

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting  
held on Tuesday, 20th April 2021**

**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.

**RE: Fermoy Weir Update Cork County Council:** Cormac Manning Water Services ~ **T.J. O' Connors:** Diarmuid Cahalane, Michael Vaughan.

At the outset of the Meeting, a vote of sympathy was passed by the Members to John Kelly, School Warden Fermoy and Lydia Kelly, ASO Mitchelstown, on the death of John Kelly Senior, Fermoy. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anam.*

**1. MINUTES**

**1. Minutes of Fermoy MD CDP (County Development Plan) 2nd Round Review held on 16th March 2021.**

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

**2. Minutes of Fermoy MD March 2021 Meeting held on 16th March 2021.**

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

**2. PRESENTATION ON REPORT ON PUBLIC CONSULTATION, FERMOY WEIR**

**1. Presentation on Report on Public Consultation, Fermoy Weir.**

Cormac Manning, Cork County Council Water Services and Diarmuid Cahalane and Michael Vaughan, T.J. O' Connors were in attendance to present the report on the Public Consultation process undertaken in relation to Fermoy Weir. Cormac introduced Diarmuid who went through the presentation which was displayed onscreen for the Members information. Diarmuid advised that all information, updates and reports will be available on the website [www.fermoyweir.ie](http://www.fermoyweir.ie). He then asked the Members for their comments and queries which included the following:

- confirmation was sought that Option 9 is now the final choice - Option 9 best satisfies the project objectives and it is planned to proceed with the development of the preliminary design proposal for this rough channel pool bypass.
- what is the estimated cost of the project - currently the estimated cost is €3.5 million.
- what is the timeframe involved for completion of the project - it is proposed to submit planning drawings and documentation to An Bórd Pleanála in Q2/2021, a decision on which could take up to six months.
- can elected Members attend the meeting proposed to be held with the 'Save Our Weir' group? - yes, the elected Members will be involved at each stage of the process and their attendance at such meetings should be acceptable.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Kay Dawson and the Members thanked Cormac and the team from T.J. O' Connors for their attendance and the presentation, acknowledged their work to date and said they will welcome progress on this project.

**3. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**1. REPORT : April 2021 MDO Report**

Pauline Moriarty MDO went through her report, uploaded to DecisionTime and displayed onscreen for the Members information. The following comments and queries were raised:

- Cllr. William O' Leary queried the requirements and criteria for the Painting Scheme, which Pauline explained. These requirements are also set out on the application form which will be available from 22nd April 2021. Mary Hayes SEO added that a colour consultancy service is available, if required, the purpose of which is to facilitate 'tie in' with the existing streetscape and maintain colour scheme cohesion.

- Cllr. O' Leary asked if Fermoy MD will accept applications for street furniture/dining areas outside of the two main towns, to which Pauline replied, yes, applications from businesses in the villages will also be considered.
- In relation to the timeline involved in getting licences for street furniture, required to qualify for the available grant, Pauline confirmed that street furniture licences will be processed as promptly as possible.
- In relation to the proposal for canopied outdoor seating areas - Ashe Quay and Abbey Street, Fermoy and New Square, Mitchelstown were suggested as suitable locations. Pauline confirmed that it is proposed to develop one area in each town. Cllr. Kay Dawson sought clarity on the style and cost of these canopies, to which Mary Hayes SEO replied that it is hoped to bulk-buy these canopies county-wide so as to ensure value-for-money. She added that businesses will have to 'buy in' to this concept with regards to maintenance and cleaning in order for this initiative to proceed and succeed. Further information will be conveyed to the Members in due course.
- the Members welcomed Kilworth as the nomination for 'Pride of Place' 2021 and wished them well with their application.
- in relation to Project ACT 2021 Mary Hayes SEO agreed that having local communities onboard is paramount to the success of this endeavour and will refer this suggestion to senior management and revert to the Members accordingly.

## **2. UPDATE : 2021 RI Programme Progress Update**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE went through this report, advising the Members that these works are being undertaken by local area work crews. Works will continue throughout the district until completion of the programme. Blacktop work in Shanballymore is complete and Kilworth will commence on 21st April.

## **3. 2021 RM Programme**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that works in this programme will commence in Mitchelstown on 10th May for two weeks. Works will be undertaken in Fermoy for two weeks in early August and there may be a further two weeks work in September 2021 to attend to snags and any other outstanding items.

## **4. UPDATE : 2021 DRAINAGE Programme Progress Update**

Works on this programme are continuing, within the proposed timeline and accordingly to plan.

## **5. 2021 FOOTPATH Programme**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that this Contractor is ready and on standby to re-commence footpath works as soon as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

## **6. 2021 Public Lighting Programme**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that Covid-19 restrictions are preventing works at the moment, but works will proceed as soon as restrictions lift.

In relation to the work programmes generally the following issues were raised:

- Cllr. William O' Leary asked if drainage work can be undertaken on roads other than those on the programme to which Brendan replied yes, the area offices can be notified of any locations where drainage is required and this will be arranged.
- Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien enquired if a map showing the programme works will be available this year (as previous years) to which Brendan replied yes, there are PMS mapping and technical issues with printing at the moment but as soon as these are resolved he will get the maps and forward to the elected Members.
- Cllr. Kay Dawson enquired for works in Propogue, Araglin to which Brendan replied if the location Eircode is furnished to him he will arrange accordingly.
- Cllr. Noel McCarthy sought an update on works required on Patrick Street, Fermoy to which Brendan replied he is constantly pushing for a TII budget and resolution on this but there is none forthcoming at the moment.

· Cllr. Frank O' Flynn asked for any update on the N72 to which Brendan replied he has sought funding for works at two locations here, and a reply from the TII is pending. He is hopeful this funding will come through for these much-needed works.

#### **7. Section 38 - L1418 - Brigown CBS - New Zebra Crossing and safety enhancement features**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE went through the plans and proposals for this project, uploaded to DecisionTime and displayed onscreen for the Members information. The public consultation process will commence on 22nd April 2021 and continue to 28th May 2021. The project will be funded from both NTA town and village funding and the 2021 Safety Improvement Scheme grant and will include some innovative and newly-devised safety features. Additionally, CBS are also seeking a set-down area within their campus which is the subject of a separate planning application. Brendan answered any queries the Members had and the proposal for this new zebra crossing with safety enhancement features was enthusiastically welcomed by the Members. The project was adopted on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson and agreed by all the Members.

#### **8. Section 38 - Coolagown Village Traffic Calming Project**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE went through the plans and proposals for this project, uploaded to DecisionTime and displayed onscreen for the Members information. The public consultation process for this scheme will commence on 22nd April 2021 and continue to 28th May 2021. These works will be funded from a number of available budgets and have been fully endorsed by the Coolagown Village community. All Members queries were answered by Brendan O' Gorman SEE and the proposals here were welcomed by the Members who commended highly the ongoing commitment and community effort in Coolagown, which is so evident when visiting the village. This Coolagown Village Traffic Calming Project was adopted on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy and agreed by all the Members.

### **4. NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

#### **Cllr. Frank O' Flynn**

1. "that Cork County Council would commence the process for the planning and provision of the very much needed new Ballinderrig bridge and road realignment in the interest of safety of road users and the future economic development of Mitchelstown".

There is no indication that the Department of Transport will fund this project or even to fund commencement of the required feasibility, planning and detailed design stages. We will refer the motion and the request to our SMT and Director of our Roads Directorate for consideration and liaison with Limerick County Council who would be joint partners in any future proposal here. The existing bridge structure does not curtail economic development in Mitchelstown. (BO'G)

This motion was seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson, who informed those present that funding for this project had been sought at Northern Committee level for 2021/2022.

#### **Cllr. Noel McCarthy**

2. "that this Council would put a 'Children At Play' sign at the entrance to Pairc de h'Íde new estate at the Duntaheen Relief Road, Fermoy".

Will be installed on the existing pole at the entrance. (BO'G)

#### **Cllr. William O' Leary**

3. "following on from a previous motion in October 2019 I would again call on this Council to carry out a further assessment and urgently expediate any necessary repairs on the footbridge of the Bride walk Rathcormac owing to a very visible deterioration in the structure of same".

The further assessment of the bridge has already been carried out and we are seeking funding from the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works 2021 fund to progress the necessary repairs here. (BO'G)

Cllr. O' Leary added that with increased numbers out walking there are many people using this bridge on a daily basis.

**Cllr. Kay Dawson**

4. “call on Cork County Council to take in charge the lighting in Templeroe Estate, Shanballymore as numerous lights are not working and this poses a health and safety risk for the residents”.  
Will be referred to our public Lighting and estates Section for consideration. (BO’G)

**Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien**

5. “that this Council would erect directional sign for St Michael’s Holy Well at turn off for Cronahill (at bridge) and also at ‘Y’ junction at top of road”.  
Will be done. (BO’G)

**Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn**

6. “that Cork County Council refurbish and repair the dangerous footpath at Ballyhooly Church of the Nativity cemetery in the interest of safety”.  
Cost of repairs to footpath estimated at €10,000 and will need to seek Finance approval to proceed as funding for this work is not approved in the budget. (PM)  
Cllr. O’ Flynn confirmed this is the footpath on the left at the old section of the cemetery. Pauline Moriarty MDO said she will keep the Members updated on any reply from Finance for this funding.
7. “that Cork County Council would investigate the state of deterioration of the Presentation Convent Church and iconic steeple in Fermoy in light of the heritage and history of these buildings to Fermoy, and agree a planned programme to secure the structure in the short term and for restoration in the longer term”.  
Building is in private ownership but will arrange inspection and liaison with owner if required. (PM)  
This motion was supported by Cllr. Noel McCarthy who agreed there is huge concern in Fermoy at the deterioration of this building, saying it is a focal point on the skyline entering Fermoy from the north side. Pauline Moriarty MDO advised the Members that this building is within private grounds and does not front onto a street or footpath but undertook to contact the owners and revert to the Members with an update in due course.

**Cllr. Noel McCarthy**

8. “that this Council would get an Engineer’s report on the possibility of road ramps being put in place from the cross of Cork Road to the Texaco Garage, Cork Road. This work could be carried out when that stretch of road is being resurfaced in the future”.  
This is the main thoroughfare into the town and has been narrowed and calmed previously. Current DMURS philosophy is to omit vertical deflections in favour of horizontal changes. We will arrange for the central islands to be repainted and refurbished but I would not be in favour of ramps here, owing to the high volumes of school bus and emergency vehicles using the route. (BO’G)  
Cllr. McCarthy asked if An Garda Síochána could be requested to monitor speed at this location.
9. “that this Council would carry out drainage works to alleviate flooding on the Fermoy side of the Corrin Mart roundabout”.  
Legacy Snag from third party roundabout construction. New soakway is required at road edge and will be carried out by us over the summer months. (BO’G)

**Cllr. William O’ Leary**

10. “that this Council would consider the possibility of installing a pedestrian crossing in Glenville village, funding permitted”.  
Will be considered under a future safety improvement scheme in conjunction with planned resurfacing of the village. (BO’G)
11. “that this Council would request the public lighting section of Cork County Council to carry out the necessary upgrade of public lighting in St. Joseph’s Square, Fermoy owing to a number of issues with outages in the estate over the past few months”.  
Outages have been referred previously to the public lighting section and will be followed up again. (BO’G)

Cllr. O' Leary added that there have been times at which this estate has been in total darkness and he emphasised the importance of this public lighting being restored and maintained. This motion was supported by Cllrs. Noel McCarthy and Frank O' Flynn.

#### **Cllr. Kay Dawson**

12. "call on Cork County Council to sweep the main thoroughfare (Market Square, Upper and Lower Cork Street), Mitchelstown".  
Will be carried out when road sweepers are back in this district. (BO'G)  
Cllr. Dawson commended the work being undertaken by Council staff in the ongoing cleaning of Mitchelstown but is now requesting a once-off manual clean to remove cigarette butts, small weeds and other items of ingrained litter. This motion was supported by Cllrs. Deirdre O' Brien and Frank O' Flynn. With the proposed advent of outdoor seating areas it is timely to look at this issue now and Mary Hayes SEO said options could be discussed around public-realm type proposals for the square and its environs. In the meantime, Brendan O' Gorman SEE said a manual sweeping of the full town (square and main streets) is not feasible with the available staff numbers but undertook to concentrate additional effort on the square.

#### **Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien**

13. "that this Council would continue the existing public lighting on L-5662 from Stag Park to Kildorrery Roundabout".  
This section of regional road is included in Mitchelstown Town Development Plans in 2021 to install low level uplighters serving the path and relief road in question. (BO'G)
14. "that this Council would erect handrail on the path from the entrance leading to Old Brigown Graveyard in the interest of safety of the public".  
Will be investigated. (PM)  
Cllr. O' Brien added that with centenary events planned for next year which will bring additional visitors, and in light of a recent funeral in this section, this handrail is warranted. Pauline undertook to examine the feasibility of this proposal and revert to the Members.

#### **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

##### **1. LETTER 19.3.2021 HSE & UCC RE: Covid-19 Vaccination Centres**

Cllr. William O' Leary said this reply was not satisfactory as the time to act is now in relation to the set-up of vaccination centres.

#### **6. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

##### **Item 3(7) - Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien Notice of Motion - "that this Council make application for new bridge at Glanworth linking Glanworth to Kilworth".**

Cllr. O' Brien said that since raising this issue at the March meeting she had received numerous contacts from the public in support of this proposal for a new bridge and is now proposing that Fermoy MD seek a deputation to Minister Eamonn Ryan seeking funding for this bridge. There ensued a discussion within which the matter of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn's motion in respect of Ballyaghaderg (Ballinderrig) Bridge was also considered. Brendan O' Gorman SEE recommended that both these projects need to start from scratch and undertook to bring these requests to the attention of senior management and the Director for Roads for their support and with a view towards arranging funding for the studies and plans required to progress works at these two sites. Cllr. Frank Roche supported both Cllrs. O' Brien and O' Flynn on their bridge proposals.

#### **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **(1) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Footpath and Glenabo Woods**

Cllr. McCarthy asked if a continuation to the footpath could be provided to Glenabo Woods, to which Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied that there is currently no funding available and it is too remote to qualify for NTA funding, but he will seek to include this on a future footpath programme.

**(2) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Speed issues in Ballyhooly on road to GAA pitch**

Cllr. McCarthy requested a third ramp be installed on this stretch of road to combat excessive speeding. Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied there is no funding available for another ramp but suggested An Garda Síochána be made aware of speeding issues here.

**(3) Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - Update on Rose Garden / Columbarium for Kilcrumper Cemetery**

Pauline Moriarty MDO said she was unaware of any changes to date from the SPC but undertook to seek an update and revert to the Members. She has suggested Kilcrumper Cemetery be used as a pilot, if required, for any such installation.

**(4) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Update on Cycle Lane between Fermoy, Kilworth and Mitchelstown**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that this 'Grey Line' had been submitted to the NTA for funding and was unsuccessful this year, but that this project may attract other funding sources and be successful under an alternative scheme which supports this type of project. Cllr. Frank O' Flynn supported this proposal and asked if this project could be undertaken in stages, to which Brendan replied that a design and feasibility study first needs to be carried out for this proposal.

Signed Kay Davis

Date 18-5-2021