

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting
held on 20th February 2024**

In Attendance: Cllrs. Kay Dawson, Noel McCarthy, Deirdre O' Brien, Frank O' Flynn, William O' Leary, Frank Roche;
Aidan Creagh SEO, Brendan O' Gorman SEE, Margaret O' Donoghue MDO, Lydia Kelly ASO.
Joan Dineen SEE, Catherine Murphy A/SE - CCC Coastal & Flood Projects

Apologies: John Slattery, A/Co. Eng. - CCC Coastal & Flood Projects

1. MINUTES

a. Minutes of Fermoy MD January 2024 Meeting held on 16th January 2024

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

b. Minutes of Fermoy MD 'In Committee' Meeting held on 29th January 2024

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

2. DEPUTATION - Residents from Rathcormac effected by the 2023 Flood Events

The Deputation from Rathcormac was comprised of Tanya Barry, Aujelle Raggett, Claire O' Flynn and Daniel Dooley who were representing the community of Rathcormac. Joan Dineen SEE and Catherine Murphy A/SE were in attendance from the Council Coastal & Flood Projects section. Claire O' Flynn spoke on behalf of the Deputation describing the devastation to those whose homes and businesses were impacted by severe flooding on two occasions within a short timeframe in October 2023, and the upset at witnessing these flood events firsthand as they unfolded. She posed a series of questions and requests to the elected Members and executive including the following:

(1) seeking a commitment that the Shanowen and Aha Rivers and behind the graveyard be dredged at least every two years to allow for maximum water capacity and drainage.

(2) what facility is in place and agreed that allows the *let-off* of surface water from the M8 motorway towards Rathcormac village?

(3) asked what schedule and arrangements are in place by the Council for the cleaning of storm drains to allow for maximum drainage during heavy rain. Rathcormac community are offering assistance with this work if required.

(4) looking for copies of the proposals for the long term resolution plan which Rathcormac Flood Group understand was agreed between the OPW and Cork County Council. Can these be sent to rathcormacfloodgroup@gmail.com

(5) it is understood that the new estate constructed near the old school in Rathcormac was to install storage containers for rainwater as part of the planning permission, but surface water from this estate flowed out onto the public roads exacerbating the village flooding while these containers remained empty, can this be inspected?

(6) Rathcormac Flood Group has sourced water (flood) gates with a cost of €85,000 in New Zealand and is seeking the advice and assistance of Cork County Council with the procurement and installation of same.

Claire and Tanya Barry highlighted the difficulty for current and potential businesses in getting insurance which is proving to be detrimental to the future development of Rathcormac. This will have a very negative impact particularly for Main Street which has a significant level of dereliction. Daniel Dooley informed the meeting that the Rathcormac Flood Group had been set up as a sub-group of the Community Council and they are willing to liaise with Cork County Council to ensure action is now taken and commitment given on all measures needed to prevent future flood events.

The most relevant and important step now is that all parties strive together to ensure that Rathcormac is sanctioned for CFRAMS (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management) measures at the earliest opportunity, as it is considered that CFRAMS will be the most effective method of securing the village from flooding. The Deputation was welcomed and fully supported by the six elected Members present. Brendan O' Gorman SEE indicated that a report will be prepared and available for the March 2024 meeting of Fermoy MD.

3. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

a. REPORT : February 2024 MDO Report

Margaret O' Donoghue MDO went through her report. The elected Members welcomed the progress on works in Kilcumper cemetery including the Columbarium Wall and also the works in Mitchelstown Playground. Specific queries in relation to the report included:

- Cllr. Noel McCarthy sought clarification on the funding for the purchase of the premises formerly known as "Annies". Aidan Creagh SEO replied that funding for purchase of Annie's Café was part of the Fermoy Town Centre Renewal RRDF Category 2 Project which was approved for Fermoy. Under that project funding was provided for purchase of a vacant disused building ("Annie's") and for design works to the property. The project also approved funding to progress the design for an upgrade to the Urban Realm. The funding allocation for the purchase of Annie's Café is separate to the funding provided to upgrade the Urban Realm and so purchase of Annie's does not impact the delivery of the Urban Realm upgrade. The funding provided under the RRDF Category 2 grant is for purchase and design of Annie's, it does not include for carrying out of any works to the property. Similarly the funding for Urban Realm is for design work to bring the project to Part 8, it is not for doing the actual works themselves. Any proposed works to the building purchased and carrying out of construction works on the Urban Realm will be subject to a future RRDF Category 1 application being approved. We await the next call for funding of Cat 1 projects which is likely to early 2025. Further to a query from Cllr. Kay Dawson, Aidan Creagh SEO confirmed that the property acquisition is complete, and that negotiations with regard to property purchases are done in private between the executive and the selling agents until an agreement is in place.
- Cllr. Noel McCarthy asked if traffic lanes at Brian Boru Square could be examined as there is currently confusion where drivers waiting to turn left into Fermoy off Rathaely Road at 'The Priory' café corner think oncoming southbound cars indicating left are turning out Rathaely Road as opposed to indicating their intention to join the left hand lane over Kent Bridge. Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied that he will examine with a view to altering the road-markings here.
- In reply to a query on the timeframe for the Christchurch junction works, Brendan O' Gorman SEE that the N72/R639 junction works and the town resurfacing works will run together, with a potential start date of Q2 or Q3 2024. The start date for these works may, however, be determined by the closure of the N73 for the Annakisha Road Improvement Scheme this year as the N72 via Fermoy will be required as part of that official detour.

b. REPORT : Ballard Forest Car Park Part 8 CE Report

The elected Members welcomed this planned development of a carpark at Ballard forest and this proposal was sanctioned on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O' Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy and agreed by all the members.

c. RECOMMENDATION : Village Enhancement Scheme - Glanworth, Killavullen & Glenville

Brendan O' Gorman SEE introduced the proposals for these Village Enhancement Schemes. Plans, drawings and material palette images for Glanworth and Killavullen were displayed onscreen (those for Glenville will be available in due course). Brendan explained that this item on the Agenda today is for information purposes and these schemes will be up for adoption at the March 2024 meeting. Funding in the amount of €31,000 has been secured for each of these three VES and this will be supplemented, in some part, by CCC roads and other discretionary funding. There is no planning required for the proposals at Glanworth or Killavullen, while the project in Glenville will require Part 8 permission. Brendan answered any queries from the Members and these proposals were welcomed by the elected Members.

d. UPDATE : Glass Bring Site at Kilworth

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the meeting that Kilworth Community Council have now communicated their wish for no bring site in Kilworth village (deemed unnecessary as there are other adequate recycling facilities available). This was wholly supported by the elected Members. Brendan added that the situation would be monitored to ensure there are no issues and that this decision can be relooked at in the future if so desired.

e. REPORT : FMMD Footpath Programme - Refurbishment and New Works 2023 & 2024

Brendan O' Gorman SEE went through the Footpath Programme, uploaded and displayed onscreen, which includes the outstanding works from the 2023 plans, in hand at the moment, and all future works proposed for 2024. Funding to the value of €159,000 from roads discretionary budgets plus €96,000 (expected) Capital Grant is available for this work. Brendan answered any queries the Members had in relation to this programme. He advised that there are no Active Travel Measure funds available to Fermoy MD at the moment and said that, with the limited budget available, works with the highest priority are those included on the programme.

Further to an enquiry from Cllr. O' Brien about footpath repairs in estates, Brendan O' Gorman SEE replied that low level damage to footpaths in estates, and other locations, is inspected as always and repaired when reported.

f. REPORT : Progress Update 2024 RI Programme (verbal update)

Brendan O' Gorman SEE informed the meeting that the RI programme commenced on 6th February in Mitchelstown and is progressing with two projects complete to date - Ballyderown Leitrim and the Araglin School road. He advised that additional funds granted this year will only cover the increase in inflation and higher energy costs, but if additional grants become available, blacktop works will be extended accordingly. The surface dressing grant remains the same as 2023, and there is a slight increase only in other grants such as Safety Improvement Schemes funding. The CIS funding also remains the same as 2023, with 52% of the requested funding being allocated. The full range of programmes approved for funding will be presented at the March 2024 meeting for the Members consideration and approval.

g. REPORT : 2024 Drainage Programme (verbal update)

Brendan O' Gorman SEE advised that this programme will be presented at the March 2024 meeting for the Members consideration and approval.

The elected Members welcomed all the works proposed within these programmes, with their comments and observations including the following:

- it is disappointing that there is no additional funding to continue works at O' Leary's Cross, this was noted by Cllrs. O' Leary and O' Flynn. Brendan explained the 'mechanics' of seeking funds with a view to optimum success, from local *ask* to county *ask* and then onto the Department for consideration and final decision.
- funding for safety work at Kenny's Cross was welcomed by Cllr. O' Leary.
- Cllr. Kay Dawson requested Fermoy MD write to Limerick County Council in relation to Ballyaghaderg Bridge, to which Brendan replied this is to be actioned further to discussion at Northern Committee level. Limerick County Council are the nominated lead authority to advance the scheme required at this location near the boundary between counties Cork and Limerick.

4. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn

1. "that Cork County Council and TII would, in order to improve the safety for schoolchildren and all road users at Glenahulla NS, replenish and upgrade all on road advance warning signs, repair the 40k flashing sign on the Kildorrery approach road, clean all poll signs and put in place on road advance signage from the Kildorrery entrance to Glenahulla and put in place a yellow line by the hedge surrounding the school car park in the interest of safety".

All pre-existing electrical defects on signs have been addressed and repair contracted. There is no requirement to upgrade existing warning signs. Sign cleaning is underway and will be undertaken more frequently. New signs and maintenance of Variable Speed Limit Signs and renewal of existing and new lining is a matter for the TII. (BO'G)

All the elected Members welcomed the works done and proposed for this location, saying with one hundred pupils now in attendance at this national school, road safety is paramount. Cllr. Noel McCarthy enquired if An Garda Síochána could attend here more often to monitor speed, Brendan undertook to convey this request to An Garda Síochána.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

2. “that this Committee would get an Engineer’s report on the possibility of a footpath being put in place on the L-5763 road Castlehyde East towards Grange School”.
- There is no funding available currently to meet the request. This length of footpath, 0.5km would cost in the order of €135,000. Our entire footpath capital allocation each year does not exceed €95,000 and that is meant to serve the entire district, covering up to 200kms of footpath. (BO’G)

Cllr. Kay Dawson

3. “traffic lights Mitchelstown : call on Cork County Council to (a) review the timing of pedestrian lights at Upper Cork Street as pedestrians are getting a signal to cross while traffic is still coming from Church Street and (b) at Lower Cork Street to repair or replace button at Amber side so pedestrians can cross”.
- Both issues have already been raised as a high priority for our external contracting team. (BO’G)

Cllr. William O’ Leary

4. “that this Council would again consider implementing public lighting from Dr. Barry’s Bridge, Rathcormac down as far as the footbridge where the public footpath is already in place R626”.
- There is no funding in place to meet the request and will cost in the order of €75,000 (solar option only under consideration). Our current yearly public lighting allocation for the entire district is only €55,000. (BO’G)
- Brendan O’ Gorman SEE added to his reply that there are housing developments ongoing here at present in the village and when any special development contribution levies from these are made available, these funds could be used to provide facilities such as those requested here

Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien

5. “that this Council clean dykes on the approach roads into Ballindangan Village, enabling widen of the road, ensuring it safer for Church goers and attendees to the Community Hall”.
- Removing the grass margins here will increase speeds approaching the school and impact existing drainage and we want to avoid that. (BO’G)
- Cllr. O’ Brien asked if Ballindangan could be considered for future VES funding. Brendan advised that the other approach to Ballindangan village is on the RI programme for works this year and when works here are complete, this may help alleviate the issues being experienced when car parking is required for an event.

Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn

6. “that Cork County Council would upgrade the lighting in the interest of safety at Turnpike Cross to Brough Cross with the new LED lights”.
- All existing Sodium lights will be retrofitted with LED as part of the ongoing PLEEP contract in the county. (BO’G)
7. “that Cork County Council would accede to the request by Loreto School YSI Project to put in place a memorial bench to raise awareness, remember and acknowledge victims of domestic abuse a commemorative bench in Fermoy Town Park”.
- This motion was supported by Cllr. O’ Leary. Margaret O’ Donoghue MDO replied saying that she would be happy to liaise with the Loreto students on this project.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy

8. “that road repairs be carried out on the road in Beechfield Estate, Fermoy. The surface, in some locations, is sinking”.
- Area will be trunked up. Overlay for entire estate on our radar for 2027. (BO’G)
- Cllr. McCarthy requested this work be brought forward if at all possible.

9. “that road repairs and potholes be filled at Ballyarra, Castlelyons and this road would be considered for a full resurface”.
Cul-de-sac and is routinely patched and will be continued to do so. Possible future CIS here also. (BO’G)
Cllr. McCarthy said he will liaise with the residents here with a view to progressing a CIS.

Cllr. Kay Dawson

10. “call on Cork County Council to repair road at centre of traffic lights at Lower Cork Street”.
Third party Uisce Éireann trench. They have plans in Q1/Q2 to undertake permanent trench reinstatement in this water zone. (BO’G)
Brendan re-iterated that this issue has been raised very recently with Uisce Eireann and works are to commence in the town very soon.
11. “call on Cork County Council to renew road markings on Upper and Lower Cork Street”.
Will be done under 2024 TDF proposals. (BO’G)

Cllr. William O’ Leary

12. “that this Council would provide an up to date position and timeframe with regard the construction of the footpath between Ballynoe National School and the village”.
Tender pack being prepared currently for Phase 2 and going out the market in March. Recent meeting undertaken with School Principal and it is envisaged that volunteer and local plant will be utilised to bring down costs. Phase 1 Works likely to proceed during Easter holidays. (BO’G)
13. “that this Council would urgently liaise with the Public Lighting Section with regards to an outage in the Beechfield Estate which has now been in effect with four months”.
The public lighting section are continually engaging with ESB Networks and Enerveo in the resolution of this issue. Works are ongoing on site in this respect. This does not involve local road operations. The issue is related to a cable fault (due to possible legacy third party works in the area). (BO’G)
Cllr. McCarthy said the contractor has commenced works at this location. He added that there are a number of lights out in Balmace Estate and requested Brendan report to the relevant agency.
Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien enquired what option has an estate that is not taken in charge if there are public lighting outages, to which Brendan replied these are dealt with on a case by case basis, dependant on the current status of the estate.

Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien

14. “That this Council address continual flooding issue on the footpath on the entrance to Abbeyfarm Estate, outside No. 7 Abbeyfarm, it appears to be caused by blocked drains, which is causing damage to the footpath”.
Blocked gully and damaged section of footpath here will receive a priority response. (BO’G)
15. “that this Council tar and chip into wall on Close Road, Castletownroche, on opposite side of footpath installed from Church to GAA pitch”.
This road is on our Blacktop Programme for 2024 and as advised previously, surface course will be taken right into the wall to locally widen road. (BO’G)

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None

6. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Cllr. Noel McCarthy - that maintenance work be carried out at the side entrance to the Town Park on the Mallow Road side

Cllr. McCarthy said this pedestrian entrance to the park is currently very muddy and mucky, and he is requesting the installation of a concrete access at this location.

2. Cllr. Noel McCarthy - that road repairs and potholes be filled on the Loughnahilly Road, Fermoy.

Brendan O' Gorman SEE advised this is on the list to be patched.

3. Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - Update on Lighting at John Mandeville, New Square

Brendan O' Gorman SEE said this was to be installed in January 2024, he undertook to seek an update which he will email on to the elected Members when received.

4. Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - Update on lighting at Kingston College...huge issue during funerals

Brendan O' Gorman SEE advised that when the lights are being replaced with LEDs under the PLEEP contract, the Contractors will address any lighting deficits at this location.

5. Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien - Update on Road signs for 'Ballygiblin' on Junction R639/Carrigane. Gone with 2 years but poles there.

Brendan O' Gorman SEE advised that this sign has been long ordered and we are awaiting delivery.

Signed _____

Date _____