

**MINUTES OF THE BORRIS IN OSSORY/ MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL
DISTRICT HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE ON THE
14th OF DECEMBER 2017**

PRESENT: Councillor John King (Cathaoirleach)
Councillor David Goodwin
Councillor Paddy Bracken
Councillor Seamus McDonald
Councillor James Kelly
APOLOGIES: Councillor Brendan Phelan

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services, Mr. Paul McLoughlin, Senior Executive Engineer, & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary, Corporate Affairs.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF BORRIS-IN-OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 16TH OF NOVEMBER 2017

On the proposition of Councillor David Goodwin seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald, the Minutes of the November meeting held on the 16th of November 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

2. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the meeting of the 16th of November 2017

3. FIX DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on the 18th of January 2017 at 9.30 a.m. in the Fine Gael Room.

4. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 154/2017

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council remove embankment and widen road at Middlemount, Rathdowney as this area continues to be a black spot for accidents. This is the main road from Rathdowney to Abbeyleix”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that the Road Design Office will discuss this section of the road with the Area Engineer and will include for safety schemes applications.

Notice of Motion No: 155/2017

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council provide funding to repair Library in Rathdowney - these works requested are roof repairs / painting and insulation as this library is used by children and adults in the area”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that the Council has carried out heating improvements this year at the Rathdowney Library. Laois County Council will examine further improvements in the light of any national grants that may become available next year.

It was also requested that the signage for the library be investigated.

Notice of Motion No: 156/2017

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council put plans in place for 2018 to install a new pedestrian crossing at the playground Rathdowney beside St Fergals College as this area is extremely busy at school time and during summer months”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that the Road Design Section will review this section of the road for installation of pedestrian crossing and review potential source of funding if required for the project.

Councillor King advised that this is a very busy location and Mr. Paul McLoughlin, Senior Executive Engineer indicated that he would discuss the matter with Road Design and examine the possibility of combining the resources of the school with a contribution from Councillor King’s discretionary funding and funding sourced by the Council having the combined effort in assisting safety improvement at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 157/2017

Councillor David Goodwin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council repair the road at Campclone, Ballyfin, after the flood”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will carry out works to repair the road at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 158/2017

Councillor David Goodwin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council inspect and carry out the necessary work at Tinnahinch Bridge”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that following the recent severe flooding and the resulting damage Laois County Council have made arrangements for the repair of this bridge.

Notice of Motion No: 159/2017

Councillor David Goodwin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council repair the road and clean the water table at house at Clarahill, following damage caused by floods”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will carry out the necessary works to repair the road and reinstate the drainage at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 160/2017

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council as a matter of urgency address the dangerous traffic issues at the junction of Daingeanroe and the main road R445 at Castletown”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that a member of staff from Laois County Council will meet Cllr Kelly onsite to examine the issues of concern and develop a solution to address same.

Notice of Motion No: 161/2017

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council improve the road safety measures at the New Line Road/Clonnincurragh Junction Mountrath such as rumble strips, stop signs and road markings to make the junction safe for all road users”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will undertake works to improve the safety of this junction.

Notice of Motion No: 162/2017

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council address the flooding issues at Residence at Ringstown, Mountrath”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will visit the location in an effort to establish the cause of the flooding and address as appropriate under its remit.

Notice of Motion No: 163/2017

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council provide funding for the reinstatement of the railings and replace the wall at the Woodenbridge and to widen the road at this point for parking spaces for all the people who use the river Erkina as an amenity area”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will examine the extent of the works required to reinstate the railings and repair the wall and apply for funding for same.

The Council is aware of draft proposals from Community Groups to further develop the amenities available on the Erkina and planned future walkway extension Laois County Council will continue to work with the stakeholders concerned as their project applications are developed.

Notice of Motion No: 164/2017

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out repair works on the wall of Newtown Bridge over the river Gaul in the townland of Newtown”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor David Goodwin. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will examine the extent of the works required to repair the wall and apply for funding for same.

Notice of Motion No: 165/2017 & Notice of Motion No: 170/2017 were taken together as follows and seconded by Councillor John King:-

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council, due to the recent flooding, put in place and seek funding to carry out drainage works at the River Barrow, Owenass and Clodiagh”

The Members were advised that Laois County Council will work with all stakeholders concerned with a view to carrying out river maintenance works within the resources available to the Authority.

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council carry out a survey of the owenass, barrow, blackwater and clodiagh rivers and that works identified be carried out immediately”

The Members were advised that Laois County Council will liaise with the OPW in relation to the nature of works on the mentioned rivers that might ameliorate future flooding in Mountmellick and surrounding areas.

Mr. Paul McLoughlin, Senior Executive Engineer also advised that a meeting is scheduled with National Parks & Wildlife before the end of the Christmas period to discuss how best the works can be carried out.

The Members complimented Mr. McLoughlin on the recent remedial works carried out at Tinnahinch Bridge. Councillor Seamus McDonald requested that the Glenbarrow River needs to be cleaned. The Members requested that funding be sought to clean the rivers and that a programme needs to be put in place. Councillor Kelly stressed the urgency of this issue.

Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services confirmed that a claim is being compiled for submission to the Department for dealing with the impact of the recent flooding in the town of Mountmellick and its environs. The Chief Executive has also written to the OPW regarding the CFRAM studies and to establish the status of the proposals for Mountmellick and other areas which were flooded. The Members requested that an application for further funding be made to the Department for works in Mountmellick and permission to carry out works. Laois County Council also should highlight the improvements that are being done to assist people that are unable to source insurance. We also require the OPW to give flood protection to these houses in Mountmellick which were flooded. It was agreed that Mr. Paul McLoughlin would brief the Members on the outcome of the meeting with the Inland Fisheries Board.

Councillor Paddy Bracken acknowledged the work which was carried out by all the agencies in the recent flooding event. Councillor Bracken also requested that Laois County Council source temporary measures that would provide defences for each

household at risk. Councillor Bracken requested also that the business people affected get some rate relief. A discussion took place in relation to flood gates for doors. Mr. Donal Brennan indicated that he would seek clarification on the breakdown of the €2 million flood relief fund being allocated by the Department of Social Protection

In the absence of Councillors Phelan's Motions, the responses were read into the minutes as follows:-

Notice of Motion No: 166/2017 – Councillor Brenan Phelan

“That this Council carry out road repairs at Boston Bridge/Gurteen, Cullohill”

Reply - Laois County Council will carry out works to repair the road at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 167/2017 – Councillor Brendan Phelan

“That this Council provide Children at Play sign at Knockanorn, Durrow and adjust signage at the R6401 as it affects eye line of cars exiting Knockanoran”

Reply - Laois County Council will erect a children at play sign and adjust existing signage as necessary at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 168/2017 – Councillor Brendan Phelan

“That this Council nominate Borris-in-Ossory for Town and Village upgrade 2018”

Reply - The terms and conditions of the 2018 Town and Village Scheme have not been announced yet but it is expected that towns and villages will be invited to submit an application and that it will be a competitive process as was the case in 2017.

Notice of Motion No: 169/2017

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council write to the OPW requesting an update on the CFRAMS proposals for Mountmellick and request that flood relief measures be fastracted in view of the recent severe flooding”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that The Chief Executive has written to the OPW to establish the current status and adequacy of the flood relief measures proposed under CFRAMS for Mountmellick.

Notice of Motion No: 171/2017

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council pursue all sources of funding to address the severe damage/hardship experienced by the people of Mountmellick, Clonaslee, Rosenallis, Ballyfin and surrounding areas”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that during the recent flooding the Council through its media releases made the public aware of the supports available through the Department of Social Protection for qualifying homeowners and also through the Red Cross scheme for businesses. The Council has also been liaising with the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government in relation to recovery of costs incurred by the Council itself.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor King raised the matter of the lights at Ballybrophy Station and Mr. Paul McLoughlin, Senior Executive Engineer confirmed that a new controller has been ordered. Roads Design will carry out the necessary measures between now and the time that the new lights are in operation to ensure the safe operation of these junctions.

This concluded the business of the meeting

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
**DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
CORPORATE AFFAIRS**