

**MINUTES OF THE BORRIS IN OSSORY/ MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL
DISTRICT HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE ON THE
18th of JANUARY 2018**

PRESENT: Councillor John King (Cathaoirleach)
Councillor David Goodwin
Councillor Paddy Bracken
Councillor Seamus McDonald
Councillor James Kelly
APOLOGIES: Councillor Brendan Phelan

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Carmel McNicholl, A/Director of Services, Mr. Paul McLoughlin, Senior Executive Engineer, & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary, Corporate Affairs.

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING
OF BORRIS-IN-OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD
ON THE 14TH OF DECEMBER 2017**

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor David Goodwin , the Minutes of the November meeting held on the 14th of December 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Bracken raised the issue of flooding in Mountmellick and surrounding area, the cleaning of rivers and flood defences, i.e. units that can be fitted at houses – Councillor Bracken requested that a survey be carried out on houses that are flooded and that funding be sought for these Door Protection Units as a matter of urgency.

Councillor Kelly sought clarification of the €2 million Flood Relief Fund and requested that the details be forwarded to the Members for their information.

Mr. Paul McLoughlin confirmed that the €2 million scheme is a humanitarian support contribution and will be administered by the Red Cross. Mr. Paul McLoughlin advised the members that he would seek clarity on the scheme and the criteria for same.

Councillor McDonald raised the issue of drainage at O' Moore Forest and Cloncannon.

Mr. Paul McLoughlin, Senior Executive Engineer advised the meeting that the Chief Executive, Kieran Kehoe Director of Services and himself had a meeting scheduled with the O.P.W. this afternoon to initiate discussions and brief them on the work that has already been carried out. Mr Paul McLoughlin advised that the O.P.W. have already been out on the ground in Mountmellick. At this meeting flood defences will be discussed and a timeline will be sought from the OPW in relation to same. Both short term and long term solutions will be discussed with the OPW. The Members stressed the importance of short term measures and that these should be a priority

and that a further application for funding should be made to the Department for these works. Mr. Paul McLoughlin indicated that he was compiling a list of works which require funding following the extensive flood damage.

Mr. McLoughlin also advised that he had met with the National Parks & Wildlife before Christmas with regard to channel maintenance . It was noted that Laois County Council must look at the works required to be carried out collectively in the County and examine the cumulative effect for works within SAC and SPA's. A 3 – 5 year programme of River Maintenance is envisaged.

3. FIX DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on the 15th of February 2018 at 9.30 a.m. in the Executive Conference Room.

A schedule of meetings for 2018 was circulated and the following two dates were noted in particular:

- The March 2018 Meeting would be held on the 22nd of March 2018
- The June 2018 Meeting would be held on the 14th of June 2018

It was agreed that these would be confirmed at the February 2018 meeting.

4. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 01/2018

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council carry out a survey of the White Horse River at Stillbrook, Patrick Street and Shannon Street Mountrath and that the works identified be carried out immediately”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will inspect the river at the requested locations following which the works identified can be listed for funding applications and action within the resources available and subject to approval from the relevant consenting/consulting authorities. Councillor Kelly indicated that there are serious concerns regarding silting and unused stepping stones in the river and funding needs to be sought as a matter of urgency.

Notice of Motion No: 02/2018

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council extend the 50 Kmh speed limit on the R435 Johnstown Road Rathdowney beyond the Erkina Veterinary Clinic and Ger Rooneys factory”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. The Members were advised that having reviewed the Guidance on Setting of Speed Limits, it is recommended that no change be made to this speed limit at this location. Road Design would welcome a meeting to discuss this proposal further.

The Members enquired as to the possibility of short term measures at this location.

The following two Notice of Motions were taken together

Notice of Motion No: 03/2018

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council install road safety measures on what has become a rat run at Hogans Lane, Clonincurragh, Mountrath”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Road design will review this location and recommend proposals to improve safety of this location. Any works on this location will be subject to funding being available.

Notice of Motion No: 05/2018

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council erect ‘Children at Play’ signs near Claire Dooley’s at Clonin, Carragh, Camross”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that the location in question will be examined by Laois County Council and the appropriateness of requested signage assessed.

Notice of Motion No: 04/2018

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council re-strengthen the road at Derrincarrow, Camross and also cut the dangerous trees at this location”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan . The Members were advised that the condition of road at this location will be examined and works programmed as appropriate, The trees will be inspected and ownership established, pending this result the necessary course of action will be taken.

Notice of Motion No: 06/2018

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council erect signs for Clonaghadoo School at the N80 Junction”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor David Goodwin. The Members were advised that there is currently a Part VIII planning process underway for proposed safety improvements at this location. Following the completion of this the appropriate location will be established and provision made for signage for Clonaghadoo National School.

Councillor McDonald indicated that in addition there are no signs for the Catholic Church and requested that this be investigated.

A discussion ensued regarding the proposed safety scheme and Mr. Paul McLoughlin advised that while it was unfortunate that the proposal would alter the operation of junction for some motorists however the work proposed would greatly improve the overall safety at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 07/2018

Councillor David Goodwin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council replace the fence at Meadow Brook Estate, Rosenallis”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that the front boundary fence of this estate has collapsed in a number of places. The Housing Department will examine options to replace the boundary.

Notice of Motion No: 08/2018

Councillor David Goodwin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council repair the road and clean up the unused reservoir at Cat Hole, Ballyfin”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that this site was within the operational water services assets base when Irish Water took over their responsibilities for Water Services in 2014. Laois County Council will seek proposals from Irish Water for Environmental and safety enhancements to the area.

Mr. Paul McLoughlin, Senior Executive Engineer agreed to meet Councillor David Goodwin at the location to review the situation.

Notice of Motion No: 09/2017

Councillor David Goodwin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council erect Stop Sign and mark road at Cappalinan Road, Durrow”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will examine the junction in question and make provision for signage as appropriate.

Notice of Motion No: 10/2018

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council address the serious flooding problem at Kyledellig Cross, Clough, Ballacolla, as this junction is serving access to the Garryduff road which is constantly flooded during winter months”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will assess the surface water issues at this location to establish if a remedy is possible

Notice of Motion No: 11/2018

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council include in its road resurfacing programme for 2018 the road at Ballymullen, Errill as this is in a dreadful condition and part of this road has not been resurfaced for over 50 years”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will assess the condition of this road in the overall context of developing the Roads Programme for 2018. Repairs to the road will be carried out in the short term. The Council is aware of draft proposals from Community Groups to further develop the amenities available on the Erkina and planned future walkway extension Laois County Council will continue to work with the stakeholders concerned as their project applications are developed.

Councillor Brendan Phelan requested that the road be scored at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 12/2018

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council give an update on when repair works will be done on Water Castle Bridge, Durrow as this road is currently closed due to work being complete”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Water Castle Bridge was subjected to considerable structural damage following severe recent rainfall which have necessitated emergency works. Cleaning of the structure commenced to allow for a comprehensive and detailed assessment which indicated damage to a number of arches and the parapet walls. Works will progress on the necessary repairs which will have completed as soon as possible.

Notice of Motion No: 13/2018

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council investigate the surface water/drainage issue at Brockview, Mountmellick”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will assess the surface water issues at this location to establish if a remedy is possible.

Notice of Motion No: 14/2018

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council give an update on the completion of the undergrounding and upgrading of the public lighting at Emmet Street, Mountmellick”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Civil works were completed by Laois County Council almost 1 year ago and since we are waiting from ESB Networks to remove overhead cables. Once ESB Networks will remove cables then we will be able to finish installation of Street lights and Pedestrian crossing Lights.

It was agreed that the Road Design Office be requested to contact the ESB in relation to this.

Notice of Motion No: 15/2018

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council examine the condition of the footpath from St. Fintan’s Church, Ballyfin to the primary school and make arrangements for the necessary repairs to be carried out”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will assess the condition of this footpath and carryout repairs within the resources available.

Notice of Motion No: 16/2018

Councillor Brendan Phelan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council advertise to provide a safe level of staff at Rathdowney Fire Station”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that since the 17th February 2017, we have advertised on 4 occasions in an effort to recruit firefighters for Rathdowney Fire Station. Three applications received in February 2017, none in June or August 2017, one in December 2017 and one candidate recruited from these competitions. A further competition will be advertised in due course.

A discussion ensued regarding the matter. Councillor King suggested that a rota system across the County may have to be introduced.

Notice of Motion No: 17/2018

Councillor Brendan Phelan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council restore Cahir Road, Borris-in-Ossory as it is in very poor repair”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will carry out repairs at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 18/2018

Councillor Brendan Phelan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council give an update on funding from Irish Public Bodies”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance expects to receive an update from IPBMI within the next two weeks and will advise you at that stage.

Mr. Paul McLoughlin, Senior Executive Engineer indicated that in the interim he would put a programme of footpath repair works together consisting of match funding from councilor discretionary funds and the councils own resources.

This concluded the business of the meeting

SIGNED: _____

CERTIFIED: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

**DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
CORPORATE AFFAIRS**