. Cllr. McCarthy commended the management of this private campus for their installation of two such bins within the grounds and is now requesting this final bin which will complete the public requirement here for this facility. Margaret O' Donoghue MDO confirmed that this bin will be supplied by Fermoy MD on the understanding that it is 'serviced' by the Tidy Towns Group, as are other such bins previously provided in Fermoy.

Cllr. William O' Leary

3. "that this Council would provide a report on the number of parking fines issued in Fermoy for the period 1st January 2022 up to 31st May 2023".

Request report from parking fines section Cork County Council. (MO'D)

Margaret O' Donoghue MDO undertook to request this report from the relevant section and forward to the elected Members.

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

4. "that this Council put safety measures in place for all road users, approaching and driving on the over bridge at Carrigane, Mitchelstown".

This overbridge was installed by the TII as part of the M8 construction and all works would have passed road safety audits at that time with no interventions required. (B'OG)

Brendan O' Gorman SEE said there are no safety issues for motorists at this bridge, however, he did acknowledge that there is no width here for a centre road marking. He undertook to re-examine the location with a view to possibly providing additional roadside markings and other safety features, if feasible.

Cllr. Kay Dawson

5. “call on the relevant Authority to replace or repair damaged barriers on the ALDI roundabout in Mitchelstown”.
- This is ultimately a matter for the TII and a crash barrier replacement contract has already commenced on this N73. We will get them to assess the damaged railing here and seek appropriate funding. (B’OG)

Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn

6. “that Cork County Council put in place a hardcore area in the interest of safety of school children who access the bus at Acres Cross, Fermoy”.
- It would set a precedent for all junctions on National Roads if approved and in that regard, would need to be ratified by the TII. Can be explored in general conversations with them. (BO’G)
- Brendan O’ Gorman SEE sought confirmation on the exact location for this motion (Acres Cross is on the N72), and on ascertaining it is actually Johnstown Cross on the R512, he requested Cllr. O’Flynn revert to the school management and the school bus driver suggesting the installation of a set-down on the opposite side of the road, which is eminently more suitable for such a facility. Brendan agreed to meet with Cllr. O’ Flynn on site to inspect / discuss this request in situ.
7. “that Cork County Council give an up to date proposed timeframe for the putting in place of the much needed realignment of the crossroads at Christchurch, Fermoy”.
- No defined timeframe available as this is ultimately a TII project and is subject to certain criteria and decision gates. Traffic Modelling study has been completed by the NRO and is under consideration by the executive. (BO’G)
- Cllr. O’ Flynn requested Brendan contact the TII for an update to include a timeframe and works proposal outline for this location.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

8. “that this Committee would receive an up to date report on the taking-in-charge of Cluain na Rí housing estate, Clondulane, Fermoy”.
- The Estates Section has been engaged in addressing outstanding matters in the estate, including unauthorised development. At this time the estate is now progressing towards formal Taking in Charge, subject to sign off from Uisce Eireann and the Area Office. When the required confirmations are received the statutory Taking in Charge process will commence. (Claire Looney O’Sullivan SEO, Planning and Development)
- Cllr. McCarthy thanked Claire Looney O’ Sullivan for this response, which he said is a positive one for the residents of this estate.
9. “that road markings be re-instated at Ballyarthur Cross, Fermoy”.
- Can be replenished in due course. Tar on junction has boiled presently so no point in doing it until road surface temperatures reduce. (BO’G)

Cllr. William O’ Leary

10. “that this Council would again consider when a suitable funding stream becomes available to light the section of the road in Rathcormac from the footbridge of the Bride Road up as far as Dr. Barry’s junction”.
- This section of R626 is on our radar but unlikely to receive funding until 2025/2026 based on current RI funding levels. (BO’G)
- Brendan O’ Gorman SEE advised in relation to this motion that public lighting is not provided for in rural locations but said that solar powered light units could be considered for inclusion within the scope of future RI / outdoor amenity works being carried out here. The elected Members and Cllr. O’ Leary welcomed this suggestion.

11. “that this Council would provide a current status update with respect to future village enhancement schemes in Glanworth, Killavullen, and Glenville”.
- Draft consultation reports have just been received for Glanworth and Killavullen and are currently being assessed by Executive. (MO’D)**
- Cllr. O’ Leary queried the timeframe involved here to which Brendan replied this will be worked on within the overall scheme for villages and it would be three to four months to allow for preparatory works, drawings and proposals to be devised and compiled and then subject to a Section 38 Public consultation and planning process.

Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien

12. “that this Council make safe the junction at Ballyarthur onto the R512, where no sightlines are available to road users”.
- Sightlines are available and the junction and section of the R512 here is within a 50kph zone. (BO’G)**
- Having ascertained that Cllr. O’ Brien’s motion is in fact in relation to Ballyarthur, Mitchelstown (R517) and not Ballyarthur, Fermoy Brendan amended his reply to say if the relevant landowner is willing to cede land here, junction improvement works could be undertaken by Cork County Council.
13. “that this Council build back up the knocked pier at entrance to The Granary, Glanworth”.
- Private property. (BO’G)**
- Brendan O’ Gorman SEE confirmed that this estate has not yet been taken-in-charge, therefore Cork County Council has no maintenance obligation here.

Cllr. Kay Dawson

14. “call on TII / Cork County Council for completion date at the approach and exit from the overlay scheme at Ballynahan cross. B re surface where the slugaire on the dip of the road”.
- Has been referred to our NRO Senior Engineer for reply and comment. (BO’G)**
- Brendan O’ Gorman SEE said he had a reply from Sean Callery SE and that signage works will be complete by mid-August 2023, also works required to resolve the sluggeragh will be attended to at the earliest opportunity.
15. “call on Cork County Council for a timetable for street maintenance and a budget to deliver same in Mitchelstown going forward”.
- For discussion. (BO’G)**
- The elected Members commended the work that is currently being carried out by existing staff in Mitchelstown but are now requesting at least one full-time employee be appointed to solely concentrate on street cleaning operations in Mitchelstown. Brendan O’ Gorman SEE replied that current staffing levels are at agreed levels within the available budget, but advised there is a countywide examination exercise being undertaken in relation to street cleansing operations and it is hopeful increased budgets for this work will be identified and provided for in the future. In the meantime, current staff will continue in their endeavours to carry out this work along with their other duties.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) EMAIL : IDA IRELAND : 17.5.2023 : RE - IDA site Dublin Road, Fermoy

Having considered this reply from the IDA, the elected Members voiced their dissatisfaction with the content of this communication saying it contains no relevant information or indication of any future plans for this twenty-one acre site which remains idle and un-used.

Further to a discussion it was agreed Fermoy MD would write again to the IDA requesting a more comprehensive reply and a request for IDA personnel to meet with the elected Members of FMMD. Also, on the recommendation of Cllr. Kay Dawson, it was agreed Simon Coveney, Minister for Enterprise Trade & Employment would be copied the IDA correspondence with a request for his intervention on this matter.

5. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(1) RE: Item 5(10) - Cllr. Noel McCarthy : “that this Committee receive an Engineer’s report on the possibility of the crossing from Dealz to Hanna’s Restaurant, Patrick Street, Fermoy being authorised as a pedestrian crossing at this location”.

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE replied to this request for an update that this matter has been sent to the NDO / TII office to be progressed but no reply has been received to date.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn - that Fermoy Municipal District would support the firefighters in Fermoy and Mitchelstown and write to the Minister Darragh O’Brien in support of their cause.

Cllr. O’ Flynn expressed his solidarity with the firefighters saying they do not want to be in the situation they now find themselves but they are not being looked after. This was supported by the elected Members and it was agreed Fermoy MD would write to Minister O’ Brien accordingly.

(2) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - that this Council write to Uisce Éireann to prioritize replacement of water mains from the Protestant Church Fermoy to Castlehyde on N72.

This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn and it was agreed Fermoy MD would write to Uisce Éireann as proposed.

Signed _____

Date _____