

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting
held on 16th February 2021 (via '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, a vote of sympathy was passed by the elected Members to the Egan family, Glanworth on the death of Mrs. Ellen Egan-Barry. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam.*

1. MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Fermoy MD January 2021 meeting held on 19th January 2021.

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

2. BUS EIREANN BUS SHELTERS

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

Jonathan informed the Members that, further to the extensive discussions and meetings with the Members, the effected business owners and householders, alterations to the bus-stop at McCurtain Street, Fermoy will be made to include a wheelchair accessible bus cage, but no shelter will be installed here. Furthermore, and in conjunction with the NTA and Bus Eireann, the bus stop which has a shelter on Cork Road, Fermoy (opposite St. Patrick's Avenue) will be promoted for use with the addition of a bus cage and provision of a timetable. As soon as it is available the new design lay-out for McCurtain Street will be forwarded to the Members and the local stakeholders with whom Jonathan will re-engage accordingly.

The Members thanked Jonathan for his work, co-operation and his patience in relation to this contentious issue and welcomed the compromise arrangement for the two bus stops on the south-bound route in Fermoy.

3. TAKING IN CHARGE Cul Ard, Fermoy

1. To consider Taking-in-Charge: "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:- Cul Ard, Fermoy. LINEAR METRES: 41".

The Members considered the information provided in relation to this proposal and this Taking-In-Charge at Cul Ard, Fermoy was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O'Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy.

4. DISPOSALS, GRANTS, LEASES ETC.

1. To consider the proposed Disposal of Property, as set out hereunder:

Situation: Grant of Right-of-Way at Farahy Road, Kildorrery, Co Cork.

To Whom It Is Proposed To Dispose: Joan Sheehan, 1 Farrahy Road, Kildorrery, Co. Cork. Consideration: €1

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. Deirdre O'Brien.

5. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

2. RECOMMENDATION : St. Patrick's Day Parades 2021

Pauline Moriarty MDO went through her report, uploaded for the elected Members and displayed on screen for the meeting. Cllr. Kay Dawson reported from a recent Social Inclusion SPC meeting that Niall Healy DOS is to obtain costings for a Columbarium Wall and a Rose Garden option for Kilcrumper.

The elected Members welcomed the updates in Pauline's report in relation to the 2021 Community Grants, the Pollinator Plans and progress on the ASD communications boards for playgrounds. The Members supported the planned virtual celebrations for St. Patrick's Day and will promote this amongst local groups and committees. In relation to the possibility of lighting-up green at either the Council buildings or other locations in Fermoy and Mitchelstown for St. Patrick's Day, Pauline replied that she will make enquiries and revert to the Members as to the feasibility of this proposition. Cllr. Noel McCarthy said the Christmas lighting infrastructure at Pearse Square, Fermoy could be adapted/used for green lights for the national holiday.

3. REPORT : Doneraile Town & Village Scheme

Discussion of this item was deferred to the March 2021 meeting as Consultant Architects are currently preparing a public realm and street furniture design guide to be considered in conjunction with roads design and integrated into one overall scheme proposal.

6. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

1. "that Cork County Council put in place traffic calming measures including a soft ramp in Main Street, Glanworth in the interest of safety of all road users".

No funding stream available currently in the district to advance these requests but will be kept on file for future consideration. Gardai should be contacted if excessive speed by local commercial drivers is continually observed. (BO'G)

This motion was supported by all the Members. Brendan O' Gorman SEE undertook to seek SIS (Safety Improvement Scheme) funding, if available, for a pedestrian crossing at this location. Mary Hayes SEO added that pedestrian friendly environments will be created within the plans and design schemes for villages benefitting from village enhancement schemes going forward.

Cllr. William O' Leary

2. "that this Council would list out the number of fines issued for Dog Fouling in the Fermoy Electoral area for the five year period 2015 - 2020".

The dog warden has confirmed that no fines have issued for Dog Fouling in the Fermoy MD. Twenty fines have issued Countywide in the last number of years. (PM)

This motion was supported by all the Members who agree that dog-fouling is an ongoing and worsening issue in the district. It is a problem without a solution and there is no deterrent to dog owners to do the right thing. Mary Hayes SEO suggested a campaign with informative ground stencils, engagement with the Department of Communications to increase public awareness and advising the Dog Warden Supervisor of problem areas which can be monitored more closely.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

3. "that this Council install permanent lights on the clock in Pearse Square. This is an historic and highly visible part of Fermoy and lighting would add to its aesthetic and charm".
Can be considered for funding under the Town Development Fund 2021. (PM)

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

4. "that this Council provide public light in the Car Park at the entrance to TO Park in the interest of safety of persons attending events in the Community Hall".
Private property. Possible Amenity / Community grant could fund same. (BO'G)

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

5. "that Cork County Council put in place traffic calming measures from Killavullen bridge through the village including a soft ramp in the interest of safety".

No funding stream available currently in the district to advance these requests but will be kept on file for future consideration. A new footpath is proposed past the bridge here in 2021. (BO'G)

Further to this reply, Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that the 2021 roads grants are now in and this location is included for resurfacing and the traffic calming / ramp can be installed as part of this work, this year.

6. “that Cork County Council would widen the very narrow footpath by the church on the N72 Mallow road entrance to Castletownroche in the interest of safety and to help social distancing as part of prevention measures against Covid-19”.
- No lands available to widen the path here. Wall and lands behind it are in private church ownership. If the wall was set back and rebuilt by the church authorities, then we could advance a footpath project, subject to NTA funding. (BO’G)
- Cllr. O’ Flynn said that Castletownroche senior clergy would welcome the widening of the footpath here and have no issue with the wall being set back; to which Brendan replied that when the wall set-back is complete, Cork County Council will arrange the footpath widening contract.

Cllr. William O’ Leary

7. “that this Council would put in place appropriate road markings / signage on the road from Bellevue Cross to Clondulane given the restricted view on to the road coming particularly coming from the Clondulane side effecting a number of residents particularly P61 VW58”.
- Additional warning signage will be installed here to advise of pedestrians on road. Concealed entrance signage would not be appropriate. (BO’G)
- This motion was supported by all the Members.
8. “that this Council would write to the HSE requesting that they would consider the possibility of using Fermoy Youth Centre as a mass Covid-19 vaccination centre. The facility has ample space and resources to be used for this reason and has previously being used by the HSE as a blood bank and for other medical purposes”.
- This motion was supported by all the Members who concur that a localised vaccination centre should be available to the population of Fermoy, Mitchelstown and environs; there being no local centre included on the recently published list. Pauline Moriarty MDO undertook to write to the HSE requesting they consider Fermoy Youth Centre, Fermoy Mart complex, Mitchelstown Leisure Centre or another suitable venue in the district as a vaccination centre.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

9. “that this Council write to Bus Eireann and enquire as to why they are not using the bus shelter on Cork Road as a pick-up location”.
- This motion was supported by all the Members and it was agreed that Fermoy MD would write to Bus Eireann in this regard, seeking confirmation that this bus stop will become operational. Brendan O’ Gorman SEE confirmed that use of this bus stop will not effect the usability of the cycle lane.
10. “that an Engineer’s report is proposed, looking at the possibility of installing traffic calming measures including ‘Children At Play’ and ‘Cul-de-Sac’ signs on Duntahane Road, Fermoy”.
- No funding stream available currently in the district to advance traffic calming here but will be kept on file for future consideration. The signage requests will be entertained. (BO’G)

Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien

11. “that this Council provide greater supervision for pedestrians and cyclists on having dog owners be more responsible”.
- Under the Control of Dogs Act 1986 and 1992 all dogs in public places must be under the control of their owner or another person capable of controlling them. The Control of Dogs Act divests power of enforcement to the local authorities. They can appoint dog wardens who can impose on-the-spot fines and pursue the prosecution of owners who fail to adhere to the legislation. If there is a particular location that needs enforcement, please bring to the attention the county dog warden. (BO’G)
- Mary Hayes SEO commented in relation to this motion that any areas of particular concern or where specific issues occur can be notified to Pauline who will pass them on to the relevant department for attention.
12. “that this Council provide update on proposed improvements on road N73 from Coolenave (Roundabout) to Carrigane (Kilbehenny Roundabout)”.

Some minor Pavement Maintenance resurfacing has been approved for 2021 for the area around the Coolnave Industrial Estate entrance but the wider planned resurfacing works from here to the Kilbeheny Roundabout are deferred, with no new timeline advised. (BO'G)
This motion was supported by the Members who are disappointed at the low level of funding being provided to carry out these minor pavement resurfacing works.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

1. EMAIL & REPORT 2.2.2021 RE: Provision of designated overnight motorhome parking.
The Members all welcomed the reply and report received and are wholly in support of the provision of this amenity in Fermoy at the earliest opportunity. Mary Hayes SEO said the proposal will be considered by the executive who will liaise with Rose Carroll, CCC Tourism Development Officer and an update will be prepared for the Members in due course.

2. LETTER Enterprise Ireland 2.2.2021 RE: IDA site, Dublin Road, Fermoy.

The Members welcomed this reply from Enterprise Ireland but would still request that the IDA communicate their plans and proposals for this site with a view to it being utilised at the earliest opportunity. It was agreed that Fermoy MD would again write to the IDA in this regard.

8. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

RE: Item 9 (2) - number of motions to be submitted for MD meetings.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Kay Dawson recommended that the number of motions for the March 2021 meeting be reduced to two per elected Member, to allow for the extensive Agenda which will be up for discussion at that meeting, and this was agreed.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Cllr. Frank O' Flynn - Springclean 2021

Cllr. O' Flynn enquired if there were any arrangements for a much-needed spring clean this year, with Cllr. Noel McCarthy adding that Covid-19 restrictions are hampering volunteer litter removal and street cleaning works. Mary Hayes SEO read from the 'An Taisce' website the current guidelines in relation to clean-ups which are "volunteers only carry out clean-ups with their own household/support bubble and within their 5km radius until 5th March". Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien asked where picked litter can be disposed of when collected to which Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied there is no sanction for area staff to collect such litter, with Pauline Moriarty SEO adding there is no budgetary provision for this service. Pauline undertook to forward the arrangements for Spring-Clean 2021 to the Members when available. Mary Hayes SEO undertook to check with senior management on the CCC approach to this activity this year.

(2) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Update on provision of car parking in Council owned estates

Cllr. McCarthy enquired for an update on this car parking in estates. Mary Hayes SEO replied that the list of estates to be included for this additional parking can be advised to Pauline and she will then liaise with the relevant department accordingly.

(3) Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - Silt from drainage works being left on roadside

Cllr. O' Brien asked if this silt (from cleared drains) could be removed from the roadside following such works, to which Brendan replied this is not feasible in most cases and this material is reused on site.

(4) Cllr. Frank Roche - Request for support to extend hedge-cutting season

Cllr. Roche requested Fermoy MD write to the Department in support of the FCI (Association of Farm and Forestry Contractors in Ireland) campaign to extend the hedge-cutting season for an additional two weeks. This request was supported by the elected Members.

Signed KAY DAWSON

Date 16.3.2021