

**Fermoy Municipal District AGM & July 2023 Meeting
held on 18th July 2023**

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

Apologies: Brendan O' Gorman SEE

OUTGOING CATHAOIRLEACH'S ADDRESS

Prior to the Election of Cathaoirleach, the outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr. Noel McCarthy thanked the elected Members, the executive, the staff and the press for their help and co-operation during his year as Cathaoirleach, saying it was a good year with a lot achieved during the year. Highlights of his year in office included his visit to Ploemeur to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the twinning with Fermoy and the very successful and well-received Civic Receptions. He also mentioned the success of the Community Grants scheme in the district. Cllr. McCarthy said one regret is the lack of a hotel proposal for the town of Fermoy but he is hopeful this will come to pass in the future. The elected Members in turn complimented Noel on his year as Cathaoirleach and thanked him for his support to and cooperation with them during his term. The election of Cathaoirleach and Leas-Cathaoirleach then took place.

1. ELECTION OF CATHAOIRLEACH

Cllr. William O' Leary was nominated by Cllr. Frank O'Flynn for the position of Cathaoirleach, this nomination was seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien and supported by all the elected Members. As there were no other nominations for the position, Cllr. William O' Leary was duly deemed elected to the position of Cathaoirleach of Fermoy MD for the coming year.

Cllr. O' Leary accepted the role of Cathaoirleach, thanking the Councillors for his nomination and election, saying it is a huge honour. He pledged to be a fair and helpful Cathaoirleach, mindful that the elected Members are facing an election year in 2024. He commented that Fermoy is lucky with their executive that they are people who really care about the MD.

2. ELECTION OF LEAS-CATHAOIRLEACH

Cllr. Frank Roche was nominated by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn for the position of Leas-Cathaoirleach, this nomination was seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson. As there were no other nominations for the position, Cllr. Frank Roche was duly deemed elected to the position of Leas-Cathaoirleach of Fermoy MD for the coming year. Cllr. Roche accepted his election to the position, thanking the elected Members for again electing him to this position.

3. MINUTES

a. Minutes of Fermoy Municipal District 'In Committee' meeting held on 1st June 2023.

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

b. Minutes of Fermoy Municipal District 'In Committee' meeting held on 14th June 2023.

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

c. Minutes of Fermoy Municipal District meeting held on 20th June 2023.

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

4. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

a. REPORT : MDO Report July 2023

Prior to presenting the MDO report, Margaret O' Donoghue MDO thanked Cllr. Noel McCarthy for his assistance to her since her appointment as MDO and congratulated Cllr. William O' Leary on his election as Cathaoirleach, saying she looks forward to working with him.

Margaret O' Donoghue MDO then went through the contents of the July MDO report, available on QuickMinutes for the Members information. Queries and comments on the report included the following:

- further to a query from Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, confirmation was given that the provision of a power source will be included with the works in the Town Park.
- Cllr. O' Flynn enquired in relation to the RRDF plans for Fermoy. Seán O' Callaghan SEO replied, saying that the TII will be involved with the development of these proposals as the scope of the proposals will include the junction of the N72 with the R639 (Mallow Road junction). The elected Members will be informed as soon as any plans are available for consideration.
- also in relation to RRDF funding, further to an enquiry from Cllr. William O' Leary, Seán O' Callaghan SEO advised that Cork County Council now awaits the 'call for funding' from the Department and will submit the Mitchelstown Enhancement Works proposals for consideration when that time comes. It is not known when this will be, but these plans are now ready for submission when that opportunity arises.
- further to a query from Cllr. Kay Dawson, Margaret replied that the pay parking machines upgrade to facilitate card payments is to be funded from existing pay parking dividend monies; and it was accepted funding for additional such upgrades will need to be ring-fenced from future pay parking income.
- further to a suggestion from Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien that Fermoy MD purchase additional land adjacent to Fermoy Town Park, with a view to expanding the park, Seán O' Callaghan SEO responded that neither the funding for such a purchase or the resources to develop and maintain such an expansion are available, adding that Fermoy is lucky to have the Town Park it has and to have it maintained to such a high standard. Cllr. Noel McCarthy stated he would support the proposal to purchase this land.
- Cllr. Noel McCarthy enquired in relation to the recent closure of the public toilets on Ashe Quay, Fermoy to which Margaret O' Donoghue MDO replied there is an ongoing issue with 'unhygienic vandalism' which is totally unacceptable and is completely unfeasible for staff to be expected to clean. Fermoy MD will have to consider options in relation to this situation and while the toilets are currently re-opened it remains to be seen if there will be any further incidents of this anti-social activity. All the elected Members expressed how appalled they are at such abuse of this facility and recommended An Gardaí Síochána be informed of the situation and requested to trace and apprehend the perpetrators.

b. REPORT : Derelict Sites Report July 2023

The elected Members noted the content of this Derelict Sites Report which was presented to them by Margaret O' Donoghue MDO. Further to a request for more detailed information in relation to some entries on the register, Seán O' Callaghan SEO recommended an 'in committee' meeting be convened, possibly in September, to further discuss particular properties / sites. The Members welcomed this recommendation and it was agreed this meeting would be held.

c. REPORT : 2023 RI Programme July 2023 Update

and

d. REPORT : 2023 RM Programme July 2023 Update

Darren Kenneally EE informed the elected Members that works on these programmes are continuing on schedule, within budget and as per the works programmes presented at the start of the year, despite some weather issues during the works season.

e. REPORT : CIS / LIS July 2023 Update

Darren Kenneally EE informed the elected Members of the four CIS projects, one is 100% complete and the second one has commenced. Agreed LIS projects will commence in tandem with the other roads works programmes and will be completed before year end.

f. REPORT : Safety Improvement Scheme (SIS) July 2023 Update

Works proposed under this scheme remain as per the update provided by Brendan O' Gorman SEE at the July 2023 meeting.

g. REPORT : Drainage Programme July 2023 Progress Update

Drainage work continues to be undertaken in preparation for projects on the RI and RM programmes.

h. REPORT : Footpath Programme July 2023 Progress Update

Darren Kenneally EE advised that, at this stage, the majority of the works on the 2022 Footpath Programme are complete and that the 2023 Programme works will commence in August/September 2023 pending confirmation of contractor appointment (following tendering process).

Cllr. Kay Dawson requested the seat be re-installed at the top of Church Hill near the pedestrian entrance to the Church grounds (where there was a seat previously). Darren undertook to liaise with Cllr. Dawson to finalise the preferred style and location for this seat, which he will then arrange to install.

i. REPORT : CA&R July 2023 Progress Update

Darren Kenneally EE advised that these works will commence on completion of the RI and RM programme works, which will be towards the end of the 2023 works season.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy requested the elected Members be advised of commencement dates of road works such as those carried out by Uisce Eireann recently on Emmet Street, Fermoy. This is to allow them to keep the public informed accordingly.

j. RECOMMENDATION : Disabled Parking Bay, Killavullen Main Street

The recommendation for this Disabled Parking Bay was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien.

5. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

1. "that this Council would consider a designated parking space outside the home of No. 8 St. Joseph's Square, Fermoy (a doctor's letter has been provided)".
There would be little pressure on individual spaces outside people's homes in this out of town estate and is not recommended. (BO'G)
Cllr. McCarthy said he will revert to Brendan O' Gorman SEE for reconsideration of this request at a later date.

Cllr. William O' Leary

2. "that this Council would carry out an assessment of the Araglen to Kilworth Road L-1421-19 with regard to the future installation of crash barriers at notable locations if budgets ever allow".
It will not be possible to install a crash barrier on this local primary road owing to the restricted costs and the lack of a stable soil to found the barrier, without incurring additional concrete footing costs (minimum costs would be in the order of €120,000 but this could rise to €180,000). There would be a number of higher category regional roads where our priorities lie currently. (BO'G)

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

3. "that Cork County Council provide more parking spaces at St Joseph's Square, Fermoy to meet the needs of the residents in the interest of safety".
Can be considered if last years successful pilot scheme can be rolled out further across the district, subject to housing directorate funding. (BO'G)
This motion was supported by Cllrs. McCarthy and O' Leary. It was agreed that the pilot programme of providing additional parking in local authority estates had been successful and was very well received by the residents. Going forward, and pending funding from Housing Directorate, each elected Member will be asked to nominate an estate for future installation of this additional parking.

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

4. "that this Council install ramp for access to footpath at Cope Foundation, Ballinwillin and that overhanging hedging be removed for the safety of service users".
Dished Footpath crossing will be provided opposite the entrance. The trees adjacent on the grass margin will be lopped in due course. There is no hedging. (BO'G)
This motion was supported by Cllr. Dawson. Cllr. O' Brien will clarify the exaction location for the work requested here with the Engineer.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

5. "that this Committee would consider writing to TII to put more traffic calming measures in place on the N72 either side of Kilmagner National School highlighting the danger of a school on this part of the road".
We will write to them. Periodic reduced speed limit already in place for school. (BO'G)
This motion was supported by all the Members, who concurred that with growing numbers attending the school and the speed of traffic, increased safety measures are indeed warranted. In addition to writing to the TII, it was also agreed that An Gardaí Síochána would be requested to arrange for a speed van to attend at this location.
6. "that this Committee would put a speed detector sign in place either side of the entrance to Glenabo Woods to help the residents living on this section of the road to remind motorists to reduce speed. Could we also write to Coillte to cut their boundary on this road".
We could alternate existing DFS on Duntaheen Road with this location. There are no funds for a new DFS. Coillte have been written to in relation to maintenance of their roadside boundary. (BO'G)

Cllr. William O' Leary

7. "that this Council would consider the L-5775-0 and the L-5775-11 Glenagoul, Kildinan for future RI resurfacing programmes".
Sections will be considered for future works in future RI overlay programmes. (BO'G)
8. "that this Council would outline the next phase of the Part 8 Plans previously approved for Rathcormac and a timeframe for their commencement".
There is no funding in place to advance any projects or future phases at this stage, save for the VES beside the Garda Station Junction which is due to start mid-late July. (BO'G)

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

9. "that Cork County Council would repair and realign the wall on the top of the New Market Square in Mitchelstown".
Will be budgeted for in 2024. (BO'G)
This reply was welcomed by Cllrs. O' Flynn and Dawson as this will make navigation of the square easier for motorists. Cllr. O' Flynn enquired if the proposal to introduce a one-way system for traffic driving around New Market Square could be kept under consideration.
10. "that Cork Council would investigate and rectify the pavement, which has been the cause of some falls recently, in the vicinity of Bermingham's Shop on Patrick Street, Fermoy".
Small lip created by movement of flag stone, possibly by car wheel driving over edge of footpath and raised kerb. Will be attended to without delay. (BO'G)
This motion was supported by Cllr. Noel McCarthy who also highlighted the section of footpath between Hanley's Newsagents and 'The Pantry' restaurant on Pearse Square, Fermoy which is in need of repair.

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

11. "that this Council seek to increase the service of a street sweeper in Mitchelstown based on the successful example from local town of Fermoy".
For discussion. (MO'D)

Cllr. O' Brien stated that Mitchelstown is currently not getting its fair share of street cleaning works with a much lower level of service compared to Fermoy. She is now requesting this situation be rectified. Cllr. Kay Dawson supported the motion saying Mitchelstown needs additional staff on these duties and an increased budget for same. Cllr. Frank O' Flynn also supported the motion, saying a full-time sweeper machine is required for Mitchelstown. He added that this has been raised at both CPG and Northern level and this request needs to be supported by all the elected Members and the executive. Seán O' Callaghan SEO referred to the response given by Deputy CE James Fogarty at a recent full Council meeting in relation to this issue. He added budgets will be up for discussion later in the year and hopefully funding can be identified and provided for at that time. It will be back to the elected Members at budget time to ensure the provision of this required funding. Cllr. William O' Leary said that equality for all towns with regard to provision of services would be the desirable / preferred option at this stage, if possible.

12. "that this Council have all signage upgraded, for increased visitor experience, enhance aesthetics and also to remove those causing any visual clutter".

Can only be considered with the introduction of a new budget allocated for same. Not really an issue for our rural towns where the signs installed are at a minimum to enforce traffic parking and regulatory bylaws. (BO'G)

In relation to signs, Cllr. Kay Dawson pointed out that the sign for Ballyporeen at 'Sutton's Corner' needs to be rectified as it has been turned. Cllr. Noel McCarthy requested that the cleaning of signs, which used to be carried out before, be re-introduced.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None

7. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - Update on the collapsed Derelict building in Mitchelstown

Margaret O' Donoghue MDO replied that Cork County Council is liaising with the property owners of this building. She suggested this issue be raised in conjunction with the derelict sites meeting to be held in September.

2. Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - Update on Traffic flow at Junction of St. Georges Church, traffic light survey carried out?

Darren Kenneally EE replied he will convey this issue to the relevant contractor for investigation and resolution.

3. Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - Update on safety barriers erected on the footpath, in front of the Dairygold Car Park (under construction), and the length of time they have come in to being in existence.

4. Cllr. Noel McCarthy and Cllr. Kay Dawson - "That this Committee write to the Manager of South Doc to seek an immediate meeting to discuss the future services of the Fermoy/Mitchelstown District".

All the elected Members agreed with this proposal, saying the issue is a huge concern for all in the municipal district and that any change or reduction in this service is unacceptable. It was agreed that this meeting would be sought as a priority and to this end this correspondence is to be sent at the earliest opportunity.

5. Cllr. Kay Dawson - Request to remove dead tree at Lower Cork Street, Mitchelstown.

This tree is beside the new bus stop recently installed near the 'Dealz' shop.

6. Cllr. William O' Leary - purchase of Department of Defence site at Dublin Road, Fermoy
Cllr. O' Leary asked that the prospect of Fermoy MD / Cork County Council purchasing this land at Dublin Road, Fermoy be kept 'on the table' and that all possible funding sources be examined to facilitate this acquisition.

7. Cllr. William O' Leary - Congratulations to Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

Cllr. O' Leary offered his congratulations to Cllr. Frank O' Flynn on his recent election to the position of Mayor of the county of Cork and wished him all the best for the coming year. All present concurred with these congratulations and good wishes.

Signed William O' Leary

Date 26.9.23