

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BORRIS-IN-OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THE 13<sup>TH</sup> OF NOVEMBER 2024**

**PRESENT:**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services, Mr. Rory O’ Callaghan, Senior Executive Engineer & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer, Corporate Affairs.

**(1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the October meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2024**

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney, the minutes of the October meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2024 were confirmed as circulated.

**(2) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Budget Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2024**

On the proposition of Councillor Ollie Clooney seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the minutes of the budget meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2024 were confirmed as circulated.

**(3) Matters Arising**

Councillor James Kelly sought a further update on the following Notice of Motion which was considered at the October meeting of the Municipal District

<b>Notice of Motion No: 115/2024</b>
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<b><i>“That Laois County Council give an update on the provision of Bus Stops in Castletown Village”</i></b>
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Councillor Paddy Bracken raised the following Notice of Motion which was discussed at the October meeting of the MD and sought an update.

<b>Notice of Motion No: 124/2024</b>
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<b><i>“That this Council address the very poor condition of the R422 Road from the junction of Glanbia to Connolly Street junction, Mountmellick”</i></b>
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Mr. Rory O’ Callaghan, Senior Executive Engineer advised that Laois County Council are awaiting a response from Uisce Eireann in this regard. It was agreed that correspondence issue to Uisce Eireann in this regard.
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### 3. Notice of Motions

**Notice of Motion No: 133/2024**

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 Laois County Council is currently assessing the existing entrance at Camross cemetery with a view to determining a scope of works which may be required to improve vehicular access together with the associated costs of any such work. The extent of any works which might be undertaken will be considered as part of the normal project planning and prioritisation process".

**Notice of Motion No: 134/2024**

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That Laois County Council address the speeding issues and install traffic calming measures on the L1612 road between Knockaroo Cross and the Green Roads, Borris in Ossory as a matter of priority"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that a representative from the Road Design section will meet Cllr. Bergin onsite to assess the current situation along the identified 3.7 km stretch of local road. The default speed limit along this rural local road will reduce from 80kmh to 60kmh from February 2025.

**Notice of Motion No: 135/2024**

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That Laois County Council give an update on the renovation of Borris In Ossory Courthouse as a digital hub"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that The appointed architect led design team is progressing the detailed design with a view to publishing the tender for the procurement of a works contractor in Q1 of 2025. It is anticipated that a contractor will be appointed in Q2 of 2025"

**Notice of Motion No: 136/2024**

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That Laois County Council as a matter of urgency remove the not fit for purpose road cats eyes installed by Council contractors on a 5 Kilometre stretch of road on the R440 from Roundwood to Mountrath"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that the Council will listen to the issues raised by the Councillor, but at the moment does not intend removing the cats-eyes at Roundwood. At nighttime and in an area prone to fog etc. the cats-eyes provide clear road demarcation and delineation while also providing an added road safety measure.

**Notice of Motion No: 137/2024**

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council as a matter of urgency implement a traffic congestion plan to alleviate the ongoing issues at the Portlaoise Road R445/Ballyfin Road R423/Rushin Road R440 Junction Mountrath as the current system in place is not fit for purpose on one of the busiest roads in our County”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were advised that the Road Design section of Laois County Council will undertake a review of the sequence and duration of the traffic signals at this junction. The review will take consideration of the observed delay times & que lengths on the respective arms. Recommendations for alterations and amendments will be made as required to improve efficiency and capacity to best meet demands at peak times.

**Notice of Motion No: 138/2024**

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council include the Shannon Road, Mountrath in next year’s 2025 road resurfacing programme”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that this roadway will be considered for inclusion in the 2025-2027 Restoration Improvement Roads Programme.

**Notice of Motion No: 139/2024**

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council make a serious request for funding to widen and resurface road at Middlemount Rathdowney as this area has been a black spot for accidents over the years”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that The road design section will request a meeting with the respective Department of Transport inspector to review the location, the historical data and develop an application for funding under the appropriate scheme.

**Notice of Motion No: 140/2024**

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council send a letter immediately to Minister Darragh O’Brien requesting funding for a new fire station in Rathdowney as the station now has three female members and this building is not fit for purpose now”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were advised that correspondence would issue to Minister Darragh O’ Brien in this regard.

**Notice of Motion No: 141/2024**

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council put a notice in the local papers requesting landowners to trim or remove dangerous and rotting trees beside public roads due to the strong possibility of storms and flooding during winter months in order to make our roads safe for all motorists and walkers”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that advertisements have been placed in the local press and been published on the Council website requesting landowners to undertake hedge cutting and removal of dangerous trees on lands within their ownership. Laois County Council will be Publishing these notices again in the coming weeks. Where the Council is aware of dangerous trees a notification under section 70 of the roads act 1993 is also issued to the relevant landowner.

**Notice of Motion No: 142/2024**

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council re-surface the car park at Aghaboe Abbey”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that opportunities for resurfacing can be investigated using external grant monies Staff will be available to further discuss this matter with the Councillor.

**Notice of Motion No: 143/2024**

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council take in charge the laneway leading to the Council graveyard in Durrow”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will review the status of the laneway and commence the statutory process for the taking in charge/Declaration of a Public Road as appropriate.

**Notice of Motion No: 144/2024**

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council extend the footpath in Ballacolla to Park Cross”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that the extension of this footpath will be considered for inclusion in the works programme after assessing the need and the availability of funding.

**Notice of Motion No: 145/2024**

**Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

***“That Laois County Council include the road at Clonurk, Ballyfin in the 2025 Roads Programme”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that this roadway will be considered for inclusion in the 2025-2027 Restoration Improvement Roads Programme.

**Notice of Motion No: 146/2024**

**Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

***“That Laois County Council carry out road repairs at Maclone, Rosenallis”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that road maintenance repairs will be carried out at this location.

**Notice of Motion No: 147/2024**

**Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

***“That Laois County Council take in charge the road at Lorrigan, Clonaslee.***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. Laois County Council's Road & Transportation Department will assess the request on site and if appropriate commence the statutory taking in charge process.ed by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that

**Notice of Motion No: 148/2024**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council in conjunction with T.I.I. repair the very bad road surface on the N80 at Mollrowes Corner, Chapel Street, Mountmellick”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will assess the road condition at this location and apply to TII for funding as required.

**Notice of Motion No: 149/2024**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council address the constant flooding on a section of the footpath at Grove Park, Mountmellick”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that this footpath flooding problem will be addressed.

**Notice of Motion No: 150/2024**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council in the interest of pedestrian safety and for people with mobility issues install a new section of footpath approximately 50 metres in length on the R422 at Irishtown, Mountmellick”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that a detailed level survey will be carried out and a design for the location will be developed. The widening of this footpath will include the setback of some of the roadside boundary of two private homeowners. Consent will be needed for these homeowners. The Area Office will contact these homeowners prior to carrying out the survey and subsequent design.

## 5. CORRESPONDENCE

It was noted that no correspondence had been received since the last meeting of the Municipal District.

## 5. FIX DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick MD would take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathairleach**

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**Director of Services**

