

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting
held on 15th October 2024**

In Attendance: Cllrs. Nelius Cotter, Noel McCarthy, Deirdre O’ Brien, Peter O’ Donoghue, Frank O’ Flynn, William O’ Leary, Aidan Creagh SEO, Brendan O’ Gorman SEE, Margaret O’ Donoghue MDO, Lydia Kelly ASO.

1. MINUTES

a. Minutes of Fermoy MD September 2024 Meeting held on 17th September 2024

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

2. TIC, DISPOSALS, GRANTS, LEASES ETC.

a. Disposal of Land at Brigown, Mitchelstown : CCC to ESB Networks

“to consider proposed disposal of land ~ Situation: Grant of Easement and Disposal of substation at Fior Uisce, Brigown, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork. From Whom Acquired: Registered to Cork County Council since 1949. To Whom It Is Proposed To Grant: ESB Networks. Consideration: €1.00”

The elected Members considered the information provided for this proposal and this Disposal of Land, as detailed above, was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Deirdre O’Brien, seconded by Cllr. Frank O’Flynn.

b. Disposal of Site at Ballyogaha West, Bartlemy, Co. Cork

“to consider proposed disposal of site ~ Situation: Disposal of Site at Ballyogaha West, Bartlemy, Co. Cork Area: as outlined in Folio & File Plan CK118100F From Whom Acquired: Registered to CCC since 2005 To Whom It Is Proposed To Dispose: Kamil Kozbial Consideration: €15,000

This item was deferred.

3. REQUESTS FOR RE-ALLOCATION OF GRANTS

a. Castlelyons GAA – 2024 – CFS 586473956 – €10,000

Castlelyons GAA request that Capital Grant awarded for the purchasing of a scoreboard be reallocated to supply and erecting of new fencing.

This re-allocation request was granted on the proposition of Cllr. William O’Leary, seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy.

b. Mitchelstown Heritage Society – 2021 – CFS309253405 - €2,000

Mitchelstown Heritage Society request that Amenity Grant for refurbishment of the Old Filling Station on Upper Cork Street Mitchelstown be reallocated to refurbishment of the Millenium Sculpture in Market Square, Mitchelstown.

This re-allocation request was granted on the proposition of Cllr. Deirdre O’Leary, seconded by Cllr. Frank O’Flynn.

c. Glanworth GAA – 2022 – CFS309253405 - €10,000

Glanworth GAA request that Capital Fund for installation of LED Lighting be reallocated to the upgrade of universal toilets in Clubhouse.

This re-allocation request was granted on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O’Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O’Brien.

d. TDF 2024 - €1,750

Reallocation of funds from originally proposed Halloween event to Fermoy Musical Society for their upcoming 'Shrek the Musical' show to commemorate their centenary year.

This re-allocation request was granted on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O’Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy and agreed by all the Members. The elected Members congratulated FMS on their centenary year and wished them well for their forthcoming production.

4. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

a. REPORT : October 2024 MDO Report

Margaret O'Donoghue MDO went through her report. The elected Members thanked Margaret and welcomed in particular the proposal in relation to the traffic survey for Fermoy town as there is a huge issue with traffic congestion.

The success of the 2024 Painting Scheme was noted. The elected Members voiced their approval that this scheme was extended to all villages within the MD this year and said they are hopeful the Painting Scheme will be continued and be available again in 2025.

In relation to works on Fermoy Weir, the Members were pleased to see progress is being made on the detailed design but voiced their concern as to where adequate funding will be sourced to carry out this long-awaited project.

Recent works in Ballyhooly Community Field and at Glenseskin Woods, Kilworth were also welcomed with the elected Members complimenting both these projects.

b. UPDATE : 2024 Footpath Programme /NTA Sustainable Travel (verbal update)

Brendan O'Gorman SEE informed the meeting that late season NTA funding in the amount of €290,000 had become available to carry out projects at Mondaniel, Rathcormac; at two locations in Barry's Boreen, Fermoy and one on Dublin Road, Fermoy. These works will commence imminently and will be complete by (financial) year end. Brendan advised that all other NTA works are ongoing.

c. UPDATE : 2024 RI Programme Progress (verbal update)

Brendan O'Gorman SEE informed those present that CCC crews are currently working on the last RI project for this year, which, when finished, will complete the 2024 RI Programme on schedule and within budget. As previously advised, two projects were removed from the 2024 RI Programme, one has been transferred to the Storm Babet 2024 works and will be done this year, and the other will be done in Q1/2025 in conjunction with current NTA footpath works at Barry's Boreen / Duntaheen Road junction.

d. UPDATE : 2024 RM Programme Progress (verbal update)

Brendan O'Gorman SEE noted that all works on this programme are now complete.

e. UPDATE : Storm Babet Resurfacing (verbal update)

Brendan O'Gorman SEE advised that extra funds had been made available under this scheme and work has commenced on the R667 in Kilworth, with works in Conna also planned. Brendan added that storm resilience works such as bigger culverts and concrete drainage channels are being included with this work.

f. UPDATE : 2024 CA&R (verbal update)

Brendan O'Gorman SEE informed those present that works under this scheme have commenced and will be complete in time to meet (financial) year end requirements. These works to include direct labour works at Bettyville, Clondulane which is now complete.

g. UPDATE : 2024 SIS (verbal update)

Brendan O'Gorman SEE advised that Safety Improvement Scheme works at Kenny's Cross are nearly complete. There are also SIS works planned for Kilworth and in Dispensary Lane, Rathcormac.

h. 2024 November Speed Limit Revision updates

Brendan O'Gorman SEE advised that new poles for the 60kph speed limit will be installed, where necessary, across the MD with this work to commence imminently and continue to year end.

Additionally to the reports above, Brendan O’Gorman SEE advised on the following items, and responded to queries raised by the Members as follows:

- the Traffic Study to be carried out will inform the public realm works planned for Fermoy and will include Emmet Street and all urban central streets and areas.
- repairs to roads being used as diversions while the N73 is closed will be carried out when the N73 re-opens; this work is under the remit of the NRO and TII.
- N72 in Fermoy town centre surfacing works will commence at end October and will be complete by end of November 2024, before the Christmas shopping season gets underway. Works will be carried out by night and, as part of these works, the uncontrolled pedestrian crossing at Hanna’s / Dealz will be completely removed.
- in reply to a query from Cllr. O’Leary if there are any additional surfacing works planned for the R639 (former N8) Brendan advised that there are two sections to be prioritised from funding available for old national roads and while he has sought €1million for a number of schemes, he is hopeful, at a minimum, of securing €450,000 to carry out this work on the R639 in 2025.
- 7km of the N72 on the Waterford side, out from Fermoy Hospital, is on the TII radar for improvement works, which will hopefully be carried out in 2025.
- Cllr. Cotter enquired as to the criteria for CIS funding to which Brendan replied the limited CIS fund is shared across the entire county, and there were seven CIS jobs approved in Fermoy MD this year. He is hopeful funding will be granted for another seven jobs in 2025. Applications are kept on file and sanctioned for completion in rotation when funds become available and where feasible.
- in response to a query from Cllr. O’Brien Brendan said the majority of sinking manhole covers are the responsibility of the utility companies such as Uisce Eireann, Eircom, broadband providers etc. There is one at Fermoy Town Park which is under the remit of CCC River and Coastal Section. One in Mitchelstown which requires repair will be brought to the attention of the local Area Office.
- repairs to the ramp at the Avondhu office on MaCurtain Street, Fermoy will be done when former N8 funding becomes available.

5. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Cllr. Frank O’ Flynn (seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O’Brien)

1. “that Cork County Council would put wheelchair parking space and signage at Edward Street, Mitchelstown near the side entrance to Mitchelstown Town Hall”.
This request will be considered as part of a review of the Parking Regulations for Mitchelstown. (BO’G)

Cllr. Noel McCarthy (seconded by Cllr. Frank O’Flynn)

2. “that this Council would receive an update report on the possibility of a boardwalk for Kent Bridge, Fermoy and funding being made available for this project”.
There is no funding stream currently available to advance a feasibility study for this project. This is a major capital project that would involve discussions with TII/OPW also. Long Term Capital Project aspiration only. (MO’D/BO’G)

Cllr. William O’ Leary (seconded by Cllr. Peter O’Donoghue)

3. “that this Council would consider the appointment for a School Warden for Rathcormac National School. The school now has the second highest number of students in the Fermoy MD”.
MDO will consult with the relevant stakeholders on this matter. (MO’D)
This motion was also supported by Cllrs. McCarthy and O’Flynn. Margaret O’Donoghue MDO said this is a budgetary issue and will be looked at in 2025 as School Warden costs are funded by the MD.

Cllr. Peter O’ Donoghue (seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O’Brien)

4. “that this Council would create a designated loading bay at Market Place, Fermoy to facilitate the loading and unloading of materials for businesses in the area”.
There is insufficient space and turning area within Market Place to facilitate this. There are existing spaces allocated within Fitzgerald Place for a business to load/unload and long duration park. Currently, vehicles unload on O’Neill Crowley Quay (formal loading bay) and Mill Road adjacent.

This request will also be considered as part of a review of the Parking By-Laws for Fermoy Town. (BO'G)

Cllr. Frank O'Flynn cautioned against removing any parking spaces here; while Cllr. Noel McCarthy suggested the trading space be re-purposed as there is no trader currently in operation here.

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien (seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy)

5. "that this Council would provide update on the installation of traffic calming measures at Scart, Kildorrery on the R512".

No update. There is no dedicated traffic calming budget allocated to this division. We will continue to keep the request on file. A Safety Improvement Scheme is proposed for the general school area north. (BO'G)

Cllr. Nelius Cotter (seconded by Cllr. Frank O'Flynn)

6. "to request that Rathcormac CFRAMS be moved from a tranche 2 to tranche 1 to facilitate a faster delivery of necessary flood defences and mitigation measures in Rathcormac village".

NOM will be referred to our River and Coastal Section and OPW. (BO'G)

This motion was supported by all the elected Members. Cllr. Cotter suggested that recently flooded areas such as Rathcormac should be fast-tracked for priority over those areas which have not flooded for a number of years.

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn (seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien)

7. "that Cork County Council would put traffic calming measures in place at Ballygown NS in the interest of safety of all road users".

There is no dedicated traffic calming budget allocated to this division. Approach roads from the south are coming down to 60kph which will help. We will keep the request on file. (BO'G)

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn (seconded by Cllr. Peter O'Donoghue)

8. "that Cork County Council would put road safety measures in place at the Rathcormac Community Centre junction on Rathcormac to Cappagh Ballyhooly road to improve visibility for all road users approaching from the Cappagh Ballyhooly side".

Works are coming on stream over the next two weeks as funded under the 2024 Safety Improvement Scheme - this has already been long advised to the elected members. (BO'G)

This motion was supported by Cllrs. O'Leary and McCarthy. Cllr. O'Leary queried the effectiveness of the double yellow lines here. Brendan O'Gorman SEE said the build-out will bring the 'STOP' line out further towards the main carriageway which will improve visibility. Build outs will physically prevent parking that double yellow lines will not.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy (seconded by Cllr. Peter O'Donoghue)

9. "that footpath repairs be carried out on Main Street, Kilworth outside of the home of P61 K002 Cotter's Bar".

Some repairs are scheduled here under the SIS / NTA traffic calming scheme for the village. (BO'G)

(seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien)

10. "that this Council receive an Engineer's report on the possibility of speed ramps being put in place at the entrance to Abbey Farm and Stonewall estates, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork".

There is no dedicated traffic calming budget allocated to this roads division. We will keep the request on file. (BO'G)

Brendan O'Gorman SEE again requested the elected Members make a case for dedicated Traffic Calming funding for estates at full Council budget discussions. He re-iterated there is no discretionary funding available for this work; with the cost being €5,000 per ramp and a ramp being required every 100 metres. Standalone ramps are not advised.

Cllr. William O' Leary (seconded by Cllr. Peter O'Donoghue)

11. "that this Council would consider repainting all road markings and parking markings including disabled etc on Emmett Street, Fermoy".

Will be considered for 2025. Not required currently. Any marking removed by virtue of recent SW housing connection works will be made good by appointed contractor, as per his ROL. (BO'G)

(seconded by Cllr. Peter O'Donoghue)

12. "that is Council would consider formalising the crossing in Rathcormac by Fitzzy's Chipper and the old school to an official pedestrian crossing".

This request is often repeated. Again, this existing uncontrolled crossing is on a bend and is not recommended to be converted to a controlled crossing. One has two signalised crossings either side, north and south of here. (BO'G)

Brendan O'Gorman SEE indicated that this request could be considered if a School Warden is being appointed for Rathcormac NS and this crossing could then be delegated as the 'manned' crossing point.

Cllr. Peter O' Donoghue (seconded by Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien)

13. "that this Council would carry out a full traffic assessment at Emmett Street, Fermoy during the time school buses are collecting students in the evenings, to investigate if a safer more efficient traffic management system can be implemented in the area at this time".

This is a matter for Bus Eireann School Bus Services and has been addressed and looked at by them on foot of past notices of motion. Any changes to the existing arrangements would cause additional congestion and build ups on adjacent residential routes which we want to avoid. This is a short duration disturbance and is running as best it can. (BO'G)

There was a recent distressing incident of traffic rage at this locus which resulted in a number of calls being received by the elected Members. A comprehensive discussion took place following which it was agreed that, on the recommendation of Brendan O'Gorman SEE, an invitation would issue to the Bus Eireann Inspector to come to Fermoy, meet on site and examine the situation first-hand further to which Brendan will revert to the elected Members with a formal report for consideration.

(seconded by Cllr. Peter O'Donoghue)

14. "that this Council would carry out a full assessment of footpaths in Mitchelstown to identify all footpaths which need repair and replacement".

As soon as the long-promised Footpath inspection App is launched by the RMO and resources allocated to road ops to complete the surveys, I expect this will be a countywide exercise and not just confined to a single town. On foot of these condition surveys, the overall picture and funding demand can then be presented to members. (BO'G)

Brendan O'Gorman SEE commented that there is a legacy of poor footpaths in Mitchelstown as there was no Town Council funding there prior to the advent of the Municipal District. However, there is only a limited budget of €105,000 - €120,000 per year to meet all required footpath improvement works throughout the district. Mitchelstown footpath repair requests will be kept on file for future consideration.

Cllr. Deirdre O' Brien

15. "that this Council would carry out up to date traffic and safety survey at school drop off and pick up times on Emmet Street, Fermoy for the safety of residents, students and motorists".

As per NOM No. 13 above. (BO'G)

16. "that this Council would call on Uisce Eireann to reinstate the road R512 at Carhoo, Kildorrery (bend at Abbeylands) following works carried out a number of weeks ago".

We have already raised this issue with Uisce Éireann and we are not happy with their temporary reinstatement. A permanent reinstatement is sought in line with their Road Opening Permit (ROL). (BO'G)

Cllr. O'Brien undertook to raise this issue at the planned CCC/UE meeting, scheduled to take place on 15th November 2024 at 11.00am.

Cllr. Nelius Cotter (seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy)

17. “that Cork County Council would install Driver Feedback Signs (Speed Indicator Signs) at Herbert’s Cross on the N73 in the interest of safety at the petrol pump”.

These speed indicator signs are only advised within urban areas (governed by reduced speed limit zones) or those areas specifically funded under safety improvement schemes. The maximum default speed limit applies here on this National Road and is no different from every other National Road junction. Not recommended and not funded regardless. (BO’G)

Cllr. Cotter enquired if any additional signage could be installed here to which Brendan replied he would refer this request to the National Roads Office.

(seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy)

18. “that Cork County Council would put traffic calming measures in place with a soft ramp on the entrance to Templeroe Estate, Shanballymore”.

There is no dedicated traffic calming budget allocated to this division. Speeding here would be by residents of the estate in the main. We will keep the request on file. (BO’G)

Brendan O’Gorman SEE added to his reply that these issues are now being incorporated for resolution from the outset when planning permission is being granted for new estates. However, the matter remains unresolved in older estates.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None

7. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Cllr. Deirdre O’Brien

In light of unreliable service on route 245, I am asking that we call on Bus Eireann management at our next meeting to brief us on the issues that commuters are experiencing at present time in relation to the 245 service. If it is operationally more expedient that Bus Eireann management attend via teams while local management attend in person

(2) Cllr. Deirdre O’Brien

Update on Ballygiblin Signs at Junction 639/Kilbehenny.

(3) Cllr. Deirdre O’Brien

Update on FCA Hall

(4) Cllr. Noel McCarthy

That this Committee would receive an Engineer’s report on the possibility of bollards being put on the footpath outside the side entrance of Ladbroke’s Betting Office, Clarke Street, Fermoy.

Signed _____

Date _____