

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting
held on 19th November 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 October 2024 Meeting held on 15th October 2024

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

2. TIC, DISPOSALS, GRANTS, LEASES ETC.

a. Grant of Wayleave at Fior Uisce, Brigown, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork

“to consider proposed grant of wayleave ~ Situation: Grant of Wayleave at Fior Uisce, Brigown, Mitchelstown, Co. Cork. From Whom Acquired: Registered to Cork County Council since 1949. To Whom It Is Proposed To Grant: Uisce Eireann. Consideration: €1.00”

The Fermoy MD elected Members considered the information provided for this proposal and this Grant of Wayleave, as detailed above, was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. Peter O'Donoghue.

3. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

a. REPORT : November 2024 MDO Report

Margaret O'Donoghue MDO went through her report, which was welcomed by the elected Members. In relation to queries raised, Margaret responded as follows:

- the elected Members will be kept updated in relation to the Fermoy RRDF as information becomes available.
- in relation to winter seasonal planting Margaret advised that pots will be planted now and again for summer 2025.
- further to a request from Cllr. O'Leary, Margaret undertook to investigate the possibility of providing a directional sign for the public toilets on Ashe Quay.
- Brendan O'Gorman SEE confirmed that all Fermoy town will be included in the planned traffic study.

b. REPORTS : All 2024 Road Works Programmes (verbal updates)

Brendan O'Gorman SEE informed those present that works on the 2024 RI and RM Programmes are now complete; and the Low-Cost works at Kenny's Cross, Kilworth and Dispensary Lane Rathcormac are complete with all these programme works finished on time and within budget. Footpath Programme and Climate Action works are ongoing and will be finished in time to meet year end requirements. Also, the late NTA funded works at Dublin Road, Mondaniel and two Barry's Boreen sites will be complete by year end.

The elected Members welcomed the updates in relation to 2024 works, thanking Brendan and all staff for the exemplary work carried out this year.

Further to a query from Cllr. O'Leary in relation to Climate Action work planned for Ballyhooly Road, Rathcormac Brendan responded that the storm sewer was to be continued here but this proved to be unfeasible due to other services. However, other flood alleviation works carried out to date should improve the situation at this location. Additionally, all such works planned for Rathcormac have not yet been carried out.

Further to a query from Cllr. O'Donoghue, Brendan advised that there are works planned for Propogue and Douglas Cross in 2025 which will alleviate any issues here. Also, continuation of the footpath to the end of Mill Hill is funding dependant and will be planned accordingly.

Responding to a query from Cllr. O'Brien in relation to the provision of a cycle lane from Fermoy to Mitchelstown, Brendan replied that these works are NTA funding dependant and will be planned accordingly, but in some locations where there is adequate 'hard shoulder' this space is being re-purposed as a cycle track when resurfacing works are being done.

c. RECOMMENDATION : 2025 Restoration Improvement (RI) Programme Fermoy MD.

Brendan O’Gorman SEE circulated a provisional 2025 RI Programme to those in attendance, saying the range of work planned is based on the 2025 budget being similar to the 2024 budget. He pointed out that a substantial number of local secondary roads now feature in this programme and it is planned to be completed 60% by Council crews and 40% by blacktop contractor. Replying to a query from Cllr. O’Donoghue, Brendan said this programme will change only if there is an increase in funding and any changes will be that the extent of works planned (on roads included on this programme) will be increased.

The 2025 Road Works Programme, as presented, was agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Frank O’Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Noel McCarthy.

Cllr. O’Brien enquired about drainage work to which Brendan replied there are some locations where the issue of water ponding persists as water always finds its lowest level. However, specific drainage problems can be investigated where the location is advised to the local area office.

4. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Cllr. Nelius Cotter (seconded by Cllr. O’Brien)

1. “an update from the area engineer in relation to planned MD pruning of trees in the estates in Castletownroche and village”.

Pruning of trees comes in during the winter months when **all** leaves have fallen. Funding for Open Space pruning is a matter for MD Operations on a case for case basis. (BO’G)

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

2. “that Cork County Council would investigate the recently newly installed LED public lighting in Kildorrery village on the N73 road in relation to the reduction in lighting of the street and safety concerns expressed by residents and road users regarding visibility as the lighting is much reduced”.

There is no reduction in LUX associated with these ongoing countryside public lighting upgrades (PLEEP Contract) - it is a different light for sure, a whiter light. Regardless, I will refer to PLEEP team for comment. (BO’G)

Cllr. Noel McCarthy added that he had received similar feedback in relation to the public lighting on Oliver Plunkett Hill, Fermoy and asked if this could be included in this referral.

Cllr. Noel McCarthy (seconded by Cllr. O’Brien)

3. “that this Committee receive an up-to-date report on the taking-in-charge of Luí na Gréine housing estate, Mitchelstown”.

There is a residents taking in charge (tic) application dated 27th May 2024 on file. Funding was recently secured to procure the prerequisite surveys, audits, and as-built drawings to be carried out for several estates, of which Luí na Gréine is one. Once these are procured a final snag list will be drawn up to ascertain the cost of bringing the estate to a tic standard. Further funding will then be sought to enable the necessary works to be carried out. All tic applications are subject to UÉ approval and compliance with Planning, Engineering and Legal issues. (Seán O’Brien A/SEO, Planning and Development)

The elected Members requested that Planning and Development personnel would attend a future meeting of Fermoy MD to answer questions and update them in relation to the taking in charge of estates in the district. It was agreed that this request would be forwarded to this Department for consideration and reply.

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

4. “that this Council would investigate the entrance at Stag Park, Mitchelstown as a concern for safety exiting the estate”.

No issues with sightlines here. Renewal of existing lining on regional road will be done. (BO’G)
Brendan added to this reply that Garda enforcement is required here if there is a speeding issue.

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

5. "that this Council would consider erecting an artistic commemorative piece for Tom and Marie Cavanagh and all who contribute their time, money and energy to the communities of Fermoy and surrounding areas."

Cllr. O'Donoghue outlined the reasoning behind his proposal for a commemorative piece for Tom and Marie Cavanagh, who he thinks are more than deserving of such an accolade. He said he had made contact with the Cavanagh family and they have no objection to this proposal, but they would like any such tribute to include all others who have made a contribution to the town of Fermoy. The elected Members all concurred with the sentiment of the proposal here and agreed that no-one has done more for the town, the region and beyond than Dr. Tom Cavanagh and any tribute to him is more than merited. They also commented, however, that any such tribute would need to be carefully planned and implemented to ensure it is totally suitable and is accurately inclusive. It was agreed that this project could be a long-term objective of the MD, with adequate research, public consultation and further discussion required.

Cllr. William O' Leary (seconded by Cllr. O'Brien)

6. "that this Council would consider applying under future NTA funding for traffic calming measures for Clondulane village".

All our urban settlements are under consideration when and if the NTA invite applications for what is limited funding. (BO'G)

Brendan added to this reply that an extension to the footpath on the Ballyduff Road may be done by a private developer, this would improve safety here. He advised that to meet NTA requirements any footpath proposal must include for a width of 2m which is not always feasible.

Cllr. Nelius Cotter (seconded by Cllr. McCarthy)

7. "an update for the road resurfacing for Close Road, Castletownroche".

Cllr. Cotter queried the extent of the surfacing here to which Brendan replied that at private entrances, the road is only surfaced to the footpath edge, that is the extent of the public domain.

Cllrs. O'Brien and O'Flynn complimented the works carried out here.

(seconded by Cllr. O'Flynn)

8. "that Cork County Council would consider traffic calming measures for the Main Street, Castletownroche".

This is on a National Road (N72) so any calming scheme here would need to be addressed by the TII / NRO and there is no scheme planned for here. I will forward request onto our NRO regardless. (BO'G)

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

9. "that Cork County Council trim the trees at Arbour Mews Estate, Glanworth along by the footpath adjoining the main road in the interest of safety".

Pruning of trees comes in during the winter months when all leaves have fallen. Funding for Open Space (estate) pruning is a matter for MD Operations on a case for case basis. (BO'G)

(seconded by Cllr. O'Brien)

10. "that Cork County Council repair and rebuild the wall that is breached on the approach road to Killavullen before the Blackwater bridge in the interest of safety".

This issue has previously been forwarded to our L&RDO Bridge section for inclusion in a 2025 repair contract. Nearby Kilcummer Bridge also included in this contract. (BO'G)

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

11. "that this Committee receive an Engineer's report on the possibility of raised ramp on Glanworth Road near Mandeville Park, Mitchelstown".

Single stand alone ramps are not recommended. We will keep the request on file for a future wider traffic calming scheme. Area is within a 50kph zone so extra Garda enforcement would help. (BO'G)

(seconded by Cllr. O’Flynn)

12. “that this Committee would put road markings on the footpath at the entrance to Centra Car Park, Patrick Street, Fermoy to highlight pedestrians passing this entrance”.

Entrance is private but I will endeavour to highlight the area as requested. (BO’G)

This motion was supported by all the elected Members who agreed it can be a dangerous location.

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

13. “that this Council would cut trees and grass on St. Fanahan’s Place”.

Pruning of trees comes in during the winter months when **all** leaves have fallen. Funding for Open Space pruning is a matter for MD Operations on a case for case basis. Additional grass cutting not required at this time of year. (BO’G)

Cllr. O’Brien said there is one area which is a cul-de-sac within St. Fanahan’s Place where the grass remains uncut and there is a with a seat in a quite dilapidated condition. Margaret O’Donoghue MDO will arrange to investigate.

(seconded by Cllr. O’Flynn)

14. “that this Council would sweep leaves on the road to Linden Hill and have the trees cut back here”.

Sweeping up of leaves during the winter months takes place at this location when **all** leaves have fallen. We will investigate if further tree branch lopping is required here, but this was done in the past two years. (BO’G)

Cllr. O’Leary queried the number of trees allowed to be planted in public areas and housing estates as there are insufficient resources provided for their ongoing upkeep and maintenance.

Cllr. Peter O’ Donoghue (seconded by Cllr. McCarthy)

15. “that this Council would consider erecting street lighting at the Junction of Mill Hill Kilworth and the old Cork to Dublin, N8 road”.

Will be considered under our 2025 PL contract requests. (BO’G)

Brendan added to this reply that there is no electrical power source near this location and extensive underground ducting will be required. This request will be included with PL proposals for 2025 and will also be considered in the overall NTA plan for this area going forward. Any work here will be dependent on the appropriate funding being available.

(seconded by Cllr. O’Brien)

16. “that this Council would consider erecting street lighting between the Firgrove Hotel roundabout and Dairygold roundabout in Mitchelstown to help create a safe exercise route for residents of the town during the winter months”.

This is a National Road (N73) and would fall under the TII for funding regardless. The provision of street lighting on rural roads is not practical and indeed extending urban lighting systems into rural areas goes against what local authorities are trying to do in reducing our emissions and energy reduction targets. The costs involved in this request are hugely prohibitive(> €200,000).

Notwithstanding the upfront Capital costs of installation, maintenance of existing urban public lighting systems are already a huge drain on limited council resources. (BO’G)

Brendan re-iterated that, as a national route, funding is outside the remit of Fermoy MD and Cork County Council, however, he undertook to forward this request to the TII for consideration.

Cllr. William O’ Leary (seconded by Cllr. McCarthy)

17. “that this Council would liaise with the TII to upgrade the footpath on the N72 by Ryan's on the approach to Grange Cross”.

I have drainage upgrade plans for this stretch of road to come under a GeoApp defect application to the TII in early 2025. We had sought GeoApp funding for footpath upgrades here in the past but were refused. We will try again. (BO’G)

(seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue)

18. "that this Council would liaise with both the NTA and Bus Eireann about an enhanced service for Kilworth".

Cllr. O'Leary stated that the current Bus Eireann service is not adequate to meet the demands of those requiring a dependable and regular bus service to and from Kilworth village. The elected Members concurred with Cllr. O'Leary and it was agreed that Fermoy MD would request a representative from the NTA and from Bus Eireann to attend a meeting with the Fermoy MD elected Members to discuss this with a view to resolving this issue.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

a. EMAIL Uisce Eireann 21.10.2024 RE July 2024 NOM 8(5) Low Pressure, Furrow, Mitchelstown

Noted.

6. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien

Trees on Clonmel road to be reinstated, which were removed, between two Dairygold entrances.

Brendan O'Gorman SEE replied that these trees are not the property / responsibility of Cork County Council and were not removed by us.

(2) Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien

Fence at back of Liam McGearailt to be fixed, also drainage issue.

MDO - Open spaces. Brendan O'Gorman SEE advised that this job is on a list for completion.

(3) Cllr. Noel McCarthy

That this Committee would consider putting traffic lights signal at Terence McSwiney Street, Fermoy.

Brendan O'Gorman SEE replied that this request can be considered as part of the overall traffic study being arranged for Fermoy town.

(4) Cllr. Noel McCarthy

That this Committee would approve a new bench for Clancy Street Playground, Fermoy.

This request is to be submitted as a Notice of Motion.

(5) Brendan O'Gorman SEE - sundry items of information

- Brendan advised that road salting operations are to commence tonight, 19th November 2024.
- Brendan informed those present that there is a 'dry run' of the flood barriers installation operation planned for Saturday, 23rd November 2024.
- Elected Members were informed that Uisce Eireann are undertaking sewer repair works around Fermoy, and there are minimal excavations required.
- Brendan instructed the elected Members that there are to be no uninvited 'photo ops' carried out on Cork County Council open works sites in Fermoy MD, as all Health and Safety requirements must be observed. Any party entry into a work site must be inducted and be wearing appropriate PPP.

(6) Cllr. Frank O'Flynn - Good Wishes to elected Members

Cllr. O'Flynn extended his good wishes to the three Fermoy MD councillors - Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien, Cllr. William O'Leary and Cllr. Noel McCarthy - who are contesting the forthcoming Dail elections.

Signed _____

Date _____