

**MINUTES OF THE BORRIS IN OSSORY/ MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE ON THE 18th OF JUNE 2020**

PRESENT:

Councillor	John King (Cathaoirleach)
Councillor	Paddy Bracken
Councillor	Seamus McDonald
Councillor	James Kelly
Councillor	Ollie Clooney
Councillor	Conor Bergin

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services, Mr. Edmond Kenny, A/S.E.E. & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer, Corporate Affairs.

1. AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed to the amendment to Standing Orders in light of the global pandemic in relation to the COVID-19 Outbreak declared by the World Health Organisation on the 12th of March 2020. The Members in particular were advised of the amendment at 72(f) of the Standing Orders for the duration of the COVID-19 as follows:

- i. Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District meetings may be held by means of conference/video call among the members of the Municipal District for the purposes of dealing with statutory, urgent or priority agenda items
- ii. Following consultation with the Cathaoirleach the Meetings Administrator shall inform Members that the meeting is to be held by conference/video call
- iii. The conference call/video call shall be organised and facilitated by the Meetings Administrator
- iv. The Meeting Administrator shall arrange for the conference call/video call to be available live at the Principal Offices of the Council
- v. The quorum for each meeting shall to be the number specified in Standing Order 6, with “attendance” defined as a member joining the conference call.
- vi. For avoidance of doubt the meeting may take place via a combination of physical attendance in the Council Chamber and by teleconference/ videoconference.
- vii. The Meetings Administrator shall keep a special attendance register of Councillors attending the meeting by way of conference call/video call.
- viii. This standing order 72 will cease to have effect on expiry of the COVID 19 outbreak in Ireland or on 31st July 2020 (whichever is earlier) unless otherwise renewed.
- ix. When this standing order 72 ceases to have effect, the text of the order shall be removed from the published standing orders

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING OF BORRIS-IN-OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 20TH OF FEBRUARY 2020

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Minutes of the January meeting held on the 20th of February 2020 were confirmed as circulated.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising

3. FIX DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that next meeting would be held on the 17th of September 2020 at 9.30 a.m.

4. SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline John King seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald, the Members unanimously agreed the Schedule of Municipal District Works 2020 as circulated.

5. COVID-19 – COMMUNITY CALL – BRIEFING BY MR. DONAL BRENNAN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services updated the members on the Council's Community Response Helpline which has received almost 600 requests for support either via phone or email since its establishment on 31st March 2020. The Helpline continue to operate 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday. The number of requests that are being received is on average 2 requests per day. The Community Support Response Forum continues to play its part in being a focal point for the co-ordination of local support services and delivery of same as the need arises with 18 organisations represented on the forum and an excellent level of engagement. The Members paid compliments to all involved.

6. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 37/2020

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That Laois County Council allocate funding to carry out badly needed repairs on the footpaths on Main Street, Borris-in-Ossory from the Irish Public Bodies Insurance Fund"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will meet with the Councillor on site to undertake an inspection of the footpaths on the Main Street.

Notice of Motion No: 38/2020

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That Laois County Council extend the Business Incentive Scheme to Borris-in-Ossory to encourage the use of vacant commercial premises in the village"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that The Business Incentive Scheme is designed to provide a grant incentive for new businesses to locate in premises that have been vacant for a period exceeding six months and to encourage diversity of retail opportunities within a designated area. Given that Borris in Ossory has a high degree of vacancy along its Main Street, the Business Support Unit will take the necessary steps to extend the business incentive scheme to Borris in Ossory.

Notice of Motion No: 39/2020

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That Laois County Council provide an update and timeframe for the completion of 11 new turnkey social homes on Main Street, Borris-in-Ossory"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that installation works for water and waste water have commenced on site. Works on the internal fitting out the units stopped when the Covid 19 restrictions were put in place but these works will be resuming next week. Delivery of Phase 1 (Units 1 – 6) of this scheme is due in Q3 2020. Delivery of Phase 2 (Units 7 – 11) of this scheme is due in Q4 2020.

Notice of Motion No: 40/2020

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Council erect a Barrier at the Tallyhoe Bridge Durrow as the wall is crumbling"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will undertake a structural inspection on this bridge and update the Councillor of the outcome.

Notice of Motion No: 41/2020

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Council carry out a survey of the missing place names signpost in the Borris in Ossory Municipal District with the view of replacing these signs"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that a review of signage on regional roads will be undertaken by the Municipal District this year. Where damaged or absent signage is encountered the cost of replacement will be established. Laois County Council will update the Councillor of the outcome of the review.

Notice of Motion No: 42/2020

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Council resurface Tentore Lane Ballacolla"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will assess this road in the overall context of the development of a future roads programme.

Notice of Motion No: 43/2020

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:

"That this Council make provision to improve visibility at the Leix County Hotel, Borris-in-Ossory from the Rathdowney Road as this junction will become a black spot for accidents if safety measures are not put in place such as traffic lights and a clear way in front of hotel"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will undertake a sightlines visibility survey at this junction and revert with findings to the Councillor.

Notice of Motion No: 44/2020

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:

"That this Council support the application for Clár funding programme 2020 under measure 1 for Schools and Community to provide car park facilities for Errill national school and community hall."

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that all potential projects received will be assessed for submission for Clár funding. Errill is within the Clár area and the merits put forward are noted.

Notice of Motion No: 45/2020

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:

"That this Council apply for funding under Town & Village renewal scheme for a hub Centre in Rathdowney to enable people to work from home and to create economic and social recovery of towns & villages in response to Covid 19."

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council were formally notified of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 on 3rd June last. Expressions of interests have been invited for the identification of suitable projects under the Scheme and all EOIs submitted will receive due consideration. Full details in relation to the 2020 Scheme and EOI form are available on the Council's website.

Notice of Motion No: 46/2020

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:

"That this Council purchase a heavy duty pump similar to the one that was hired during the most recent flooding in Mountmellick - this pump could also be of benefit when bridge maintenance work is being undertaken"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will seek funding from the OPW to assist with the purchase of a duty and standby pump to be deployed during flood events within the Municipal District.

Notice of Motion No: 47/2020

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Council install a gully on the road at Debbicott, Mountmellick in order to prevent flooding at the home of the Lynch family"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that the maintenance crews will attend this area to address the drainage issues on the public road.

Notice of Motion No: 48/2020

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Council repair the road outside Glanbia, Mountmellick"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that the road has been repaired at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 49/2020

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Council replace and repair the road signage on the approach to the Glendine Road and JJ Fanning Pass in the Sliabh Bloom Mountains"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will meet with the Councillor on site to review the signage at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 50/2020

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Council include the "Local Cemetery Rathdowney" in its 2020 cemetery improvement works with regard to the repair of internal footpaths and resurfacing at its entrance"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will examine all available options for funding in order to enable works to be undertaken at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 51/2020

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Council install traffic calming measures such as stop signs adjacent to the narrow bridge at the entrance to Camross village"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will meet with the Councillor on site to review the signage at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 52/2020

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Council make safe the entrance to Rearymore Pig Farm"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will meet with the Councillor on site to examine the required safety measures at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 53/2020

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Council carry out urgent road repairs at Gorrough, Clonaslee near property and also repair Gorrough Bridge at this location"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that the maintenance crews will attend to this area. Laois County Council will undertake an inspection on this bridge and update the Councillor of the outcome.

Notice of Motion No: 54/2020

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Council give an update on progress on the bridge at Rearyvalley, Rosenallis"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that this bridge was recently subjected to a load assessment to confirm the structural strength of the deck. As soon as the outcome of the analysis is known the Councillor will be updated.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____ CERTIFIED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
CORPORATE AFFAIRS