

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF BORRIS-IN-OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK  
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA MICROSOFT  
TEAMS ON THE 17<sup>TH</sup> OF FEBRUARY 2022**

**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 December Meeting of Borris-In-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2021**

On the proposition of Councillor Seamus McDonald seconded by Councillor John King, the minutes of the December meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2021 were confirmed as circulated.

**(2) Matters Arising**

Councillor James Kelly raised the following Notice of Motion which had been considered at the December meeting of the Municipal District Meeting:

***“That Laois County Council apply to The Department of Transport for funding to resurface the R445 on Main Street Mountrath which is in such a poor state of repair that it is not fit for purpose”***

***Councillor Kelly welcomed the recent allocation of €250,000 for these works and enquired as to the possibility of some of these monies being spent on bridge repair works.***

**(3) Bridge Issues in the Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District**

Mr. Edmond Kenny, Area Engineer made a presentation to the Members on the various bridges in the County, their conditions and recommendations for same and responded to the various queries raised by the Members.

#### **(4) Roadworks Programme 2022**

Mr. Edmond Kenny, Area Engineer circulated a copy of the Roadworks Programme and same was unanimously agreed by the Members

#### **(5) Serviced Sites in Castletown**

Mr. Trevor Hennessy, A/S.E. made a presentation to the members on the proposed serviced sites at Castletown, Co. Laois. It was noted that site investigation works will be carried out in the near future for same.

#### **(6) Nominees for the Naming and Memorials Committee**

Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services referred to the above policy which was recommended by the Transportation, Environment & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee and considered by Laois County Council at the January meeting held on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2022. The policy was approved subject to some amendments and it was subsequently agreed that three Members from each Municipal District be nominated to the committee. It was noted that this new committee would replace the existing Placenames Committee. The following Members were unanimously nominated to the Committee-

- Councillor James Kelly
- Councillor Paddy Bracken
- Councillor John King

#### **(7) Notice of Motions**

##### **Notice of Motion No: 01/2022**

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council carry out urgent bridge repairs at Gorrough Upper, Clonaslee”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that the bridge identified will be cleared of vegetation for further inspection. The Elected Member will be updated on the condition of the bridge following the inspection.

##### **Notice of Motion No: 02/2022**

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council repair bridge and widen road at Deerpark, Ballyfin”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that the bridge identified will be cleared of vegetation for further inspection. Laois County Council will meet the Elected Member at the location to identify locations for local widening of the road.

**Notice of Motion No: 03/2022**

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council carry out bridge repairs at Cappalane, Rosenallis”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that the bridge identified will be cleared of vegetation for further inspection. The Elected Member will be updated on the condition of the bridge following the inspection.

**Notice of Motion No: 04/2022**

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council address the serious water quality issues for residents in Ballaghmore Upper and engage with Coillte regarding the possible damage to the water supply locally”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council or Irish Water currently has no public water mains in this area. This issue seems to be related to private wells. The Environment Section will investigate the water quality issues in the Ballaghmore Upper area. The water quality protection team will engage with Coillte if the investigation indicates that Coillte activities are impacting negatively on the water quality.

**Notice of Motion No: 05/2022**

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council widen the roadway at the far end of the Fr O’Connor Crescent estate in Mountrath, and also consider installing a speed ramp at the entrance to the estate, in consultation with the residents”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that a survey will be undertaken in the estate to identify traffic pinch points. Traffic calming options will also be considered.

**Notice of Motion No: 06/2022**

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council carry out safety improvement works at the Green Roads junction in Borris-In-Ossory, at the convergence of the L-1612 Knockaroo road and L-1520 Killasmeestia road, such as public lighting to make the junction safer for motorists and children who use the junction as a bus stop for their school bus every morning”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Road Design will arrange site meeting with elected member to find out exact location, safety issues and will prepare proposal for this section of the road.

**Notice of Motion No: 07/2022**

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council take measures to relieve flooding on the Brandra to Fermoye Road near Moran’s Cross”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. 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.

**Notice of Motion No: 08/2022**

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council acquire by negotiation or by CPO a site for a much needed car park in Durrow, and if necessary acquire a derelict site with a large garden for that purpose”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that the Planning Authority will firstly consult with Road Design Section and Municipal District Office to determine the up to date parking situation in Durrow and determine whether additional facilities are required. The Planning Authority will revert following this consultation.

Councillor Ollie Clooney indicated that this matter needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

**Notice of Motion No: 09/2022**

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council install traffic calming measures at the school in Shanahoe”***

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: 10/2022**

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council carry out a survey on the directional and road safety signs at the Pike of Rushall with a view to removing the vast majority of same”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were advised that the signage on the approaches to this junction will be reviewed. Repetitive and outdated signage will be removed.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 11/2022**

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council give an up to date report on the provision of a public playground and its location at Clough village, bearing in mind the need for its close proximity to the road and the provision of ample safe off-street parking”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that the Sport & Leisure Section assists local community groups to identify appropriate sites and funding to develop community play facilities. The key requirements to getting a community playground project started are 1. Community Group to drive the project and 2. Availability of a Suitable Site. 3. Sourcing external funding (e.g. LEADER) to assist with the costs of the project. Community representatives should contact the Sport & Leisure Officer to arrange a meeting to explore available options to deliver a play facility.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 12/2022**

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council release funding to provide car parking facilities adjacent to Mountrath Cemetery on the site owned by the Council or else secure the site to prevent the constant illegal dumping that is occurring there”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that the site referred to is zoned as housing land upon which car parking is not permitted in principle. Laois County Council will secure the site in order to prevent any further illegal dumping there and review options in relation to its future use.

### **Notice of Motion No: 13/2022**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council re-surface the road at Chapel Lane off Chapel Street, Mountmellick”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet the Elected Member at the site to inspect the lane and prepare costings to resurface the lane.

### **Notice of Motion No: 14/2022**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council purchase or hire a mini-street sweeper for Mountmellick Town”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will seek funding from the Environment Department to assist with the purchase/hire of a mini street sweeper.

### **Notice of Motion No: 15/2022**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council replace the pedestrian railings outside Mountmellick Community School”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that the railing outside Mountmellick Community School was removed on request/advice from TII safety Engineer. The general guidelines from TII do not support such railings in most instances on grounds of overall safety. However, a site meeting with the elected member will be arranged to review the issue and will apply for funding to reinstall railing if appropriate.

### **Notice of Motion No: 16/2022**

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council reduce the speed limit to 50 kilometres on entry to both roads at Aghaboe monastic site and graveyard, in order to reduce speed and avoid the potential for a serious accident. Appropriate safety measures should be used including speed limit signs and rumble strips”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Road Design will arrange site meeting with elected member to find out safety issues and will prepare proposal for this section of the road.

### **Notice of Motion No: 17/2022**

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council undertake to carry out repairs on the road into Grantstown Lake Ballacolla as this road is used on a daily basis by lots of people visiting this area for fishing, walking and recreation. It is an important tourist attraction for south Laois”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that the lane identified is not in-charge of Laois County Council. An application in respect of this lane could be considered under a Local Improvement Scheme.

### **Notice of Motion No: 18/2022**

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council make provision in its road budget to resurface the road in Village View Estate, Errill as the present surface cannot be repaired anymore due to potholes and over patching.***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet the Elected Member to inspect the roads in the estate. An application to resurface the roads in the estate could be considered under a Community Involvement Scheme.

### **(8)Correspondence**

Councillor Ollie Clooney raised the issue of the rolling out of the CCTV scheme and the issue of the responsibility of the role of Data Protection.

Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services confirmed that two meetings were held this week, one of which was with An Garda Síochana. Mr. Brennan confirmed that there has been a change in the process on the national front – On the advice of the Data Protection Commissioner Laois County Council would not be the sole Data Controller but would be a joint Data Controller with the Gardaí. A national agreement has been reached and is currently being finalised. This in turn also means that the Gardai will have the power to directly download footage without having to go to the community groups.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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