

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING OF BORRIS-IN-OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA MICROSOFT
TEAMS ON THE 22ND OF MARCH 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 February Meeting of Borris-In-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District held on the 17th of February 2022

On the proposition of Councillor Seamus McDonald seconded by Councillor John King, the minutes of the February meeting held on the 17th of February 2022 were confirmed as circulated.

(2) Matters Arising

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

“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”

Councillor Kelly welcomed the recent installation of new signage...

Councillor James Kelly also raised the matter of illegal dumping in the Slieve Bloom Mountains and in particular at the JJ Fanning Pass.

(3) Schedule of Municipal District Works 2022

On the proposition of Councillor Seamus McDonald seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed the Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2022 as circulated.

(4) Notice of Motions

Notice of Motion No: 19/2022

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council engage with the ESB and seek the installation of an electric car charging station in Camross in the heart of the Slieve Bloom mountains for the benefit of local tourism in the surrounding area”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that a pilot EV charging point has been installed in the public carpark outside County Hall, Block 2 and is currently available for use by full electric and plug in hybrid electric vehicle owners. The performance of this unit is being monitored to establish usage patterns. This data will inform future roll out plans for EV charging points around the county. Laois County Council will also contact ESB to see if it would consider installation of charging point at locations such as Camross.

Notice of Motion No: 20/2022

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council address the flooding issue at residence at the Green Roads, Ballybrophy as a matter of priority”

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: 21/2022

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out repairs to the bridge on the L-10304 at Longford, Camross and also address the drainage issues on the lane for residents”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that a bridge inspection will be undertaken to confirm the condition of the structure. The drainage issues will be addressed in the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 22/2022

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council as a matter of urgency carry out road safety works such as lay-byes, cut ins and road widening on the very narrow Drim Road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will meet the Elected Member at the site to identify locations for local widening of the road.

Notice of Motion No: 23/2022

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out works to include a post and fence rail at St.Fintan’s Cemetery, Mountrath to prevent further damage to family headstones and graves”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that I will arrange to meet with Councillor Kelly at Mountrath Cemetery to discuss the extent of the works requested.

Notice of Motion No: 24/2022

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out road repairs at Butter Island, Coolrain L-10591-0 to address its poor state of repair”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that maintenance crews will attend to this road in the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 25/2022

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council provide extra lighting at the graveyard in Ballacolla”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that while there is public lighting associated with the walking track around Ballacolla GAA Grounds, there is no lighting associated with St. Fergal’s Cemetery. The Cemetery Budget does not provide for the installation of public lighting at cemeteries

Notice of Motion No: 26/2022

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council install a bus shelter in Cullahill”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that the Active Travel Engineer will arrange to meet Councillor Clooney on site to review and agree the most appropriate intervention. Following on from this meeting, an application for funding for a bus shelter will be made to the National Transport Authority (NTA).

Notice of Motion No: 27/2022

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council re-surface a Cul de Sac off the Swan Road, Durrow”

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 inspect the lane and prepare costings to resurface the lane.

Notice of Motion No: 28/2022

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out road repairs from the road at Ballyfin Church to Ross, Ballyfin”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that maintenance crews will attend to this road in the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 29/2022

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council erect signs for Derrylamogue School”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that the signage on the approaches to the school will be reviewed and augmented where necessary.

Notice of Motion No: 30/2022

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council make safe the junction at Cappard Estate, Rosenallis”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will review this junction layout. Signage and road markings will be upgraded to improve the safety for road users at the junction.

Notice of Motion No: 31/2022

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council lower the wall at Rathdowney Motor Works junction to create better visibility for all road users approaching this junction”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that a sightline visibility study will be undertaken at this junction to determine what works are necessary to increase the sightlines.

Notice of Motion No: 32/2022

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council give an update on when repairs and laying of new footpaths begin from St. Fergal’s college to the Conoboro bridge, Rathdowney as these works were originally planned for completion in 2021”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that tender documents will be prepared and published in the coming weeks for footpath repairs adjacent to St Fergal’s College.

Notice of Motion No: 33/2022

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council install a ramp, pedestrian crossing and other safety measures at the new GAA grounds in Clough in order to create safety for all users of this new development”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council engineers will arrange to meet the Elected Member in the Village to examine the safety concerns.

Notice of Motion No: 34/2022

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council take whatever measures that are necessary to address the former Central Garage site at Emmett Street, Mountmellick which is derelict for over ten years”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that the site has been inspected and correspondence will issue to the owners in relation to same. A report and recommendation will be further drawn up as to what course of action under Derelict Sites legislation to pursue.

Notice of Motion No: 35/2022

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council replace the footpath and resurface the road at O’ Moore Street, Mountmellick where the road joins the N80 at Macs Corner”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will meet the Elected Member to inspect the footpaths and the road surface at this junction.

Notice of Motion No: 36/2022

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install traffic calming measures at Acragar, Mountmellick”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that road markings and rumble strips will be installed to warn traffic approaching the bend on the Town side of the graveyard.

(5) Correspondence

It was noted that no correspondence had been received since the last meeting.

It was agreed that a vote of well wishes be extended to Mr. Bill Dempsey, Supervisor for the Municipal District for a speedy recovery following his recent illness.

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

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

**Director of Corporate
Affairs**

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