

**MINUTES OF THE BORRIS IN OSSORY/ MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE ON THE 18TH OF FEBRUARY 2021**

PRESENT: Councillor Seamus McDonald (Cathaoirleach)
Councillor John King
Councillor Paddy Bracken
Councillor James Kelly
Councillor Conor Bergin

APOLOGIES: Councillor Ollie Clooney

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF
BORRIS-IN-OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE
10TH OF DECEMBER 2020**

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor John King, the Minutes of the December meeting held on the 10th of December 2020 were confirmed as circulated.

The apologies of Councillor Clooney was noted and the Members wished Maria a speedy recovery from her recent illness

2. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor James Kelly raised the following issues:-

- (i) The quality of public lighting in certain areas in the Municipal District;
- (ii) Road safety funding for Derrin Cross;
- (iii) Parking proposals for Mountrath;
- (iv) Application for funding for works on the car park in Mountrath (Notice of Motion No: 115/2020)

3. FIX DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting be scheduled for the 18th of March 2021 at 9.30 a.m. via Microsoft Teams.

**4. APPROVAL OF 2021 ROAD STRENGTHENING AND SURFACE DRESSING
WORKS**

The Members were circulated with a copy of the draft Annual Roads Programme 2021 for the Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District. On the proposition of

Councillor John King seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the programme as presented subject to confirmation of the 2021 allocations. It is intended to bring the 2021 County Laois Roadworks Programme before the Elected Members for agreement and resolution at the March 2021 Monthly Meeting.

5. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 01/2021

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council clean up Derrycloney Bridge in Mountmellick”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will liaise with the local community groups regarding the general upkeep of this structure.

Notice of Motion No: 02/2021

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council resurface the L-21122 at Knocknakearn Lane, Ballyfin and address drainage issues as a matter of priority”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will assess this road in the overall context of the development of a future roads programme. Laois County Council will arrange to meet the Elected Member at the site to identify the exact location of the drainage issue.

Notice of Motion No: 03/2021

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council address road surface and flooding issues outside property on the L-1612 at Moanfad, Ballybrophy”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet the Elected Member at the site to identify the exact location of the drainage issue.

Notice of Motion No: 04/2021

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council as a matter of urgency carry out works to help alleviate the threat of flooding by removing the old sewage pipe under the bridge at Patrick Street Mountrath”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were advised that in recent months, funds have been approved by Irish Water that provide for the removal and diversion of the existing water services network pipe at the bridge on Patrick Street, Mountrath, County Laois. Laois County Council has tendered for the appointment of a contractor to undertake the works and the appointment is now in place. The works will commence in the period after current public health restrictions, preventing the undertaking of such works, are removed.

Notice of Motion No: 05/2021

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council install parking bollards at the very busy Ballybrophy Road/Main Street Borris in Ossory R445 Junction in line with road traffic safety guidelines”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that the Road Design section will contact and arrange meeting with elected member to identify exact issue and prepare proposal for implementation of safety measure.

Notice of Motion No: 06/2021

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council carry out a survey on the Spa Hill to Forest Road Mountrath with the purpose of installing the unfinished footpath for the safety of all road users”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Road Design will carry out survey of existing road and prepare a report for works which are required at this location.

Councillor Bracken requested that funds be sought for these works.

Notice of Motion No: 07/2021

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion :-

“That Laois County Council make safe the bad bend at property at Clonaghadoo, Geashill”

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 identify the exact location of the safety issue.

Notice of Motion No: 08/2021

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the sewage works at Goodwin Estate, Rosenallis”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that the design and tender specifications are complete. Project is currently progressing to tender via e-Tenders.

Notice of Motion No: 09/2021

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council resolve the flooding problem at property at Upper Sconce, Ballyfin”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet the Elected Member at the site and will undertake a level survey at the site to identify a possible drainage outfall to solve the issue.

Notice of Motion No: 10/2021

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That this Council be updated on the status of a footpath extension from Debbicott to the Rock School, Mountmellick”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that following the recent announcement of the DTTaS 2021 Regional & Local Roads Grant Allocations, this particular item can be discussed as part of the preparation of the 2021 Road Works Programme.

Councillor Bracken indicated that these works were now a matter of urgency. Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services indicated that pending clarification that it might be possible to apply for funding in the future under the recent announcements of Departmental funding for walking and cycling routes.

Notice of Motion No: 11/2021

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That this Council re-surface the road at Manor Lane/Manor Cottages, Mountmellick”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will assess this road in the overall context of the development of a future roads programme.

Notice of Motion No: 12/2021

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council re-surface Cloncosney Lane, Mountmellick”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will assess this road in the overall context of the development of a future roads programme”

Notice of Motion No: 13/2021

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council make provision for gully trap and drainage pipe on the road beside playground in Rathdowney beside St Fergal’s College due to the overflow of water from soak-pit that causes water to flow on to public road which can cause a serious accident in the event of freezing conditions”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will undertake a level survey at the site to identify a possible drainage outfall to solve this issue.

Notice of Motion No: 14/2021

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion :-

“That this Council address the very serious issue we have in the Conoboro, Rathdowney with cobble -lock pavements . First of all the surfaces are very uneven, entrances to gateways are sinking which are causing flooding to private properties and trip hazards to pedestrians. Irish Public Bodies have made funding available and I am requesting work to be done as a matter of urgency”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will survey the footpath identified and revert to the Elected Member once complete.

Notice of Motion No: 15/2021

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council undertake a public realm master plan for Rathdowney and secure funding for its implementation. Some projects in mind are the square area/river/parks/streets and stone buildings”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that the Planning Authority will scope out an area for a public realm strategy for Rathdowney Town Centre and consider funding options that may be available to deliver on same.

The Members expressed concern in relation to the economic and social recovery of our smaller towns and villages.

Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services advised the members that applications for funding could be made under some national schemes, such as for example the Town & Village Renewal Scheme. There was a particular emphasis this year on projects that support the economic and social recovery of towns and villages in response to Covid-19. Details of the Town & Village Renewal Scheme to be forwarded to the Members for their information.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence for noting.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Director of Corporate
Affairs