

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BORRIS-IN-OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE AND VIA MICROSOFT
TEAMS ON THE 14TH OF FEBRUARY 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 & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer, Corporate Affairs.

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

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney, the minutes of the January meeting held on the 10th of January 2024 were confirmed as circulated.

(2) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the January meeting of the Municipal District held on the 10th of January 2024

(3) Vote of Sympathy

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor John King, the Members unanimously extended a vote of sympathy to Ms. Michelle McCormack, Corporate Affairs Section on the recent death of her mother, Mrs. Mary McCormack, Dereen, Cloneygowan, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

(4) Vote of Congratulations

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor John King, the Members unanimously extended a vote of congratulations to Mr. Edmond Kenny on his new post with the Department of Transport. The Members complimented Edmond on his excellent commitment and dedication to the Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District and wished him continued success in his career.

(5) Time Limited Parking Proposals for Durrow

The Members were circulated with details on the proposed introduction of time-limited parking in Durrow including details of the public consultation and the resulting issues raised.

It was noted that the proposed time-limited parking be applied from 8.30 a.m. until 5.30 p.m. On the proposition of Councillor Ollie Clooney seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin, the Members unanimously agreed to the Time Limited Parking Proposals for Durrow as circulated.

(6) Notice of Motions

Notice of Motion No: 19/2024

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council erect three new village signs in Donaghmore village to coincide with other signs done in the area and also replace capping on wall on entry to village from Donaghmore creamery”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will meet with Councillor King and discuss the location of the proposed signage in Donaghmore Village. Laois County Council will arrange for works to replace the existing wall capping in Donaghmore as appropriate.

Notice of Motion No: 20/2024

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council install new public light lanterns on existing poles in the square, Rathdowney as most of the existing lanterns are gone beyond repair”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council staff will meet the Councillor on site to examine possibilities for the improvement of the public realm at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 21/2024

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council take in charge Broderick’s estate, Knockiel, Rathdowney as this estate needs a lot work to be carried out such as road resurfacing/kerbing and footpath repairs”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that this estate known as Knockiel Drive was taken in charge on the 28th of January 2019. Laois County Council local area staff will work with the Councillor to identify any issues outstanding.

Notice of Motion No: 22/2024

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council secure funding and appoint consultants to undertake a Town Centre First Masterplan for Mountrath in collaboration with the Mountrath Town Team”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that The Department of Rural & Community Development have announced a range of measures to support towns in 2024 under the Town Centre First Initiative. Each Local Authority can nominate up to 3 towns to develop a Town Centre First Plan and the Department will allocate funding to one of these towns for 2024. The Council will soon examine the list of potential nominees to be submitted for such funding. The Councillor’s Motion is timely in that regard.

Notice of Motion No: 23/2024

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council as a matter of urgency carry out road remedial works, flood relief and traffic calming measures at various residences at Shanboe Borris in Ossory”

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 the remedial measures required on the road surface and drainage. Laois County Council will install additional speed signs and road markings along this road as appropriate.

Notice of Motion No: 24/2023

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council secure the necessary funding to provide a footpath to link Mountrath and Castletown as the Government has committed 10% of the total capital budget for travel towards pedestrian infrastructure. Last year the National Transport Authority (NTA) announced €290 million in funding for sustainable transport projects in our towns and villages including major walkway improvements and Active Travel measures”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that NTA Active Travel funding is provided for schemes to be delivered in mainly urban environments where lower speed limits exist. The R445 between Mountrath and Castletown is a 100km/h road and is unlikely to receive NTA funding approval on the grounds of pedestrian safety.

Notice of Motion No: 25/2024

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out urgent road repairs at Old Deerpark, Ballyfin”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Laois County Council road maintenance crew will carry out repairs as required.

Notice of Motion No: 26/2024

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council put in place traffic calming measures at Glebarrow, Rosenallis”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will examine the safety issues at this location. Consideration will then be given to appropriate measures for improving safety.

Notice of Motion No: 27/2024

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair damaged road at Kilcavan GAA Pitch”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for the repair of the road in the vicinity of the Kilcavan GAA Pitch

Notice of Motion No: 28/2024

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council erect a traffic mirror at the bridge in Attanagh Village”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for the erection of a mirror to assist vehicles at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 29/2024

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council give an update on the proposed pedestrian crossing on the Kilkenny Road Durrow, at the RC Church”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Road Design have issued a design report to TII for approval. Following approval by TII, Laois County Council will seek funding to arrange for the construction of the crossing.

Notice of Motion No: 30/2024

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council take action to relieve the flooding on the Ballygeehan road, Ballacolla”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Area staff will meet with Councillor Clooney to discuss remedial measures to alleviate flooding on the Ballygeehan Road.

Notice of Motion No: 31/2024

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council install traffic calming measures on the R422 at Townsparks, Mountmellick”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will investigate the possibility of the installation of a speed radar sign and additional road markings at Townsparks, Mountmellick.

Notice of Motion No: 32/2024

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council include Cloncannon Upper and Forrest Lower in the Roads Programme 2024 for strengthening works”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council have programmed strengthening works at Cloncannon upper and Forrest Lower in the draft 2024 roads programme. The delivery of the programme is subject to the to the Department of Transports Regional and Local Roads Grants 2024 which is expected in the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 33/2024

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council establish a Town Team for Mountmellick to address the economic challenges that are impacting on the town”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will look forward to working with Councillor Bracken and representatives from local community and business groups to establish a Town Team for Mountmellick.

Notice of Motion No: 34/2024

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council erect new welcome signs to Killasmeestia on the L-1519”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will meet with Councillor Bergin and discuss the location of the proposed signage in Killasmeestia.

Notice of Motion No: 35/2024

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council address the speeding issues at Clonehurk, Ballyfin as a matter of priority”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will investigate the location of the speeding issues to identify potential interventions that can be implemented.

Notice of Motion No: 36/2024

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council address the extremely poor road surface at Clonehurk, Ballyfin as a matter of priority”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Laois County Council MD staff will meet the Councillor on site to examine the condition of the road.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

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

8. FIX DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

*It was agreed that the next monthly meeting of the Municipal District would be held on **Wednesday, 13th of March 2024 at 9.30 a.m.***

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Director of Services

