

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting
held on Tuesday, 20th October 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.

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Kay Dawson, welcomed everyone to the meeting and, in light of the increasing incidence of Covid-19, requested the elected Members to be mindful and to do their utmost in leading the way with regards to (compliance with) the restrictions imposed to halt the spread of the virus.

Prior to commencing the business on the Agenda, Mary Hayes SEO requested a brief 'in committee' discussion with the Members in relation to onstreet outdoor dining facilities proposed for Fermoy town centre. The two locations currently being considered are Pearse Square and Patrick Street. There are proposals on hand for an additional external dining area on Patrick Street. In realising these proposals there will be some changes to the current parking arrangements in place and a crossing point will be created on Patrick Street between 'Hannah's Restaurant' and Dealz, these proposed changes will result in the return to use of one parking space. Brendan O' Gorman SEE confirmed, further to a query, that there will be no immediate changes to the Project ACT measures already taken including the installation of the 'grass' on Patrick Street. He also agreed that additional '15-minute setdowns' could be provided on the street. Further to a discussion the Members agreed that, on condition there is full public consultation with 100% 'buy-in' from the effected stakeholders in the vicinity of the proposed changes, they would sanction these proposals for Pearse Square and for Patrick Street.

1. MINUTES

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Fermoy MD 'In Committee' Meeting held at 10.30am on 15th September 2020.

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

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Fermoy MD September 2020 Meeting held at 11.00am on 15th September 2020.

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

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Fermoy MD 'In Committee' Meeting held at 2.00pm on 15th September 2020.

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

4. Confirmation of Minutes of Fermoy MD 'Review of County Development Plan' Meeting held at 2.30pm on 15th September 2020.

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

2. DISPOSALS, GRANTS, LEASES ETC.

To consider the disposal of land at Ballybrowney, Rathcormac, Fermoy, Co Cork Area: 0.03 hectares/0.072 acres; From whom acquired: record not available. Acquired by Cork County Council in 1968; To whom it is proposed to dispose: Derwin Tanner and Ingrid Tanner, Ballybrowney Upper, Rathcormac, Co Cork; for the Consideration of: €1.00.

The Members considered the information provided in relation to the above proposal and this Disposal of Land at Ballybrowney, Rathcormac was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. William O' Leary, seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy.

3. **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. REPORT : October 2020 MDO Report

Pauline Moriarty MDO went through the report, uploaded for the Members information. The following items were discussed:

- Pauline said she will be contacting property owners in Mitchelstown with premises in close proximity to the proposed locations of the Age-Friendly seats to ensure their approval.
- In relation to the twinning between Nowa Deba and Fermoy, Cllr. Noel McCarthy requested that this arrangement be terminated immediately as, despite the response received from the Mayor (which Cllr. McCarthy has seen), the anti LGBT+ policy in the Polish municipality will not change and it is not acceptable. He added that this issue has now gained international interest and that it needs to be resolved. All the elected Members concurred with Cllr. McCarthy and the decision to terminate the twinning agreement between Nowa Deba, Poland, until they change their stance on LGBT+ rights, and Fermoy was agreed.
- Further to a query from Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, Brendan O' Gorman SEE confirmed that a Section 38 Public Consultation process will be arranged for Doneraile Town & Village scheme works next year 2021.
- Cllr. William O' Leary recommended that the Cork County Council Covid-19 Community Support Helpline should be highlighted as this was very helpful during the lockdown earlier in the year.
- Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien requested an update on Clenor cemetery works, Pauline undertook to make enquiries and revert for the next meeting.
- Cllr. O' Brien was advised, further to her query, that applications for the Mitchelstown Painting Scheme should be submitted immediately as the closing date for this scheme is November 2020.

Pauline answered any other queries the Members had in relation to items in the report and the Members thanked Pauline for the update, complimenting the works undertaken to date in the district. Cllr. Kay Dawson thanked Diane Finucane, acting MDO for her work in Fermoy MD, mentioning especially the works she arranged and carried out under Project ACT.

2. REPORT : Project ACT Overview and Key Achievements Report and

6. UPDATE : Project ACT

- There is a requirement for additional onstreet outdoor dining facilities in Fermoy town centre. There are proposals on hand for two locations at Pearse Square and Patrick Street. In realising these proposals there will be some changes to the current parking arrangements in place and a crossing point will be created on Patrick Street. The net result in car parking will be the return to use of one of the parking spaces currently closed off. It was agreed that consultation with local traders is vital and once this is carried out and further to these stakeholders acceptance, these proposals for Pearse Square and for Patrick Street could proceed.
- Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that there is a proposal to remove the bollards from James Street, Mitchelstown and to create three '15-minute setdowns' at Bank of Ireland, Mitchelstown. This was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien.
- Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that preparatory and preliminary works on the James Street car park project will be commencing soon.
- Brendan O' Gorman SEE requested the Members sanction the removal of the temporary taxi rank at Terence McSweeney Street, Fermoy as it is not required at present as there are few taxis in use due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Further to a brief discussion it was agreed that this taxi rank would be removed temporarily and returned to use when required, and replaced with '15-minute setdowns'.
- Cllr. Kay Dawson said the 'Project ACT' report uploaded for the Members was worth reading as there are some good ideas therein which could be of use in Fermoy MD.

3. PROGRESS UPDATES : RI / RM / CIS / LIS / Drainage / Public Lighting / Footpath / Safety Schemes / Active Travel Programme

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that all roadworks programmes are progressing as planned, on schedule and within budget. All these works are to be completed by mid-November.

There are two LIS projects and three CIS projects, all contributions for which have been paid and works to be complete by mid-November. Active Travel footpath works in Rathcormac are complete. Brendan informed Members that the footpath proposal from Kilcrumper junction to the next junction (towards Circle-K/Moorepark) will be a combined pedestrian and cycle facility. Further to a query from Cllr. Noel McCarthy in relation to the proposed cycle-way between Fermoy, Kilworth and Mitchelstown, Brendan advised that Part A is the design which is now starting and Part B is the public consultation which will be arranged in due course. The Members thanked Brendan for the updates on the 2020 programmes, complimenting him on all works carried out to date this year. They particularly welcomed the planned progression of the proposed cycleway as detailed above and will look forward to future updates on this project as it continues.

4. FINAL REPORT : Section 38 - Upper Cork Street, Pedestrian Crossing, Mitchelstown

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the Members that there had been no public submissions received in the public consultation phase for this project and that An Garda Síochána are happy with these proposals. He confirmed there will be no loss of car parking and that build-outs will be required to facilitate this installation. The proposed pedestrian crossing was approved on the proposition of Cllr. Kay Dawson, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien and agreed by all the Members. This will now be presented to full Council for approval at the earliest opportunity.

5. RECOMMENDATION : Part VIII - R639 Public Realm and Streetscape Regeneration Scheme, Rathcormac

Brendan O' Gorman SEE went through the proposals to hand for this Rathcormac scheme, comprehensive drawings and details for which were uploaded to DecisionTime and circulated at the meeting. He said this is a long-term plan, the blueprint for Rathcormac to year 2030, and had been devised with the community and other local stakeholders through a meticulous consultation process involving appointed Consultants. The public consultation for this project commences today and all documents and drawings are available online for public consideration and submissions can be made, in writing, from interested parties. The plans include the proposals and funding allocated in the 2019 VES for Rathcormac which complements the Innovation Park proposals adjacent. Brendan requested the Elected Members raise awareness with the public of the proposed scheme and said any queries they may have can be communicated to him directly. All the Members wholeheartedly welcomed the proposals here and the commencement of the R639 Public Realm and Streetscape Regeneration Part VIII Planning Process, Rathcormac was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. William O' Leary, seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn and agreed by all the Members.

4. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Cllr. Frank Roche

1. "I am calling on TII to release funding immediately to widen the N73 road between Mallow and Mitchelstown at the request of many residents, motorists and hauliers. I am calling on the County Engineer also to write to TII to support the call. If necessary, I am requesting a meeting with TII at the earliest opportunity".

This motion was supported by all the elected Members who agreed that there is consistent damage to mirrors etc. on HGVs and other vehicles along this stretch of roadway. Accordingly, Pauline Moriarty MDO undertook to write to the TII with the Members concerns and road widening request.

Cllr. Kay Dawson

2. "Call on Cork County Council to improve Mitchelstown cycling infrastructure by installing a bicycle stand to lock bikes onto".

Will contact the Transport SPC and establish if a Cycling Policy exists and will keep this in mind should a suitable source of funding become available. (PM)

This motion was supported by all the elected Members. Pauline Moriarty MDO said a coordinated approach needs to be taken around infrastructure and installations of this nature and further to a discussion it was agreed that a possible funding source be examined with a view to providing such an amenity next year. The SEO noted that subject to the budgetary process and the Town Development

Fund remaining in place for the coming year that funding could be made available from this fund to install bicycle stands similar to those installed in the past year in Mallow and Millstreet.

Cllr. William O' Leary

3. "that this Council would provide an up to date position with regards the 59 Club Fermoy and if this Municipal District would seek Cork County Council to enquire about the possibility of a compulsory purchase order in this regard in the interest of health and safety".

This site is the subject of legal proceedings. Temporary works have been carried out however the footpath remains cordoned off in the interests of public safety. (PM)

This motion was supported by all the elected Members. However, a CPO on this building is not a feasible option at present as legal proceedings are ongoing in relation to this derelict site.

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

4. "that this Council make footpaths more disability friendly at Lower Cork Street and Lower Baldwin Street, Mitchelstown; there are a number of users of mobility scooters in the town who find open drains difficult to manoeuvre".

We will attempt to make all junctions and defined uncontrolled crossings mobility and scooter friendly but at other locations where we have legacy open drains, these are open for a reason and will be retained. There are no open drains in Lower Cork Street. (BO'G)

Cllr. O' Brien clarified that the drains she refers to are the dipped channels in the footpath that run from the building downpipes to the kerbside. Brendan O' Gorman SEE undertook to examine these channels with a view to inverting them, thereby levelling out the surface of the footpath, subject to suitable drainage alternatives.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

5. "that this Council provides an update on plans to enhance public safety measures at Barry's Boreen, Fermoy. This is a health and safety matter pertinent to the allocation of houses in Duntahane in the coming weeks".

Further discussions between the landowner, his advisors and the property section of Cork County Council will be reactivated to progress improvement works here. (BO'G)

Cllr. Kay Dawson

6. "Call on Cork County Council to repair / replace slabs outside 4 Brian Boru Square, Fermoy as there is a problem with water pooling".

Will be done. (BO'G)

Cllr. William O' Leary

7. "that this council would install a disabled parking bay at St. Joseph's National School, Fermoy".

The narrow roadway adjacent to the school does not support car parking so any disabled bay here needs to go on the approach housing estate roads approaching the locus. In that regard, any bay here would remove residents parking, which we would try to avoid. For further discussion. (BO'G)

Further to a discussion, Brendan O' Gorman SEE confirmed that the area outside the funeral home in the vicinity of the school is public and therefore it is acceptable for people to park their cars here when going to the school.

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

8. "that this Council carry out repair/restoration of the bridge at Drough, Mitchelstown".

Will be done. (BO'G)

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

9. "that this Committee would rescind the Games and Lottery Act of 1976 in Fermoy which was passed for Mitchelstown recently".

This motion was supported by all the elected Members and Pauline Moriarty MDO undertook to seek advice from the Council's legal department as to the relevant procedure required to advance this action.

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. LETTER : Office of HSE CEO :: 30.9.2020 :: RE St. Francis Welfare Home, Fermoy
Noted.

2. EMAIL : Sean O' Brien AO :: 8.10.2020 :: RE Taking-In-Charge Applications Fermoy MD
Noted. The Members were satisfied with this updated spreadsheet and had made contact with Seán directly with their queries.

3. EMAIL : Bus Eireann :: 19.10.2020 RE Bus Eireann Bus Stop - Bella Café, Fermoy
The Members were displeased with the reply from Bus Eireann in relation to the change of location of the bus stops in Fermoy town, and requested Pauline Moriarty MDO write again to Bus Eireann asking them to reconsider.

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

None

7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

(1) Cllr. Frank O' Flynn - Public Consultation for Fermoy Weir project

Pauline Moriarty MDO undertook to seek an update from Kevin Morey, County Engineer as to the commencement date for this consultation and revert to the Members accordingly. In the meantime, she requested the list compiled of interested parties be forwarded to her so that they can be contacted in due course.

(2) Cllr. Noel McCarthy - proposed surfacing works on Dublin Road, Fermoy

Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied to Cllr. McCarthy's query that these works will proceed mid-November 2020 and will be carried out as 'night works' to minimise disruption to traffic.

(3) Cllr. William O' Leary - Cancellation of Bus Eireann Xpressway service

Cllr. O' Leary voiced the dissatisfaction of all those effected by the cancellation of the Cork-Dublin Xpressway service in the towns along this route (no seats available) and requested Fermoy MD write to Bus Eireann accordingly. This was seconded by Cllr. Frank O' Flynn and agreed by all the Members.

(4) Cllr. Frank O' Flynn - Unavailability of 'Flu' jab

Cllr. O' Flynn requested that Fermoy MD would highlight the public concern at the unavailability of the 'flu' injection this year. This was seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy.

Signed

Kay Dawson

Date

17/11/2020