

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting
held on 18th February 2025
in Fermoy Town Hall**

In Attendance: Cllrs. Nelius Cotter, Kay Dawson, Deirdre O' Brien, Peter O' Donoghue, Frank O' Flynn, William O' Leary, Seamus de Faoite A/DOS, Aidan Creagh SEO, Brendan O' Gorman SEE, Margaret O' Donoghue MDO, Lydia Kelly ASO.

AT 10.30 AM - 'In Committee' Update on Derelict Sites

Margaret O'Donoghue MDO circulated the Derelict Sites report to those in attendance and went through the information contained therein. She advised that all administrative work in relation to derelict sites has been carried out by Fermoy MD staff in conjunction with TRO (Town Regeneration Office) staff. The executive personnel in attendance responded to any queries the Members had and they in turn thanked Margaret and the staff involved, acknowledging the tremendous work that has been done on derelict sites in the area over the past number of months.

Agenda Item - Any Other Business 8(1) in relation to the suggested **"artistic commemorative piece for Tom and Marie Cavanagh and all who contribute their time, money and energy to the communities of Fermoy and surrounding areas"** was also discussed 'in committee' at this time. With no decision made it was agreed that there would be further discussion on this by the elected Members at a later date.

1. MINUTES

a. Minutes of Fermoy MD January 2025 Meeting held on 22nd January 2025

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

2. DEPUTATION - Residents of Scart, Kildorrery

Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien welcomed the deputation to the meeting and introduced Peadar Collins and Keith Kinsella to those in attendance. Peadar outlined the grave concerns of those living near a dangerous bend located about 500m from the centre of Kildorrery on the R512. He said there had been a succession of accidents at this bend, some serious. There is a path alongside the road which is regularly used by pedestrians as a popular walking route and he thinks there is a serious risk to these pedestrians. Keith Kinsella, who lives adjacent to this bend described some of the accidents which have occurred and his experience dealing with the immediate and after effects of these accidents. One of these accidents resulted in a vehicle hitting his house while others have caused serious injuries to vehicle occupants, something Keith says he never wants to witness again. The most recent of these distressing accidents was in December 2024. Both speakers are appealing to Fermoy MD to do something to alleviate the danger here and remove the risk of any further events before there is a very serious or fatal accident. Keith acknowledged the help and cooperation he has received from Brendan O'Gorman SEE to date in relation to this location.

The elected Members unanimously supported the deputation and will welcome wholeheartedly any proposed remedial measures. A report will be prepared for the consideration of the elected Members at a future MD meeting. Peadar and Keith thanked the elected Members and the executive for the opportunity to attend the meeting and make their presentation.

3. DISPOSALS, GRANTS, LEASES, TAKING-IN-CHARGE ETC.

a. Disposal of Property at Coolcarran, Cork Road, Fermoy

"to consider the proposed disposal of property ~ Situation: Coolcarran, Cork Road, Fermoy, Co. Cork. Area: Whole Folio CK158929F (Plan 6). From Whom Acquired: Unknown - in Council ownership since 1937. To Whom It Is Proposed To Dispose: South Coast. Consideration: €25,000".

The Fermoy MD elected Members considered the information provided for this proposal and this Disposal of Property, as detailed above, was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson.

b. Disposal of Site at Ballyogaha West, Bartlemy, Co. Cork County Council

“to consider proposed disposal of site ~ Situation: Disposal of Site at Ballyogaha West, Bartlemy, Co. Cork Area: as outlined in Folio & File Plan CK118100F From Whom Acquired: Registered to CCC since 2005. To Whom It Is Proposed To Dispose: Kamil Kozbial. Consideration: €15,000”.

Aidan Creagh SEO informed those present as follows “Fermoy MD is not proceeding at this time on Section 183 Ballyogaha West, Bartlemy as the Council has recently established a dedicated Property Management Unit to review all such lands currently in Council ownership”.

4. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

a. REPORT : February 2025 MDO Report

Margaret O'Donoghue MDO went through the MDO report for the information of those present. It was decided that the March 2025 meeting would be deferred by one week to 25th March 2025.

Queries and comments in relation to the MDO report included the following:

- in relation to cemeteries and a capacity concerns in some burial grounds, Margaret replied that she is aware of the numbers of spaces available in cemeteries throughout the district. She advised works to resolve any capacity issues will be carried out (e.g. installation of additional beams in Araglin cemetery).
- also in relation to cemeteries, Margaret replied to a query that the base for the Columbarium Wall has been constructed in Kilcrumper Cemetery and installation of same will take place when weather permits.

b. REPORT : 2025 Drainage Programme

Brendan O'Gorman SEE advised that all roads (> 200km) on the 2025 RI and RM programmes are included on this drainage programme, works on which have already commenced. Any additional *ad hoc* drainage that is required as the season progresses will be dealt with as the need arises.

c. REPORT : 2025 Footpath Programme

Brendan O'Gorman SEE went through the footpath programme for 2025, noting it presents a good distribution of footpath works across the towns and villages in the MD. He answered any queries the Members had in relation to these works which included:

- Cllr. O'Leary sought an update on the aspirational request for a footpath at Deerpark, Castlelyons to which Brendan replied NTA funding will be sought for this project.
- Cllr. O'Donoghue queried the widths of the footpaths and carriageways in Kilworth to which Brendan replied that all road design is carried out properly and correctly with approved prescribed widths so that roads and footpaths can be used successfully by all.

5. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Cllr. Peter O' Donoghue (seconded by Cllr. O'Leary)

1. “that this Council would look to creating a position for a School Warden at Ballyhooly National School”.

The Community, Tourism and Rural Development Directorate will investigate this request. Provision of a new School Warden position will require consultation and approval from both Human Resources Directorate as it involves the creation of a new position and Finance Directorate as a budget to fund the position would have to be sourced. In addition the request will have to be considered in conjunction with other similar requests for new School Warden positions across the county. We will report back to Elected Members at the next MD meeting on the matter. (MO'D)

This motion was supported by the elected Members as this is a very busy main road and the car park being used by the majority of those bringing children to Ballyhooly school is across the road.

Cllr. William O' Leary (seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue)

2. “that this Council would provide an update or any information it may have regarding any plans for resurfacing of the N72 between Fermoy and Tallow”.

For National Roads response.

Cllr. O'Leary commented that this road is in a bad state of repair and urgently needs resurfacing.

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn (seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue)

3. "that Cork County Council put in place a footpath from Fermoy town to Corrin Roundabout in the interest of safety and as an amenity for walkers".

No funding currently available for the request. We will raise with NTA for future Active Travel Schemes in the district. (BO'G)

This motion was supported by the elected Members who noted there are a lot of people walking and running on this section of road. It was stated that additional funding for footpaths in the district would be desirable.

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien (seconded by Cllr. O'Flynn)

4. "that this Council would consider additional signage/measures to the Bus Stop in Ballyhooly, to warn motorists that parking is disallowed, this being an issue at school times".

The School Bus Stop is adequately lined. Perhaps an advisement role for the local community Garda or perhaps School Principal in his engagement with the Parents Council. (BO'G)

Both Councillors O'Brien and O'Flynn are advocating for additional measures and signage here to improve safety.

Cllr. Kay Dawson (seconded by Cllr. O'Brien)

5. "call on Cork County Council for timeframe for resurfacing the Clonmel Road, Mitchelstown".

Footpath works scheduled here for this year. Overlay resurfacing to the value of €309,000 provisionally allocated for 2026 RI. (BO'G)

Cllr. Dawson said that she is pleased with the reply but disappointed that work will not be done until 2026, to which Brendan O'Gorman SEE responded that both Dairygold and Uisce Eireann have a lot of digging out and re-instatement work here so the time delay to 2026 may be advantageous in order for these to complete their works before resurfacing commences.

Cllr. Peter O' Donoghue (seconded by Cllr. O'Brien)

6. "that this Council would commit to marking and lining the Coach road between Glenseskin Bridge Kilworth and the Mountain Barracks, Araglen".

Where there is a road width of greater than 5.3m, the centre line will be installed. Already with our lining contractor following previous recent local representation from Cllr. O'Donoghue. (BO'G)

(seconded by Cllr. O'Brien)

7. "that this Council would investigate the cause of the flooding issues on the Brigown Road, Mitchelstown near Park United AFC and carry out the necessary works needed to prevent flooding on this stretch of road".

Underground springs and surface water runoff from adjacent fields come up at road edge and under the road at this point. We have undertaken drainage upgrades in this area in 2024 to trap this water and one item remains to open up a land drain on private lands. We have landowner agreements to enter said lands but only when it dries up. So, it will be during Q2 to finalise this. (BO'G)

Brendan added to this reply that there is no dedicated grant funding for this work; it is CCC own area discretionary roads funding that will be used to complete the last of the planned works here.

Cllr. William O' Leary (seconded by Cllr. Cotter)

8. "that this Council would consider if and when funding is available the possibility of traffic calming measures at Bridesbridge, Castlelyons particularly by the pre school".

It will be considered if a funding stream opens up. (BO'G)

This motion was supported by Cllrs. Cotter and O'Donoghue. Cllr. O'Leary said he has had contact from a lot of the parents of children in attendance at this pre-school, and it is important to look after these facilities as they are vital to the area they serve.

Brendan added that the proposed 30kph speed limit to be introduced in June 2025 should have the effect of calming the traffic at this location. Brendan added that he is in support of this request but does not have specific or adequate funds for this work.

(seconded by Cllr. O'Brien)

9. “that this Council would write to OPW regarding any update they may be able to provide regarding their future intentional use of Conna Castle”.
- Cllr. O’Leary informed those present that while the grounds of Conna Castle are currently open to the public for their use and enjoyment, the castle building remains closed off for health and safety reasons. The elected Members unanimously supported this motion and it was agreed contact would be made with the OPW accordingly.
- It was also decided that this motion would be referred to the Cork County Council Historical Monuments Committee for their consideration.

Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn (seconded by Cllr. O'Brien)

10. “that Cork County Council put in place a pole with a sign indicating bus stop outside Ballyhooly National School in the interest of safety on the N72 in order that the school bus can park there safely to drop off and collect school children”.
- We can erect signs but there is no parking by-law to enforce here (nor would you be putting one in a rural village). Bus Bay is already lined. Also the space is needed for church goers over the weekend. See No. 4 above. (BO’G)

(seconded by Cllr. O'Brien)

11. “that Cork County Council remove the debris and silt on the footbridge next to Farrahy Bridge on the N73 at Farrahy, Kildorrery”.
- Will be done. (BO’G)

Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien (seconded by Cllr. Dawson)

12. “that this Council would investigate, with view to the provision of further lighting on Ashe Quay, Fermoy, in the interest of safety for visitors to/from the Fermoy Community Youth Centre”.
- We will raise the request with our Public Lighting Section and/or our PLEEP team to consider an upgrade here. (BO’G)

(seconded by Cllr. Dawson)

13. “that this Council would provide a report on the uptodate on the public lighting in Mitchelstown, where a numbers of clusters of lights are not working”.
- For Roads Public Lighting unit.*
- This motion was supported by all the elected Members who are regularly receiving public representations about sections of the public lighting network which have been out of order for long periods of time.

Cllr. Kay Dawson (seconded by Cllr. O'Flynn)

14. “call on Cork County Council for any update on location and funding for a skate park for Fermoy”.
- The Fermoy Municipal District have previously investigated potential sites for a skate park in the town but a suitable location within Council ownership has not been found.
- The Fermoy MD will continue to investigate opportunities for a potential site and welcome the input from Elected Members on that process. With respect to a budget for the proposed skatepark this will likely have to be grant funded. As the majority of available grant schemes are for “shovel ready” projects the priority at the stage is to source a suitable site and then look for approval to move the project to Part 8. (MO’D)

(seconded by Cllr. O'Flynn)

15. “in the interest of safety, call on Cork County Council to install traffic calming measures to reduce speed on approach to Castlelyons via Rathcormac Lane L-5788-6”.
- This is to be included in the development works associated with the housing development permitted under 19/4755 and extended under 24/4595, currently under construction and nearing completion.
- The new 30 kph zone (June 2025) will include for this area also. (BO’G)

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None

7. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Cllr. Peter O'Donoghue - can we discuss my motion below where we had agreed in November to park the motion and consult with the constituents.

“That this Council would consider erecting an artistic commemorative piece for Tom and Marie Cavanagh and all who contribute their time, money and energy to the communities of Fermoy and surrounding areas”

This item was discussed 'in committee' prior to the start of the statutory meeting.

2. Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien - Public Lighting update on Mulberry Road.

Discussed with Notice of Motion 5(13) in relation to public lighting.

3. Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien - Kilshanny Bridge traffic survey taken on Monday 10th 8am to 9am.

Cllr. O'Brien informed the meeting of road user and vehicle numbers, given to her following a survey undertaken by a member of the public, in support of the previous request for a pedestrian walkway at this location.

4. Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien - Remove fully poster pole sticking up on pavement at Garda Station, Mitchelstown.

Cllr. O'Brien stated that this is a trip hazard for pedestrians at this location.

Signed _____

Date _____