

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting
held on Tuesday, 21st July 2020**

In Attendance: Cllrs. Kay Dawson, Noel McCarthy, Frank O' Flynn, William O' Leary, Frank Roche; Brendan O' Gorman SEE, Mary Hayes SEO, Diane Finucane A/MDO, Lydia Kelly ASO.

Apologies: Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

Prior to the election of Cathaoirleach and Leas-Cathaoirleach, the outgoing Cathaoirleach Cllr. Frank O' Flynn expressed his gratitude to his fellow Members, the executive and staff of Cork County Council for their work and cooperation during his time as Cathaoirleach, saying it had been a busy, challenging and successful year.

Cllrs. Noel McCarthy and Cllr. William O' Leary congratulated and complimented Cllr. O' Flynn on his year as Cathaoirleach.

1. ELECTION OF CATHAOIRLEACH

Cllr. Kay Dawson was nominated by Cllr. Noel McCarthy for the position of Cathaoirleach, this nomination was seconded by Cllr. Frank Roche. As there were no other nominations for this position, Cllr. Kay Dawson was duly deemed elected to the position of Cathaoirleach of Fermoy MD for the coming year.

On taking the Chain of Office, Cllr. Dawson said she was privileged and honoured to take up the position, adding that the Fermoy MD is a great team, a great working group with ongoing success and continuing positive results and will continue to work in this fashion.

2. ELECTION OF LEAS-CATHAOIRLEACH

Cllr. Frank Roche was nominated by Cllr. Noel McCarthy for the position of Leas-Cathaoirleach, this was seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson. As there were no other nominations, Cllr. Frank Roche was duly deemed elected to the position of Leas-Cathaoirleach of Fermoy MD for the coming year.

3. MINUTES

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Fermoy MD June 2020 meeting held on 11th June 2020.

The Minutes were agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson.

4. PRESENTATION: PART 8 DEVELOPMENT - LANDS AT CONVENT ROAD, DONERAILE, CO. CORK

Part 8 Development - Lands at: Convent Road, Doneraile, Co. Cork. The construction of 17 no. residential housing units, comprising of 4 no. 1 bed single storey houses, 4 no. 2 bed two storey dormer houses and 9 no. 3 bed two storey houses.

James Keane SEO, Housing went through the particulars for this planned development which had previously been presented to Fermoy MD members on 26th January 2019. Having now completed the required public consultation it is planned that this proposal, with the Chief Executive's report, will be placed on the Agenda for the full Council meeting on Monday, 27th July 2020 with a recommendation to approve the proposed development. This housing scheme proposal was welcomed by the Members and the development was proposed by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy and agreed by the Members.

**5. PRESENTATION: BUS SHELTER/ ACCESSIBLE BUS STOP PROGRAM - PHASE 2
Traffic & Transportation Section, Cork County Council :: Presentation Bus Shelter/Accessible Bus Stop Program Phase 2**

Jonathan Cahill EE went through the proposals for the provision of bus shelters and accessible bus stops in the district which includes two stops each in Mitchelstown, Fermoy and Watergrasshill. In reply to varying queries from the Members Jonathan clarified the following:

- the NTA will only fund bus stop facilities at existing bus stops, not where stops may be relocated.

- bus shelters can be installed in Rathcormac in conjunction with future public realm works.
- a *Part VIII* procedure will be required for the installation of any build-outs to facilitate bus shelters.
- the proposed bus shelters design includes a narrow bench-type seat and the roof height is 1.8m.

The Members thanked Jonathan for his presentation and welcomed the proposals for these long-awaited bus shelters in Fermoy MD. The Members did, however, strongly resist any proposal that will result in the reduction of car parking spaces in Fermoy town and this consequence will have to be re-considered before this proposal is agreed and brought to installation stage. Mary Hayes SEO said Fermoy bus stop locations will be looked at when the overall plan for Fermoy is being prepared.

6. TAKING IN CHARGE Bridevale, Rathcormac
REF: Estates Section, Cork County Council

1. 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 Bridevale LOCATION Rathcormac LINEAR METRES 79

The Members noted the documentation and maps submitted in relation to this proposed taking-in-charge, and it was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. William O' Leary.

7. RURAL REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

Presentation of proposals for funding recently secured in the amount of €270,000.00 (€360,000.00 overall project development cost) for the development of a Georgian Cultural/Heritage Quarter for Mitchelstown extending from St. George's Church to King's Square under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund.

Mary Hayes SEO went through her comprehensive set of proposals for the utilisation of this fund in the creation of a Georgian cultural/heritage quarter for Mitchelstown. She said the next step will be full consultation with the local community and stakeholders. The proposals were unreservedly welcomed by the Members who agreed this is a tremendous boost and exciting opportunity for Mitchelstown, and they thanked Mary for her considerable work in securing this funding and for her presentation today. The Members will welcome the progression of these proposals at the earliest opportunity.

8. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. REPORT : MDO Report July 2020

Diane Finucane MDO went through the items on her report, uploaded for the Members information.

- Item 1 - Town Development Fund Project ACT: Diane informed the Members that almost all the projects listed are now confirmed and she will forward the 'concepts', when available, to the elected Members.
- Item 4 - Fermoy Leisure Centre/Swimming Pool: the Members welcomed the re-opening date as early October, saying they hoped this timeline will be achieved. Diane undertook to keep the Members updated at all stages.
- Item 5 - Pay Parking Arrangements (in Fermoy): The Members acknowledged that the free parking arrangement in the Fermoy carparks is working very well and proving to be very successful. Following a brief discussion, it was decided, on the proposition of Cllr. William O' Leary seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy and agreed by all the Members, that this arrangement would continue for the remainder of 2020. All parking provisions, by-laws and arrangements for Fermoy MD will be re-examined, discussed and put in place by 1st January 2021.

2. REPORT : Rockmills R512 Safety Improvement Scheme/Traffic Calming - Section 38 Final Report (approved)

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that this Safety Improvement Scheme is approved to proceed and will be placed on the Agenda for full Council consideration and adoption at the earliest opportunity.

Brendan added that there are three others Safety Improvement Schemes proposed for the municipal district: one at Ballyarthur Cross, Fermoy which is ready to proceed; one at the Church in Killavullen the design for which is currently being modified; and one in Glenville the design for which is being prepared. It is envisaged that the plans for these three schemes will be ready for presentation to the Members at the next meeting and Brendan is hopeful there is no land purchase required here.

3. RECOMMENDATION : Public Lighting New Works Programme 2020

Brendan O' Gorman SEE went through the proposals of this programme which include the provision of eleven new public lights throughout the district. Further to a query in relation to St. Bernard's Place, Fermoy Brendan advised this housing estate issue will be dealt with as part of a separate county-wide upgrade programme for public lighting in older estates, under the remit of Michael Cotter SEE. The programme as presented was approved on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy and agreed by all the Members.

4. RECOMMENDATION : Footpath Programme 2020 proposals

Brendan O' Gorman SEE went through the proposals for the footpath programme 2020, which combines funds from three sources (the 2019/2020 Footpath Grant, the Age-Friendly Grant and a contribution from long-term damage fund) and includes proposals for work at sixteen locations throughout the district. Brendan said the Contractor is presently working on the current programme and this work will continue for the next three / four months. The proposals were welcomed by the Members and on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson and agreed by all the Members, the Footpath Programme, as presented, was agreed.

5. PROGRESS REPORT : 2020 RI Programme

6. PROGRESS REPORT : 2020 RM Programme (verbal update)

7. PROGRESS REPORT : 2020 Drainage Programme

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that works on these programmes have commenced, are ongoing, progressing according to plan and within budget. All planned drainage works are complete. Covid-19 implications have resulted in a delay of three months on the RI and RM programmes, but it is envisaged works will continue until November 2020 to ensure programmes reach completion. Brendan added that LIS and CIS works are also scheduled to be carried out this year. The Members welcomed the progress reports on these programmes, complimenting Brendan and the crews on work well done.

The Members requested that their good wishes be conveyed to Kieran O' Connor, District Supervisor on his recent retirement from Cork County Council. They also requested a good luck message be relayed to Paddy Coneely, Assistant Engineer on taking up his new appointment with the OPW.

8. NTA Project ACT Grant 2020

Brendan O' Gorman SEE went through the works proposed in Fermoy and Mitchelstown using this (provisional) fund of €135,000, details of which are uploaded for the Members information. He explained a *Section 38* will be required for these proposals, which include pedestrian crossings, the provision of new footpaths and footpath widening works. The proposals were adopted on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy and agreed by the Members.

9. CLÁR 2020

The closing date for applications for Clár projects is 31st July 2020. There are four communities in Fermoy MD who have been selected for applications this year and these are:

- Ballynoe village - footpath from the GAA to the National School.
- Glenahulla NS - installation of a oneway system where the adjacent site has been purchased. This will require planning permission.
- Coolagown - Clár works which will be part of the overall planned works for the village.
- Castletownroche - plan in place for a link between the GAA and the village.

There is a maximum grant of €50,000 per project for Clár schemes and as Cork county will succeed in having only ten projects chosen for the entire county, Fermoy MD will be lucky if one of their applications is sanctioned. These four comprehensive applications will be submitted and other schemes, such as Curraglass, will be kept on a waiting list for future consideration/submission.

9. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

1. "that Cork County Council give an up to date report and timeframe for the taking in charge of Riversdale housing estate, in Rathcormac".

A presentation was made in respect of 'Taking in Charge of Estates Framework' to the Development Committee of Cork County Council on Monday 13th July 2020 by the Director of Service, Planning & Development. A Countywide Framework - Plan of Action was outlined to the members. This is to be implemented by a 'Bundle' approach per division. A scope of works is being prepared for the initial bundles of which Riversdale, Rathcormac is not included. At this stage it is not possible to put a timeframe for the Taking in Charge of the estate in question, however the Estates Section, Planning & Development Department will update members on progress. Please note that the Public Lighting has been Taken in Charge in the Riversdale Estate, Rathcormac.

(Seán O'Brien AO, Estates and Enforcement, Planning and Development)

Cllr. O' Flynn requested this estate be included in the above-mentioned 'bundle' and Cllr. Noel McCarthy enquired if snag list works in estates, some of which are minimal, could be carried out by the residents (associations) themselves. Further to a discussion, and on the proposition of Cllr. Kay Dawson seconded by Cllr. O' Flynn, it was agreed that a representative of the Estates and Enforcement Section of the Planning and Development Department would be requested to attend a future meeting of Fermoy MD to answer Members queries.

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

2. "that this Council would put in ramps on Mulberry Road in the interest of safety for residents".

As per adjacent road in Brigown, when we are resurfacing the entire route under RI funding, we can put in ramps as we go. We have no budget currently for a standalone calming scheme. Mulberry Lane is down for resurfacing in 2022 so ramps will be done then. (BO'G)

Deferred as Cllr. O' Brien not in attendance.

Cllr. William O' Leary

3. "that this Council would carry out footpath repair works at Kent Terrace, Castlelyons".

Local repairs will be carried out in Q3. (BO'G)

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

4. "that this Council reviews Fermoy's twinning association with Nowa Deba in light of their stance on LGBT rights and, if necessary, terminate or suspend its association with the Polish town".

Cllr. McCarthy explained that Nowa Deba (with whom Fermoy has been twinned since 2006) has decreed, along with numerous other municipal districts in Poland, a policy which discriminates against the LGBT+ community. Fermoy MD supports a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and diverse community and cannot support this decree. Cllr. McCarthy is now requesting a letter be written to the Nowa Deba administration seeking they clarify their position, offer an explanation and remove this discrimination. Pending their reply, Fermoy MD should suspend co-operation with the twinning arrangement. Cllr. McCarthy was supported by the Members and it was agreed this letter be sent to Nowa Deba by Fermoy MD.

Cllr. Kay Dawson

5. "call on Cork County Council to treat or remove grass on Newmarket Square and surrounding footpaths".

Weed treatment No. 2 will be prioritised for the area when the contractor returns to the town. (BO'G)

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

6. "that Cork County Council refurbish and paint the statue in Fermoy town library car park".
Works will be scheduled in the coming weeks. (DF)
Diane Finucane A/MDO said the statue is in good condition, and cleaning/painting works will be carried out on the pedestal which will improve the overall appearance.

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

7. "that this Council would approve request for a disabled parking bay at 17 James St., Mitchelstown (permit attached)".
Approved. (BO'G)

Cllr. William O' Leary

8. "that this Council would have a discussion as to how this Municipal can best tackle the issue of dog fouling as it is evident the issue is continuing to worsen".
Town Ambassadors are handing out dog fouling bags to dog walkers in Fermoy, dog fouling bags are provided to Mitchelstown also to help alleviate this problem. (DF)
Cllr. Noel McCarthy voiced his support for this motion, saying this is a huge issue in urban areas and towns. Cllrs. Kay Dawson and Frank O' Flynn said it is the dog owners who need to be re-educated to take responsibility for their pets. Mary Hayes SEO said plans are in place to install signs and additional dog fouling fines will be issued in an attempt to eradicate this problem.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

9. "that this Council would now put funding in place for the development of a cycle lane on the R639 between Fermoy and Mitchelstown connecting the towns, along with Kilworth. Now is the perfect time for such an initiative with a new Government in place with a green agenda".
This motion was fully supported by Cllrs. Kay Dawson and Frank O' Flynn. Cllr. McCarthy said now is the time to push this proposal forward with increased government funding for such projects coming on stream. Walkers could be accommodated as well as cyclists and this could be a fantastic amenity which would link Fermoy, Mitchelstown and Kilworth and would be an visitor attraction for tourists and locals alike. It was agreed that options for funding would be examined with a view to progressing this proposal.

Cllr. Kay Dawson

10. "call on Cork County Council to replace broken and damaged trees on the R639 Cork Road approach to Mitchelstown".
These are relatively new planting. Only one tree needs replacement. (BO'G)
Cllr. Dawson clarified there are four trees which need to be replaced on this approach road.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

1. EMAIL M. Fitzgerald AO, Housing Operations 15.7.2020 RE Repairs to wall at Cul Mona Estate, Fermoy

Noted

11. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Brendan O' Gorman SEE - Trees at Dun Éala, Fermoy

Brendan informed the Members that arrangements will be made for the removal of three / four trees at this location.

(2) Mary Hayes SEO - Green areas in Housing Estates

A list of CCC housing estates which require the provision of additional car parking on green areas is to be compiled for consideration by the Divisional Manager. However, there is no funding currently available for this facility.

(3) Cllr. Frank O' Flynn - Speed of Traffic at Mountain Barracks from Ballyporeen side.

Cllr. O' Flynn expressed his concern at the speed traffic is travelling on this road, to which Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied that all statutory signage is in place.

Signed KAY DAVISON

Date 15/sep/2020