

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

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, Ciara Roe CO.

1. MINUTES

a. Minutes of Fermoy MD February 2022 Meeting held on 15th February 2022

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

2. PRIDE OF PLACE 2022 - Nominations

Pauline Moriarty MDO introduced this item and went through the criteria and requirements for this competition, advising that the closing date for nominations is 8th April 2022. The elected Members are requested to submit their suggestions to Pauline by 4th April 2022 for consideration and one will be selected to go forward as the Fermoy MD nomination for 2022.

3. REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

a. 2022 Community Fund Scheme Draft Allocations

Pauline Moriarty MDO went through the applications for grant funding for 2022 referring to the detailed set of documents and graphs, prepared by Catherine Price CO, listing all the draft proposals. There are 105 applications this year in total, up eighteen on 2021, of which six have been diverted to the Town Development Fund and fifteen are recommended for refusal. The elected Members welcomed the proposals saying it is good to have these grants available and this is welcome and positive news for communities in the municipal district. They thanked Pauline and Catherine for the tremendous work they had undertaken in processing all the applications and preparing the proposals before them today.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy voiced his disappointment on behalf of Grange AC and the Ballyhooly Scout Club and said he is hopeful they will have a more favourable outcome in future; also for Fermoy Tidy Towns (as Chairperson) that their grant is reduced this year. Pauline explained that there is a 10% reduction across all the recommendations this year to facilitate a grant allocation, in some amount, to every one of the high number of valid applications received. Cllrs. Frank O' Flynn and William O' Leary expressed their support for the Carraig an Aifreann lighting project team whilst Cllr. Kay Dawson is hopeful that Fermoy First Responders can be facilitated in future when the qualification criteria has been met. On the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson and agreed by all the elected Members the 2022 Community Fund Scheme was approved.

b. REPORT : MDO March 2022 Report and

c. UPDATE : Fermoy Weir

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

- further to a query in relation to recently announced Town & Village funding for development of Floor 2 in the Library building, Mitchelstown, Pauline undertook to enquire for an update and revert to the Members at the next meeting.
- Cllr. Kay Dawson queried the extent of the role of the Consultants appointed for RRDF project in Mitchelstown to which Mary Hayes SEO replied the Consultant is starting on 21st March 2022. There are plans to carry out a extensive and structured public consultation process and there will be additional engagement in this regard in due course. Mary undertook to provide further details at the next meeting.
- in relation to the Fermoy Weir project, the elected Members yet again voiced their disappointment that the planning application has not yet been submitted and are now insistent that it is sent in on the now proposed date of 14th April, as indicated in the report.
- a meeting with Planning Directorate staff in relation to taking-in-charge will be scheduled.

d. REPORT : Fermoy Pool - Chief Executive's Part VIII Report

Pauline Moriarty MDO informed the elected Members that there is no start date for this work determined yet; and replied to a query that there will be no change to the arrangement with Fermoy Karate Club for their use of the facility. Having considered the report and recommendation, the proposal was sanctioned on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy and agreed by the Members.

e. 2022 Town Development Fund Draft Allocations

Pauline Moriarty MDO went through the proposals for the 2022 Town Development Fund Allocations, answering any queries from the elected Members. She said more detailed proposals for New Square, Mitchelstown will be provided as they become available. Brendan O' Gorman SEE indicated that alternatives for the provision of improved access at St. Fanahan's Well will be explored. The elected Members welcomed the proposals and the draft allocations, as presented, were adopted on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson and agreed by the Members.

f. 2022 Village Enhancement Scheme Draft Allocations

Pauline Moriarty MDO went through the proposals for the 2022 Village Enhancement Scheme Allocations, details of which were circulated to the elected Members. The elected Members are pleased that additional car parking is planned for the housing estates but queried the use of Fermoy funds to carry out this work, saying they consider this to be the remit of the Housing Directorate. Pauline undertook to convey this feedback to the relevant management for their consideration. The elected Members welcomed the proposals for the development of village plans for Glanworth, Glenville and Killavullen with Avondhu Blackwater Partnership Ltd. as consultants and the draft allocations, as presented, were adopted on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson and agreed by the Members.

g. 2022 Pay Parking Dividend Draft Allocations

Pauline Moriarty MDO introduced the proposals for the 2022 Pay Parking Dividend Allocations and answered all the elected Members queries. She confirmed the campervan facility will be provided as soon as possible following full public consultation with the residents. The elected Members welcomed the proposals, particularly the proposal in relation to the installation of campervan parking. The draft allocations, as presented, were adopted on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy and agreed by the Members.

h. 2022 Fermoy MD Dereliction Scheme

Pauline Moriarty MDO introduced the proposals for the 2022 FMMD Dereliction Scheme and further to a query from Cllr. William O' Leary, replied that she would agree in principle to the Painting Scheme extending to the villages in the MD and this may happen in future as part of the Village Enhancement Scheme. The 2022 Dereliction Scheme, as presented, was sanctioned on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy and agreed by the Members.

i. RECOMMENDATION : Two Safety Improvement Schemes 2022 - Budget €90,000

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the elected Members that there are two locations recommended for works under this scheme this year - O'Leary's Cross, Fermoy with a budget of €60,000 and Kiltrislane, Mitchelstown with a budget of €30,000. All requirements pertaining to public consultation and engagement with the landowners will be met. Designs for the projects will be prepared and works at both locations will proceed when the requisite executive arrangements are complete. The elected Members welcomed the proposals and agreed to the recommendations as presented by Brendan. Cllr. Frank O' Flynn acknowledged with thanks the two landowners who have cooperated with the proposals to date.

j. RECOMMENDATION : 2022 Fermoy RI Programme - Budget €3,646,812

Brendan O' Gorman SEE introduced the proposals under the 2022 RI Programme saying this budget represents an increase on 2021 funding and will provide for works on 44 kilometres of roads within the MD. Brendan answered all queries put to him by the elected Members, who welcomed the proposals. This programme was adopted on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien and agreed by the Members. Cllr. Noel McCarthy acknowledged and thanked the outdoor staff of Cork County Council for their attendance and work during the atrocious weather event of the previous week.

k. RECOMMENDATION : 2022 Fermoy RM Programme - Budget €1,083,790

Brendan O' Gorman SEE introduced the proposals under the 2022 RM Programme saying works on 46.5 kilometres of road will be carried out with this funding this year. The budget is divided fifty-fifty between Fermoy and Mitchelstown roads areas. The elected Members welcomed the proposals and this programme was adopted on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson and agreed by the Members.

l. RECOMMENDATION : 2022 Public Lighting Programme - Budget €38,780

Brendan O' Gorman SEE went through the proposals on this programme for 2022, all of which were welcomed and agreed by the elected Members, on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn.

m. RECOMMENDATION : 2022 Footpath Programme - Budget €96,342

Brendan O' Gorman SEE went through the proposals on this programme for 2022 and answered the Members queries. The works as outline in the programme were welcomed and agreed by the elected Members on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn.

n. RECOMMENDATION : 2022 Climate Change & Adaptation Proposals - Budget €167,000

Brendan O' Gorman SEE advised those present that this countywide scheme has already been agreed and he went through the list of nine proposals, uploaded to QuickMinutes for the Members information. The elected Members welcomed the proposed measures under this funding.

o. RECOMMENDATION : 2022 Former National Roads Funding (R639) - Budget €484,809

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed those present of the works proposed here which are a continuation of works already done on the R639 coming into Rathcormac. These works will be carried out during summer months 2022. The elected Members welcomed this proposal. Brendan also informed the elected Members of the €291k available for CIS jobs in the municipal district this year, of which there are six proposals for 2022, works to be done in August/September this year. The 10% local contributions will be calculated and secured prior to commencement of any work in these CIS locations.

4. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

1. "that this Committee would put dog fouling bins in place on the Main Street in Conna village and on the footpath walking towards Conna National School".

I recently received a query on this from the local NS and have since referred them to the appropriate Council department, Veterinary Department. (PM)

This motion was supported by Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien. Cllr. McCarthy is requesting a bin for those dog owners who do pick up the waste, and this may encourage other dog owners to do likewise. Cllr. Frank O'Flynn asked if a scheme could be put in place for schools in the MD to provide facilities to keep footpaths clean for school users. Pauline undertook to convey these requests to the Veterinary Department for a response and revert to the elected Members accordingly.

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

2. "that Cork County Council repair the damaged wall at the entrance on the green to St. Joseph's Square, Fermoy and repair the footpaths in the interest of safety".
Wall on corner will be repaired over the summer months. Footpath repairs will be budgeted for going forward. (BO'G)
This motion was supported by Cllr. Noel McCarthy. Brendan confirmed this work will be done this year.

Cllr. William O' Leary

3. "that this Council would consider the provision of a walking/cycling lane on the R639 from Rathcormac Village as far as the Mart roundabout under future funding streams".
No funding stream currently available to support such a measure but the request will be kept on file. (BO'G)
This motion was supported by Cllrs. Frank O' Flynn and Noel McCarthy.

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

4. "that this Council erect flag pole in New Square, Mitchelstown at the request of Mitchelstown Community Council".
Pauline Moriarty MDO said there should be no issue with the installation of a flag pole and this request can be incorporated into the design / plans for the proposed Mitchelstown Square works.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

5. "that this Committee would receive an Engineer's report on the possibility of a one way system being put in place on Clarke Street, Fermoy".
If there is universal support from the members for the proposal, (one way in off McCurtain Street), I can prepare a report and maps for the next meeting outlining the proposal and Roads Traffic Act procedures involved. It will involve Garda consultation and a period of Public consultation also. The executive would support such a measure. (BO'G)
This motion was supported by all six elected Members and further to their approval Brendan said he will prepare a plan for consideration at the April 2022 meeting. Full public consultation will be required before any such changes can be made.
6. "that this Committee would carry out road repairs and resurfacing on sections of Richmond Hill, Fermoy".
Based on the number of regular Irish Water breakages on the hill, I cannot justify laying a new surface in advance of Irish Water renewing their existing main. They have indicated that this locus is not on their priority list for now so pressure should be exerted by the members. (BO'G)
On the basis of this reply from Brendan O' Gorman SEE, and following a brief discussion, it was agreed by the elected Members that Fermoy MD would write to Irish Water requesting they prioritise this watermain for replacement at the earliest opportunity to facilitate the required road resurfacing works. The Members also undertook to raise this issue with Irish Water at their next clinic.

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

7. "that Cork County Council would improve the sight distance, advanced warning signs and road safety at Egan's Cross, Glanworth which continues to be the scene of road traffic accidents, in the interest of safety of all road users".
We are liaising with a landowner to see if they will permit the existing roadside fence (approaching from the east, looking north towards Glanworth) to be set back deeper into their field, which would improve sightlines. All advance warning and regulatory signs and line markings are installed and unobstructed. (BO'G)
This motion was supported by Cllrs. Deirdre O' Brien and Frank Roche. Brendan O' Gorman SEE updated his reply to advise that the relevant landowner has yet to agree to any changes at this location, however, Brendan will highlight this request at the 'Accident Prone Locations Forum' with Cork County Council and An Garda Síochána.

8. “that Cork County Council put in place traffic calming measures at Clonmel Road, Mitchelstown in the interest of road safety”.
- A raised Belisha crossing has been placed across the main entrance to Dairygold which has helped to control speeds. No budget in place currently for a wider calming scheme. (BO’G)
- Brendan requested, in reference to his reply, that the elected Members think of making funding provision for requests such as this when they are considering the annual budget.

Cllr. William O’ Leary

9. “that this Council would consider the provision of a footpath and or walking lane in Conna from the community field as far as the L-96281-3 junction in the interest of safety in to the high volume of persons who exercise on this section of road”.
- No funding stream currently available to support such a measure but the request will be kept on file. (BO’G)
10. “that this Council would provide an up to date position with respect to public realm measures implemented under Project ACT and if some of these can now be removed where possible”.
- Brendan O’ Gorman SEE recommended that it may be premature to make any changes at present to these measures based on how things are currently with Covid-19. Pauline Moriarty MDO advised that licences will be required by premises for their outdoor seating areas for 2022 and each application will be considered on its merit. Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn said the 15-minute parking spaces are very successful and requested these remain unchanged. Cllr. Kay Dawson said she supports this motion and that some of the outdoor dining / seating structures which were erected need to be reassessed and brought in line with a standard for same which needs to be established and maintained. Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien requested the removal of the bollards on Church Hill, to which Brendan replied there are advantages to these bollards remaining in place at this location, and he would not be in favour of their removal at this time.

Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien

11. “that this Council would investigate and make safe Egan’s Cross, Glanworth in light of recent traffic accidents”.
- See No. 7 reply above. (BO’G)
12. “that this Council would investigate and make safe, erect further signage, from Spurree Cross to Spurree L-5792-0”.
- This is a local secondary route (second lowest category) less than 4.0m average width. It is not appropriate to be signing and lining narrow, winding local roads. (BO’G)
- Further to a query, Brendan O’ Gorman SEE said a mirror can be erected here but it is the responsibility of the property owner.

5. CORRESPONDENCE
None

6. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

RE: Notice of Motion 4(6) - Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn, Rathowen Estate.

Cllr. O’ Flynn enquired if there had been any reply in relation to Rathowen Estate, Fermoy to which Pauline Moriarty MDO responded she had sought an update from the relevant department but this not yet been received. She will revert to Cllr. O’ Flynn and the elected Members in due course.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien - Car Park at Jame’s Street, Mitchelstown.

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE informed the elected Members that the required changes will be made on James Street to facilitate access to the new car park from the George’s Street direction (extension of two-way system on street by ten metres towards Upper Cork Street). This will be on a trial basis and monitored to ensure its success. Additional signage will be installed. This was agreed by the Members following the proposition of Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien, seconded by Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn.

2. Removal of two trees from Castletownroche housing estate.

Brendan O' Gorman SEE sought the agreement of the elected Members for the removal of two dangerous trees from a housing estate in Castletownroche, his recommendation was approved by all the Members.

3. Cllr. William O' Leary - Issue with road in Britway


Further to Cllr. O' Leary's request, Brendan O' Gorman SEE agreed to investigate this issue with a view to providing a resolution.

4. Cllr. Noel McCarthy - School buses on Emmet Street, Fermoy

Cllr. McCarthy enquired for an update on the situation with respect to issues around school bus parking on and traversing Emmet Street and the other side streets in that area. Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied that he and Bus Eireann are satisfied with the arrangement that is currently in place. Admittedly there is congestion at the 15/20 minute peak school time but there is no feasible solution to this happening. Following a brief discussion and on Brendan's suggestion, it was decided that Fermoy MD would write to the Boards of Management of the two schools requesting their teachers and students desist from parking in these streets.

5. Cllr. Noel McCarthy - Request for establishment of a hub for Ukrainian refugees.

Further to this request from Cllr. McCarthy, Brendan O' Gorman SEE advised that the provision of such resources should be forthcoming from agencies other than Fermoy MD, and said there would be advice from the relevant Government Departments in due course in relation to these facilities. Pauline Moriarty MDO undertook to convey Cllr. McCarthy's request to Corporate Affairs for consideration and reply.

Signed 

Date 19/4/22