

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BORRIS-IN-OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD IN THE EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE AND VIA
MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THE 10TH OF APRIL 2024

PRESENT:

Councillor	John King – In the Chair
Councillor	Ollie Clooney
Councillor	James Kelly
Councillor	Conor Bergin
Councillor	Paddy Bracken
Councillor	Seamus McDonald

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services, Mr. James Dowling, Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. James Dunne, Area Engineer & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer, Corporate Affairs.

(1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the March meeting of Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District held on 10th of March 2024

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald, the minutes of the March meeting held on the 10th of March 2024 were confirmed as circulated.

(2) Matters Arising

Councillor James Kelly raised Notice of Motion No: 42/2024 as follows which was considered at the March meeting of the MD :-

Notice of Motion No: 42/2023

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out the necessary surveys and works to provide a hard shoulder on the R445 from Mountrath to Castletown in the interest of road safety for all”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Road Design will assess the road space available to investigate if a hard shoulder can be accommodated along the R445 from Mountrath to Castletown – Councillor Kelly requested that progress be made on this matter in the coming months.

(3) Notice of Motions

Notice of Motions

Notice of Motion No: 46/2024

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council increase the Grant for Cemetery Maintenance or secure funding from Irish Public Bodies following on from the Council’s Public Liability Policy on mechanically propelled vehicles”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that the annual budget for cemetery maintenance grants is determined by the elected members as part of the normal budgetary process. The budget for 2024 provides additional funding of €11k when compared to the 2023 budget. The intention behind the additional funding was to have a second call later in the year for "one-off" exceptional needs in particular cemeteries and that the funding would be allocated on a priority of needs basis.

Notice of Motion No: 47/2024

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That Laois County Council install traffic calming measures and road safety signs on the R440 Roundwood to Killanure Road"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were advised that Laois County Council MD staff will meet with councillor Kelly to investigate suitable road safety interventions to be installed on the Roundwood to Killanure Road.

Notice of Motion No: 48/2024

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That Laois County Council in line with the Mountrath Street Enhancement Scheme upgrade and paint the public library on Shannon Street Mountrath"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that The Town Regeneration Officer has liaised with the County Librarian and the Library Building in Mountrath will be painted in April, the definite date to be decided in accordance with weather forecasts.

Notice of Motion No: 49/2024

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Council install new post and rail fence and also repair stone wall from old pump to a residence across from Aghaboe Abbey monastic site Ballacolla to coincide with other works already completed in this area"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council staff will carry out repairs to the stone wall and discuss the proposed fencing with Councillor King on site.

Notice of Motion No: 50/2024

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Council resurface badly damaged section of road from Mooney's pub Donaghmore towards Rathdowney as a matter of serious urgency as this road is used by cyclists/school buses /farmers and the general public going to Ballybrophy railway station and also people shopping in Rathdowney"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will meet Councillor King on site to discuss road safety improvements to be considered at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 51/2024

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Council give a commitment regarding when major road works will take at Middlemount Rathdowney as this has been requested by me at several area meetings over the years and nothing has been done since 5 young people lost their lives at this black spot - all lives that were lost were from the local area"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that following a safety scheme including signage, access improvements and speed limit reductions in 2020, Laois County Council will carry out a review of this high accident location following the implementation of the above measures.

Notice of Motion No: 52/2024

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council mark parking spaces at St Fintan’s Terrace, Durrow and provide extra parking spaces at the unused grass margin at the Barn Hill side”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council MD staff will meet with councillor Clooney to establish the extent of line marking required for parking spaces and also discuss the construction of new parking in the grass margin.

Notice of Motion No: 53/2024

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council provide a pedestrian crossing at Shanahoe primary school”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council MD staff will visit the site to identify the need for the pedestrian at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 54/2024

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council implement safety measures at Castlewood Cross, Rath, Durrow”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that TII have previously carried out a Road Safety Inspection on this location, measures advised in the report are being implemented following the completion of the current pavement improvement scheme.

Notice of Motion No: 55/2024

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on progress at the Barrow Bridge at Rearyvalley”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Laois County Council MD staff are currently engaging a Consultant to carry out a Natura Impact Statement.

The Members noted that this is a serious issue – Mr. James Dowling, Senior Executive Engineer to revert to Councillor McDonald as to the engagement of the Consultant. Mr. James Dowling indicated that it is necessary to carry out the Natura Impact Statement prior to any works being carried out.

Notice of Motion No: 56/2024

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out road repairs at Ireys, Ballyfin”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Maintenance crews will attend to this road in the coming weeks.

57/2024 – Councillor Seamus McDonald

“That Laois County Council clean River Barrow upstream from Ballyclare Bridge to Tinnahinch Bridge”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will inspect the stretch of river identified by Cllr McDonald with a view to including it on the programme of river maintenance works, subject to appropriate environmental and ecological surveys being undertaken.

Notice of Motion No: 58/2024

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council provide a single infill light in Castletown village outside the village store and opposite a residence in the vicinity”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Public Lighting Department will provide a new infill public light at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 59/2024

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council address the severe road surface issues on the L-5052 at Clonoghil, Coolrain”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that the L-5052 is not on the current roads programme for 2024 but maintenance crews will attend to this road in the coming weeks. Councillor Bergin requested some small surface dressing would be if available

Notice of Motion No: 60/2024

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install ‘children at play’ signs outside the residences at Killanure on the R440 road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County council MD Staff will meet councillor Bergin on site to discuss measures to highlight the safety of children at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 61/2024

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council install ramps on Lord Edward Street/Harbour Street, Mountmellick – this is now urgently required as a result of the road recently being paved”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council MD staff will meet with Councillor Bracken to discuss the interventions to reduce the speed along Lord Edward Street/ Harbour Street, measure to be considered will road markings, speed radar signs and ramps. Councillor Bracken requested if ramps could be installed on Harbour Street following the current works.

Notice of Motion No: 62/2024

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That this Council in conjunction with the T.II repair the footpaths that are damaged and dangerous along with the damaged sections of roads on the N80 through Mountmellick town”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Road Design dept. will inspect the site and seek funding from TII for repairs to footpaths and road carriageway along the N80.

Notice of Motion No: 63/2024

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council refresh the road markings and put new markings to slow down the traffic from Hickey’s Bridge to Manor Road on the L-20976 in Mountmellick”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for the installation of new and replenishment of existing road markings at Manor Road Mountmellick.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

It was noted that no correspondence had been received since the last meeting of the Municipal District.

A discussion ensued regarding Election Posters being erected inside the speed limits of certain towns. It was agreed to check which Tidy Towns Groups have previously or are formally requesting candidates not to erect posters. It was noted that such requests have no statutory basis and that posters can be erected from the 8th of May 2024 for the forthcoming Local Elections.

8. FIX DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next monthly meeting of the Municipal District would be held on **Wednesday, 8th of May 2024 at 9.30 a.m.**

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Director of Services

