

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF BORRIS-IN-
OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THE 19th OF OCTOBER 2021**

PRESENT:

Councillor	Ollie Clooney (In the Chair)
Councillor	John King
Councillor	Paddy Bracken
Councillor	James Kelly
Councillor	Conor Bergin
Councillor	Seamus McDonald

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 the Minutes of the September Meeting of Borris-In-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District held on the 22nd of September 2021**

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor John King, the minutes of the September meeting held on the 22nd of September 2021 were confirmed as circulated.

- (2) **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the September minutes.

- (3) **Fix Date for Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on the **18th of November 2021**

- (4) **Notice of Motions**

Notice of Motion No: 124/2021

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council erect a stock proof fence at Laurence and Julie Kirwan’s house at Curraghmore, Borris-In-Ossory as these works were supposed to be initially carried out as part of the M7/M8 motorway scheme”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will review the Compulsory Purchase Order agreement to ascertain whether the provision of a fence formed part of the agreement.

Notice of Motion No: 125/2021

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install additional parking spaces for residents in the Churchfield Heights estate in Castletown”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that there is currently no funding available in the 2021 housing maintenance budget to install additional parking. Housing staff are happy to meet with Cllr Bergin on site to examine the feasibility of this request in terms of proposed location and indicative cost, all proposals being subject to funding being made available.

Notice of Motion No: 126/2021

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council undertake measures to allow traffic to pass safely on the L-5613 at Barnasallagh, Knockaroo”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet the Elected Member at the site to examine the road layout and the options available to improve safety.

Notice of Motion No: 127/2021

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council erect signs for church in the Clonaghadoo area”

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 to review the signage requirements in this area.

Notice of Motion No: 128/2021

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council provide cycling facilities on the Main Street in Clonaslee to accommodate the large number of cyclists”

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 in the village to agree a suitable location for the requested facilities.

Notice of Motion No: 129/2021

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council contact landowners at Moneyquid, Killeigh regarding overgrown ditches”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that arrangements have been made for a public notice in newspaper and on Laois website informing landowners of their responsibilities under the Roads Act 1993.

Notice of Motion No: 130/2021

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install traffic calming measures to reduce vehicle speeds at Coolrain Village”

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 at the site to examine the area of concern.

Notice of Motion No : 131/2021

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council as a matter of urgency dedicate funds to the installation of street lights at the blacked out areas on Factory Street, Mountrath”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were advised that Mr. Farhan Nasim, A/S.E.E. met with Councillor James Kelly on site. Lighting on this section could be improved by installing 3 additional lights on this street. At present there is no funding available to install these lights.

Notice of Motion No: 132/2021

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council connect and turn on the street lights at the recently built Council houses at Shannon Street/New Road, Mountrath”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has made an application to the ESB to connect the public lights. Laois County Council are currently awaiting on an invoice from ESB for payment and once this invoice is received payment can be progress and the connection can be completed. Laois County Council have been advised by ESB that the connection process may take 8-10 weeks approx. to complete.

Notice of Motion No: 133/2021

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council resurface road at Grantstown, Ballacolla under a Community Involvement Scheme as this road is gone beyond repair”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that applications under the Community Involvement Scheme will be considered in 2022 when/if the funding is allocated.

Notice of Motion No: 134/2021

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council carry out a survey on all the vacant properties in Rathdowney that have broken windows half patched up and also in need of a serious facelift to contact the owners to repair and paint them and make them safe to enhance our town”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that a meeting will be arranged with Cllr King to consider the sites in question in Rathdowney and the appropriate actions to be taken in relation to their improvement either through implementation of the Derelict Sites Legislation, a façade enhancement scheme or consideration by the Vacant Homes office for CPO for reuse as Housing.

Notice of Motion No: 135/2021

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council take the lead role in the delivery of Erkina Blue way project, which consists of the towns of Durrow and Rathdowney. It has preliminary accreditation from Blueways Ireland. Planning has been granted for this project from Laois County Council, and funding also secured from Laois partnership”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that the Leader funding allocated to this project is allocated to the local group who have been advancing the project and who have secured planning permission, etc.. I think if the Council took the lead now it would jeopardise the Leader funding in place. We might clarify that with Leader. Assuming it does we can state that and add that the Council, as it has done to date, will continue to support the group in the delivery of the project.

Notice of Motion No: 136/2021

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council investigate the possibility of removing the dangerous bend opposite the entrance to the pet farm, Cullahill”

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

Notice of Motion No: 137/2021

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council carry out a slip test at Swan Road, Durrow”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to undertake a sand patch test to confirm the coarseness of the pavement.

Notice of Motion No: 138/2021

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council arrange for the removal of trees on New Line, opposite the entrance to Dunmore Wood, Durrow”

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

Notice of Motion No: 139/2021

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council in conjunction with T.I.I. carry out traffic calming/safety measures urgently on the N80 at the junction of Derrycloney, Mountmellick”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that TII carryout Road Safety Inspections (RSI) for National Routes for County. No safety issues were identified/ highlighted in Road Safety Inspections (RSI) by TII. Road Design Office will meet Elected member on site to identify exact issue at this junction and will bring to TII Safety Engineer.

Notice of Motion No: 140/2021

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois Council in conjunction with T.I.I. and the Minister for Transport prioritise and address with urgency a by-pass for Mountmellick and the need for a major upgrade of the N80 from Mountmellick to Portlaoise”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council are appointing consultants to undertake a Strategic Assessment Report relating to the proposed Mountmellick by-pass. This report is expected to be completed by end Q1 2022. This report will then guide the subsequent project development process. Significant pavement renewal works will be undertaken on the N80 between Mountmellick and Portlaoise in 2022 and 2023. This matter will be raised at the proposed meeting between the elected members representative group and TII, the date of which is to be confirmed. The Members were advised that the support of the Dail Deputies also be sought.

Notice of Motion No: 141/2021

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council provide traffic calming/safety measures on the L-2907 at Drinagh/New Mills, Mountmellick”

This Notice of Motion of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Road Design will arrange a site meeting with elected member to identify issues.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence since the last meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Director of Corporate
Affairs

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