

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting
held on Tuesday, 26th March 2024**

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,
Catherine Price CO

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. William O’ Leary proposed a Vote to Sympathy to Cllr. Kay Dawson on the recent death of her mother, Mrs. Sheila Quinlan. This was agreed and condolences were expressed to Cllr. Dawson by the elected members and executive staff in attendance at the meeting.

Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien proposed a Vote of Sympathy to PJ Kenny EMLO, Mitchelstown on the recent death of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Maureen Daly. This was supported by the elected members.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anam.

1. MINUTES

a. Minutes of Fermoy MD February 2024 Meeting held on 20th February 2024.

The Minutes were agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien.

2. TIC, DISPOSALS, GRANTS, LEASES ETC.

a. To consider the proposal “that, being satisfied that a public right of way exists over it, and the road is of general public utility, Cork County Council hereby declares pursuant to Section 11(1) of the Roads Act, 1993 the following road to be a public road:

ESTATE NAME Ballinlegane LOCATION Ballynoe, Conna LINEAR METRES 78”.

The Members noted the information and map submitted in relation to this proposal, and it was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy.

3. COMMUNITY FUND REQUESTS

a. Mitchelstown Community Council (Forrest Hall) - request for change of description of 2023 Community Grant (Amenity).

This re-allocation request was granted on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien and agreed by the Members.

4. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

a. REPORT : March 2024 MDO Report

The Members noted the contents of the MDO report, welcoming the update on the Fermoy RRDF project. Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn asked for confirmation on the date of the June 2024 meeting, Margaret O’ Donoghue MDO undertook to check this and revert accordingly. Cllr. William O’ Leary enquired if Fermoy MD will support the annual Spring Clean endeavours of community groups in April, to which Margaret O’ Donoghue MDO replied yes, groups can make direct contact with the area offices and collections will be arranged.

b. RECOMMENDATION : 2024 DRAFT COMMUNITY GRANT ALLOCATIONS

Margaret O’ Donoghue MDO, with the assistance of Catherine Price CO, went through all the proposed grant payments for 2024. There were one hundred applications this year seeking financial support from a budget of €198,250. Five applications were moved to Town Development Fund status and of the remainder there were 76 successful applications, the list of which was circulated to the elected Members. Reasons for refusal to the unsuccessful applicants were detailed by Margaret in response to the Members queries. The elected Members welcomed the announcement of these grants, saying it is good news for the district and a great endorsement of the work being carried out by community groups and associations. They thanked Margaret and Catherine for all the work they had undertaken in processing the applications and compiling the grant proposals within such a short timeframe. The 2024 Community Grant Allocations, as presented, were approved on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn and agreed by the members.

c. RECOMMENDATION : 2024 DRAFT TOWN DEVELOPMENT FUND ALLOCATIONS

Margaret O’ Donoghue MDO went through the proposed funding under the Town Development Fund for 2024 and these proposals were welcomed by the elected Members, and adopted on the proposition of Cllr. Kay Dawson, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien.

d. RECOMMENDATION : 2024 DRAFT VILLAGE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE went through five drawings showing proposals for Glenville village under the 2024 Village Enhancement Scheme. Glenville is the third village included for village enhancement works in 2024, the other two being Glanworth and Killavullen, presented at the February 2024 meeting. These sketches are for information purposes (note: the proposals for Glenville will require Part 8 permission) and they show proposals which will enhance safety in the village for residents and pedestrians, as well as greatly improving the visual aspect of the village. The proposals were agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank Roche, seconded by Cllr. William O’ Leary.

e. RECOMMENDATION : 2024 RI Programme

f. RECOMMENDATION : 2024 RM Programme

g. RECOMMENDATION : 2024 CIS Programme

h. RECOMMENDATION : 2024 CCA&R Programme

i. RECOMMENDATION & UPDATE : 2024 Drainage Programme

In relation to these five Agenda items, Brendan O’ Gorman SEE informed the elected Members that these 2024 works programmes have now been approved. Works have commenced on the RI and RM programmes, with associated drainage works carried out in advance. Works are ongoing and will continue throughout the season to completion by finance year end throughout the district. Works on the seven proposed CIS projects will commence later in the season, pending payment in full of local contributions levied. CCA&R programme works will also be undertaken as the year progresses, with fourteen locations included for upgrade works under this scheme.

j. UPDATE : 2025 / 2026 draft RI Programmes

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE advised the elected Members that whilst not ‘set in stone’ the draft RI programmes provided for 2025 and 2026 are indicative of the preferred schemes which have been selected for works over the coming number of years. These works are entirely dependant on necessary funding being available and provided in these years ahead.

Comments and queries in relation to these updates provided by Brendan, and other roads issues, included:

- Cllr. Kay Dawson enquired if anything could be done to improve the surface of the Limerick Road (R513) which is very rough and uneven in places. Brendan replied that there are plans to carry out hot patch repairs at this location.
- Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien enquired if anything could be done to remedy flooding on the R522 (between N73 and Hannon’s Funeral Home), to which Brendan replied that saturation of the adjoining lands is contributing to this flooding, but he will arrange for this road to be examined with a view to alleviation measures being undertaken. He added that this road is on a list for potential surfacing within the next year or two.
- Cllr. Noel McCarthy enquired if the surfacing of Fitzgerald Place, Fermoy could be done earlier than planned to which Brendan replied this is not feasible as the 2024 programme is now in place and agreed. As confirmed, down for overlay in 2025.
- Brendan advised that some discretionary works will be undertaken in Dromleigh further to a request from Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien, as there are bad potholes at this location.

5. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn

1. “that Cork County Council would put in place crash barriers on the road from Araglin bridge to Araglin at Knockatrasnane and Ballinaparka Kilworth, in the interest of safety of all road users, on these two dangerous sections of road”.

The request outlined would cost in the region of €500K and is beyond the resources of local road operations. In addition, whilst the sections of road abut a deep valley and flood plain respectively, there is no recent accident history trend to suggest cars are leaving the road at either location. Vehicle restraint systems are already in place for a section of the Ballinaparka route. (BO’G)

Brendan confirmed at the meeting that there is no funding available for this request, but said if RI works are being done on these sections of road, safety measures and VRS may be incorporated with the road works if funded.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

2. “that this Committee receive a deputation from Kilmagner National School Board of Management for the April meeting”.

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson and agreed by the Members.

Cllr. William O’ Leary

3. “that this Council would again consider applying under the active travel measures for the provision of a footpath from Rathcormac village to the Mondaniel junction on the R639”.

It is not a question of applying for NTA active travel funding. There are warrants for each proposal and each scheme will be judged on its own merits. There are other legacy schemes on the radar in this district that members have been championing (e.g. link from Curtin’s Farm to Downing Bridge, Kilworth via R639 Moorepark interchange) that would receive higher priority for inclusion in this limited funding stream. The proposed link from Mondaniel back to the village would cost in the region €475,000 to include for walking and cycling infrastructure with solar lighting and would be subject to a Part VIII planning regardless. (BO’G)

This motion was supported by Cllrs. Noel McCarthy and Kay Dawson.

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE added to this reply that he would be in support of this request, and as there is no land take required, this would involve a re-allocation of the existing road area (hard shoulder). However, this location is not on the NTA radar at this time, the highest priority for funding and progression at this time is the access pathway to Moorepark. However, Brendan will request the Roads Design section to prepare a proposal to have this project shovel-ready should funding become available in the future.

Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien

4. “that this Council would repair damaged wall of bridge at Castlepook, Doneraile following car accident”.

This has been actioned and repairs will be undertaken here over the summer months. (BO’G)

Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn

5. “That Cork County Council would put in place a zebra crossing at the existing crossing in Patrick Street, Fermoy in the interest of safety of all road users”.

This is on a National Road and any Safety Improvement Scheme here will be advanced by the NRO/TII. We have already asked for this project to be advanced on foot of previous Councillor representations. (BO’G)

This was supported by Cllr. Noel McCarthy. Cllrs. Dawson and O’Brien said public education on the use of pedestrian crossings is needed to improve safety. Further to a suggestion that the crossing at Centra be removed and the one at Hannas be upgraded to being the official crossing for Patrick Street, Brendan O’ Gorman SEE responded that the existing crossing at Centra needs to remain as this remains a desired crossing point for many pedestrians at this location. He advised that the NRDO have been requested to inspect the situation; also he is recommending that the courtesy crossing at Hannas be upgraded to a formal controlled crossing. He indicated he may have a proposal for consideration at the April 2024 meeting. He is hopeful any upgrades in this regard could be done when the NRO resurfacing of Patrick Street goes ahead. He noted that changes here may require a relocation of the existing loading bay.

6. “that Cork County Council would repair and replace the wall on the approach to Killavullen Bridge, which was recently breached”.
Section of roadside boundary at the small bridge on the northern side of local road (L-5406) approach to the junction will be made safe. Further sections of walling requiring repair approaching the main bridge will be investigated. (BO’G)

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

7. “that potholes and road repairs be carried out on the Ballymacsimon road, Castlelyons, Co. Cork”.
Actioned. (BO’G)
8. “that road repairs and potholes be filled in on the Coolroe road, Fermoy”.
Actioned. (BO’G)
Brendan confirmed that these roads are being patched and maintained on an ongoing basis.

Cllr. William O’ Leary

9. “that this Council would consider the provision of a raised table in the interest of safety on the approach to the playground at Dispensary Lane, Rathcormac”.
Already included in the successful application for a 2024 Safety Improvement Scheme at the junction north and outside the playground. Works will be advanced over Q3 2024. (BO’G)
10. “that this Council would carry out drainage works on the R639 on the approach to Rathcormac by L-90806-0 to alleviate issues with surface water”.
Works have already commenced further north of here and are due to re-commence at the locus and towards the village in a matter of weeks. (BO’G)

Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien

11. That this Council would reinstate bollards at entry on road L-5646-0 from Main Street, Glanworth”.
Actioned. (BO’G)
12. “that this Council would install measure to alleviate flooding at entrance to P61 FX09 (Ballyclough, Kilworth)”.
Due to the topography of the area, saturated nature of lands presently, runoff flowing onto the public road here, and no natural watercourse or outfall nearby, this section of road is in a saucer and the road surface water has nowhere to go. We are looking at putting in some roadside linear soakways at both approaching legs of the junction to help the situation on the ground and this work will commence in a number of weeks. (BO’G)

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None

7. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(1) Cllr. William O’ Leary - Report for Rathcormac Deputation

Margaret O’ Donoghue MDO advised that this report (only received and available since Monday 25th March) will be circulated to the elected Members and can be discussed, if required, at the April 2024 meeting.

(2) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - improvement works at side entrance, Fermoy Town Park

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE advised that work cannot be carried out here until area has dried out sufficiently.

(3) Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien - query re: working of school warning lights at Glenahulla NS

Cllr. O’ Brien undertook to re-examine these lights and revert to Brendan, on being informed that some of these traffic signals are on a timer in accordance with the school schedule. Cllr. O’ Brien will clarify if lights are working as they should do in due course.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - Load of stone/chip for roadway into Farrahy Graveyard

This will be supplied as requested.

(2) Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - Traffic lights at Upper Cork Street retiming - large build up of traffic at a standstill on Brigown Road at Schools opening and closing.

Brendan O' Gorman SEE undertook to arrange an inspection of these lights to identify any issues that may require remedial action.

(3) Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - Community Recognition Grant - would the renovation of FCA Hall be eligible for this grant

Margaret O' Donoghue MDO replied that she is currently looking at the scope of works required here and overall costings, and she will revert to the elected Members in due course.

(4) Cllr. Kay Dawson - footpath at Funeral Home, Doneraile

Cllr. Dawson asked if the grass be 'pushed back' off the footpath here, to which Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied he will arrange inspection and works, if feasible.

(5) Cllr. Kay Dawson - speed on road at Funeral Home, Doneraile

Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied that this will be highlighted to An Garda Síochána with a request for additional enforcement.

(5) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - request for repainting of 'TAXI' rank markings in Fermoy

Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied that this is a matter for the TII as this is on a national route and there is a current lining contract in place to re-line this National road.

(7) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - seeking information on works to be done on McCurtain Street

Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied that there is €450,000 allocated for road works on the old N8 in Ballybeg/Gloccamorro, Mitchelstown this year. A request for funding for the R639 at the Range which includes sections on McCurtain Street was unsuccessful in 2024 but we will try again for 2025, proposals for work on McCurtain Street from Abbey Street to the Square will also be incorporated into the future RRDF proposals for Fermoy.

Signed _____

Date _____