

**Minutes of Meeting of Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District held in The Townhall, Cavan, on
Monday 15th July 2024 at 10.00 a.m.**

Councillor Sarah O'Reilly, Cathaoirleach presiding.

Present; Councillors C Brady, C Kelly, V Smith, N Smith

Apologies; Cllr S Conaty

In Attendance; John McKernan, Senior Engineer
Clinton Mulligan, A/Senior Executive Engineer
M. Conroy – Minutes Administrator

Cathaoirleach S. O'Reilly welcomed all to the meeting.

1. To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 29th April 2024.

Miontuaririsci cruinnithe 29th Aibreán 2024 a dhearbhu.

It was

Proposed by Councillor C Kelly

Seconded by Councillor C Brady

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of meeting of Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District held on 29th March 2024 be hereby approved”

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

N/A.

2. Disclosure of Interests.

There were no disclosures of Interest.

3. Cllr Niall Smith – To ask the Council/MD to address the flooding issue around the walkway at Bailieborough Town Lake

Cllr N Smith stated that this popular local amenity is affected for six months of the year by flooding issues and asked what can be done to rectify the issue. Cathaoirleach S O'Reilly mentioned that this issue has been discussed at previous MD meetings. Mr C Mulligan advised that the root cause of the flooding appears to be that the outfall pipe is blocked. This pipe runs from the lake through the grounds of Bailieborough Model School. He advised that positive progress is being made to date. The MD engaged a specialist contractor to investigate this blockage and so far, they have uncovered a lot of tree roots blocking the pipe which have now been removed. In addition, Wilkins have been employed to construct a manhole within the grounds of the Model School for provide better access in the future. The pipe/culvert between the lake and the Model School is currently being investigated and he is hopeful this issue will be resolved soon.

Cathaoirleach S O'Reilly stated that the last time this issue was brought up at an MD meeting the MD were waiting for water levels to recede before carrying out an investigation. She welcomed the progress made to date. She also mentioned localised ponding on the road at Tunnyduff Cross which was newly overlaid. She stated that this was to be checked when water levels receded and reminded Mr C Mulligan to endeavour to have this checked out before water levels start to rise again.

4. Cllr N Smith – To request an update on the position of additional funding allocated to roads, recently announced, due to severe weather (€916,500 allocated to County Cavan), and to confirm how much Bailieborough-Cootehill MD was allocated from that fund

Cllr N Smith asked what funding our MD had received and how it would be used. Mr C Mulligan stated that under supplementary Restoration Improvement funding for Regional and Local roads, Cavan CC received €916.5K, of which €346,715 was allocated to Bailieborough-Cootehill MD. It is proposed to use this additional funding to complete

- An additional section of the R165 Bailieborough-Cavan Road at Tullywaltry bends and
- A section of the L7575 Blackhills Lower Road

He advised that it was agreed with the elected members earlier in the year that these two roads were to be prioritised should any additional funding become available.

Cathaoirleach S O'Reilly confirmed that it had been agreed by the members when they had to take roads off the Road Works Programme, that the two above mentioned roads would be given priority should an extra allocation become available.

Mr J McKernan stated that whilst it was great to get the additional funding it was only a drop in the ocean and that approx. €200million was needed to bring the roads in the county up to standard. He said that due to bad weather the last twelve months have been very hard and that there will be a lot more roads breaking up if we have a bad winter. He informed Cllr N Smith that this additional allocation was Road Improvement (RI) funding and not for general use for potholes/patching.

Cathaoirleach S O'Reilly and Cllrs C Brady and C Kelly all remarked that roads were a huge issue for them on the recent campaign trail. Mr J McKernan agreed that this year is particularly bad. Mr C Mulligan confirmed that the overall funding shortfall is huge.

5. Cllr N Smith – To request an update on the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) – what years applications are the Council currently working on and how many private lanes they expect to complete under the scheme this year (2024) in this MD area

Mr J McKernan confirmed that Cavan CC received an allocation of €690,084 for 2024. There are currently 261 lanes on the list. It is expected that 8 lanes will be completed in the county during 2024, with 2 of them being in the Bailieborough-Cootehill MD. He stated that there has been an increase in applications this year with 62 applications received year to date compared to 40 in 2023. Mr C Mulligan advised that the applications are usually dealt with in chronological order. There is a significant backlog, with 2017 currently only being processed. Mr J McKernan estimated that approx. 10/11million would be needed to bring all to completion. Cllr V Smith stated that we will never get ahead at this rate. Cllr C Kelly said that Minister Humphrey's had obtained funding when it should be the Department that's providing same but unfortunately, they are not.

6. Cllr N Smith – To request an update on all developments across all sections on the Market Square/Thomas St/Main St/Barrack St Junction in Bailieborough Town, and the current position on the overall Traffic Plan for the Town.

Cllr N Smith mentioned that cameras had been erected to survey the area and asked if there was any plan in place to improve safety at this very dangerous junction. Mr C Mulligan advised that the NTA provided 50K funding to Cavan CC to investigate this junction. Specialist contractors have been appointed and data collected. Cllr C Brady stated that this has been brought up at several MD meetings. Cathaoirleach S O'Reilly asked if anyone had stood at this junction at 5.30pm in the evening. She said that it is unbelievable at this time of the evening during rush hour traffic. She mentioned that it had been suggested before that traffic lights may be a solution, but she said they bring a different problem i.e. Anne St/Henry St not suitable for traffic lights and they would cause problems. Mr J McKernan advised that the Consultants will come up with options which will then be considered by Road Safety. Once a traffic model is completed, it can be discussed. Cathaoirleach S O'Reilly enquired when we would have the report. Mr J McKernan replied that there is a lot of work involved and we are a while away from having the report yet. Cllr N Smith mentioned that lorries going down Henry St. to Supervalu can't get turned. Cathaoirleach S O'Reilly advised that when the town regeneration plans were being drawn up the owner of Supervalu had objections. Cllr C Kelly mentioned that the last parking space when coming out the Kingscourt road from Bailieborough should be taken out as vehicles parked there are obstructing the view.

A.O.B

Cllr C Kelly asked for an update on safety measures for the R-162/R-165 Junction in Kingscourt town. Mr. C Mulligan advised that he met with the Road Safety section in relation to this issue but that there is no easy solution. A substantial amount of funding would need to be secured to deal with the issue. Cllr C Kelly stated that this has been going on for months and parents are worried as children return to school. He said parents are getting annoyed with lack of progress and are prepared to block the road for a few hours if necessary to protest at the lack of action. Mr. C Mulligan advised that he would follow up on short-term solutions (i.e. signage/road markings) and revert to Cllr Kelly.

Cllr C Kelly enquired about flooding at the river which was previously relieved for a while but could be an issue going into the winter. Mr. C Mulligan advised that he had checked and that this was the responsibility of the OPW. He stated that he would contact them to try and arrange something.

Cllr C Kelly asked if there was an update on the opening from houses on the Kells Road (Sean Reilly). Mr. C Mulligan advised that he spoke to Planning Enforcement three weeks ago and brought the unauthorised opening to their attention and asked them to contact Cllr Kelly. Cllr Kelly said they had not contacted him since. Mr. C Mulligan believes notices have been issued but he will get an update from Planning for Cllr Kelly.

Cllr V Smith raised the issue of traffic lights at Stradone again and asked Mr. C Mulligan for an update. He also asked about the signs which are down in the area. Mr. C Mulligan said the signs were on our task list and he would prioritise the issue. In relation to the traffic lights, he advised that the tender is back and being assessed with a view to having a Contractor in place in the next few weeks and that the lights must remain in place until then.

Cllr V Smith asked about time frames for road markings in Laragh after surface dressing was carried out. Mr. C Mulligan advised that Kelly Bros have been requested to go back and this will be done in the next month or so.

Cllr C Brady enquired about funding for footpaths in Cootehill. She mentioned Drumlin Drive, Bridge St, Market St and the pedestrian crossing and asked if work could be done as soon as possible. Mr. C Mulligan stated that a survey of the footpaths in Cootehill has been carried out and that we are trying to secure funding for this at present.

Cllr C Brady asked for an update on Station Road. Mr. J McKernan advised that we are awaiting approval from the NTA for plans submitted. When they are approved there will be a four week window for public consultation. Work should then start at St. Michael's school. He advised that we would try and get the school section completed before school reopens.

A date for the next meeting was scheduled (provisionally) for Monday 16th September at 4p.m. in the Courthouse in Bailieborough.

The meeting concluded at 11 a.m.