

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BORRIS-IN-OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK  
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ARAS AN  
CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THE 15<sup>th</sup> of MARCH  
2023**

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

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Seamus McDonald

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**(1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the February meeting of Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2023**

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin, the minutes of the February meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 were confirmed as circulated.

**(2) Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

**(3) Presentation by Mr. Trevor Hennessy, A/S.E. on serviced sites in Durrow**

Mr. Trevor Hennessy, A/S.E., Housing Department delivered a presentation in relation to serviced sites which are currently available in Durrow including the criteria and proposals for same. Mr. Trevor Hennessy, A/S.E. responded to the various queries raised by the Members in relation to same.

**(4) Roadworks Programme 2023**

The Members were previously briefed on the above and the programme was adopted as circulated on the proposal of Councillor James Kelly and seconded by Councillor John King.

## (5) Notice of Motions

### Notice of Motion No: 18/2023

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council carry out urgent remedial works at Old Camp Lane, Ballaghmore which is in a dangerous state of repair”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet the Elected Member to inspect the Lane. An application to resurface the Lane will be considered under a Community Involvement Scheme.

### Notice of Motion No: 19/2023

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council under the Active Travel Grants Programme carry out a survey at Patrick Street, Mountrath to provide a cycle route for the safety of all”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that The Active Travel funding allocation for 2023 does not cover the delivery of a scheme at Patrick’s Street, Mountrath. The Active Travel Engineer will consider the location as a potential future scheme.

### Notice of Motion No: 20/2023

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council and An Garda Síochána come together to try and resolve the ongoing problem of anti-social behaviour, intimidation and vehicle nuisance at Glendine and JJ Fanning Pass on the Laois/Offaly border”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were advised that Intimidation and Vehicle Nuisance caused by the use of motor vehicles are primarily matters for An Garda Síochána, and as such would not fall to be actioned by the Municipal District. However, the matter may potentially be raised at a JPC working group meeting. There continues to be good cooperation between An Garda Síochána and Laois County Council.

Due to the absence of Councillor Seamus McDonald, the following three Notice of Motions were proposed and seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. It was agreed that written replies be forwarded to Councillor McDonald.

**Notice of Motion No: 21/2023 - Councillor Seamus McDonald**

*“That Laois County Council make safe the junction at Clonaghadoo school for children crossing”*

Response:- Laois County Council will examine traffic movements at the school to ascertain where potential conflicts are occurring.

**Notice of Motion No: 22/2023 – Councillor Seamus McDonald**

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

Response:- 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 Pleanala is required. Ecologists have been engaged to prepare a Natura Impact Statement to assess the likely impacts the proposed project will have on the River Barrow Special Area of Conservation. It is expected that an application to An Bord Pleanala will be lodged for the scheme in the summer 2023.

**Notice of Motion No: 23/2023 – Councillor Seamus McDonald**

*“That Laois County Council carry out urgent road repairs at Cloonagh, Ballyfin”*

Response: - Laois County Council will arrange for maintenance crews to undertake repairs on this road in the coming weeks.

**Notice of Motion No: 24/2023**

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That Laois County Council clean and repoint the stonework on the old bridge in Durrow”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that a thorough inspection of the bridge will be undertaken in the coming weeks. This structure is regionally important in terms of its heritage value, so a carefully detailed repair strategy is called for.

**Notice of Motion No: 25/2023**

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council install safety measures in place at St. Fergal’s Park, Ballacolla”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council engineers will arrange to meet the Elected Member at the site to examine the safety concerns.

**Notice of Motion No: 26/2023**

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council extend the waste water and sewerage facilities on the Derry Road, Durrow”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that it is just over 10 years since a new Wastewater Treatment Plant and significant sewer additions and upgrades were carried out in Durrow as part of the multimillion euro Laois Grouped Towns Sewerage Scheme. A total of six towns including Durrow were completed as part of this. Uisce Eireann currently has no plans to extend sewers further in Durrow under its current investment plan. There maybe an option to advance such connections through UE’s Connections and Developer Service but these are customer driven projects and it is the residents who fund such works e.g. by establishing a group scheme.

**Notice of Motion No: 27/2023**

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council urgently address the traffic issues at Killadooley National School and Creche in the interest of safety and welfare of schoolchildren and their parents”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that resurfacing works are proposed in the village of Killadooley in 2023. The roadmarking scheme will take into consideration the traffic & pedestrian movements adjacent to the school.

**Notice of Motion No: 28/2023**

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council assist the committee in Clonmeen Graveyard, Errill in carrying out repairs to the wall and addressing drainage issues in the graveyard”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage administer 2 grant schemes annually, namely the Historic Structures Fund and the Community Monuments Fund. Under these schemes community groups can apply for funding for the type of works outlined in this NOM. The deadline for submission to the Dept is February each year and the schemes are advertised in November/December the previous year. The Planning Dept will work with the Committee in order to bring forward an application under one of these schemes to secure funding to carry out the required works.

### **Notice of Motion No: 29/2023**

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That Laois County Council carry out works in Camross Cemetery to widen the existing entrance into the graveyard to allow hearses and cars to access the graveyard and also erect a new set of entrance gates to the cemetery”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that representatives from Laois County Council met recently in this regard with the Parish Priest and the owner of the land adjacent to the cemetery. Options for an improved access road to the cemetery will be examined for consideration.

### **Notice of Motion No: 30/2023**

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That this Council replace the damaged high footpath with a lower one from the edge of Rathdowney (Doherty’s cross) to the local cemetery in Rathdowney and also provide public lighting for patrons using this footpath to get to the two housing estates nearby”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that footpath repair works are proposed at this location. Public lighting infrastructure will also be provided for in this area.

### **Notice of Motion No: 31/2023**

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That this Council repair part of the damaged bridge at Raheen Donaghmore”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that an engineer from Laois County Council will meet the Elected Member at the site to examine this request.

**Notice of Motion No: 32/2023**

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council install an electric vehicle charger in the Square, Rathdowney as part of our initiative for climate change”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will develop an application for the installation of an EV charger in the Square in Rathdowney.

**Notice of Motion No: 33/2023**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council repair damage stone pillars at the Iron bridge, Cloncannon, Mountmellick”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that a bridge inspection will be undertaken to confirm the condition of the structure. The Elected Member will be updated on the condition of the bridge following the inspection.

**Notice of Motion No: 34/2023**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council repair the parapet wall at the bridge at Esker, Ballyfin”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that the direct provision crews have stripped this structure of vegetation. A detailed inspection of the bridge will be undertaken and repairs will be scheduled.

**Notice of Motion No: 35/2023**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council carry out safety improvement works at Tinnahinch Bridge, Clonaslee”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Tinnahinch Bridge is on the list of Safety Schemes to be delivered in 2023. Design Engineers will examine the configuration of the bridge and the approach roads to develop a suitable solution.

#### **4. FIX DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on the **20<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 at 9.30 a.m. in the Council Chamber.**

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chairman**

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**Director of Services**