

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF BORRIS-IN-OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THE 17TH OF NOVEMBER 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 October Meeting of Borris-In-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District held on the 18th of October 2022

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor John King the minutes of the October meeting held on the 18th of October 2022 were confirmed as circulated.

(2) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Budget Meeting of Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District held on the 18th of October 2022

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor John King, the minutes of the Budget meeting held on the 18th of October 2022 were confirmed as circulated.

(3) Matters Arising

There was no matters arising.

(4) Notice of Motions

Notice of Motion No: 133/2022

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install a flood prevention wall at residences at Moneymore, Borris-in-Ossory as a matter of urgency and apply to the Department of Transport for funding under the Climate Change adaptation and resilience works for same”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that the location in question is outside the Drainage District for which Laois County Council have statutory responsibility for. The Capital Projects Office will assist Municipal District Staff in assessing, developing and submitting an application (where appropriate) under the OPW Minor Works Scheme for measures to address the flood risk.

Notice of Motion No: 134/2022

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out urgent repairs and maintenance at Lackey Bridge, Ballaghmore and bridge at Rossbaun, Ballaghmore as a matter of urgency”

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: 135/2022

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out repairs to the bridge wall at Cahir Cross, Borris-in-Ossory as soon as possible”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. 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: 136/2022

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council as a matter of urgency and in light of the flash flooding on Friday, October 28th 2022 at Mountrath, Borris-in-Ossory & Donaghmore carry out immediate remedial works to prevent further flooding of residences, St. Fintan’s Boys National School, Mountrath Health Centre, Mooney’s Pub, Donaghmore and Laois County Council Municipal Offices”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were advised by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were advised that in relation to Mountrath - The CFRAM preliminary options for Mountrath have

previously been assessed as not meeting the threshold Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) of 1:1 for schemes to achieve approval to advance to project level development and funding under the OPW Flood Risk Management Plans. Following continued representations by Elected Representatives and Laois County Council with regard to the flooding situation in Mountrath, the OPW committed to undertaking a Scheme Viability Review. Progress in this regard has been hampered based on workload and available staff resources to complete the required works. In the interim Laois County Council have undertaken 2 projects to reduce the frequency and increase resilience to flooding events, the removal of the cross member from the underside of Patricks Street Bridge and the overflow culvert to the rear of properties on Shannon Street. LCC will continue to Liaise and assist OPW where possible to ensure the completion of the SVR for Mountrath at the earliest opportunity. In relation to Donaghmore, Laois County Council Capital Projects Office will work with Municipal District staff to establish the cause of the flooding at this location and where appropriate develop and submit an application under the OPW Minor Works Scheme for funding.

Notice of Motion No: 137/2022

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair and make safe the footpaths on the junction of Shannon Street and Shannon Road, Mountrath”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will meet the Elected Member to inspect the footpaths and the road surface at this junction.

Notice of Motion No: 138/2022

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install parking bollards on the grass verge outside Pat Nevin Carpets, Portlaoise Road, Mountrath to prevent the regular illegal parking across from Mighty Mols Service Station”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were advised that An engineer will arrange to meet Cllr Kelly at the service station to inspect the parking issues.

Notice of Motion No: 139/2022

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council give an update on the proposed works for Knockiel Drive, Rathdowney since it's taking in charge”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will inspect the estate to identify outstanding issues and seek funding to address any works required.

Notice of Motion No: 140/2022

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council make provision for extra car parking in Quigley Park Rathdowney as patrons have no choice but to park on green area due to no room outside their own homes for extra spaces”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will meet the Elected Member in the estate to examine the current parking layout with a view to determining the needs of the residents for additional spaces.

Notice of Motion No: 141/2022

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council give an update on when meetings with consultants / planners and the people of Rathdowney will take place regarding the new town plan so that local people can have their voice on the future of their town”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that the Town Centre First Plan initiative aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community. Towns such as Rathdowney are facing significant challenges and opportunities that require a coordinated and comprehensive response. The Town Centre First (TCF) Plan will facilitate that response so that Rathdowney can function as the sustainable and vibrant heart of the communities it serves, in ways that are adaptable and appropriate to 21st Century needs. The plan will be underpinned by a clear diagnosis of local strengths and challenges. It will be driven by the local community and businesses as part of a Town Team which will be supported by the Local Authority. To deliver on its objectives the plan will seek to access funding from the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund and the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. It is proposed to meet with the Elected Members of Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District and the Town Team on the 23rd November 2022 to appraise them of the specific nature of the project and the work carried out to date and to garner items of interest to be included in the Plan.”

Notice of Motion No: 142/2022

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council erect signs for Ballyfin and Mountrath at Nyra Cross”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that TII manage the installation of signage along all of the National Roads. Road Design have forwarded this request to the TII and await a response

Notice of Motion No: 143/2022

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair road and cut hedges at Glenkeen, Clonslee”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that repairs to the pavement will be undertaken by maintenance crews in the coming days.

Notice of Motion No: 144/2022

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out urgent road repairs at Tinnahinch, Clonaslee – serious damage has been caused at this location due to recent flooding”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that maintenance crews will attend to this road in the coming days.

Notice of Motion No: 145/2022

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council put measures in place to relieve flooding at Tinweir, Durrow on the N77 road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that The Roads Design Section will meet with Cllr Clooney on site to review the issue and identify a solution.

Notice of Motion No: 146/2022

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out a study for the purpose of introducing a two hour parking limit in Durrow”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that a report has recently been carried out by the parking department and we are planning on advertising to engage with the public in Q1 2023.

Notice of Motion No: 147/2022

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install traffic calming ramps at the Derrywood Estate, Durrow”

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 in the estate to examine the safety concerns.

Notice of Motion No: 148/2022

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council address the continuous serious flooding under the old Railway Bridge at Derrycloney, Mountmellick”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that a suitable outfall for the surface water will need to be identified at this location. A level survey will be undertaken on the road to identify a solution to relieve the flooding issue.

Notice of Motion No: 149/2022

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council give an update on the progress, if any, on the taking in charge of the following housing estates:
Silverwood, Silverglen & Silverbrook, Mountmellick”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that this estate will be advertised next week for taking in charge and also placed on public display. Maps showing the various sections of road may be inspected at the offices of Laois County Council **from Tuesday 22nd November 2022 to Thursday 22nd December 2022.**

Notice of Motion No: 150/2022

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council provide funding for the purchase of a mini-mechanical street sweeper for Mountmellick town which could also be used for Clonaslee and Rosenallis”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that an application for funding will be made to the Department to cover the capital costs associated with the purchase of a sweeper. The Councillor will be kept informed of the outcome of the application.

(5)Correspondence

No correspondence has been received since the last meeting.

(6)Fix Date for Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting is scheduled for the 7th of December 2022 at 9.30 a.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

