

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING OF BORRIS-IN-
OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, ARAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE AND VIA MICROSOFT
TEAMS ON THE 8TH OF DECEMBER 2022**

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services, Mr. Edmond Kenny, S.E.E. & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer, Corporate Affairs

(1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the November meeting of Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District held on the 17th of November 2022

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney, the minutes of the November meeting held on the 17th of November 2022 were confirmed as circulated.

(2) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

(3) Notice of Motions

Notice of Motion No: 151/2022

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install a ramp at Church Street, Borris-in-Ossory to reduce speeding in the interests of the safety of residents living on the street”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that the pavement configuration will be examined at Church Street to determine the need for traffic calming.

Notice of Motion No: 152/2022

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council address the flooding issues at Garrafin Bridge in Camross and also carry out works to improve visibility for pedestrians walking on the L-10314 road at Garrafin, coming from Longford Hill”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will inspect the existing drainage infrastructure at the bridge to determine the cause of the flooding issues. A meeting will be arranged with the Elected Member at the site to review the needs of the pedestrians.

Notice of Motion No: 153/2022

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install public lighting to improve safety at the junction of the R445 in Castletown with the L-1672 at Castletown bridge”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that the Road Design Office will arrange to meet with Cllr Conor Bergin on site to assess the junction and identify a solution.

Notice of Motion No: 154/2022

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council as a matter of urgency carry out road safety works at Pike of Rushall”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were advised that a meeting will be arranged with the Elected Member at the site to review the need for safety improvement works.

Notice of Motion No: 155/2022

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council include road number L-50762-0 Drim Mountrath in the 2023 roads programme”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will assess this road in the overall

context of the development of a future roads programme. An application to resurface the road could be considered under a Community Involvement Scheme.

Notice of Motion No: 156/2022

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council carry out tarmac reinstatement works at the entrance of the local cemetery Rathdowney”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that a tender was published for this work and a contractor has recently been appointed. The works are expected to commence in January 2023.

Notice of Motion No: 157/2022

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council make provision for the realignment of road at Templequain, Clonmeen, Errill in order to prevent road accidents”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were advised that signage and road markings will be upgraded to improve the safety for road users at the junction.

Notice of Motion No: 158/2022

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council give an update on when work will commence on the Wooden Bridge, Ballacolla project that was agreed by us at a district meeting earlier this year”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that tender documents will be prepared and published in the first quarter of 2023 for bridge rehabilitation works on the Wooden Bridge.

Notice of Motion No: 159/2022

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council give an update on when the installation of public lights be carried out at The Glebe and Clarney Housing Estates beside the local cemetery Rathdowney as this work will ensure the safety of all residents in the area”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that the installation of public lighting on the R435 at the entrance to the estates will be completed in the new year.

Notice of Motion No: 160/2022

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council resolve the flooding problem at Tinweir, Rosenallis”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet the Elected Member at the site to examine the area of concern.

Notice of Motion No: 161/2022

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council provide footpaths and public lighting at Tullamore Road, Clonaslee”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that these works do not meet the requirements for Active Travel. Alternative funding to be sought.

Notice of Motion No: 162/2022

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the bridge at Rearyvalley”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that repairs to the structure and river channel are proposed. Due to the extent of the works proposed and the sensitivities of the river an application to An Bord Pleanála will be required. It is anticipated that an application to the Bord will be lodged in 2023.

Notice of Motion No: 163/2022

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council repair the footpath outside the old Post Office in Ballacolla”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that maintenance crews will attend to this path in the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 164/2022

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council include the road on Cullohill Mountain for resurfacing in the 2023 programme”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that pavement repairs will be undertaken on the mountain road in the coming days. An application to resurface the cul de sac could be considered under a Community Involvement Scheme.

Notice of Motion No: 165/2022

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council extend the footpaths on the Derry Road, Durrow”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that these works may be considered under Active Travel, subject to available funding.

Notice of Motion No: 166/2022

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council be updated on any plans under Active Travel funding for Mountmellick towns and environs”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that the Area Engineer will arrange to meet with Councillor Bracken to discuss Active Travel proposals for Mountmellick.

Notice of Motion No: 167/2022

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council give an update on the progress in relation to the following derelict buildings – the Old Maltings site at Irishtown & the Old Central Garage at Mountmellick”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that in relation to Central Garage, the Planning Authority have engaged with the owners of the property and have directed that improvement works are commenced by mid-December. The Planning Authority will monitor progress after that date and will take further action under the derelict sites legislation as required. In relation to the Old Maltings, the Council own this property and the Housing Section are investigating development opportunities for the lands. The MD and all elected members will be advised of any development and design proposals throughout the process.

Notice of Motion No: 168/2022

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council address the ongoing flooding problem at Acragar, Mountmellick”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that a level survey will be undertaken on the road to identify a solution to the drainage problems at this location. Maintenance crews will then address the flooding issue.

4. FIX DATE FOR NEXT MEETING AND SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2023

The Schedule of Meetings for 2023 was circulated and it was agreed that the next meeting would be held on the 16th of February 2023.

5. THANKS & CHRISTMAS WISHES

The Chairman, Councillor Paddy Bracken together with the Members of the Municipal District paid tribute to all the staff across the Municipal District for their dedication and hard work over the year and in doing so wished everyone a very Happy Christmas.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Chairman

Director of Services