

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

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

1. **'IN COMMITTEE' MEETING RE: Derelict Sites** (separate minutes)
2. **NOVEMBER 2023 MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**a. Minutes of Fermoy Municipal District Meeting held (in County Hall) on 9th October 2023**

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

**b. Minutes of Fermoy Municipal District Meeting held on 17th October 2023.**

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

3. **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**a. REPORT : MDO November 2023 Report**

Margaret O' Donoghue MDO went through the November MDO report, displayed onscreen and available on QuickMinutes. The elected Members acknowledged and agreed the proposed Christmas parking arrangements in Fermoy for the 2023 festive season. Margaret confirmed that posters will be in place advising the public of the Christmas parking arrangements. The Members voiced their approval of the Christmas events planned for the district and said it was good to note that Cork County Council had supported many of these events and the Christmas lighting across the MD. The motto 'Stay Local, Shop Local' this festive season was the recommendation of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn. The Members noted other items included under other headings and thanked Margaret O' Donoghue MDO for this update.

**b. RECOMMENDATION : Removal of Trees on public footpath - GAA Pitch Road, Ballyhooly**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE, referencing the photograph displayed of the location, drew the elected Members attention to the two trees which are growing in the footpath and causing obstruction. Brendan is now recommending that one of these trees be removed completely, while the second can remain in situ but requires cutting back and 'grilling off' to make it safe. These remedial works, as recommended, were approved on the proposal of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy.

**c. RECOMMENDATION : 15 Minute Parking Bays x 2 - Baldwin Street, Mitchelstown**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE said that the introduction of the 15-minute parking bays across the district has been a complete success in every location where they have been installed and is now recommending two additional such bays in Baldwin Street, Mitchelstown, for which he is seeking the elected Members approval. The installation of these two bays was approved on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson.

**d. REPORT : 2023 CA&R Progress Report (verbal update)**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE updated the meeting on the CA&R 2023 programme saying a number of these planned projects are now complete, with other works ongoing and others planned such as embankment repair works in Araglin, and Molly Barry's Cross, Duntahane Road outstanding drainage projects. He is very satisfied with these schemes saying they are working out well for Fermoy MD. Cllr. Noel McCarthy expressed his gratitude to all the staff carrying out the works across the district, this was agreed by the elected Members.

#### 4. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

##### Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

1. "that Cork County Council arrange to have the lighting on Kent Bridge, Fermoy improved in the interest of safety of all road users as a matter of urgency."

Our Public Lighting section has informed us that whilst these lights will be replaced in due course under the Countywide PLEEP contract, they have reiterated the faults with their public lighting contractor and the request to repair immediately. (BO'G)

This motion was supported by Cllrs. Noel McCarthy and Kay Dawson, who said the lighting on the bridge is diabolical as it is and badly in need of repair / replacement as it is dangerous for pedestrians. Brendan O' Gorman SEE advised that there are wattage and power issues with these light fittings which cause regular outages on an ongoing basis and he said the bulbs are to be replaced as they blow. Also, there are new lamps ordered which will be installed under the ongoing countywide PLEEP contract as soon as they have been delivered, these had to come in from China, hence the delay.

##### Cllr. Noel McCarthy

2. "that this Council carry out traffic calming measures on the Rathealy Road, Fermoy to help reduce speed at this location".

We will undertake speed surveys here as a first response and when a budget is made available to advance traffic calming schemes in the district, we will advance proposals. Speed feedback sign already in place covering the locus. (BO'G)

Cllr. McCarthy said there are drivers using this route as a shortcut to avoid traffic and traffic lights on the main route, and the wide-ness of the road is the issue here as it allows for excessive speeds. Brendan acknowledged that this is the issue and agreed that road narrowing and traffic calming would be the solution here, but said there is currently no budgetary provision for such traffic calming measures.

##### Cllr. Kay Dawson

3. "call on Cork County Council to fill pot holes on the L-5604-0".

Will be done. (BO'G)

##### Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

4. "that this Council would provide update with regard to the resurfacing of the R512 from Kildorrery to Rockmills".

1.1km scheduled under our 2024 Restoration Improvement Proposals for a complete structural overlay. (BO'G)

##### Cllr. William O' Leary

5. "that this Council would prioritise applications for Rathcormac as a priority under the climate adaptation fund for 2024 in the absence of the rollout of the wider CFRAMS scheme for the village".

Will be done. (BO'G)

Cllr. O' Leary said this issue has already been raised at both full Council and Northern Committee level, but it appears that replies from the Department are putting the onus on Cork County Council to carry out interim measures pending the next tranche of CFRAMS funding, which is unacceptable. Rathcormac was by far the worst effected area in this district in the most recent weather events with significant flooding to property on two occasions. Cllr. O' Leary was supported by all the elected Members present, who agreed Rathcormac will have to be prioritized for flood relief / remedial measures. Brendan O' Gorman SEE said he absolutely supports anything that can be done here, saying required works are planned for in 2024, but these works are dependent on a budget being provided to meet our expectations.

### **Cllr. Frank O' Flynn**

6. "that Cork County Council put further traffic calming measures in place in Rathealy Road, Fermoy including soft ramps in the interest of safety of all road users".  
**Reply as per No. 2 above. (BO'G)**  
Cllr. O' Flynn enquired if a 'soft ramp' could be considered for installation here, which would slow traffic down.
7. "that Cork County Council put in place traffic calming measures on the recently resurfaced Richmond Hill, Fermoy in the interest of safety".  
**We will undertake speed surveys here as a first response here, but I do not expect excess speed. Calming not recommended on the hill owing to sharp gradients. (BO'G)**

### **Cllr. Noel McCarthy**

8. "that this Council would carry out road works to prevent flooding entering the property at P61 KW98 Kilally, Kilworth, Co. Cork".  
**Works will be investigated to reduce flooding impacts here. (BO'G)**
9. "that road repairs and drainage works be carried out on the Coolmucky, Coolroe roads, Fermoy".  
**Drainage and pothole repairs scheduled. (BO'G)**  
Cllr. McCarthy said the issue here is that as one local road was closed by Uisce Eireann when carrying out water repairs, other local roads, both the official detour and others, were damaged by increased traffic, and he is enquiring if the UE contractor is liable for the repair to these roads. Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied that there was no significant additional impact on the public roads in question and works, as per his reply, will be scheduled. Private roads are not a matter for the LA.

### **Cllr. Kay Dawson**

10. "call on Cork County Council to reinstate green light on pedestrian crossing in Mitchelstown (near Paddy Power's)".  
**Will be done. Fault logged. (BO'G)**  
Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien commented that there appears to be an increased incidence of faults with the traffic lights across the district, especially in Mitchelstown, and enquired if there is a reason for this, to which Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied the age of the installations may be a contributory factor.
11. "call on Cork County Council to include in this years budget that Mitchelstown can have regular use of the large sweeper".  
**We will endeavour to get it into the area as much as possible, subject to supporting budgets, staff and availability of machine. (BO'G)**  
This motion was fully supported by Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien who said a sweeper is needed full-time in Mitchelstown, and the current sporadic sweeper service is not satisfactory.

### **Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien**

12. "that this Council would provide additional lighting on the road at Kingston College into Dairygold Farm in interest of safety".  
**Public Lighting already in place. For discussion. (BO'G)**  
Cllr. O' Brien explained that the current lighting provision in this location is ineffective and the area is quite dark and could be dangerous, particularly for those attending funerals at the 'Chapel of Rest' Baldwin Street. Brendan O' Gorman SEE said he would include this location in the list for consideration either in the PLEEP or 2024 Public Lighting Programme. Cllr. Kay Dawson asked that care be taken when installing any new light fixture that it would not interfere with the integrity of the view / visual aspect of this heritage location.
13. "that this Council would purchase a 'Glutton Collect Electric Street Waste Vacuum' cleaner for use on Mitchelstown Streets".  
**Decision will be based on the provision of increased street cleaning MDO budgets and additional outdoor staff to man same. (BO'G)**

Cllr. O' Brien said Mallow town have one of these machines and it would be of great benefit to Mitchelstown for street cleaning and also keeping drains free of leaves. Cllr. Kay Dawson said she supported the sentiment of the motion but thinks the MD also needs to support the budgetary requirement for an additional employee to work on street cleaning in Mitchelstown (and who would be available to operate this machine). Brendan O' Gorman SEE said he supports the motion but reiterated that a relevant and sufficient budget needs to be provided here.

### **Cllr. William O' Leary**

14. "that this MD would put together a planned maintenance programme for all drains and gullies over the coming weeks and months".

**There are dedicated teams allocated to ongoing and regular drainage maintenance throughout the year across the entire 1438km in our district. (BO'G)**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE added to his reply that with 1,438 kilometres of roadway across the district it is an ongoing battle to maintain drains and keep gullies free. He assured Cllr. O' Leary that CCC outdoor staff are constantly engaged in drainage works and this is a major priority in everyday work operations. Brendan added that property owners should be available and willing to clear gullies and drains adjacent to their properties if this action would reduce the likelihood of flooding in their properties. Further to Cllr. O' Leary's appeal in relation to the recent bad flooding in Rathcormac, Brendan replied that the rainfall in October was unprecedented and groundwater levels are at saturation point, which no drainage works can alleviate or overcome. Cllr. Frank Roche suggested the operators of agricultural machines and farmers be encouraged to drive over and back over furrows inside field entrances prior to driving out onto the road, which would reduce the incidence of water flowing out onto the road through these channels.

15. "that this MD would confirm when ASD board will be implemented in all playgrounds".

**I can confirm these signs (one for each playground) have been ordered centrally, are to be delivered to each MD in the county, and will be erected in the playgrounds in due course. (MO'D)**

A photograph 'proof' of the suggested ASD board was displayed onscreen for the Members information and all agreed the installation of these boards would be of great benefit in the MD playgrounds.

### **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

### **6. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**(a) RE: Cllr. Noel McCarthy Notice of Motion 4(9) October meeting.**

**"that this Committee receives an up-to-date report from Estates Management, Cork County Council on the Manor Housing Estate in Clondulane being taken in charge".**

An email reply to this motion, received during the meeting, was read out for the information of those in attendance, as follows: "*As the taking in charge application is a developer application, the developer has been written to, requesting their assistance in transferring title of the common areas in the estate and the carrying out of any necessary snags, to enable Cork County Council to take the estate in charge. No response has as yet been received*".

**(b) RE: Cllr. Kay Dawson Notice of Motion 6(2) September meeting.**

**"call on Cork County Council to trim grass edges of the footpaths on the ring road in Mitchelstown. The grass has encroached onto path and is making it difficult for walkers".**

Cllr. Dawson sought an update on this, to which Brendan O' Gorman SEE responded this work will be done. He also confirmed that maintenance works on the ring road, such as these, are the responsibility of the local CCC area office and not the NRDO office.

7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - Update on the pedestrian Bridge at Kilshanny, Mitchelstown. Previous motion.**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE responded that a land purchase would be required to do the requested works here. Also the recommended course of action here would be an SIS (Safety Improvement Scheme) for which funding would need to be available. He added that the MD needs to prioritize works and the use of budgets when it comes to land acquisition and, accordingly, he does not consider this proposal to be justifiable at this time.

**2. Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - Lighting replacement at John Mandeville**

Brendan advised that the light fittings required here are being sourced from China and will be installed as soon as they are delivered. This may be before the end of 2023, or could be early 2024.

**3. Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - Captain Keane's Grove, Mitchelstown, update on hedging to be cut.**

Cllr. O' Brien is to confirm the precise location for this request, and Margaret O' Donoghue MDO will arrange for this work to be carried out.

**4. Cllr. Noel McCarthy - that this Council would repair potholes in Devlin Street, Fermoy**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE confirmed that these potholes will be filled; and said there is likely to be full resurfacing of Devlin Street in 2024.

**5. Cllr. Noel McCarthy - that this Council contact Irish Water to please let residents know when water is being turned off for maintenance works so people can make arrangements.**

The elected Members agreed to this proposal and it was decided that Fermoy MD would correspond with Uisce Eireann requesting them to inform the public in any area where planned works are going to interrupt water supply.

**6. Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Request to permanently change time of Fermoy MD meetings.**

Cllr. McCarthy asked if it was possible to change the official time of the FMMD meetings from the afternoon to the mornings going forward, as it would be far more suitable. Following a brief discussion, this change of time was agreed, with the meetings to be held at 11.00 am from now on.

Signed

William O'Leary

Date

14-12-23