

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting
held online on Tuesday, 19th January 2021 (on MS Teams)**

In Attendance: Cllrs. Kay Dawson, Noel McCarthy, Deirdre O' Brien, Frank O' Flynn, William O' Leary, Frank Roche; Brendan O' Gorman SEE, Mary Hayes SEO, Pauline Moriarty MDO, Lydia Kelly ASO.

At the start of the Meeting, An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Kay Dawson wished all in attendance a Happy New Year and welcomed them to the first meeting of Fermoy MD to be held via '*Microsoft Teams*'.

1. MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Fermoy MD December 2020 meeting held on 15th December 2020.

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

2. BUS EIREANN BUS SHELTERS

1. Bus Eireann Bus Shelters - Jonathan Cahill EE, CCC Traffic & Transportation Section

Jonathan Cahill referred to previously circulated plans and discussions relating to the upgrade of the Bus Eireann bus stops on McCurtain Street, Fermoy and in Mitchelstown to wheelchair accessible bus shelters and asked the attendees for their comments and queries on this proposal. The proposals for Mitchelstown do not pose any issues and the Members are happy with these. In relation to Fermoy, there is an issue with the plans for the bus shelter on the southbound direction (Bella Cafe side) through Fermoy due to the loss of parking spaces and inconvenience to residents, who say they were not consulted. Jonathan advised the Members that these current proposals are for the existing bus stop locations only and that, if a change to these locations is made, a new licence would be required and this funding would not be available. A comprehensive discussion ensued. Following this discussion the bus shelters proposal for Mitchelstown was approved on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson. In relation to Fermoy there was no consensus as some of the Members cannot, at this time, approve the proposed location for the southbound route bus shelter in Fermoy. Further to a recommendation from Mary Hayes SEO, it was agreed that an 'in-committee' meeting would be convened to further discuss the situation. This meeting will convene prior to the February 2021 meeting, to facilitate the Members in reaching a final decision on this issue in time for the February meeting. The Members thanked Jonathan for his attendance at the meeting.

3. DISPOSALS, GRANTS, LEASES ETC.

1. To consider the disposal of property situated at Old Fire Station, Fermoy, Co. Cork with area as outlined on folio CK125681F, from whom acquired unknown - predates Council records, to Pdraig O'Sullivan for the consideration of €45,000.

The Members considered the information provided for this proposal and this Disposal of Property was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy.

2. To consider the disposal of property situated at Colaiste an Chraoibhin, Fermoy, Co. Cork area 0.689 hectares (1.703 acres) which is part of Folio CK9646, from whom acquired unknown - registered to Cork County Council since 1979, to Cork ETB for the consideration of €100 (nominal fee).

As members of the board of Cork ETB, Cllrs. Kay Dawson and Noel McCarthy absented themselves from this decision, citing potential for conflict of interest.

The remaining Members considered the information provided for this proposal and this Disposal of Property was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. William O' Leary.

4. COMMUNITY GRANT RE-ALLOCATION REQUEST

1. Request by Castletownroche Community Hall to amend their 2020 Amenity Grant in the amount of €800 from *installation of external locking system to repair of roof to alleviate a dampness issue.*

The Members considered this request and this amendment to the Castletownroche Community Hall 2020 Amenity Grant was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Kay Dawson, seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn.

5. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. REPORT : January 2021 MDO Report (including update on Fermoy Remediation & Fish Bypass Project).

Pauline Moriarty MDO went through the contents of her report, uploaded for the Members consideration. In relation to a query about proposals for Doneraile, Brendan O' Gorman SEE went through the plans for the three main elements of the works proposed here, which include the creation of a hub in the town centre and the provision of a new bus bay. In relation to Coolagown, the design drawings will be done within the scope of a masterplan for the village. Brendan assured the Members that plans and proposals for all works in the district will be presented to them for their information and consideration prior to going to public consultation. Mary Hayes SEO added that any designs for Doneraile will be examined to ensure they are suitable for and in keeping with the overall public realm works planned for this heritage town. The Members noted the contents of the report under other headings and welcomed the proposals presented therein. They thanked Pauline for her report and acknowledged with gratitude the volume of work carried out by the executive staff in the preparation of designs and plans, and successful funding submissions, all of which require a great deal of effort.

6. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

1. "that Cork County Council would make available a designated number of camper van/motorhome overnight parking sites in Fermoy town to meet the increased need due to the growing number of camper vans/motor homes on the road, so that Fermoy and the surrounding areas would facilitate tourism and benefit economically from their presence".

I have referred this motion to the Director of Services for Economic Development, Enterprise & Tourism in the first instance for update on CCC motorhome policy and will revert to Members when I have this update. (PM)

This motion was supported by all the Members who agreed that a facility such as a campervan park would be a very desirable facility for holiday-makers and others who wish to stay in Fermoy. Pauline Moriarty MDO confirmed she will revert to the Members when she receives a response.

Cllr. William O' Leary

2. "That this Council would urgently consider putting in place traffic calming measures outside Castlelyons National school on the L-1520-11 owing to genuine concerns raised about the volume and speed of traffic travelling both northwards and southwards on this section of road".

No traffic calming budget currently made available in this district and local community council have refused our offer of a speed detector and speed feedback unit for the area (based on 50% contribution). Area is within a 50kph zone and speed issues should be continually referred to Garda Authorities for effective enforcement. (BO'G)

This motion was supported by Cllrs. Frank O' Flynn and Noel McCarthy. Cllr. O' Leary undertook to revert to the Community Council in relation to the acquisition of the speed detector units and to make contact with An Garda Síochána in relation to the speeding issues here.

Cllr. Kay Dawson

3. "call on Cork County Council to write to the environmental section of Cork County Council to have installed a charging point for electric vehicles in Mitchelstown".

This motion was supported by all the Members. Cllr. Dawson explained that she had received a lot of enquiries for this facility and there may be a loss of trade to Mitchelstown if potential shoppers cannot charge their vehicles in the town. Pauline Moriarty MDO undertook to write to the Environment Directorate in this regard; whilst Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed those present that

for new commercial planning applications/permissions that require large car parking areas associated with their development, we seek 10% of the overall parking spaces to be designated as electric charging points and provided/serviced as such.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

4. “that this Committee would make a budget available over a three year period for the continuation of a footpath from Grange Stud to Grange National School, the cost associated with same is €125,000 approximately”.

Depending on the width of the path, the costs involved here based on current rates would be in the order of €162,000 based on a 1.6m wide path. The existing path from Grange cross to the Stud would also need upgrading at a separate and additional cost of €33,000. Even over a 3 year plan, €54,000 per annum would exceed our overall annual allocation for footpaths for the entire MD. I will endeavour to seek funding streams from Active Travel and NTA funding for same in future calls for funding. (BO’G)

Cllr. McCarthy explained that this well-warranted facility is keenly sought after by the residents in this area with good reason and he is now enquiring if any other agencies or community efforts could be utilised to progress this project. Brendan O’ Gorman SEE explained that due to Health and Safety concerns and construction requirements it is no longer feasible for local community workers to undertake construction works on such projects. Brendan assured Cllr. McCarthy, however, that he will be proposing this path under a NTA Active Travel future measure and will give this request consideration going forward. He recommends the local volunteers engage with the relevant landowners and request, as an interim measure, that encroaching hedges/verges be cut back as much as possible to (possibly) uncover the original limestone pathway that existed on this road (R-512-203). The motion was supported by Cllrs. Frank O’ Flynn and Frank Roche.

Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien

5. “that this Council would approve Disabled Persons Parking Bay at P67 T622 Thomas Street, Mitchelstown (support documents provided)”.

Will be done. (BO’G)

Cllr. O’ Brien enquired as to the timeline for this work, to which Brendan O’ Gorman SEE replied it will be when Covid-19 Level 5 restrictions have been lifted, as this is not deemed essential work.

Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn

6. “that Cork County Council replace and repair the damaged fence on the village green at Clondulane in the interest of safety”.

Will be done. (BO’G)

This motion was supported by Cllr. Noel McCarthy, who complimented the local community who maintain this area, and by Cllr. Frank Roche. Brendan further advised that the budget maybe available from MD funds to replace this fence.

Cllr. William O’ Leary

7. “that this Council would look at the possibility of installing Autism Friendly Communication Boards in all playgrounds in the Fermoy Municipal District as well as giving commitment that any future upgrades to playgrounds would ensure they are made ASD friendly”.

Can be investigated. (PM)

Cllr. O’ Leary explained how these communication boards work, and how they can be beneficial to users who experience communication and language skills issues, as well as persons with autism. The motion was fully supported by all the Members, who welcomed the potential introduction of such communication boards in MD playgrounds. Cllr. Kay Dawson enquired if the provision of these boards could be incorporated into Cork County Council playground policy to which Pauline Moriarty MDO replied the MD Director of Services has responsibility for playgrounds and maybe able to assist with this enquiry. Mary Hayes SEO suggested this motion be forwarded to the Social Inclusion Policy group for their consideration.

Cllr. Kay Dawson

8. “call on Cork County Council to ask Irish Water to reinstate road surface in Ardwillan, Mitchelstown (11 Ardwillan)”.

Water Services Department of Cork County Council have been written to re locus and motion. (BO’G)

Brendan confirmed that he had not yet received a response to his communication.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

9. “that this Council would consider putting a Columbarium Wall in Kilcrumper Graveyard for the storage of urns and could cost be given for same”.

Can be considered. Note no source of funding currently available for this. (PM)

This motion was supported by all the Members who would welcome the installation of a much needed *Columbarium* or *Rose Garden* facility for the internment of cremated remains in the district. Pauline Moriarty MDO advised the Members that she had some preliminary work done in this regard on foot of previous motions, with a suitable location tentatively selected and she undertook to enquire about costs and prepare an update for the Members on this proposal.

Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien

10. “that this Council would have all road signs cleaned, many have become illegible due to the build-up of dirt on the surface”.

Whilst it is difficult if near impossible to keep all signs regularly clear from dirt, we do endeavour to address these issues as soon as they become apparent under our normal routine maintenance duties. (BO’G)

This motion was supported by Cllrs. Noel McCarthy, Frank O’ Flynn and Frank Roche. Brendan added to his reply that it is not currently possible to carry out this work due to Covid-19 Level 5 restrictions.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

1. EMAIL : E. Farrell, Bus Eireann : 17.12.2020 : RE Fermoy MD/Expressway X8

Noted.

8. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

RE 6(7) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Notice of Motion re: IDA site, Dublin Road, Fermoy

Cllr. McCarthy enquired if any reply had be received, to which Pauline Moriarty MDO replied she had not received replies to the Fermoy MD letters sent to the IDA or Enterprise Ireland.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Brendan O’ Gorman SEE - Funding call from the NTA

Brendan informed the Members that there were currently 31 Active Travel scheme applications in this district for 2021 / 2022, totalling €1.4 million, submitted to the NTA for their consideration.

(2) Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien - Query on number of Notices of Motions allowed for MD meetings.

Further to this query, Pauline Moriarty MDO undertook to enquire from the other MDs as to the number of motions permissible across the county and revert to the Members accordingly.

(3) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Query re: lighting up of Fermoy Park

Further to the success of this lighting at Christmas, Cllr. McCarthy enquired if there is any update on Fermoy Park being lit up going forward. Pauline Moriarty MDO said she is considering a more permanent lighting solution here with possible funding from the Town Development Fund in 2021.

(4) Cllr. William O’ Leary - Query re: Grant for speed detector / speed feedback unit.

Cllr. O’ Leary asked if community groups can apply for funding for these speed detectors under the scope of Community Grants funding applications, to which Brendan O’ Gorman SEE replied no, that community groups need to pay 50% of the cost of these detectors from their own funds.

(5) Cllr. Frank O' Flynn - Information fao Members

Cllr. O' Flynn informed the Members that, based on information he received at a corporate policy group meeting, meetings are to continue on *MS Teams* for the foreseeable future and parks and green areas are to remain open.

Signed Kay Dawson

Date 16 - Feb 2021