

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting  
held on 15th February 2022**

**In Attendance:** Cllrs. Kay Dawson, Noel McCarthy, Deirdre O' Brien, Frank O' Flynn, William O' Leary, Frank Roche; Brendan O' Gorman SEE, Pauline Moriarty MDO, Lydia Kelly ASO

**Anyone Else:** Ciara Roe, ASO Fermoy MD

**Apologies:** Mary Hayes SEO

**1. MINUTES**

**a. Minutes of Fermoy MD January 2022 Meeting held on 18th January 2022.**

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

**2. REQUEST FOR DISABLED PARKING SPACE.** Mary Hayes SEO,

**a. Request for the installation of a disabled parking space adjacent to or very near P61 C579, Emmet Street, Fermoy.**

In response to this request and as there is no disabled parking bay on Emmet Street, Brendan O' Gorman SEE is recommending the installation of a disabled parking bay on the southside of Emmet Street where this street intersects with John Redmond Street. This proposal was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn.

**3. REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

**a. REPORT : MDO February 2022 Report  
and**

**b. UPDATE : Fermoy Weir Update**

Pauline Moriarty MDO went through her report for the Members information, items of note from which were discussed as follows:

- in relation to the planning application for Fermoy Weir, the Members expressed their disappointment that this application had not been submitted in January, as previously indicated. Pauline undertook to make contact with the project team for a further update and revert to the Members accordingly.
- further to the elected Members enquiry in relation to 'what happens next' about the dangerous structure on Upper Cork Street, Pauline will contact the Cork County Council legal department and update the Members with any progress on this issue.
- the elected Members requested additional information on the proposals being considered for Fermoy for the recently-announced €1.54 million RRDF funding, and also sought an update on the progress of the Georgian Quarter RRDF project in Mitchelstown. Pauline agreed to request Mary Hayes SEO to prepare updates for the Members information for the next meeting. Cllr. Frank O' Flynn commended those in Blackwater Leader and Cork County Council who had prepared and submitted the successful application for Fermoy.
- a discussion took place in relation to the re-installation of campervan parking in Fermoy for summer 2022 from which it was determined that alternative locations, other than the carpark at Kevin Barry Hill, will be considered for the coming season, either on a trial or agreed basis. The suggested locations include a section of the Mill Island carpark or The Promenade on Rathealy Road. One item of concern in respect of the Mill Island carpark is the necessary removal of the height restriction barrier which would facilitate access for high vehicles other than campervans. The executive undertook to prepare a recommendation for the Members consideration at the March 2022 meeting. Cllr. Frank O' Flynn requested the location be decided promptly to enable the campervan community include the Fermoy site on media posts and advertise same among their followers.
- Cllr. Frank O' Flynn informed the Members the CPG was recently informed that the provision of card / 'app' parking payment facilities is being examined on a county-wide basis and Fermoy MD will be included in any such developments accordingly. Cllr. Frank Roche asked that a dual system



be maintained as some people will still want to pay using cash, which Pauline agreed to refer to Director for further consideration.

· further to an enquiry from Cllr. William O' Leary Pauline confirmed that Fermoy MD personnel will liaise with and assist applicants for community grants where applications are incomplete or missing information. All applications will be processed and considered as long as they are submitted by the required closing time.

· it was agreed that the next MD meeting will be held as a physical meeting, and Pauline will update the elected Members as to when the 'hybrid' meeting facility will be installed and available. The IT system required for hybrid meetings will be installed in the Fermoy Town Hall only, so all MD meetings will be held there following the installation of the required infrastructure.

#### **c. PROGRESS UPDATE : Rathcormac VES**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE gave a verbal update on progress to date on this project, informing the Members that the re-aligned junction at the Garda Station is practically complete and work is to start imminently on the village park near the Garda Station. A connection to be installed by Irish Water for the housing development at Lisnagar will need to be completed before the final road surface and raised table can be done but other than that, all other works are proceeding satisfactorily, according to plan and as agreed. Brendan answered any queries the Members had, confirming for Cllr. William O' Leary that the removal of the right-turning lane effectively slows down traffic by narrowing the road and causing a queue and that this is part of the overall plan for the village. The Members acknowledged the works to date and will welcome the progression and completion of the scheme in Rathcormac.

#### **d. PROGRESS UPDATE : Doneraile T&V**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE gave a verbal update on progress to date on works in Doneraile, saying work at Cornahinch is now complete except for tree planting and landscaping. Work on the Turnpike Road side of Doneraile is progressing according to plan and on schedule and all that remains to commence here are the planned town centre works.

#### **e. PROGRESS UPDATE : Coolagown T&V**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that all proposals here have successfully gone through the required planning processes, and the public lighting has been completed. The 'set out' has been carried out and it is now possible to see on the ground what work is going to be done, these works are due to commence in two to three weeks time.

#### **f. UPDATE : Rathcormac Fair Green extinguishment of Public Right- of-Way**

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that this extinguishment of public right-of-way ties in with the overall plan for Rathcormac and is needed in order to proceed with the planned, agreed works for this location in Rathcormac. The Members accepted Brendan's recommendation for this to proceed as presented.

### **4. NOTICES OF MOTIONS - to consider Notices of Motions (12)**

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

1. "that Cork County Council put in place a footpath at Turnpike cross to Brough cross, Doneraile in the interest of safety".

There is already a footpath on the eastern side of the road for the full length identified. The section closer to the Turnpike Cross is wide and permits parking for the funeral home adjacent. We could look at installing a section on the western side at this locus subject to future NTA active travel funding. (BO'G)

Cllr. O' Flynn added that this is a wide area with vehicles turning and is cause of concern for the ten households here, who will welcome any improvement to the area.



**Cllr. Noel McCarthy**

2. “that this Council indicates whether it has considered the need for, and feasibility of, a relief road in Fermoy town in light of the soon-to-be opened Primary Care Centre at Mill Island and plans for a Tesco on the site of the old mart”.

Any new road here does not bring a by-pass to the town - it just brings traffic faster to/from the quays at Pearse Square. The proposed measure would however bring relief and reduce congestion primarily to a single junction on O’ Rahilly Row on the N72 and take traffic off the N72 directly into Tesco development on the eastern side. The proposal is been considered in conjunction with other measures that will fall under the Tesco planning which is a current application and pending.

Unfortunately, Tesco does not own all the lands that could bring about this relief here. (BO’G)  
This motion was supported by Cllrs. Dawson, O’Flynn and O’ Brien. Brendan O’ Gorman SEE added to his reply that the executive, with senior management, are looking at the overall situation and associated issues here with a view to formulating a traffic plan for Fermoy incorporating the most beneficial and effective re-distribution and management of traffic throughout the town.

**Cllr. William O’ Leary**

3. “that this Council would provide an update with respect to the possibility of a section of footpath being constructed from Ballynoe National School to Ballynoe Village”.

We commenced this project in 2021 on the village side on foot of a successful Clár grant. We are in a position to install 200m of additional at grade blacktop from the school back to the rock junction under localised widening under 2022 RI and pending approval of future MD footpath grants and discretionary roads funds, we will eat into the remaining 540m with a concrete footpath to the village in 2022/2023. (BO’G)

This motion was supported by Cllrs. McCarthy and O’Flynn. Cllr. O’ Leary acknowledged that the full extent of the required footpath here is a lot but asked if favourable consideration could be given to its completion in due course, to which Brendan O’ Gorman SEE replied installation work as per his reply will be carried out this year and other sections of the roadside will be lined / marked to demarcate a ‘footpath’, pending future funding to complete the concrete footpath. This may help to improve pedestrian safety in the interim.

**Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien**

4. “that this Council would provide update on works proposed for Mulberry Lane, Mitchelstown especially with regard to traffic calming”.

The proposed resurfacing of this route this summer under 2022 RI can include for one junction speed table and four additional soft ramp locations across the entire length. Ramp locations will be governed by available public lighting / private entrances. (BO’G)

This motion was supported by Cllrs. O’Flynn and Dawson. Cllr. O’ Brien acknowledged the traffic management works done on the Brigown road at the CBS and welcomes these proposals for Mulberry road which she highlighted is actually a ‘lane’ but which gets a lot of traffic.

**Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn**

5. “that Cork County Council put public lighting in place at Chimneyfield Bridge at the entrance to Carraig an Aifrinn, Glenville in the interest of safety”.

Rural out of village location. Not recommended as it is at odds with Cork County Council’s current energy usage policy. (BO’G)

Notice of Motion No. 9 - Cllr. William O’ Leary was discussed at this time.

*“that this Council would consider the installation of a public light at the entrance of the Carraig an Aifrinn Mass rock site in Chimneyfield, Glenville”.*

These motions were supported by Cllr. Frank Roche. Cllrs. O’ Flynn and O’ Leary said this is a very popular and much visited site and the installation of a light at the entrance would increase safety. Brendan O’ Gorman SEE recommended the local community make an application for community funding to install solar powered lighting as required at this location.



6. “that Cork County Council give a detailed report and timeframe on the present status of the taking in charge of Rathowen Housing Estate, Fermoy”.

There is a valid Taking in Charge application for Rathowen Estate and a claim has been made on the bond. The Council are awaiting CCTV to confirm that snag list works have been completed as per Council specifications before the estate can be recommended to be taken in charge.

A presentation was made in respect of ‘Taking in Charge of Estates Framework’ to the Development Committee on Monday 13th July 2020 by the Director of Service, Planning and Development.

A Countywide Framework – Plan of Action was outlined to the members. The Planning & Development Department has put together a programme of works to utilise funds received as a result of Bond settlements to progress the finishing of estates to a Taking in Charge Standard. This is being carried out by a ‘Bundle’ approach per division.

The Planning Department continue to assess, and progress where possible to do so, other Taking in Charge Applications for estates that are not included in the Countywide Framework Bundle Process. As agreed at CPG on the 1st February 2022, arrangements are being made to update Elected Members on the Taking in Charge of estates on a countywide basis at Development Committee on the 18th February 2022 and each Municipal District at a more detailed level thereafter.

(Michael W. Lynch, Director of Services, Planning & Development)

The elected Members voiced their disappointment at this reply saying this estate, along with others similar to it in the MD, is maintained to a very high standard and it is unbelievable that for the sake of a few small snags the taking-in-charge cannot proceed. The situation with this estate has been ongoing for at least twenty years and is still unresolved, which is totally unacceptable considering these householders are paying the LPT as required. They are seeking a more detailed response with timeline indicated and Pauline Moriarty MDO undertook to convey the Members comments to the Director accordingly.

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

7. “that this Council would put a budget in place for footpath repairs in Mandeville Park, Mitchelstown”.

Subject to confirmation of a footpath programme and budget in this district in 2022, the location will be proposed, subject to adoption of the entire future programme by the Councillors. (BO’G)

This motion was supported by Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien. Cllr. McCarthy said that the footpaths are quite badly damaged in this estate and it needs to be prioritised for repairs.

8. “that this Council would carry out footpath repairs in Rathealy Road from Lower Thomas Street to the end of The Promenade”.

Subject to confirmation of a footpath programme and budget in this district in 2022, the location will be proposed, subject to adoption of the entire future programme by the Councillors. (BO’G)

Cllr. McCarthy informed the meeting that Fermoy Tidy Towns have planned a project at this location and works will be undertaken by the group in 2022 which, with these footpath repairs, will further enhance this beautiful part of Fermoy.

#### **Cllr. William O’ Leary**

9. “that this Council would consider the installation of a public light at the entrance of the Carraig an Aifrin Mass rock site in Chimneyfield, Glenville”.

See reply and minutes at Notice of Motion No. 5 above. (BO’G)

10. “that this Council would liaise with whomever necessary to investigate the possibility of some aspect of public lighting ( however minimal to begin with) being installed at the St Colman’s Health Campus walking track, Fermoy”.

Private Property. Solar Light option is the only way to go here but will need to be funded from some outdoor infrastructure / healthy living initiative rather than our own limited public lighting budgets. (BO’G).

The Members acknowledged the heightened public wish for additional lighting at this busy, popular exercise venue; but accepted that as a private facility governed by an independent body it is up to that entity to make the necessary arrangements for any additional lighting at the facility.



**Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien**

11. "that this Council would provide new gate at the entrance to Brigown New Cemetery, Mitchelstown".  
*Inspection has taken place and early indications are that gate can be repaired. This matter will be progressed in the coming weeks. (PM)*  
Cllr. O' Brien welcomes the option of repairing this gate saying she is hopeful it can be restored to a pristine condition; failing this, a new gate would be preferable.

12. "that this Council provide update on proposed safety measures and resurfacing work on N73 at Ballyenihan".  
*Update and comment has been sought from our NRDO as this is a National Road. (BO'G)*  
This motion was supported by Cllrs. O' Flynn, Roche and Dawson. The road here is in a very bad condition with motorists driving on the verge to avoid the road surface. The TII need to look at this section of the road with a view to prioritising it for urgent restoration. Brendan acknowledged the Members concern in relation to this issue and undertook to contact the NRDO and senior (roads) management to re-iterate and emphasise the need for a satisfactory resolution here.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**  
None

6. **TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**  
None

7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**(1) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Footpath on Mallow Road, Fermoy**

Cllr. McCarthy is requesting weed removal and cleaning, and repairs, be carried out on the footpath on the Mallow road entrance to Fermoy.

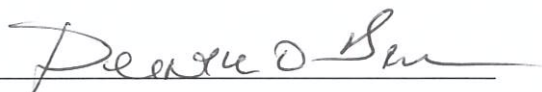
**(2) Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - New Square, Mitchelstown**

Cllr. O' Brien is requesting cleaning works, including power hosing, be carried out in this square to make it ready for summer 2022. She added that the kerbing around the trees is inadequate to keep the mulch contained within the tree bases. Cllr. O' Brien is also requesting that alterations be made to the walled planted areas at the top of the square to make the corners more suitable for vehicular movement. Pauline Moriarty MDO replied that similar requests have recently been received by other parties and that there are plans to power hose a section of the square on a trial basis to ascertain its effectiveness. The issue with the tree bases will be communicated to the Architect's Department for resolution. Adjustments to the walled raised beds can be considered. Cllr. Kay Dawson informed the meeting that a plan of works for the square has been devised in cooperation with the MBA and other agencies, and these works will be carried out in due course.

**(3) Cllr. Kay Dawson - Installation of Bicycle Stands and Bus Shelters**

Further to Cllr. Dawson's enquiry, Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied that the bicycle stands will be installed within the next two to three weeks; while Pauline Moriarty MDO undertook to check with the relevant personnel and revert to the Members with an update on the installation of the bus shelters.

Signed



Date

