

**Minutes of the Fermoy Municipal District Meeting
held on (Wednesday) 22nd January 2025 in Fermoy Town Hall**

In Attendance: Cllrs. Nelius Cotter, Kay Dawson, Deirdre O’ Brien, Peter O’ Donoghue, Frank O’ Flynn, William O’ Leary.
Séamus de Faoite A/DoS, Aidan Creagh SEO, Brendan O’ Gorman SEE, Margaret O’ Donoghue MDO, Lydia Kelly ASO.

Prior to commencing the business of the meeting, An Cathaoirleach Cllr. Deirdre O’Brien welcomed Cllr. Kay Dawson back to Fermoy MD following her recent co-option. Cllr. O’Brien also welcomed Séamus de Faoite Acting Director, who takes up a new role within the remit of Fermoy MD. Cllr. Peter O’Donoghue concurred with the welcome to both Cllr. Dawson and Mr. de Faoite, saying he looks forward to working with them and wishing them well. Cllr. Dawson gratefully accepted the welcome back to Fermoy MD saying she is looking forward to working with everyone again. Séamus responded saying his role will be to act as a link between Fermoy MD and senior management with a view to bringing back the concerns and pertinent issues of the district for consideration. He added he looks forward to working with the elected members and executive.

1. MINUTES

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

The Minutes were agreed on the proposition of Cllr. Nelius Cotter, seconded by Cllr. Peter O’Donoghue.

2. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

a. REPORT : January 2025 MDO Report

Margaret O’Donoghue MDO went through her comprehensive report for the information of those present. Comments and queries in relation to the report included:

- the elected Members welcomed the availability of the 2025 Community Grants Scheme, commenting that there are numerous varying grants schemes currently up for application (announced in December 2024 and with imminent closing dates) which are good funding opportunities for any relevant groups and organisations.
- Cllr. William O’Leary sought an update on the proposed RRDF for Fermoy. Aidan Creagh SEO replied saying the National Roads Office are currently seeking funding from TII to carry out a Traffic and Transportation Study for Fermoy, the result of which will inform the planned Public Realm design for the RRDF proposals for Fermoy.
- Cllr. William O’Leary asked when the 2025 grass-cutting contract will commence to which Margaret O’Donoghue MDO replied grass cutting operations, which will be carried out by the same Contractor as 2024, are due to begin in early March.
- Cllr. Peter O’Donoghue commended all staff across the municipal district on the very good job they did in response to the recent disruptive weather event, despite the limited resources available. All the elected Members thanked Margaret for her report and welcomed the contents therein.

b. RECOMMENDATION : re 'Hanging Trees, Rathcormac'

Referring to the update given to elected members at the December 2024 meeting, Brendan O’Gorman SEE advised that Conor Neligan, CCC Heritage Officer is now liaising with Rathcormac Community Council to agree a final plan in relation to these historic trees in Rathcormac. Brendan will revert to the elected Members with the agreed proposals in due course. He added that this is a good opportunity for a positive story for Rathcormac and Fermoy MD with the installation of ‘a descendent’ of these iconic trees in a eminently more suitable location, and an information plaque with their history.

3. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

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

1. "that this Council would provide an update and possible timeframe for the resurfacing of the section of the R639 from McDonagh Terrace down as far as Pearse Square, Fermoy".

A funding request has been made to the DoT for funding under 2025 resurfacing on Old National Roads (R639 No.1 Priority in Fermoy MD). We will know the final position when DoT grants are announced in late January / early February. (BO'G)

Cllr. O'Leary said he will welcome the funding allocations to be announced and is hopeful this section of the R639 will be included. Cllr. O'Donoghue, supporting the motion, said the high quality of the newly surfaced Patrick Street highlights the poorer quality surfacing in other areas of Fermoy.

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

2. "that this Council would repair the damaged bridge adjacent to the entrance to the water works facility at Killaly, Kilworth."

We have highlighted the bridge on this local tertiary route to our L&RDO Bridge section and it will be assessed by them in terms of availability of repair and maintenance budgets in 2025 and beyond. (BO'G)

Cllr. Frank O' Flynn - proposed 'in absentia' by Cllr. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. Cotter

3. "that Cork County Council provide extra public lighting on The Green, Glanworth in the interest of safety".

Brendan O'Gorman SEE said that this request will be considered for inclusion in the 2025 PL programme when it is being compiled for the elected Members consideration and agreement.

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

4. "that this Council would carry out road improvement at the front access area to Kilcrumper New Cemetery, Fermoy".

Would only be considered if we were resurfacing the public road adjacent and there are no immediate plans or need to undertake resurfacing here. (BO'G)

Brendan added to this reply that surfacing at this location could potentially be considered under MD functions which include the operation of burial grounds and the maintenance of public spaces. This would, however, wholly depend on the appropriate funding being available.

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

5. "that Cork County Council would consider a ramp on Ross Street entering Killavullen".

A single ramp is not advised and only an overall calming scheme can be considered into the future here subject to public consultation. There are no budgets currently available to advance Traffic Calming in the district. (BO'G)

Brendan commented in relation to this motion that practically every town and village in the district is seeking Traffic Calming but there is no specific budget for such schemes. Cllr. William O'Leary enquired if each MD in the county could be allocated a budget, for example €20,000, towards the provision of the highest priority and most-needed traffic calming within each MD. Cllr. O'Brien enquired if the installation of traffic calming by developers could be deemed as mandatory prior to estates being taken-in-charge by Cork County Council.

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

6. "that this Council would provide an update as to when Part 8 planning will be commenced for Phase 2 of Leary's Cross, Castlelyons and if an application for funding has been made for a Safety Improvement Scheme in 2025 for same".

It is hoped that the Part VIII planning will be brought here for public consultation in the early part of 2025. We are waiting on funding decisions from the DoT for Special Improvement Grants to fund this project as Low Cost Safety Improvement Scheme funding does not cater for schemes > €250K. Land Purchase for the scheme is continuing in the background. (BO'G)

(seconded by Cllr. O'Brien)

7. “that this council would organise a meeting with the Estates Section before our next Municipal District so that all Councillors would have the opportunity to discuss issues they may have”.
Cllr. O’Leary said that these meetings at full Council level are ineffective and unsatisfactory as there are too many queries for the staff present to answer. He is asking that Estates Section personnel meet with FMMD elected Members to update them on specific queries which could be submitted beforehand. He was supported in this request by the other elected Members. Séamus de Faoite A/Director replied that there is a proposal to facilitate this requirement at divisional meetings with FMMD and KMMD elected Members and Estates Section personnel present. If elected Members could submit their queries via email in advance this would enable personnel prepare relevant responses. Updates will only be provided to pre-submitted enquiries. These meetings are due to commence in February/March 2025 and Séamus will revert to the EMs accordingly in due course.

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

8. “that this Council would elevate the priority on the winter road gritting and salting programme of the main road between Coolalisheen Bridge, Kilworth and Araglen Community Hall”.
No resources currently available to amend the approved 2024/2025 Winter Service Plan for the district. All current treatment plans are maximised to use all available machinery and drivers on a given night to deal with our P1/P2’s. We have a number of higher category Regional roads not identified as P3 and the road alluded to is a local primary road. Can only be considered for future revisions subject to resource reallocation. (BO’G)
Cllr. O’Donoghue requested Séamus de Faoite A/Director bring the requirement for additional funding for winter maintenance and treatment of lower priority roads during snow/ice events in the district back to senior management. All the elected Members highly commended the Council response to the recent severe weather, saying the work carried out was very efficient and effective. Cllr. O’Flynn also mentioned those members of the public who had carried out clearance works on local roads using their own machines. Cllr. O’Brien commented that the salt bins, where provided and kept full, were very helpful in estates. However, there were a number of locations badly hit with one or two areas being inaccessible and it is these areas where the additional funding may make a difference in future such weather events.

(seconded by Cllr. O’Brien)

9. “that this Council would investigate as to why the streetlights in Woodlawn Estate in Fermoy are not working with several weeks and get this issue resolved as soon as possible”.
Our public lighting section are currently investigating this and a report will be shared once available. (BO’G)
Cllr. O’Donoghue said this ‘outage’ is now ongoing for ten weeks and this is unacceptable. All the elected Members supported this motion and stated that this problem persists in many other areas. The public lighting malfunctions seem to effect ‘clusters’ of lights and seems to be more prevalent with the recently-installed new style lights. Also, the situation seems to have been exacerbated with the change-over to the new Contractor.

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

10. “that Cork County Council would provide extra public lighting at The Mall, Curraglass in the interest of safety”.
Can be considered when we are putting together our 2025 Public lighting programme. (BO’G)

(seconded by Cllr. O’Brien)

11. “that Cork County Council replace and repair the damaged wall on Inchinaugh bridge at Toorgarriffe, Glenville”.
Will be referred to our R&LDO bridge section for assessment. (BO’G)

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

12. “that this Council would install disabled parking bay at 19 Emmet Street, Fermoy P61 C579 (Disabled Parking Permit submitted)”.

All requests for changes to our existing by-laws are currently being held for consideration only until a formal review of said by-laws is completed. Following the review, the request can be considered further. (BO’G)

Margaret O’Donoghue MDO will revert to the Members with a timeline for the introduction of these new By-Laws. Cllr. O’Leary queried when DPBs will be sanctioned for installation as there is one urgently required in Fermoy. His enquiry/request was supported by Cllr. Deirdre O’Brien.

(seconded by Cllr. O’Flynn)

13. “that this Council would accept deputation from residents of Scart, Kildorrery at Fermoy MD Meeting in February.

Cllr. O’Brien explained that this deputation is in relation to traffic calming requirements and it was supported by all the elected Members. Brendan O’Gorman SEE commented that there is a SIS application in for 2025 for this location.

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

14. “that Cork County Council would erect signs outside Kilcummer House, P51HW99 on the N72 altering traffic to the entrance”.

It is not TII policy to identify concealed entrance signage for individual properties. (BO’G)

Cllr. Cotter advised of a typo in this motion, amending the word *altering* to *alerting*. Brendan undertook to bring this amended request for safety signage to the attention of the TII.

(seconded by Cllr. O’Brien)

15. “that Cork County Council would repair the footpath outside 9 Boherash, Glanworth”.

Will be considered for inclusion in our 2025 footpath programme proposals for the district. (BO’G)

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None

5. TO CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Cllr. Deirdre O’Brien - Update on request for Footbridge at Kilshanny.

Brendan O’Gorman SEE responded that he has examined this location for a footbridge and it would require a major culvert extension with the associated land acquisition all of which would involve a significant level of funding. He will consider this request for a full SIS or possibly an Active Travel NTA funded project going forward. In the interim the provision of yield signs on one or both sides of the bridge will be examined which may prove helpful in managing traffic flow and making the location safer for all road users. Driver courtesy will be required for this proposal to succeed. Brendan proposed to seek the input of the Road Safety Engineer, Michael Cotter before implementing any trial scheme here.

2. Cllr. Deirdre O’Brien - Request for re-instatement at Brigown following services installed.

Brendan O’Gorman SEE advised that this re-instatement is to be completed imminently by the private developer/UE under whose responsibility it lies.

3. Cllr. Deirdre O’Brien - Update on budget Street Cleaning Funding - a street sweeper for Mitchelstown.

Signed _____

Date _____