

**MINUTES OF THE BORRIS IN OSSORY/ MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE ON THE 15TH OF OCTOBER 2020**

PRESENT:

Councillor	John King
Councillor	Paddy Bracken
Councillor	Seamus McDonald (Cathaoirleach)
Councillor	James Kelly
Councillor	Ollie Clooney
Councillor	Conor Bergin

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF BORRIS-IN-OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 17TH OF SEPTEMBER 2020

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Minutes of the September meeting held on the 17th of September 2020 were confirmed as circulated.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Paddy Bracken referred to Notices of Motion No: 60/2020 and 61/2020 in relation to parking issues at Glenbarrow. Mr. Edmond Kenny, A/S.E.E. confirmed that Atkins have visited the site and are currently in the process of developing a plan for the area. As soon as this is completed an update will be available for the Members.

Councillor James Kelly referred to Notice of Motion No: 70/2020 in relation to funding for Smart Cycle Sops in towns and villages in the MD. It was noted that €36,000 has been applied for in respect of signage.

3. AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor John King Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the amendment to Standing Orders in light of the Standard Operating Guidance – Attendance at Council Meetings by Elected Members & Council Officials/Others (Media & Public) and attendance at other meetings or Council Buildings issued on the 25th of September 2020 as follows:-

The maximum duration of a meeting of Laois County Council shall be 115 minutes (as measured) from the notified start of the meeting. It shall not be in order for the Cathaoirleach to accept any motion (whether in relation to urgent business or otherwise) which seeks to extend the duration of the meeting.

4. FIX DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting be scheduled for the 19th of November 2020 at 9.30 a.m. in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae.

5. PARKING PROPOSALS FOR MOUNTRATH

Ms. Georgina Ireland, A.O., Roads Department briefed Members on the parking proposals for Mountrath which was one of three pilot sites chosen by the Transportation, Environment & Emergency Services SPC.

Consideration was given to parking in the town centre and representations made in this regard for a more formalized arrangement to assist with regular turnover of parking and provision of a safe parking environment in the town centre. There is currently no regulated parking for the 43 spaces in the town centre including 2 disabled places except for An Garda Síochána enforcement. Between 50 and 60% of these spaces are occupied all day following a study that was carried out. There are two large car parks which are not utilized.

It is proposed to publish a notice in the coming weeks of Laois County Council's intention to erect signage for time limited parking at certain locations around the town centre, with a two week period for comments/observations.

The proposal was welcomed by all members. Cllr James Kelly stated the importance of consultation with the local and business community in terms of parking alternatives and any works that may be needed to assist with this. Cllr. Ollie Clooney asked that Durrow be considered as another site for parking measures as they are badly needed at this location also. Cllr. Conor Bergin enquired as to arrangements regarding enforcement of parking measures when they are in place and whether current traffic warden resources would be increased in this regard. Ms. Georgina Ireland, A.O., advised that there were no plans to increase Traffic Warden staff compliment, current resources would be deployed to include Mountrath and the assistance of An Garda Síochána would also be sought in terms of enforcement of parking and traffic legislation.

6. MOUNTMELICK ROAD FEASIBILITY STUDY – PRESENTATION BY MR. ADRIAN BARRETT, SENIOR ENGINEER

Mr. Adrian Barrett, Senior Engineer delivered a presentation to the Members on the recent Mountmellick Road Feasibility Study carried out by Barry Transportation. The Members welcomed the presentation which detailed the scheme, the project brief and findings, Road Infrastructure Study & Impact Assessment, Local Area Reports & Recommendations.

Members were advised that the documentation would now be submitted to the TII for approval to progress schemes to Phase 2. The Members welcomed the presentation.

7. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 73/2020

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That Laois County Council address traffic safety issues at the junction of the L5053 with the Mountain Road, Ballaghmore"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Road Design Section will arrange a site meeting with Elected member to identify exact location and safety issue.

Notice of Motion No: 74/2020

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That Laois County Council address the flooding issues at property at Killadooley as soon as possible"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that a level survey will be undertaken on the road. Once the cause of the issue is ascertained the Councillor will be advised.

Notice of Motion No: 75/2020

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That Laois County Council address the flooding issues at Derrynaseera/Anatrim Bridge, Coolrain urgently"

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

Notice of Motion No: 76/2020

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That Laois County Council resolve the flooding at property at Clonurk, Ballyfin"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that a level survey will be undertaken on the road. Once the cause of the issue is ascertained the Councillor will be advised.

Notice of Motion No: 77/2020

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That Laois County Council resolve the flooding at property at Cavansheath, Ballyfin"

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

Notice of Motion No: 78/2020

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council put in place traffic calming at Rosenallis Village”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that the Road Design Section will arrange a site meeting with Elected member to identify exact location and safety issue.

Notice of Motion No: 79/2020

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council address the road safety issues at Clonincurragh, Mountrath in particular outside two properties”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that the Road Design Section will arrange a site meeting with Elected member to identify exact location and safety issue.

Notice of Motion No: 80/2020

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council carry out repairs on the L-10591-0 Road at Butter Island Coolrain”

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

Notice of Motion No: 81/2020

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council carry out road works to allow meeting traffic pass freely at Peafield/Knockbrack Pike- of- Rushall L5615”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will examine the space available to motorists at the location and look at improvement options.

Notice of Motion No: 82/2020

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council re-surface Bunlacken Lane Cullohill”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. 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: 83/2020

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council re-surface the road from Rosconnel Graveyard to the junction at Ballinakill Road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. 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: 84/2020

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council erect a Stop Sign at Tucks Cross Junction Dunmore Durrow”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that a replacement Stop Sign will be erected at the junction.

Notice of Motion No: 85/2020

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council carry out some immediate repair works to the Lisduff/Clonmeen Road, Errill as there are hollows in the road due to weakness of soil in bog area - damage is been caused to cars and school buses using this road transporting children to the local school”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange a meeting on site with the Councillor to examine the issue at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 86/20020

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council repair and replace public lights in the Square, Rathdowney and also do an audit on where new lights are needed and a timeframe regarding the repair of lights”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that the lights are working in Square Rathdowney. Please record all faults at <https://www.deadsureapp.com/Inventory?map=DeadSureLaois> or by phone call to Road design office. Audit for lighting will be carried out and areas where new lights are required will be identified. Installation of new lights will be subject to funding.

The Members requested further details on rural public lighting and it was agreed that Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E. be invited to the next meeting of the MD to give a presentation on same.

Notice of Motion No: 87/2020

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council contact the owners of these two horrible derelict property’s in the Square Rathdowney - one former Clelands supermarket and the other known as Richard Williams and sons – both have been left idle for at least 10 years and the owners should be requested to firstly make them safe and secondly repair and paint them up. These are a serious eyesore in our town and grossly unfair to Rathdowney Tidy Towns on the great work they are doing to improve the town”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that an inspection has been carried out by Ms. Catherine Murphy, Senior Executive Technician, Planning Section in relation to the 2 properties and notices will be served on the registered owners of the properties under the Derelict Sites legislation requesting them to carry out works. A list of potential works is currently being drawn up.

Notice of Motion No: 88/2020

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council repair the road that has subsided at Hickey’s Bridge, Derrycloney, Mountmellick”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange a meeting on site with the Councillor to examine the issue at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 89/2020

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council survey and carry out necessary repairs at a number of manholes in Wolfe Tone Street & O’ Moore Street, Mountmellick as these are very unsafe”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will inspect the manhole frames and covers at the locations identified and undertake the necessary repairs on any County Council manholes.

Notice of Motion No: 90/2020

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council remove the dangerous tree stumps on the footpath at Debbicott, Mountmellick and re-instate the footpath”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will undertake the repairs to the footpath following the removal of the stumps and roots.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____ CERTIFIED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
CORPORATE AFFAIRS