

**MINUTES OF THE BORRIS IN OSSORY/ MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE ON THE 19TH NOVEMBER 2020**

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING OF
BORRIS-IN-OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE
15TH OCTOBER 2020**

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Minutes of the September meeting held on the 15th October 2020 were confirmed as circulated.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor James Kelly raised the issue of the parking proposals for Mountrath which were agreed at the last meeting and in particular the intention to publish a notice of Laois County Council's intention to erect the signage for time limited parking. Councillor Kelly requested that this be postponed until January 2021. It was agreed that the matter would be checked with the Roads Department.

Councillor James Kelly also referred to Notice of Motion No: 81/2020 which was considered at the October meeting as follows:-

Notice of Motion No: 81/2020

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council carry out road works to allow meeting traffic pass freely at Peafield/Knockbrack Pike- of- Rushall L5615”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will examine the space available to motorists at the location and look at improvement options.

Councillor Kelly indicated that due to the recent announcement that CJ Sheeran Ltd – Ireland's largest pallet manufacturer who have their headquarters in Mountrath –

have announced that they have acquired Coolrain Sawmills, which will take its overall number of employees to about 250 (with Coolrain Sawmills having about 70 workers at its base near the village of Coolrain outside Mountrath) . This may lead to be a significant increase in traffic at this location. Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services confirmed that he has discussed the matter with Mr. Simon Walton, Director of Services with responsibility for roads and this has been agreed.

3. SUPPLEMENTARY STANDING ORDERS – REMOTE MEETINGS

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed to the supplementary standing orders as circulated in relation to the holding of remote meetings and in particular the introduction of voting – a vote taken remotely in accordance with these Standing Orders constitutes a valid vote towards the decision of the Municipal District.

4. FIX DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting be scheduled for the 10th of December 2020 at 9.30 a.m. in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae.

5. PRESENTATION BY MR. FARHAN NASIEM, A/S.E.E. ON PUBLIC LIGHTING

Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/Senior Executive Engineer delivered a comprehensive presentation on the Public Lighting Retrofit Programme.

The Presentation made reference to the National Climate Action Plan, associated actions to reduce energy consumption/carbon footprint and the phasing out of light types that currently form a large proportion of the existing public lighting network in County Laois. The presentation went on to outline the significant energy savings that accrue from the Retrofit Programme enabling Laois County Council to comply with energy consumption reduction targets that have been set down for the Council from Central Government.

It was further noted that the provisions of the contract underpinning the LED Retrofit provide that the standard of lighting from the new LED lights must at least match the pre-existing standard of lighting provision

Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E. responded to the various queries raised – it was noted by the Members that in some areas the overall quality of lighting from the new LED bulbs does not meet the previous standard.

The Members requested the possibility of bringing forward a policy where there would be a budget available for public lighting and not solely dependent on discretionary funding.

6. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 91/2020

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That Laois County Council resurface the L-16711 at Dysartbeigh, Mountrath"

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: 92/2020

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That Laois County Council resurface the L-10053 at Whitefields/Burke's Cross, Killanure as a matter of priority"

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: 93/2020

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That Laois County Council erect a 'no through road' sign at the entrance to Garranmaconly Lane from the L-5511 at Ballybrophy to prevent traffic for Errill from turning down a private residential lane by accident"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that the existing signage on the approach roads to this junction will be reviewed. The signage will be improved where found to be inadequate

Notice of Motion No: 94/2020

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Council repair footpath and carry out some drainage works as a matter of urgency outside Scoil Bhride National School, Rathdowney as this area is a hive of activity on a daily basis"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that drainage works and footpath repairs have commenced on the R433 and are due to be completed early next week.

Notice of Motion No: 95/2020

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council contact the landowner of the trees opposite Bealady Cemetery, Rathdowney and request him to make safe the badly decaying trees with hollows in the middle as this is causing serious concern to motorists / walkers and people visiting the cemetery”

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 Cemetery to assess the risk posed by the trees.

Notice of Motion No: 96/2020

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council erect a stop / concealed sign and some road markings at the junction at Grantstown, Ballacolla in order to avoid accidents for road users”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that the signage and roadmarkings at the junction will be reviewed. The signage will be improved where found to be inadequate.

Notice of Motion No: 97/2020

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out repairs to bridge and resolve flooding issue at Clonurk, Ballyfin (near Cashin’s farm)”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that the bridge identified will be cleared of vegetation for further inspection. A level survey will be undertaken on the road to identify a solution to relieve the flooding issue.

Notice of Motion No: 98/2020

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council erect school bus signs at Kilcavan Cross and Children Crossing signs”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that the existing signage on the approach roads to this junction will be reviewed. The signage will be improved where found to be inadequate

Notice of Motion No: 99/2020

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair bridge near Brittas Castle, Clonaslee”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. 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: 100/2020

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council acquire by negotiation or by C.P.O. the derelict house at the junction of Derry Road, Durrow for the purpose of demolishing it as it is a major traffic hazard”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that the demolition of the derelict house is the subject of two planning applications, one granted under 16/140 and a current revision under pl ref no. 20184. Both applications seek to demolish this dwelling and construct a new dwelling in lieu at a setback which would facilitate improved sightlines. The Roads Section has submitted reports on both of the planning files mentioned above to take account of road safety concerns. At present there is no funding available for the progression of the acquisition of this dwelling to implement improvements to the junction of the Derry Road and the N77.

The Members expressed concern in relation to the seriousness of this junction.

Notice of Motion No: 101/2020

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council re-surface the road from Cullohill Castle to Bunlacken”

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: 102/2020

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council re-surface the road from Kyle, Durrow to Parkbawn”

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: 103/2020

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council as a matter of urgency provide the required funding to install Bus Stopping Points at Mountrath, Castletown and Borris-in-Ossory. These points will be of huge benefit to public transport users and will also play a part in the Councils ambition to reduce the County’s emissions performance”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will liaise with the NTA regarding the provision of funding to deliver improved facilities at the locations identified. The Members requested that the NTA address the Municipal District in relation to the provision of bus stop points in the Municipal District Area or if possible a presentation from the NTA. It was noted that there is provision under the guidelines for S.P.C’s to request an external body to address the Council’s Strategic Policy Committees on a policy matter. It was agreed that this matter be referred to the NTA as a matter of urgency.

Notice of Motion No: 104/2020

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council under its maintenance of land drainage areas carry out the work identified on the Upper Nore at the Basin wall Coolrain and also carry out drainage and maintenance works on the river”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. The Members were advised that a structural survey of the retaining wall at the confluence between the Rivers Nore & Delour has been scheduled to take place in the coming weeks. The outcome of this inspection will dictate what works will be undertaken in 2021.

Notice of Motion No: 105/2020

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council release funding to provide car parking facilities adjacent to Mountrath Cemetery and The Community College on lands owned by the Council”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that no Council funds have been assigned to the development of this location as a car park. Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services advised that the lands in question were originally under the control of the housing section.

The Members expressed concern in relation to this and requested that Laois County Council examine avenues for the provision off a car park at this location

Notice of Motion No: 106/2020

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council take in charge the following housing estates: Silverwood, Silverglen & Silverbrook”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council are in the process of preparing As-Constructed Drawings to initiate the taking in charge process. CCTV Survey is also being sought.

Notice of Motion No: 107/2020

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council repair the damaged bridge over the River Barrow at Forrest Upper, Mountmellick”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. 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: 108/2020

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council provide traffic calming measures, i.e. speed ramps at the following housing estates in Mountmellick - Kirwan Park, Grange Hall & Manor Grove”

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 the estates identified to assess the need for ramps.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence. Councillor Bracken enquired regarding the provision of a pump for periods of severe weather/flooding – Mr. Edmond Kenny, A/S.E.E. confirmed that Laois County Council have approved the purchase of it’s own pump.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
CORPORATE AFFAIRS