

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting  
held on Tuesday, 15th December 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, Pauline Moriarty MDO, Lydia Kelly ASO.

At the outset of the Meeting, a vote of sympathy was passed by the Members to Cllr. Frank Roche MCC on the recent death of his father, Mr. David F. Roche. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.*

**1. MINUTES**

**1. Minutes of the Fermoy MD November 2020 meeting held on 17th November 2020.**

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

**2. COMMUNITY GRANT ALLOCATION REQUESTS**

**1. Request by Fermoy Forum to amend their 2020 Amenity Grant to include purchase of battery operated outdoor lights for usage at various events throughout the year (see letter).**

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

**2. Request by Castlelyons Community Centre to amend their 2020 Amenity Grant from 'new kitchen/projector/TV' to 'painting of ceiling in main hall/projector/TV' (see letter).**

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

**3. FERMOY PARKING CHARGES**

**1. Fermoy Parking Charges**

Pauline Moriarty MDO reminded the Members that the current parking arrangements in Fermoy which were determined at the June 2020 meeting (parking in the three town car parks, usually costing €1 per day, now free of charge) are due to expire on 31st December next. Pauline is now recommending a three-month extension to this arrangement to continue the support to the business community in Fermoy. This recommendation was sanctioned on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy and agreed by all the Members. It was agreed that changes to parking charges in the lower section of the Library carpark would be discussed prior to the re-establishment of (usual) parking fees.

**4. DISPOSALS, GRANTS, LEASES ETC.**

**1. Grant of Wayleave at Kildorrery, Co. Cork to ESB Networks.**

**To consider a Grant of wayleave to relocate overhead powerline underground at Kildorrery, Co Cork.**

**From Whom Acquired: Amelia Murphy**

**To Whom It Is Proposed To Dispose: ESB Networks, Showgrounds, Fermoy, Co Cork.**

**Consideration: €1 plus €750 for Council's legal costs.**

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

**2. Grant of Wayleave at Bridevale, Rathcormac to Irish Water**

**To consider a Grant of Wayleave at Bridevale, Bridgeland West, Rathcormac, Co Cork.**

**From Whom Acquired: D. R. Property Consultants Ltd.**

**To Whom It Is Proposed To Dispose: Irish Water**

**Consideration: €1**

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

**3. Grant of Right-of-Way at Wallstown, Castletownroche, Co. Cork**  
**To consider a Grant of Right of Way at Wallstown, Castletownroche, Co Cork.**

**Area: 6.6m x 5m wide**

**From Whom Acquired: John Griffin**

**To Whom It Is Proposed To Dispose: Marian O'Sullivan, Wallstown, Castletownroche, Co Cork.**

**Consideration: €1**

The Members considered the information provided for this proposal and this Grant of Wayleave was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson.

**5. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**1. REPORT : Part VIII Final Report for Rathcormac Public Realm**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE presented the Members with the Final Report for these extensive and long-term Rathcormac works making reference to the revised documents, circulated at the meeting and uploaded to DecisionTime. These Rathcormac Public Realm plans were the subject of local and public workshops; extensive Cork County Council preparatory works and a Part VIII procedure which concluded on 1st December 2020. The Final Report documents include the submissions and the replies to these submissions, prepared and responded to by Brendan O' Gorman SEE.

The Council design team considered all submissions received, the Road Safety Audit and the Senior Planner's report and have now made any amendments considered necessary or recommended, which are reflected in the revised documents presented today. Brendan went through the submissions and the scheme details and revisions, highlighting the more pertinent features of the scheme and changes which include the reinstatement of car parking, one controlled pedestrian crossing, cycle shelter, improved sightlines and improved pedestrian walkways/pathways. All bus stops will be fully accessible and all carriageways will be 6.5m in width. Brendan informed the Members that Pdraig Barrett DOS, Aiden Weir SE and he himself have now all 'signed off' on this Final Report, and the Senior Planner has accepted the plan as meeting all statutory requirements. Brendan answered any queries the Members had in relation to the scheme. The Members in turn wholeheartedly welcomed the plan for Rathcormac, complimenting the public consultation process carried out from the outset and the plans and preparatory works carried out to date by the Council executive. They commented that it is an exciting time for Rathcormac and they look forward to the commencement of works in Rathcormac under the scope of this scheme. Brendan added at this juncture that Village Enhancement Scheme funding to the value of €61,250 is in place, and traffic calming works and Safety Improvement Scheme works are imminent. Other elements and sections of the works will be done utilising varying funding streams e.g. Active Travel.

**2. UPDATE : Fermoy Weir Remediation & Fish Bypass Project and**

**3. REPORT : December 2020 MDO Report**

Pauline Moriarty MDO went through her report which included the update on Fermoy Weir. The following issues and queries were raised by the Members:

- Cllr. Dawson expressed her disappointment that there was no Christmas imagery projection in Mitchelstown as was arranged for Fermoy, this was supported by Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien.
- Cllr. William O' Leary again petitioned for additional public lighting to be installed at Rathcormac playground, now that repairs have been completed there.
- Pauline Moriarty MDO confirmed that the Municipal Grants will be advertised in January 2021.
- in relation to the works required at Clenor and Kilgullane cemeteries, Pauline replied that she will be looking at outside sources of funding for these two jobs.
- a vote of congratulations to Pauline on her engagement was proposed by Cllr. Kay Dawson and agreed by all the Members.

The Members thanked Pauline for her comprehensive report. They also welcomed and commended all works carried out throughout the district, especially the Christmas lighting installations and winter planting programme, saying these all help to make the towns more attractive and are beneficial for trade in the run-up to and over the festive season.

## 6. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

### Cllr. Noel McCarthy

1. "that Fermoy Municipal District Members hereby resolve to rescind the resolution passed at a meeting of Cork County Council on 16th January 1984 adopting Part III of the Gaming and Lotteries Act 1956 in specified parts of the administrative area of Cork County Council so that the said adoption shall be rescinded in any part of the Fermoy Municipal District where it had effect prior to the passing of this resolution".

Pauline Moriarty MDO explained that this is the required official wording for this motion which now needs to be re-approved by the Members. On the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Frank Roche and agreed by all the Members, the motion was passed.

### Cllr. Frank Roche

2. "I am calling on the Engineer to review the design and make safety improvements to the Ballyhooly roundabout near the Castle Tavern, including improved road markings and signage".  
The roundabout and design as installed here is in place for the best portion of 20 years. Whilst not ideal (5 leg junction with 2 very close parallel legs), it is a best fit. New advance approach warning markings from the Gortroche and Lisheen legs will be installed once weather improves. (BO'G)  
This motion was supported by all the Members, who would welcome any works which will improve safety for road users at this roundabout. In relation to such safety improvement requests overall, Brendan O' Gorman SEE explained that funding is not currently available for this or similar locations which would require either CPO or land purchase and major re-design and re-alignment works. Currently there is a limited Fermoy MD budget of circa €80k per annum for safety improvements scheme funding from which four SIS projects were completed in 2020.

### Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

3. "that Cork County Council give an up to date progress report and timeframe on the proposed traffic calming at the N73 junction at the Church of Ireland in Fermoy".  
The preliminary design for the scheme is currently ongoing with a view to publishing the Part 8 Planning for the Scheme by Q2 2021. If the Part 8 Planning is approved, the detailed design for the scheme will proceed, and, it is expected that detailed design and contract documents will be completed and ready to go to tender by the end of Q4 2021. (Bob O' Shea, S/Senior Engineer)  
Cllr. O' Flynn thanked Brendan for this reply, saying he will welcome any progress here. Brendan added that circa €350k is required for this project which is not currently available, and that it will be 2022 before there is any physical progress on works at this junction.

### Cllr. William O' Leary

4. "that this Council would carry out an Engineer's inspection of the bridge on the L-5802-0 Ballinterry, Gortroe, Bartlemy owing to the fact concerns have been raised locally due to a deterioration in same".  
This bridge is one of many that have already been advised to our L&RDO to receive Principal Inspections in early 2021. (BO'G)

### Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

5. "that this Council would investigate and make safe the junction on the N73 where the L-5616-0 Ballyenahan connects".  
Locus is due for TII / NRDO resurfacing when funding confirmed. Sightline issues can be addressed at that time. The Council does not own any lands either side of the junction. The provision of a dedicated right turning lane could also be considered at the time of resurfacing also. (BO'G)

### Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

6. "that Cork County Council extend the 50km speed limit out on the Ballyduff road entrance to Clondulane in the interest of safety".  
For further review under next countywide exercise scheduled for 2022. Zone here was already moved beyond the existing cottages under the last review. (BO'G)  
This motion was supported by Cllr. Noel McCarthy. Brendan O' Gorman SEE added to his reply

that an additional advance warning sign could be supplied and installed here, which was welcomed by the Members.

**Cllr. Noel McCarthy**

7. “that this Council seek an update from the IDA on the vacant land on the Dublin Road in Fermoy and ask them to consider selling the property on the private market”.
- Cllr. McCarthy informed the Members that following the closure of the Army barracks in 1998 this twenty acre industrial site was created by the IDA in 2002 complete with roads, public lighting and services but since then there has been no progress or action by the IDA. This site is in a prime location within close proximity to the M8 motorway. He is now requesting an update from the IDA on their plans for this site, seeking clarity on the zoning and the potential for future use, and recommending they put the site up for sale if there are no IDA proposals for its use. The Members fully supported this motion, suggesting that this site could be considered for the development of a hotel or retail outlet centre. It was agreed following a discussion that Fermoy MD would write to the IDA, and also to Enterprise Ireland, seeking a response.
8. “that this Council requests that the TII remove the dangerous bend on the N72 approaching Fermoy from the Tallow side, in the interest of safety”.
- Will be referred to the TII as requested but the removal of the bend here would entail a major realignment project and there is simply no TII funds available to address this locus currently. As one knows we are awaiting confirmation for the N73 realignment projects funding currently that have planning and confirmed CPOs and that is the priority for this district. (BO’G)
- This motion was seconded by Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn. Brendan O’ Gorman SEE added to his reply that there may be a future application for planning permission from Fermoy Hospital, and road junction realignment and safety improvement features could be incorporated into this, if permissible.

**Cllr. William O’ Leary**

9. “that this Council would inspect and arrange for any necessary works to be carried on the roadside trees on the L-1517-0 particularly on the approach to the R639 junction ( Farran North, Corrin)”.  
No issues with these trees and they receive routine maintenance from Cork County Council. (BO’G)

**Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien**

10. “that this Council would investigate and assess the damaged reinstatement work carried out by Irish Water on Mulberry Lane and have the necessary repairs carried out”.
- Scheduled permanent reinstatement and repairs for the 12th December have been notified to us by Irish Water. (BO’G)

**7. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**8. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**1. Bus Shelter Accessible Bus Stop Program Phase 2.**

Pauline Moriarty MDO made reference to drawings/layouts of the proposed bus shelters in Fermoy and Mitchelstown, uploaded to DecisionTime for the Members consideration. On the request of the Members it was agreed that this item would be deferred to the January 2021 meeting to allow the Members fully examine these drawings and for Pauline to request Jonathon Cahill EE, Cork County Council Traffic & Transportation Section to attend the January meeting to discuss this matter.

**2. N73 between Mallow and Mitchelstown.**

The Members acknowledged the response from the TII in relation to the N73, and whilst it was agreed that the hedge-cutting works carried out have somewhat alleviated the situation here, they are unhappy with the unavailability of funding to carry out more significant improvements. After a brief discussion, and on the proposition of Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien seconded by Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn, it was agreed this issue would be corresponded to the Minister of Transport for consideration.

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Brendan O' Gorman SEE gave the Members the following updates:**

- (1) The James Street, Mitchelstown carpark project is going to tender in mid-January 2021.
- (2) All 2020 programme works are now complete, with two Climate Control funding projects, namely Glenseskin Wood bridge and Conna public storm sewer, to be done in 2021.
- (3) All 2021 RI and other works programmes will be presented at the January or February 2021 meeting for the Members consideration.
- (4) Covid 19 temporary car parking restriction at the old Post Office / Horan's Health Store location in Fermoy is to be reinstated.

**(5) Cllr. William O' Leary - Public Lighting in Rathcormac**

Further to Cllr. O' Leary's enquiry, Brendan confirmed that this public lighting, part of the Active Travel Measures in Rathcormac, is currently with Airtricity and the ESB pending connection to the power supply.

**(6) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Request for Estates Engineer to attend MD meeting**

Further to Cllr. McCarthy's request, Pauline Moriarty MDO asked the Members to communicate to her the issues they wish to have addressed by Estates / Taking-in-Charge personnel, which she will then forward to them to facilitate the preparation of appropriate reports and replies.

**(7) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Roadworks in Fermoy town**

Cllr. McCarthy thanked Brendan for the surfacing and lining works carried out in Fermoy North and South, and asked when the remainder of these works will be done; to which Brendan replied for the Cork Road 2021 and remaining sections of the R639/N72 not until 2022 at the earliest.

**(8) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - CCTV system in Fermoy**

Cllr. McCarthy enquired if the CCTV system in Fermoy, which is not working in some areas, could be repaired; to which Pauline Moriarty MDO replied that due to ongoing GDPR issues throughout the county, all installation and repair works to CCTV systems (existing and proposed) are currently on hold, pending the publication of a national report / recommendations on this issue.

**(9) Cllr. Kay Dawson - Funding for provision of bicycle stands**

Cllr. Dawson enquired if the provision and installation of bicycle stands could be funded from new funding streams recently announced; to which Mary Hayes SEO replied that the provision of these bicycle stands will be included for consideration from 2021 budgets and works programmes.

**(10) Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - 'Thank You'**

Cllr. O' Brien thanked Brendan O' Gorman SEE for the provision of carparking spaces at 'Bright Sparks', Mitchelstown and for the car parking facility provided at Ballard waterfall, Araglin. Cllr. O' Brien also thanked the staff and her MD colleagues for their help and cooperation throughout 2020, taking the opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and all the best for 2021. The festive season good wishes were endorsed by all present, including An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Kay Dawson.

Signed

Kay Dawson

Date

19-1-2021