**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting**

**held on 21st May 2024**

**In Attendance:** Cllrs. Kay Dawson, Noel McCarthy, Deirdre O’ Brien, Frank O’ Flynn, William O’ Leary, Frank Roche;

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE, Margaret O’ Donoghue MDO, Lydia Kelly ASO.

**Apologies:** Aidan Creagh SEO

**AT 10.30 am - RE: DERELICT SITES (In Committee)**

Margaret O’ Donoghue MDO went through statistics and data giving the current situation with regards to derelict and potentially derelict sites across the municipal district. She expressed her gratitude to Jennifer Harvey CO for all the administration work she has undertaken in relation to derelict sites and for the information presented today. The elected Members thanked Margaret and associates for the update, saying there is great progress being made in the treatment of these properties, and acknowledged the trojan work carried out to date.

The Councillors said they are hopeful that more property owners will avail of the existing grants and schemes, such as *Croí Cónaithe,* as with the current shortage of housing options it would be beneficial to return as many properties as possible to a habitable condition. They also recognised the difficulty some property owners have in dealing with their properties which have fallen into dis-repair, and said every assistance should be give to such property owners to deal with these issues.

Margaret O’ Donoghue MDO assured the elected Members that Fermoy MD personnel and members of the Town Regeneration Team are there to liaise with owners and assist them explore all options to contend with dereliction issues at their properties.

**1. MINUTES** **a. Minutes of the Fermoy MD April 2024 Meeting held on 16th April 2024**

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

**2. DEPUTATION : KILMAGNER NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

Trevor Grumbridge, Principal Kilmagner NS and Barry Collins, Chairperson Kilmagner NS Board of Management were welcomed to the meeting by Cllr. Noel McCarthy, whose proposition it was to have this Deputation here today. Trevor Grumbridge outlined the serious concerns they now have at this sixty-five pupil rural school with the speed of traffic on the N72, despite there being 50kph school warning signs in situ. The school have taken several measures to enhance safety at the school, such as staggered collection times and the instigation of a ‘Homework Club’ to reduce numbers at peak hours but the problem still persists and is of huge concern to the staff, Board of Management and parents. Trevor added that traffic safety issues are now a deterrent to parents considering sending their children to Kilmagner national school. Barry Collins added that the deputation are seeking the support of Fermoy MD in their request to the TII for additional signage and additional traffic calming measures in the vicinity of the school.

All the elected Members concurred with the concerns raised and pledged their full support to Kilmagner NS in their quest to improve safety for school-goers and their families from the speed of road traffic. They suggested additional monitoring by An Garda Siochana as an aid towards resolving the situation.

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE undertook to prepare a report in response to the Deputation which will be available at a future meeting of Fermoy MD.

**3. PRESENTATION : HEALTHY AGE FRIENDLY HOMES** **Presentation of Programme and Introduction of New Coordinators**

Norah Conway of the ‘Healthy Age Friendly Homes’ Programme was welcomed to the meeting and gave a very informative presentation on this new initiative which is devised to allow people, who are reaching older age, continue living in their own homes as long as possible. The Programme offers a range of supports to facilitate this goal, aided by specifically appointed Coordinators.

The elected Members welcomed Norah and thanked her for the presentation. They all agreed this is a very worthwhile and valid endeavor, welcoming this scheme which puts great value on the elderly and enables them to continue residing, with the necessary support in place, within their communities and in their own homes. Margaret O’ Donoghue MDO also thanked Norah for her attendance and presentation today.

**4. TIC, DISPOSALS, GRANTS, LEASES ETC.** **a. "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:-**

**ESTATE NAME Cluain na Rí LOCATION Clondulane, Fermoy LINEAR METRES 372.5".**

The Members noted the information and map submitted in relation to this proposal, and thanked the County Council personnel for the work involved in getting this estate to this stage of being taken-in- charge. The proposal was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by

Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn.

**5. SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL WORKS 2024**

At the request of Margaret O’ Donoghue MDO, it was agreed to defer this item to the July 2024 meeting of Fermoy MD.

**6. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS** **a. REPORT : May 2024 MDO Report**

Margaret O’ Donoghue MDO went through her report, the content of which was noted by the elected Members. The Members welcomed news of the proposed new carpark in Doneraile, saying it will be of benefit to the town. Cllrs. O’ Flynn and McCarthy requested that plans for Fermoy RRDF be published as soon as available, saying that full engagement with and ‘buy-in’ from all stakeholders is essential, and increased traffic volumes through Fermoy will have to be factored into any plans being prepared. In relation to the 2024 Painting Scheme, it was requested that the closing date be deferred as interested property owners are finding it difficult to get contractor prices, as required.

Margaret O’ Donoghue MDO advised that any requests in relation to the requirements of the Painting Scheme can be made directly to the MD office in Fermoy.

**b. RECOMMENDATION : Proposed Disabled Bay adjacent to No. 7 Sean O’ Brien Park, Beechfield, Fermoy**

This proposed disabled bay, recommended by Brendan O’ Gorman SEE, was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson.

**c. REPORT : 2024 Footpath Programme Update**

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE informed those in attendance that the appointed Contractor is currently working on footpaths in Beechfield Estate and in Ballynoe, and will continue working on the agreed programme of footpath works throughout the MD to completion.

**d. REPORT : 2024 RI Programme Progress Update**

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE advised that this programme is now 30% complete, with works continuing. Brendan sought the Members approval to defer two projects on this programme to 2025, these two being blacktop on the Fermoy Road, Conna and the short section of the Duntahane Relief Road. The latter will be done to tie in with the new footpath at Barry’s Boreen. These deferrals were agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson.

**e. REPORT : 2024 RM Programme Progress Update**

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE informed those present that works on this programme have commenced and are ongoing. The surface dressing crew will alternate between Mitchelstown and Fermoy locations until all works on the programme have been carried out. The programme is currently about 25% complete.

**f. REPORT : Storm Babet Resurfacing Update**

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE updated the meeting that of proposed projects under this funding stream, the R628 in Kilcor is now complete; Lyrebarry, Glenville is 30% done and works are due to start at the Golf Club road in Corrin, Fermoy next.

**g. REPORT : 2024 Drainage Programme Progress Update**

This progress report, as uploaded to QuickMinutes, was noted by the elected Members.

**h. RECOMMENDATION : 2024 / 2025 Fermoy MD Public Lighting Proposed Programme**

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE informed the meeting that some discretionary CCC roads funding will be used to supplement the approximate €35k granted (annually) for this programme in order to get this work done over the next two years 2024 and 2025. Brendan pointed out that some 2026 proposals are also indicated on this programme. Brendan advised that if Doneraile GAA can contribute 50% of the cost of their requested lighting, this could be done in 2025 or 2026. He answered any queries the elected Members had and theFermoy MD Public Lighting Programme, as presented, was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson.

**i. RECOMMENDATION : Section 38 Pike Road, Traffic Calming, Fermoy**

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE informed those present that this Section 38 for Pike Road, Fermoy was launched and advertised last week. He went through the proposals saying the road crossings are to be installed by the developer of the new housing scheme and the raised table will be installed by Cork County Council. The elected Members welcomed these proposals and they were agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Noel McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. William O’ Leary.

**j. FOR CONSIDERATION : Greenhill Estate - Change to Green area**

It was decided to defer this item for consideration at the July 2024 meeting of Fermoy MD.

**7. NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

**Cllr. Noel McCarthy**

1. “that this Council would write to TII to get an update on when the main street in Ballyhooly would be fully resurfaced and some sections of footpath be repaired”.

We will write to the NRO with the request, and they will liaise with the TII in the matter raised. There are no resurfacing plans for this section of the N72 on the horizon here. (BO’G).

**Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn**

2. “that Cork County Council would put in place, as a matter of urgency, improved traffic calming measures and consider a zebra crossing outside Killavullen National School, and repair the school flashing lights which are not working, the interest of safety”.

The school flashing light errors will be addressed by our appointed contractor. There is no traffic calming budget for this district approved by councillors. (BO’G)

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE commented that it is the elected Members who approve budgets and it is they who will have to provide this type of funding at budget time. Brendan agreed for a traffic count to be arranged for this location.

**Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien**

3. “that this Council would support installation of Disabled Parking Bay at Curraghagalla Church”.

For discussion. (BO’G)

Further to a brief discussion, Brendan O’ Gorman SEE agreed that this DPB can be installed as a courtesy gesture but clarified there can be no enforcement at this location.

**Cllr. William O’ Leary**

4. “that this Council would carry out drainage work in Killawillin, Castlelyons P61RT18”.

Routine drainage maintenance will be undertaken here. Additional runoff is coming from adjacent fields. (BO’G)

**Cllr. Noel McCarthy**

5. “that this Council receive an Engineer’s report on the possibility of a raised ramp being put in place on Main Street, Shanballymore, Co. Cork”.

There is no traffic calming budget for this district approved by councillors and single location ramps are to be avoided. Speed tables are preferable. We have requested a survey for Shanballymore in terms of a future traffic calming scheme. (BO’G)

**Cllr. Noel McCarthy**

6. “that this Council write to Local Link with reference to providing a service to Kilworth Village”.

For discussion. (MO’D)

Following a discussion on this motion it was agreed that this request would be forwarded to Local Link for consideration and response.

**Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn**

7. “that Cork County Council would put in place, as a matter of urgency, improved traffic calming measures in the vicinity of the entrance to Ballyhooly National School and Church yard in the interest of safety”.

This is a National Road and any safety scheme here would be progressed by the NRO in consultation with the TII. Traffic calming and a Belisha Crossing has already been provided at this location in the past so we will see where this goes. (BO’G)

**Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn**

8. “That Cork County Council would put traffic calming measures in place in Kildorrery village and put a pedestrian crossing in place from Kildorrery National School across the road towards the GAA grounds side where some pupils parents park, in the interest of safety”.

We have year on year proposed a Safety Improvement Scheme for this locus but it has yet to receive Department funding to progress. We will continue to seek funds here in conjunction with a ‘safety at schools’ project. We have requested a survey and design for this section of the R512 in terms of a future traffic calming scheme to be ‘shovel ready’. (BO’G)

Brendan added to this reply that a change of location for the N73 pedestrian crossing is under consideration by the TII and we would be hopeful it will be moved in due course.

**Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien**

9. “that this Council would review car parking spaces in front of Garda Station, Mitchelstown to create extra public car spaces”.

For discussion. (BO’G)

Further to a discussion, Brendan undertook to liaise with An Garda Síochána in Mitchelstown in relation to parking at this location with a view towards making the requested change, if feasible.

**Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien**

10. “that this Council would install footpath at residential area Carrigane, Mitchelstown and resurface road area”.

Will be considered over a number of years under future footpath programmes. Overall likely costs €130,000. (BO’G)

**Cllr. William O’ Leary**

11. “that this Council would consider the provision of speed ramps on the approach road to Berry Hill Estate, Castlelyons if and when funding allows”.

An overall traffic scheme could be produced for this stretch of road as and when funding allocations are made. The 50kph zone has already been extended here to support speed reductions. (BO’G)

Brendan added to this reply that the proposed introduction of a 60kph speed limit on all local roads should make a difference to driver behaviour and will hopefully lead to an overall decrease in traffic speed, on the approaches to urban centres.

12. “that this Council would write to the Department of Education with regard to Fermoy Educate Together School and that all Councillors would support this letter with regard capacity and space issues they have and request that a resolution must be found in this regard”.

Further to a comprehensive discussion, during which the capacity issues at this school were highlighted, it was agreed that Fermoy MD elected Members would arrange a meeting with the school Board of Management before any further action would be taken by Fermoy MD.

**8. CORRESPONDENCE** **a. EMAIL D. Tobin Local Link Cork 19.4.2024 RE Ballynoe Village route service**

Noted.

Margaret O’ Donoghue MDO informed the elected Members that no response had been received to date from Bus Eireann in relation to the request for a bus stop at Glocca Maura, Mitchelstown.

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

None

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien - Glenabo Heights - Reinstatement following storm drain works at Cairn Court.**

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE replied that this work will be done now, the ground being too wet up to this point to proceed.

**2. Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien - Kildorrery Graveyard - cut some & left some, terrible state.**

Margaret O’ Donoghue MDO replied that she is aware of the situation here and is seeking a resolution to these issues.

**3. Cllr. Deirdre O’ Brien - Entry into Mandeville Park, safety measures, raised at a previous meeting.**

Cllr. O’ Brien indicated she will revert to Brendan O’ Gorman SEE on this issue.

**4. Cllr. Noel McCarthy - that this Committee would consider traffic calming measures for the New Road, Kilworth, Co. Cork.**

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE replied that there was €40k allocated to the R667 in Kilworth village this year to carry out work from the square to the school. He will consider this separate request if spare funding becomes available.

**5. Cllr. Noel McCarthy - that this Committee would receive an Engineer’s report on the possibility of more works being carried out on the ramps on McCurtain Street, Fermoy.**

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE replied that funding has been secured to carry out resurfacing on the ramp at Bishop Murphy NS crossing.

**6. Cllr. Noel McCarthy - that this Committee would consider a speed detector being put in place on the Mallow side of Castletownroche.**

Brendan O’ Gorman SEE replied that there is a 50% levy on the community towards the cost of these signs and that if this contribution is forthcoming this request can be considered.

Before the conclusion of the meeting An Cathaoirleach Cllr. William O’ Leary thanked the elected Members for their cooperation and help over the past twelve months during his time in the Chair, wishing them all the best for the future and in the forthcoming elections. He also thanked the executive and all the staff for their help and work during this past year.

In reply Brendan O’ Gorman SEE thanked Cllr. O’ Leary and the other elected Members and acknowledged all the work they had accomplished in the five years of their term as elected representatives.

Margaret O’ Donoghue MDO thanked the elected Members and her colleagues for all their help and assistance since her appointment as MDO in Fermoy.

The good wishes of all present were conveyed to the Councillors for their candidacy at the forthcoming local elections.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_