

**MINUTES OF THE BORRIS-IN-OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON THE 20th OF MAY**

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 April Meeting of Borris-In-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District held on the 15th of April 2021

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor John King, the minutes of the March meeting held on the 15th of April 2021 were confirmed as circulated.

(2) Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 15th of April 2021.

(3) Fix Date for Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on the re-scheduled date of the **24th of June 2021 at 9.30 a.m.**

(4) Notice of Motions

Notice of Motion No: 52/2021

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council address the parking issues for residents, install traffic calming measures (such as speed ramps) and contact Cluid to repair a boundary fence which has fallen down in the Ossory Court estate in Borris-In-Ossory”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council have secured funding to undertake traffic calming works in the estate. Laois County Council will arrange to meet the Elected Member in the estate to review the other issues mentioned. Contact has been made with Cluid Housing Association regarding the fencing at Ossory Court and they have advised that this is a private estate and does not fall under their responsibility.

Notice of Motion No: 53/2021

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council address the road surface issues on the L-5032 between Carrowreagh and Birchgrove Bridge, Camross”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will assess this road in the overall context of the development of a future roads programme. Laois County Council crews will undertake the necessary patching repairs.

Notice of Motion No: 54/2021

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council address the surface water and drainage issues at Old Court, Clough as a matter of priority”

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 determine the cause of the drainage issue

Notice of Motion No: 55/2021

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council support the Errill Tidy Towns Group in their efforts to deal with the dreadful amount of illegal dumping that is currently ongoing in three bogs around the picturesque village of Errill”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that the problem of illegal dumping has significantly increased this year. The Waste Enforcement Officers and Litter Wardens are carrying out daily inspections and are cleaning up each of the locations. Local groups (Tidy Towns etc.) are also assisting the Council by organising litter picks/cleanups. The Council continues to provide these groups with gloves/bags/litter pickers etc. and collects and disposes of the collected waste material. This will continue. The Council has applied for funding under the 2021 Anti-dumping Initiative for a number of cleanups. The cleanup of bogs is included. The Council will support the Errill Tidy Towns Group with their much appreciated cleanups.

Notice of Motion No: 56/2021

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council repair and make safe the manhole lids on the street at property at Moore Street, Rathdowney and also in front of the Catholic Church area Rathdowney as these lids are hopping day and night and causing great disturbance to people who are trying to get a nights sleep”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will inspect the manhole frames and covers at the locations identified and undertake the necessary repairs.

Notice of Motion No: 57/2021

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council carry out drainage works outside property at Johnstown Glebe, Rathdowney and also at Knockiel Road adjacent to land as both areas are prone to flooding”

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 both sites to determine the cause of the drainage issues

The following two Notice of Motions were taken together:-

Notice of Motion No: 58/2021

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

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

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly

Notice of Motion No: 67/2021

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“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”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. 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.

Notice of Motion No: 59/2021

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council erect cycle signs on the road from Tinnahinch to Clonaslee”

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 to review the signage on this route.

Notice of Motion No: 60/2021

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out bridge repairs at property at Campclone, Ballyfin”

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: 61/2021

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council repair the damaged railings at the junction of Sarsfield Street/Lord Edward Street/Connolly Street, Mountmellick”

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: 62/2021

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council repair the chamber lid at the roundabout at Connolly Street, Mountmellick”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will inspect the manhole frames and covers at the locations identified and undertake the necessary repairs.

Notice of Motion No: 63/2021

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council be updated on the taking in charge of the following housing estates – Silverwood, Silverglen & Silverbrook”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that The Planning Section will incorporate the outstanding works into their 3 year programme and will deal with the Taking in Charge of same accordingly.

Notice of Motion No: 64/2021

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council take steps to stop flooding at property at Graiguevoice, Cullohill (R32E6T1)”

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

Notice of Motion No: 65/2021

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council re-surface the road at the Wooden Bridges, 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. Laois County Council crews will undertake the necessary patching repairs.

Notice of Motion No: 66/2021

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council carry out a slip test on the Swan Road, Durrow”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to undertake a sand patch test to confirm the coarseness of the pavement at the Swan Road.

Notice of Motion No: 68/2021

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out a survey on the number of available fire hydrants, in the centre of Mountrath and the necessary works if extra hydrants are required, in the interest of health and safety”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were advised that Section 10 (10) of the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003 permits a fire service to carry out routine surveys of fire hydrant for fire-fighting purposes.

“A fire authority shall, as soon as may be after the commencement of this section and as occasion requires, make a survey to examine the location and adequacy of water supplies for fire-fighting purposes, fire-fighting equipment and fire hydrants.

Typically, Mountrath Fire Crews carry out annual surveys of fire hydrants to familiarise the crews with their locations & their condition. The Mountrath crew last surveyed/inspected

the hydrants in Mountrath & surrounding area in September 2020. Specifying the number of hydrants & flow required is part of the planning & building control process.

Notice of Motion No: 69/2021

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council provide 2021 timelines for the agreed cemetery works at St Fintan’s, Mountrath, Castletown and Local Cemetery Rathdowney”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that the relevant works contractors have been contacted with a view to progressing these works and are expected to commence work by the 1st week of July 2021.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence from Leo Kavanagh (Parking Permit for People with Disabilities Holder) from the Physical Impairment Ireland (PII) was circulated to the meeting for their information.

This concluded the business of the meeting

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Director of Corporate
Affairs