

**MINUTES OF THE BORRIS-IN-OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL
DISTRICT HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA MICROSOFT
TEAMS ON THE 24TH OF JUNE 2021**

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

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 May Meeting of Borris-In-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District held on the 20th of May 2021

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor John King, the minutes of the May meeting held on the 20th of May 2021 were confirmed as circulated.

(2) Matters Arising

Councillor James Kelly referred to the following Notice of Motions which were discussed at the May meeting as follows:-

Notice of Motion No: 67/2021 – Councillor James Kelly

“That Laois County Council provide additional temporary parking adjacent to the Glenbarrow Loop and Waterfall in light of the recent road closures by Gardai due to indiscriminate parking”

Notice of Motion No: 58/2021 – Councillor Seams McDonald

“That Laois County Council give an update on the parking problem at Glenbarrow”

The Members were advised that Laois County Council does not retain/own lands at Glenbarrow. Indications have been given to Laois County Council by Coillte that they are amenable to disposing of lands to Laois County Council such that additional car parking be provided. The lands are designated as a candidate Special Area of Conservation. Accordingly, any additional car parking provision will be subject to various environmental and ecological assessments followed by an application for planning consent. In order to advise the feasibility of any such project, agents acting for Laois County Council have recently completed an environmental scoping study

which has indicated requirements for further, separate and additional engagements with various statutory bodies. Those engagements will commence shortly. In the meantime it is of note that, under the Road Traffic Acts/Regulations, it is an offence for any person to park a vehicle in a manner that obstructs or inhibits a public right of way or that blocks another parties access to their property. Such provisions of the Road Traffic Acts/Regulations are enforceable by An Garda Siochana. Councillor Kelly requested that an update be available for the July meeting of the Municipal District scheduled for the 15th of July 2021.

(3) Fix Date for Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on the 15th of July re-scheduled date of the **15th of July 2021**

(4) Notice of Motions

Notice of Motion No: 70/2021

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council extend a footpath from the entrance to O’Keefe Park, Borris-In-Ossory to the houses adjacent to the entrance to Castle Avenue, Derrin”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet the Elected Member at the site to assess the needs of pedestrians at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 71/2021

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council resurface the L-1519 ‘New Line’ road at Skirke, Borris-In-Ossory to link up with the section of road at Ballyquaid which was previously resurfaced”

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: 72/2021

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council address the serious road surface issues on the public part of the L-16191 road at Cuddagh, Castletown as a matter of priority”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council crews will attend to this road to undertake the necessary road repairs.

Notice of Motion No: 73/2021

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair damaged bridge at Cloneygowan,

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that the bridge identified will be visited by the Laois County Council staff and cleared of vegetation for further inspection.

Notice of Motion No: 74/2021

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council resolve the flooding problem at Castlecuffe, Clonaslee”

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 at the site and will undertake a level survey to identify a solution to the issue.

Notice of Motion No: 75/2021

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council erect new road signs at Rosenallis Village”

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 in the village.

Notice of Motion No: 76/2021

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council investigate the feasibility of providing a car park in Durrow”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that there is no land available in the ownership of Laois County Council where additional car park spaces could be provided in the centre of Durrow. The implementation of time limited parking in Durrow, similar to that in Mountrath may improve parking space availability through the frequent turnover of spaces and increase the number of patrons utilising the retail offering in the town centre. A decision on the provision of parking facilities that are remote from the town centre would require that a parking study be undertaken on the occupancy and turnover of existing spaces in the town centre.

Notice of Motion No: 77/2021

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on proposals to alleviate flooding on Gurteen Lane, Cullahill”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that the drainage works on Gurteen lane will be undertaken in the Autumn 2021.

Notice of Motion No: 78/2021

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 Conor Bergin. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet the Elected Member at the site to determine the cause of the drainage issue and identify a solution.

Notice of Motion No: 79/2021

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council under its maintenance budget for land drainage carry out the work identified on the Upper Nore, at the Basin Wall, Derryduff, Coolrain and also carry out clearance and maintenance works on the river”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that preliminary designs for the repair of the Basin embankment wall are complete. Environmental Consultants acting for Laois County Council have commenced an environmental Natura Impact Statement. The Elected Member will be kept updated on the progress of these works.

Notice of Motion No: 80/2021

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out works to provide car parking facilities adjacent to St Fintan’s Cemetery, Mountrath on lands owned by the Council”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that the Senior Executive Engineer, Mr. Ken Morley will meet with Councillor Kelly at St Fintan’s Cemetery in relation to this matter.

Notice of Motion No: 81/2021

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out the agreed road works to allow meeting traffic pass freely on the L-5615 road at Peafield/ Knockbrack, Pike-of-Rushall”

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 explore the options available to increase the width of the carriageway.

Notice of Motion No: 82/2021

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council address the serious footpath subsidence outside St. Vincent’s Community Nursing Unit in Mountmellick”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet with representatives of the HSE at the site to examine the recent subsidence of the footpath.

Notice of Motion No: 83/2021

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council address the footpath and wall outside House No. 102 St. Joseph’s Terrace, Mountmellick – this is ongoing for a number of years and it is now a serious health and safety issue”

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 this site to inspect the damaged infrastructure.

Notice of Motion No: 84/2021

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council install walking signs at Sandy Lane, Mountmellick since this road was recently refurbished a huge number of people are walking this route in the interest of pedestrian safety”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that The Sport & Leisure Office will request a route inspection from the Irish Heart Foundation with a view to a possible extension of the Slí na Sláinte in this area, to include Sandy Lane.

Notice of Motion No: 85/2021

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council give an update on road re-surfacing, and raising of road level that is prone to continuous flooding issue at Kyledellick/Garryduff/ Clough junction, that has been ongoing for months as I have raised this problem several times at these area meetings”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that these works are now complete.

Notice of Motion No: 86/2021

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council contact the land owner of the trees at Johnstown Glebe Rathdowney, close to Belady cemetery, to trim and remove dangerous decaying trees that may cause serious danger and maybe loss of life to people walking this road and attending the cemetery on a regular basis”

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 at the site to assess the impact of the trees on the public road.

Notice of Motion No: 87/2021

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council erect “strictly no dogs allowed” signs at Belady cemetery Rathdowney, and other graveyards in the area as dog fouling can be regularly seen there and this is extremely stressful to family’s when they come to visit the graves of their loved ones and find dog foul on the grave area”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will consider this request with a view to erecting signage if budgetary constraints allow. Naturally provision would need to be made for guide dogs /assistance dogs.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received since the last meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Director of Corporate
Affairs