

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BORRIS-IN-OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THE 7TH OF
SEPTEMBER 2023**

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. Edmond Kenny, S.E.E. & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer, Corporate Affairs.

(1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the June meeting of Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District held on the 29th of June 2023

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney, the minutes of the June meeting held on the 29th of June 2023 were confirmed as circulated.

(2) Confirmation of the Minutes of the A.G.M. of Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District held on the 29th of June 2023

On the proposition of Councillor Conor Bergin seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the minutes of the A.G.M. held on the 29th of June 2023 were confirmed as circulated.

(3) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the last meeting. The Members assured the officials of their support during the current industrial action.

(4) Parking Proposals for Durrow

The Members were advised that in 2021 Laois County Council introduced time limited parking in Mountrath Town Centre wherein the feedback was very positive. It was unanimously agreed following discussion with the Members that Laois County Council commence the public consultation with a view to the introduction of time-limited parking in Durrow. Maps were circulated to the Members. The nature of the time limited parking proposed is a two hour maximum time-limited parking from 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Monday to Saturday inclusive.

(5) Notice of Motions

Notice of Motion No: 102/2023

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council carry out a feasibility study on the possibility of a Greenway from Abbeyleix Railway Station to Kilkenny City”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that initially Laois Council will examine the feasibility of Greenways within County Laois along the old railway line. Should these initial studies show potential for such a route the opportunity to extend beyond Laois could be explored with Kilkenny County Council as the majority of a route between Abbeyleix and Kilkenny City would reside within County Kilkenny.

Notice of Motion No: 103/2023

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council carry out traffic calming measures after the roundabout at Manor Stone on the Rathdowney Road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Road Design will carry out a speed survey at this location. Following the results of the survey they will investigate the need for intervention measures in light of the Department of Transport's recently announced proposal to reduce the default speed limits on secondary, urban & rural roads.

Notice of Motion No: 104/2023

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council install safety measures at the entrance to 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: 87/2023

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council address the speeding issues on the R434 at Springfield, Clough as a matter of urgency”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Bergin. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Road Design will carry out a speed survey at this location. Following the results of the survey they will investigate the need for intervention measures in light of the Department of Transport's recently announced proposal to reduce the default speed limits on secondary, urban & rural roads.

Notice of Motion No: 88/2023

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council address the lack of public lighting on the L-5070 at Coolrain Cross Roads”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that this location is outside of the speed limit in a rural location and does not based on this criteria necessitate the installation of a public light.

Notice of Motion No: 89/2023

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council address the drainage and road safety issues at the junction of the R440 and Rossalee Lane, Mountrath”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that a meeting will be arranged with the Elected Member at this location to establish the issues of concern and identify remedial works.

Notice of Motion No: 90/2023

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council relocate school warning signs on approach roads to An Tslí Dála National School Ballaghmore in advance of the school’s temporary relocation to Kyle GAA grounds”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Road Design will review the current location and assess if the warning signs require relocation.

Notice of Motion No: 91/2023

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out immediate works on the L1510 road at Kilmartin & Ballintaggart Borris in Ossory to provide road safety for all”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that an Engineer from Laois County Council will meet with the Elected Member at this location to establish the issues of concern and identify safety improvement works.

Notice of Motion No: 92/2023

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council as part of its strategic flood risk assessment scheme for 2023 remove debris on the river Nore from Derryduff Bridge Coolrain to Kildrinagh Bridge Butter Island and provide an update on the agreed remedial works to be carried out on the Basin wall”

The Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were advised that Laois County Council have engaged tree surgeons to remove obstructions from the river channel along the River Nore at the location identified by the Councillor. The proposed works involve the removal of fallen trees, low-growing branches and large debris causing significant obstruction to or deflection of river flows during high-flow events.

In relation to the remedial works at the Basin, repairs to the retaining wall structure are proposed. Due to the extent of the works proposed and the sensitivities of the river an application to An Bord Pleanála will be required. It’s anticipated that the application to the Bord will be lodged in Q1 2024. The Elected Member will be kept informed of the progress of this scheme.

Notice of Motion No: 93/2023

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council give an update report on when repair works will be starting on the Wooden Bridge project close to Ballacolla village as these works are fully supported by all Councillors in the area”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has designed enhancement measures for Wooden Bridge. These measures will ensure load bearing requirements for the Bridge are fulfilled. The commencement date for the project is likely to be Q1 2024. Implementing the works will require a temporary road closure and that temporary closure will likely be in place for up to 2 months.

Notice of Motion No: 94/2023

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council carry out modification works to sluice gate on the weir at Bailey’s Mill, Newton, Durrrow in order to allow the free flow of water during heavy flooding”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that the sluice gate, which controls and regulates the flow through the weir at Newtown, becomes submerged during high flood conditions. Alternative lifting mechanisms are being explored to ensure the free movement of the sluice during flood events.

Notice of Motion No: 95/2023

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council support and advise the Rathdowney Christmas Lights committee in how to obtain a connection to the existing public light poles, as was done in Abbeyleix in order to enhance our town around Christmas time”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that a meeting is being arranged by the Public Lighting Engineer to meet an Electrical Contractor on site in Rathdowney to get costings in relation to the provision of outdoor electrical connection points in the town.

Notice of Motion No: 96/2023

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council clean river at Barkmills”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that a meeting will be arranged with the Elected Member at this location to inspect the condition of the river.

Notice of Motion No: 97/2023

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council put in place traffic calming measures at Shelly’s corner, Rosenallis (such as lights)”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Road Design Department will review the recorded collision data for this location, and thereafter investigate suitable traffic calming measures as required.

Notice of Motion No: 98/2023

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council erect new signs and seats at the Fanning Pass, Ard Eireann, Glendarragh and the Wolfe Trap in the Slieve Bloom Mountains”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that the Roads section will examine the opportunity to provide signs and seating at the requested locations.

Notice of Motion No: 99/2023

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council provide a Columbarium Wall in St. Joseph’s Cemetery, Mountmellick due to the number of cremations”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that the current cemetery works programme includes for a new phase of grave spaces (plinths, paths, access road etc) in St Joseph’s cemetery. Laois County Council continues to monitor the demand for inurnments in the county and notes that since niches became available earlier this year in the columbarium wall at St. Peter and Paul’s cemetery Portlaoise, 4 niches have been sold. LCC will continue to monitor the demand for inurnments however it is not proposed to install a columbarium wall in Mountmellick at this time”

Notice of Motion No: 100/2023

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council carry out a survey of ash trees that are affected by the ash die back where they are located near public roads as there are very serious concerns for pedestrians and motorists with the forthcoming winter season”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Trees within private lands bounding the public road are the responsibility of the respective landowner who is to ensure that they do not present a risk to the travelling public. Where Ash dieback is present the trees should be monitored on an annual basis and interventions undertaken as required. Should instances of dieback in trees immediately adjacent to a public road become known to Laois County Council they will correspond with the relevant landowner in the normal fashion where potentially dangerous trees are encountered.

Laois County Council are currently preparing a Tree Management Policy for the county which will contain recommendations with regard to the management of Ash dieback.

Notice of Motion No: 101/2023

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council provide drainage to relieve the flooding at Cullenbeg Housing Estate, Mountmellick”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will inspect the existing drainage infrastructure at this site to determine the cause of the flooding issues. A level survey will be undertaken at the site to identify a possible drainage outfall to solve this issue.

4. FIX DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next monthly meeting of the Municipal District would be held on the 19th of October 2023 at 9.30 a.m. followed by the Budget meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Director of Services