

**MINUTES OF THE BORRIS IN OSSORY/ MOUNTMELLICK MUNICIPAL  
DISTRICT HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE ON THE  
19<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER 2017**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor	John King (Cathaoirleach)
Councillor	David Goodwin
Councillor	Paddy Bracken
Councillor	Seamus McDonald
Councillor	Brendan Phelan
Councillor	James Kelly

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr. Michael Rainey, Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Paul McLoughlin, Senior Executive Engineer, & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary, Corporate Affairs.

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF BORRIS-IN-OSSORY/MOUNTMELLICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 22<sup>nd</sup> OF SEPTEMBER 2017**

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald, the Minutes of the September meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

- ✚ Councillor James Kelly referred to Notice of Motion No: 128/2017 which was discussed at the September meeting in relation to Japanese Knotweed. Councillor Kelly requested that Mr. Paul McLoughlin, S.E.E., organise a workshop in relation to same.
- ✚ Councillor Paddy Bracken referred to Notice of Motion No: 125/2017 which was discussed at the September in relation to the Local Improvement Schemes. Mr. Paul McLoughlin indicated that this is at procurement stage.
- ✚ Councillor Brendan Phelan proposed that an Audit on Trees be carried out and this was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken.
- ✚ Councillor Paddy Bracken complimented Laois County Council, the Garda Síochána and all agencies on the response to Ex-Hurricane Ophelia and complimented Laois County Council on the regular weather updates. The work of the Mr. Paul McLoughlin, Senior Executive Engineer and his staff was also acknowledged.

### 3. FIX DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillor Brendan Phelan proposed that the November meeting be deferred to enable outstanding works to be carried out in the Municipal District area. This was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken.

Councillor John King proposed that the November meeting go ahead and this was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald.

As a result of the two proposals, a Roll Call Vote was taken on Councillor Phelan's proposal which resulted as follows:-

<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>For Councillors Brendan Phelan's Proposal to Defer the November Meeting of the Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District</b>	<b>Against Councillors Brendan Phelan's Proposal to Defer the November Meeting of the Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District</b>
<b>Councillor Brendan Phelan</b>	✓	
<b>Councillor Seamus McDonald</b>		✓
<b>Councillor David Goodwin</b>		✓
<b>Councillor John King</b>		✓
<b>Councillor Paddy Bracken</b>	✓	
<b>Councillor James Kelly</b>	✓	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 For</b>	<b>3 Against</b>

As there was a tie in the votes Councillor John King Chairman used his casting vote and confirmed that the November meeting would take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2017 with No Notices of Motions tabled on the agenda.

### 4. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

**Notice of Motion No: 137/2017**

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council give an update on funding that was requested by me to repair badly damaged road outside The Card Stand Shop in The Square, Rathdowney following sewerage works done by Ward & Burke at that time. This road was left in a dreadful state”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. The Members were advised that the area office assessed the reinstatement works following on from this contract and as a result the section of road outside the card stand has been prioritised for reinstatement. Works will be undertaken following the completion of the procurement process and when the weather conditions are suitable to facilitate same.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 138/2017**

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council address the serious problem of overgrowth of trees outside house in Errill village as shading from trees is blocking sunlight from her home and other residents nearby”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor David Goodwin. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for maintenance work to be undertaken on the trees in question. Councillor Phelan indicated that he would consult with the Tidy Towns Committee

#### **Notice of Motion No: 139/2017**

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council address the issue of a worn out concrete stake fence & mesh wire at Jim Doherty Cross Rathdowney that was erected in 1956 and replace it with a proper post and rail wooden fence in keeping with the landscape of the area. This issue was also raised by the tidy town judges during the year”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will undertake to establish ownership of the fence and pending the outcome of this a decision will be made regarding the appropriate manner to proceed.

**Notice of Motion No: 140/2017**

Councillor David Goodwin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council repair and make safe the road from Birr Road, Clonaslee to the County boundary towards Killoughy Junction”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County will carry out repairs to this road in the short term with a view to including a section of this Road in the next Roads Programme for Restoration improvement works.

**Notice of Motion No: 141/2017**

Councillor David Goodwin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council make safe the junction at Paddock, Mountrath”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will inspect the junction in question establish the issues of concern and proceed from there.

**Notice of Motion No: 142/2017**

Councillor David Goodwin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council give an update on connecting Goodwin Estate, Rosenallis to the Sewage Treatment Plant”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Water Services, Rural Water Section, would welcome an approach from a representative group from the residents of the estate in order to explore the possibility of creating a Group Sewerage Scheme. If there is a willingness on behalf of the residents to form such a Group, and if a preliminary report suggests that the scheme could be constructed with the financial contribution from the residents at a reasonable cost on top of a grant by Government, Laois County Council would submit a proposal to the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government for funding for such a scheme under the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme, 2019 to 2021. Irish Water would have to approve a connection to their public scheme. Mary Donohue, Administrative Officer, Rural Water Liaison Officer, is available to meet a representative Group from the residents with a member of Laois County Council Engineering/Technical staff to explore this proposal.

The Members expressed serious concern in relation to this matter and requested that this matter be re-visited as a matter of urgency and that a report be available for the November Meeting

**Notice of Motion No: 143/2017**

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:

***“That Laois County Council install new welcoming signs at Pike of Rushall, Coolrain and Castletown”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will make provision for the installation of welcome signage at these locations.

Councillor Kelly also requested that ‘Slan Abhaile’ signs be provided on the back of the signs. Clarification of spellings also to be sought.

**Notice of Motion No: 144/2017**

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council install speed ramps at Sliabh Bloom View Housing Estate, Borris in Ossory”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will install traffic calming measures at this location with the assistance of funding provided from councillors discretionary funds

**Notice of Motion No: 145/2017**

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council issues a reply as to why the remedial work at Tay Lane, Mountrath has not been carried out by the Contractor as part of the sewage plant upgrade in 2014”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor David Goodwin. The Members were advised that Mr. Micahel O’ Hora will meet Councillor Kelly on site over the coming days. Mr. Paul McLoughlin, S.E.E. indicated that this meeting would take place on the 26<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 and that Paul would also attend.

**Notice of Motion No: 146/2017**

Councillor Brendan Phelan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council complete traffic control measures at Ballybrophy”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Traffic Light installation will be completed by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October. Traffic Lights will be operational after ESB energise the site.

Mr. Paul McLoughlin, S.E.E. indicated that he would liaise with the ESB in this regard.

**Notice of Motion No: 147/2017**

Councillor Brendan Phelan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council address the flooding at Ballaghmore”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will investigate the issue and address as appropriate. The Members requested that Laois County Council liaise with the landowner with a view to resolving the issue.

**Notice of Motion No: 148/2017**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council provide traffic safety measures at St. Patrick’s & St. Jospeh’s Primary School, Mountmellick and the entrance to Davitt Court at Davitt Road, Mountmellick”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor David Goodwin. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will work with the School with a view to improving safety at this location.

**Notice of Motion No: 149/2017**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council lower the footpath/drop kerbs opposite Bay View, Mountmellick to facilitate wheelchair access”***

This Notice of Motion has been seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will improve wheelchair access on the footpath at this location.

**Notice of Motion No: 150/2017**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council repair road and drain at Sandy Lane, Mountmellick”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will investigate the issue at this location and address as necessary.

**Notice of Motion No: 151/2017**

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council make funds available in the 2018 Budget for road repairs at Ballyhuppahaun, Rosenallis”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will give consideration to this road when assessing roads for inclusion in future roads programmes. The next Roads Programme will be presented to members for formal approval in early 2018.

**Notice of Motion No: 152/2017**

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council give an update on the bridge at Rearyvalley over the River Barrow”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor David Goodwin. The Members were advised that this bridge was originally constructed by the Barrow drainage board and it currently carries a private road over the river Barrow. The bridge is showing signs of deterioration and it would be appropriate for a structural assessment to be commissioned for the bridge to determine both likely future interventions and works required. It is not currently clear as to where liability for this structure lies.

A discussion ensued regarding the ownership of the Bridge – Mr. Paul McLoughlin, Senior Executive Engineer indicated that he would liaise with Councillors McDonald and Goodwin and that an update would be given on the matter at the November meeting of the Municipal District. Mr. Michael Rainey SEO suggested that considering the complexity of the matter that November would be too soon to provide an update and that at the earliest an update for the December meeting may be possible, members agreed to this.

Councillor Brendan Phelan also requested Mr. McLoughlin to investigate issues at Coolrain on the River Nore

**Notice of Motion No: 153/2017**

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:

***“That Laois County Council remove the leylandii trees at Camross Cemetery”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. The Members were advised that this matter will be investigated with a view to carrying out the works as necessary. It was noted that Mr. John Quigley, Senior Executive Technician is currently ‘looking’ at trees in cemeteries. It was requested that Laois County Council seek quotations for the removal of the trees at Camross Cemetery.

This concluded the business of the meeting

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**CERTIFIED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
CORPORATE AFFAIRS**