

Minutes of Meeting of Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District held in the Community Hall, in Kingscourt on Monday 6th March 2023 at 10.00 a.m.

Councillor Aiden Fitzpatrick, Cathaoirleach presiding.

Present; Councillors P McDonald, C. Kelly, C. Brady, V. Smith

Apologies; S. O'Reilly

In Attendance; P. Connaughton, Director of Service
A. Lyons, Municipal District Manager
A. McQuillan – Minutes Administrator.
T. Lyons - A/Senior Executive Engineer
P. Brady - Executive Engineer

Cathaoirleach A. Fitzpatrick welcomed all to the meeting.

1. To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 5th December 2022.

Miontuaririsci cruinnithe 5th Nollaig 2022 a dhearbhu.

It was

Proposed by Councillor C. Brady

Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of meeting of Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District held on 5th December 2022 be hereby approved”

2. Disclosure of Interests.

There were no disclosures of Interest.

Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Council

Part VIII Application Kingscourt Public Realm

3. Cllr Clifford Kelly wished to welcome everyone to the meeting held in Kingscourt, including engineers Tom Lyons and Peter Brady. He wished to express that the Part VIII application for Kingscourt Public Realm was a historic occasion and a major lift for the town of Kingscourt. Cllr Clifford Kelly expressed that the proposed building of the new library was something that he had been fighting for a long time and that the digital hub along with the Greenway and cycle way will be of huge benefit to the town and to tourism in the town. Cllr C Kelly wished to put on record that he wished to thank Paddy Connaughton and his team for all the work they put into these part VIII proposals which will be discussed today.

Tom Lyons A/Senior Executive Engineer summarised the Application for Kingscourt Public Realm.

Cathaoirleach Aiden Fitzpatrick wished to advise that this is indeed an exciting time for the town of Kingscourt.

Cllr Carmel Brady expressed her delight that there was a car park included in this application, she advised that off street car parking was beneficial and vital to every town. She felt that the building of the secondary school which is also now building on a new extension along with this new project is a huge boost for the town of Kingscourt. Cllr Carmel Brady wished to express her thanks to Paddy Connaughton and his team on the hard work that was put into this project to get it to this stage and for the funding Minister Heather Humphreys got the for this project.

Cllr Val Smith commended everyone involved in this project and he also commended Cllr Clifford Kelly on the tremendous work he put into getting this project to its fulfilment.

Cllr Paddy Mc Donald wished to agree with everyone on commending all involved with this project. He expressed that this proposed project will indeed put Kingscourt on the map. He advised that Caroline Brady Town Regeneration Officer from the council is looking into getting a car park with off street parking for the town of Bailieborough.

DOS Paddy Connaughton wished to acknowledge everyone's good wishes but wished to advise that this project was brought together by cross-departmental collaboration within the council and not just by the roads department and the MD office.

Cllr Clifford Kelly wished to thank Minister Heather Humphreys for the funding that she and her department provided. He also wished to advise there is a new play area proposed for Dún a Rí Forest Park with funding of €500,000 provided. He wished to advise the members that Minister Humphreys and a member of C & E are going to launch a 10 year plan for Dún a Rí Forest Park on Saturday 25th March 2023.

It was

Proposed by Councillor C. Kelly

Seconded by Councillor C. Brady

And

Resolved;

“that the Part VIII Application for Kingscourt Public Realm be hereby approved”

4. Part VIII Application Assan Bridge Rehabilitation & Junction Re-Alignment

Peter Brady Executive Engineer summarised the Application for Assan Bridge Rehabilitation & Junction Re-Alignment.

DOS Paddy Connaughton wished to commend Cllr Val Smith on his contribution and assistance with this project. Cllr Val Smith acknowledged Paddy's thanks and advised that there was huge work put into this application and when the Fisheries intervened it put the project back some time. He wanted to commend DOS Paddy Connaughton and his team including Peter Brady Executive Engineer for the work they put into this project, and he hoped that it would be great if work could be pushed forward, and a start made on this project within the timing window which is from June to September.

Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick also wished to express that this proposed work on and around Assan Bridge would be indeed a great job. Cllr Carmel Brady also wished to commend Cllr Val Smith on his

tireless work trying to get this project to materialise. She wished to also express that there is a safety issue at this bridge with large machinery using this bridge to get to Gerard Clarkes Machinery .

It was

Proposed by Councillor V. Smith

Seconded by Councillor P McDonald

And

Resolved;

“that the Part VIII Application for Assan Bridge Rehabilitation & Junction Re-Alignment be hereby approved”

5. Approve Road Works Programme 2023

Alan Lyons, Senior Executive Engineer summarised the Roads Work Programme for 2023, which sees a reduction in the scale of works to be implemented, due to inflation in the cost of road making materials.

Alan Lyons wished to express that this is all that the council could do with the funding that the council had been provided with.

Cllr Paddy Mc Donald stated that it was great to see work being done on our little bridges. It is good to see Mc Cabe Masonry been used who are a great local company. He also wondered if we could ask the government to increase the funding for our bridges.

Cllr Clifford Kelly stated that it looked good on paper, but the public’s perception is that the council have received an increase in funding for the roads and the councillors will get the blame for the shortfall. Cllr Clifford Kelly advised that he understands that the MD is spreading the money as best they can, given the funding they have been allocated. He wished to point out the good work that is been done on the roads and this work will last 20 years. He advised that representations

need to be made to the government and not just the Minister. He wished to add that maybe talking to the government as a whole might be a good idea. He expressed that the new patcher is of great benefit to the MD and that we are doing all we can to keep the roads right with the resources we have. In 1985 Cavan was considered to be the Pothole County and this is not something that we need to see again. With the amount of traffic on our roads, with farming, piggeries and industries, there is a big toll on our road network. Proper funding is needed for our road network.

Cllr Carmel Brady agreed with Cllr Clifford Kelly re the decrease in the funding for our roads. She expressed that water lying on our roads is becoming a huge problem and this is something that should be brought to the full council meeting. Farmers are being encouraged to recycle plastic from their farms with grants and that a similar scheme should be developed to ensure that they don't allow water from their lands flow onto the roads. The water lying on our roads will end up been potholes in 2023/2024.

Cathaoirleach Aidan Fitzpatrick wished to express his disappointment at the cutbacks and that the L2028 has been taken off this year's roads Work programme. He wished to note that a road taken off the 2022 programme was put back on the 2023 programme and he would hope that this would be the case in 2024 regarding the L2028. He stated that he had spoken with Deputy Jack Chambers and he acknowledged that he would look into this for him. Cathaoirleach Aidan Fitzpatrick wished to thank Alan Lyons on the work he put into the Roads Work Programme.

Proposed by Councillor C. Brady

Seconded by Councillor C. Kelly

6. Members Items

To discuss the ongoing fouling issues in Cootehill and the wider Municipal District Area.

Cathaoirleach Aiden Fitzpatrick wished to advise the meeting that he had been contacted by Drumlin House regarding dog foul on the footpaths. Drumlin House told him that on several occasions, wheelchairs have been bought back into the school with dog foul on the wheels which is

coming from the footpaths. This is a huge problem that needs to be addressed. He enquired if it would be possible to give power to the community warden to keep an eye out for dog fouling or could the fee for the dog licence be increased so that we could employ more dog wardens, or another alternative would be to ban dogs from our main streets. Cathaoirleach Aiden Fitzpatrick advised that there was an incident in his local pitch, where the football team had to discontinue training as there was dog foul on the pitch. He wished to point out that he has 2 dogs himself and has no problem with dogs.

Cllr Clifford Kelly also agreed with Cathaoirleach Aiden Fitzpatrick that this has become a serious problem, and especially for young children who may not be aware of the effects of dog foul. If a child gets dog foul on their hands and put it up to their eyes, it can affect their eyesight. He wondered if maybe a national government awareness campaign would be beneficial.

Cllr Carmel Brady agreed with Cathaoirleach Aiden Fitzpatrick and Cllr Clifford Kelly regarding dog fouling. Cllr Carmel Brady feels that a lot of dogs were purchased during the pandemic and maybe this is why this problem has escalated. Cootehill town team purchased new dog poop dispensers which are spread over the town. Cllr Carmel Brady wished to point out that we have special visitors to our town every day from the Holy Family School and Drumlin house who use our footpaths in Cootehill from 5 – 6 times daily. People are spending 100's of euros on dog grooming but will not pick up after their dogs. On a Sunday morning as part of the town team we use a brush and shovel to pick up glass and we now find that we are picking up dog foul more than glass. She wished to advise that we have a nice community warden in Cootehill and wondered would it be possible if he could monitor dog owners.

Cllr Paddy Mc Donald agreed with his fellow councillors regarding dog foul in football pitches.

Cllr Clifford Kelly advised that most people walk their dog at night and the Community warden would not be on duty at this time.

Alan Lyons advised that there is a lot of dog poop dispensers dotted around the Cootehill and the other towns in the MD.

Paddy Connaughton DOS stated that failure to clean up your dog's waste can lead to a fine of €150 to €4,000 under section 22 of the Litter Pollution Act. He felt that the community warden would need a serious level of authority to demand the proof of possession of dog litter bags and legalisation would have to be changed for this to happen. He also wanted to advise the meeting that Cavan is one of the highest counties for compliance with dog licences.

The date of the next meeting was agreed and set for Monday 15th May 2023 at 12pm in the Chamber in Cavan.

The meeting concluded at 11 am.