

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting
held on Wednesday, 6th May 2020**

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, Diane Finucane A/MDO, Lydia Kelly ASO.

In recognition of the ongoing Coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic, and in compliance with national government and HSE guidelines and the *Cork County Council SOP Management of Meetings* plan, all respiratory / hand hygiene and social distancing requirements were observed.

1. MINUTES

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Fermoy MD February 2020 meeting held 18th February 2020.

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

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

3. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. REPORT : MDO May 2020 Report

Diane Finucane A/MDO went through this report which was uploaded for the Members consideration. She highlighted the progress to date to the Cork County Council Covid-19 Community Support Programme which was introduced throughout the county in response to the pandemic and answered any queries the Members had in relation the programme.

The following matters were then raised by the Members:

- Cllr. Noel McCarthy enquired if Fermoy MD could designate a time each day in Fermoy Town Park for use by the aged and more senior members of the community, as had been done in other parts of the country. He also enquired if one-way walking systems/routes could be introduced in parts of Fermoy town to facilitate the now-required social distancing. Mary Hayes SEO replied that these suggestions will be considered by senior management as part of the town and business reactivation policy currently being devised by the Council.
- Cllr. McCarthy asked if Fermoy MD could write to St. Colman's College requesting their 'walk' be re-opened with pedestrian access only and the installation of a one-way system. Diane Finucane A/MDO undertook to contact St. Colman's accordingly.
- Cllr. Frank O' Flynn said he was delighted to see grass-cutting operations had commenced and enquired if verge cutting works could be carried out.
- Cllr. Kay Dawson enquired if the current close down period could be used as an opportunity to carry out 'deep cleaning' works in town centres and the square in Mitchelstown. Mary Hayes SEO replied that these works are being considered by senior management as part of the town and business reactivation policy currently being devised by the Council.
- Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien asked the Council be mindful of biodiversity requirements and protection of the pollination environment when arranging grass cutting and weed spraying contracts, to which Mary Hayes SEO replied consideration will be given to this going forward.
- Cllr. William O' Leary supported the suggestion of designated times for older walkers in town parks and other public realms and enquired if St. Colman's could be requested to re-open their walk, perhaps with a one-way system in place? This was supported by Cllr. Noel McCarthy.
- Mary Hayes SEO advised the Members that the closing date for Community Emergency Funding applications is Friday 7th May 2020.
- Mary Hayes SEO updated the Members on the works required to Fermoy Weir saying that the Consulting Engineers had provided a timeline for the formulation of designs, reports and drawings with a proposed submission date of application to An Bórd Pleanála as late August 2020, but that this timeline may change due to Covid-19 restrictions delaying progress. The elected Members will be updated at every stage of this process.

2. STATUS REPORT : Taking In Charge - Berry Hill Estate, Castlelyons

Noted.

3. PROGRESS REPORT : 2020 RI Programme Update

Brendan O' Gorman SEE gave an update to the Members in relation to roadworks throughout the MD saying all crews are now back at work carrying out drainage and preparatory works for the RI and RM programme works. Emergency pothole repair works are also being carried out. Wet mixing works are due to recommence on 18th May 2020 and there will be three weeks surface dressing work in June. The budget for this year is €3.2 million with approximately half for 'own' works and half for blacktop works. He advised that the programmes are now two months behind schedule and there is a possibility that budgets may be cut. There is a hope that the grant deadline (November 2020) maybe extended to facilitate completion of the programmes but that nothing is finalised yet and decisions will be made in due course. Accordingly, he will keep the Members updated at all times.

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien enquired in relation to fly-tipping saying the incidence of this dumping had greatly increased. Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied that this issue is controlled centrally by the Environment Department, Inniscarra and all incidents of illegal dumping should be reported to them. Whilst local roads staff did on occasion collect such dumped materials, it is the responsibility of the Environment Department to prepare a plan and provide a budget for these operations going forward.

4. PROGRESS REPORT : 2020 Drainage Programme Update

Brendan O' Gorman SEE said drainage works are ongoing throughout the district.

5. REPORT : Pike Road, Fermoy Deputation Report

Brendan O' Gorman SEE said that he is keeping this location in mind for traffic management works saying it is an ideal location for speed ramps but there is no budget for works here in 2020. Cllr. Noel McCarthy thanked Brendan for the report and enquired if any measures could be implemented in the short term to alleviate the situation on the Pike Road as it is now busier than ever with many people using it for walks. Cllr. McCarthy was supported by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn. Brendan said he would reconsider the situation and prepare a costing for the Members consideration at the next meeting.

6. REPORT : Killamurren / Ballynoe Bartlemy Deputation Report

Brendan O' Gorman SEE advised that works outlined here will be done but are currently delayed owing to Covid-19 work restrictions.

7. RECOMMENDATION : R512 Rockmills Safety Improvement Scheme

Brendan O' Gorman SEE went through the proposals for the scheme, a map of which was circulated to the Members. He advised these planned works in Rockmills are in response to the issues raised by the Deputation from this area in 2019 and funding in the amount of €30,000 has now been granted for this scheme, which can be sanctioned at MD level (does not need full Council approval). The safety improvement scheme proposed here was wholeheartedly welcomed and on the proposal of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson, was agreed by all the Members. Cllr. William O' Leary said all four schemes notified to the elected members were welcome, to which Brendan replied of the other three one will require a Section 38 while the remaining two can be done without Section 38's. Details of Section 38's are available on the Cork County Council website and on public display through the glass panels (from outside) at the Town Hall, Fermoy.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

1. EMAIL : 9.3.2020 Cormac O' Suilleabhain, CCC RE: NTA and Bus Shelters

The elected members welcomed this update and, further to a request for more information, Diane Finucane A/MDO undertook to make further contact with Cormac O' Suilleabhain. Mary Hayes SEO advised that the installation of bus shelters may require some bus stops to be relocated in order to facilitate the 3m clearance required and with the possible requirement for build-outs and she asked the elected members to liaise with the public and business community on this likelihood.

2. REPLY : Mary Fitzgerald AO, Housing Directorate - Reply to February 2020 NOM No. 5(9)
The elected members noted this reply and requested these works be carried out as soon as possible.
Diane Finucane A/MDO undertook to contact the Housing Directorate for an update.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Cllr. Frank O' Flynn - Request for verge cutting to be carried out.

This request was noted by Brendan O' Gorman SEE.

(2) Cllr. Frank O' Flynn - Query re: storage of waste from community clean-ups.

Cllr. O' Flynn asked if waste from community clean-ups could be collected by Cork County Council. He was advised that all community clean-up activities should cease at this time as there is no collection service available and that people gathering to carry out such activity is prohibited due to Covid-19 restrictions.

(3) Cllr. Frank O' Flynn - Request for a clear plan for re-opening of business community following lock-down.

Mary Hayes SEO responded that a plan is currently being devised by senior management for the re-activation of business in towns throughout the county.

(4) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Request for update on '59 Club', Fermoy (currently cordoned off).

Mary Hayes SEO replied that a Consultant has been appointed and an update will issue to the elected members in due course.

(5) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Query re: Community Grants 2020

Cllr. McCarthy enquired if the Community Grants for 2020 could be considered and sanctioned to enable the applicant groups make plans for works in their localities. Mary Hayes SEO replied that Community Grants could be discussed at the next Fermoy MD meeting.

(6) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Possibility of waiving car parking charges.

Mary Hayes SEO replied that this can be discussed and decided in conjunction with the plans, currently being devised, for the re-activation of business in county towns.

(7) Cllr. Kay Dawson - Seeking clarity on clean-ups.

Cllr. Dawson was advised that all community clean-up activities should cease at this time as there is no collection service available and that people gathering to carry out such activity is prohibited due to Covid-19 restrictions.

(8) Cllr. Kay Dawson - Requesting a 'deep-clean' of Mitchelstown

Mary Hayes SEO replied that this work is being considered by senior management as part of an overall town and business reactivation policy currently being devised by the Council.

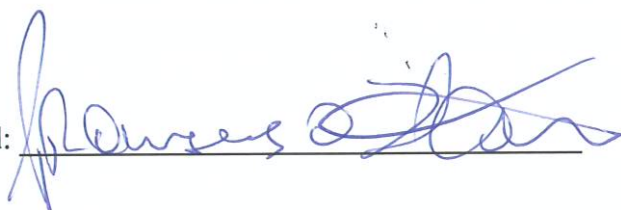
(9) Cllr. Frank Roche - Query re: repair of broken railing in Castletownroche

Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied that this work had been arranged but that due to Covid-19 restrictions all contractors had been stood down. This work will be done as soon as restrictions are lifted and works recommence.

(10) Cllr. William O' Leary - Query re: timeline for drainage and gully clearing work.

Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied that this work had been stopped due to Covid-19 restrictions but this works programme will recommence as soon as restrictions are lifted.

Signed:



Date:

11/6/2020