

**MINUTES OF THE BORRIS IN OSSORY/ MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THE 18<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH 2021**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor	Seamus McDonald (Cathaoirleach)
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 MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING OF BORRIS-IN-OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 18<sup>TH</sup> OF FEBRUARY 2021**

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor John King, the Minutes of the February meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 were confirmed as circulated.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor James Kelly raised the following issues:-

- (i) Notice of Motion No: 05/2021 - The Councillor confirmed that request to erect bollards on Main Street Borris-in-Ossory related only to the junction in front of the Leix County Hotel.
- (ii) Notice of Motion No: 06/2021 – Road Design Section will contact the Councillor with regard to the survey of Spa Hill, i.e. unfinished footpath.

**3. UPDATE ON PARKING POLICY IN MOUNTRATH**

Ms. Georgina Ireland delivered a presentation in relation to the parking policy proposals for Mountrath. The Members were advised that there were 9 submissions received during the non-statutory public consultation period with no objections to the proposal. It was noted that time limited parking measures are being proposed for introduction in early Summer 2021, following which vehicles would be allowed to park for two hours maximum between 8.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

In accordance with Section 21 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 (Schedule 3 Part 1 No. 35, on the proposal of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed the parking policy for Mountrath as presented.

**Notice of Motion No: 24/2021 in the name of Councillor James Kelly was taken in conjunction with this presentation as follows:-**

***“That this Council in conjunction with the proposed timed parking in Mountrath provide funding to carry out new works such as lined tarmac, surface kerbing etc., at the public car park on the Main Street”***

The Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were informed that in conjunction with the proposals the car park will be re-surfaced to define the spaces, a public light will be erected also which will illuminate the car park. It is planned to install yellow boxes at the entrance to the car park and install a loading bay on the Main Street which will include an age friendly car parking space.

Councillor James Kelly indicated that he would contribute some of his discretionary funding to this project. Following a query in relation to parking charges, Ms. Ireland confirmed that there would be no charges and that the enforcement of the time-limited parking will be carried out by the Traffic Wardens and An Garda Siochana.

#### **4. FIX DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting be scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2021 at 9.30 a.m. via Microsoft Teams.

#### **5. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

##### **Notice of Motion No: 16/2021**

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council re-surface the L-1035 road at Bughorn, Camross”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. 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: 17/2021**

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council re-surface the L-5600 road at Kilcoke, Ballybrophy”***

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: 18/2021

Councillor Conor Begin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council re-surface the L-5616 road at Lowran/Derrinoliver, Pike-of-Rushall”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. 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: 19/2021

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council repair road at Brockera, Ballyfin – this road was taken in charge in 1987”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will review the legacy roads schedule to confirm if this road was previously taken in charge.

### Notice of Motion No: 20/2021

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:

***“That Laois County Council trim back trees at Hillside, Clonaslee also at Slieve Bloom Park”***

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

### Notice of Motion No: 21/2021

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council resolve flooding problem at Clonduff, Rosenallis”***

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 at the site to identify a possible drainage outfall to solve this issue.

**Notice of Motion No: 22/2021**

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:

***“That this Council address the very dangerous flooding issues on the road adjacent to the waterworks and reservoir at the Knocks, Ballyfin”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to inspect the existing drainage infrastructure and bridge structures at this site to determine the cause of the flooding issues.

**Notice of Motion No: 23/2021**

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

***“That this Council provide road safety measures such as lay byes/cut ins and road re-surfacing on the L56361 at Coolderry, 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: 25/2021**

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council contact the ESB to remove a dangerous pole on the Swan Road, Durrow”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will visit the site with the utility provider to ascertain whose responsibility it is to relocate the pole.

Councillor Clooney indicated that this is a very dangerous pole and the ESB should be requested to move the pole as a matter of urgency. Mr. Edmond Kenny, A.S.E.E. will investigate and contact the ESB following inspection.

**Notice of Motion No: 26/2021**

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:

***“That this Council re-surface the road near Boston, Cullohill”***

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: 27/2021

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council repair the dangerous footpath on the Derry Road, Durrow”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will survey the footpath identified and revert to the Elected Member once complete.

### Notice of Motion No: 28/2021

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council repair the damaged bridge walls at the Lea Bridge, Templemore Road, Errill that was badly damaged following a traffic incident. I would also request the name of bridge be inserted in the wall and the year when first built, which was 1884, for historical knowledge”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that the parapet wall on the Lea Bridge collapsed as the result of a recent vehicle collision. Laois County Council crews will undertake the necessary repairs to the bridge. A plaque containing the bridge name will be replaced during the repairs. It was noted that this work is currently underway and Councillor King complimented all involved.

### Notice of Motion No: 29/2021

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council investigate who is responsible for repairing the large opening in the wall directly in front of the entrance to Manor Stone Filling station near Ballacolla, which was damaged by a vehicle and not picked up by a camera”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that the damaged wall falls under the remit of the motorway MMaRC contractor, Midlink. Laois County Council will seek the company to arrange the necessary repairs.

### Notice of Motion No: 30/2021

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council carry out some minor drainage works to support the development of a new proposed playground in Borris in Ossory, adjacent to the church car park and convent area which is in the process of seeking planning”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that the Sport & Leisure Office are providing support to the local community in Borris-in-Ossory on an ongoing basis with the planning and development of the playground. We are aware that the local community group will also be looking to source grant funding in relation to the project; it is to those external sources of funding that we would first direct the local community. The Council will be available to the community group to assist them in any applications for external grants towards the costs of the various elements of the project.

**Notice of Motion No: 31/2021**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council address the road subsidence at Hickey’s Bridge, Mountmellick”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that the subsidence issue will be investigated and repaired in the coming weeks.

**Notice of Motion No: 32/2021**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion

***“That this Council carry out road repairs at Ireys, Ballyfin”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. 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: 33/2021**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion

***“That this Council carry out road safety improvements and weight restrictions on HGVs on the Drinagh/Cloonagh Road”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Road Design section will contact and arrange meeting with elected member to identify exact issue and prepare proposal for implementation of safety measure. Councillor Paddy Bracken requested a traffic count on this road.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence for noting. Councillor James Kelly indicated that a very successful litter pick was done in Mountrath last week with 107 bags being filled. Councillor Kelly urged the public to keep their communities tidy and litter free. A discussion ensued regarding illegal dumping and Councillor Ollie Clooney indicated that cameras are necessary for black spot areas – Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services indicated that the changes in the law are awaited. Dog fouling was also noted as an issue. Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services indicated that he would investigate the costings for additional litter picks in the district. It was also agreed that the details of the Clár scheme be circulated to the Members when available. The Members requested an updated list on works carried out and works outstanding including a lookback of the works that have been done in the Municipal District.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach

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Director of Corporate  
Affairs