

Minutes of Meeting of Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District held in Kingscourt Community Centre, Kingscourt, on Monday 29th April 2024 at 3.30 pm.

Councillor Clifford Kelly, Cathaoirleach presiding.

Present; Councillors P McDonald, A. Fitzpatrick, V. Smith, S O'Reilly, C Brady

Apologies; Clinton Mulligan, Acting Senior Executive Engineer

In Attendance; Paddy Connaughton, Director of Services
Kenneth Lennon, Executive Engineer
Conor Craven, A/Head of Enterprise
John Donohoe, Senior Executive Officer
M. Conroy – Minutes Administrator
C. Murray – Minutes Administrator

Cathaoirleach C. Kelly welcomed all to the meeting.

1. To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 25th March 2024.

Miontuaririsci cruinnithe 25th Márta 2024 a dhearbhu.

It was

Proposed by Councillor S O'Reilly

Seconded by Councillor C Brady

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of meeting of Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District held on 25th March 2024 be hereby approved”

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

N/A.

2. Disclosure of Interests.

There were no disclosures of Interest.

3. Discretionary Grants 2024

Discretionary Grants for 2024 were approved as below:

Name of group/organisation	Proposed activities	Amount awarded
Kingscourt Community Centre Group	Renovation works at the Community Centre to increase storage for groups who actively have equipment stored at the centre.	€17,000
Lavey GAA Club Lavey GAA Club	Safety upgrades: Relocation of ESB meter box from a derelict old building to new club building. Essential maintenance to the grounds around the playground & astro turf, including fencing repairs.	€8,000
Ballyhaise Development Association	Replace Commercial Dishwasher & fridge freezer and purchase of equipment for Community Centre.	€7,500
Drumnaveil estate residents Assoc	Upgrade the parking areas and provide new parking spaces in the estate	€7,500
St Anne's Parish Green Group	Purchase outdoor classroom equipment. The project is a free, open facility that allows everyone explore nature in either an individual or group experience.	€6,500
Bailieborough Tidy Towns	Purchase and installation of 30 planted window boxes on Anne Street in Bailieborough to compliment the paint scheme that has been completed on the street. Prepare a landscape plan for the park at the rear of the Church of Ireland.	€6,000
Kill Shamrocks GFC	Provide walking track lighting every evening so it is accessible for all in the community to use throughout the year.	€6,000
Bailieborough Development Association	Paint a mural on a building in the town. The building will be on an entrance road leading into the town and will feature a picture that relates to the local area.	€6,000
Killinkere National School Parents Association	Erect a 'fence' suitable for the surroundings of the planned Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) for the Primary school.	€6,000
Drumgoon Community Centre Co-Operative Society Limited	Upgrade an existing room to create an extra meeting room and to do this build a storage area to store all the chairs, tables and stage equipment that's housed in the room	€5,000
Kill Community Development CLG	Add drainage and tar to provide an extra disabled parking space.	€5,000
Rainbow Kids Afterschool T/A Rainbow Kids CLG	Construct a covered outdoor / sensory area for the newly opened Rainbow Kids Afterschool premises in Kill, Cootehill.	€5,000
Shercock Killann Rural Development A.K.A SKRD	SKRD has been developing Sillan Lakeshore Park over the last few years and now want to install a new seat along the walkway and a new picnic bench at the lake shore.	€4,500
Bailieborough Shamrocks GAA	Purchase tables and chairs to allow the group hold additional social and educational events in the clubrooms	€3,500
Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Chillín Chéir	Purchase a portable stage that can be brought to various locations	€3,000
Laragh Sports Partnership	Extend the existing playground to include equipment for children with additional needs. This will include construction, safety surfacing, sensory play equipment and fencing.	€3,000

Kingscourt Harps	Purchase a 20ft steel container to use as a Pitch and Clubrooms Maintenance Storage Unit.	€3,000
Lower Lavey Community Group Ltd	Improvement works at the Community Centre.	€3,000
Cootehill Town Team	Construct a secure storage facility for the roadsweeper used by the Tidy Towns, namely the purchase of a shed, secure lock, outdoor sensor light and the installation of concrete base for same, together with insulation and tool hooks.	€3,000
Redhills Gun Club	Purchase a new clay pigeon shooting trap to allow the group to host competitions and compete with other County Clubs	€3,000
Drumgoon Eire Og	Improvement works to community hall.	€3,000
Shercock Killann Hall A.K.A St.Patricks Hall	Purchase 10 Foldable tables.To purchase spare part for boiler needed to ensure correct running of heating system.	€3,000
Lavey Strand Development Association	Installation of a new wildflower bed and the implementation of lectern-style signage at key points around the lake.	€3,000

It was

Proposed by Councillor Aiden Fitzpatrick

Seconded by Councillor Val Smith

And

Resolved;

“that Discretionary Grants 2024 be hereby approved”

4. Estates to be Taken in Charge

Mr. Pat Gaynor, Planning, advised that there are currently five estates waiting to be taken in charge, with three of these located in the BBCH M.D. area. These were advertised online and in the local press from 9/2/24 – 8/3/24 with a further two weeks allocated for any submissions. No objections were submitted. It was recommended that we adopt the three estates as shown in the map i.e. Clementstown in Cootehill and Shamrock Drive and Cluain Dara, both in Kingscourt.

Cllr C Brady commended Clementstown Estate for being very well kept and welcomed the fact that it is now being taken in charge. Cathaoirleach C. Kelly welcomed the news that the two estates in Kingscourt were also being taken in charge. Mr P Gaynor advised that there is work outstanding on Shamrock Drive in Bailieborough, which the Developer needs to complete. Cllr Paddy McDonald asked about Bororo Park in Bailieborough. Mr P Gaynor advised that Irish Water are to cover costs on the sewer and we have to wait for the Contractor to start. Mr P Gaynor advised that this is a substantial project and Cllr P McDonald agreed. Cathaoirleach C. Kelly enquired as to how many estates were left to be taken in charge. Mr P Gaynor confirmed that there are currently fifteen left in the BBCH M.D. area.

It was

Proposed by Councillor Clifford Kelly

Seconded by Councillor Carmel Brady

And

Resolved:

“that the 3 above mentioned Estates be Taken in Charge by Cavan County Council”

5. Presentation from Local Enterprise Office

Mr Conor Craven from the Local Enterprise Office gave a presentation on the services they can offer to SMEs in the county. He outlined some of the supports on offer and presented everyone with a LEO booklet which includes details of all the schemes and supports currently available. He advised that they can now cater for businesses employing up to fifty employees as opposed to ten previously. This was welcomed by all Councillors. He also mentioned that businesses need more apprentices and there may be opportunities for Councillors on the campaign trail to inform people of this. Cllr P McDonald stated that SMEs are very important to rural Ireland and that the Council should do everything possible to assist them. Mr C Craven advised that a Kingscourt resident, Colm Kierans, from My Farewell Wishes is going forward to represent Cavan in the National Enterprise Awards in May. Cathaoirleach C. Kelly wished him well in the competition. Cllr A Fitzpatrick remarked that the Local Enterprise Supports are very good and greatly needed to support small businesses in the area.

6. Cllr Val Smith – To discuss current levels of LIS/CIS Funding

Cllr Val Smith thanked Minister Heather Humphries for the 1.2m funding allocated from the Department. He also welcomed the funding received under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme whereby Ballyconnell, Shercock and Ballyhaise will benefit to the tune of 250K each for various projects. He asked Mr P Connaughton two questions. Firstly, how much funding is needed to complete current LIS applications and secondly, if we get sufficient funding, can the work be set out

to contractors to avoid pulling our own men away from other essential work. Mr P Connaughton welcomed the 1.2m allocation for 2024/2025. He advised that we received 374K plus an additional 900K in 2022 and 337K plus an additional 1.4m in 2023.

He stated that there are currently in excess of 200 outstanding LIS applications totalling in excess of 10m with the council. If given the 10m in funding it would be utilised in the context of own resources, workload etc. and would be an Executive decision. He could not give a commitment now as to how we would proceed as this is a hypothetical question and would only be speculation at this stage.

Cllr S O'Reilly supported Cllr Val Smith in this regard and welcomed the funding from Minister Humphries. She asked about the uptake on the CIS scheme. Mr K Lennon advised that 324K has been allocated and split evenly between the three MDs for 2024.

BBCH MD has been in contact with the nominated representative from the one scheme this allocation will cover, and is waiting to issue a formal letter of offer. He advised that the CIS scheme is currently oversubscribed for our area with approximately 8-10 applications at present. Due to Department allocation and volume of work we are only in a position to complete one scheme within our MD area.

Cllr C Brady asked if the LIS scheme is still open, and Mr P Connaughton confirmed that it is.

Cllr A Fitzpatrick also welcomed and thanked Minister Humphries for the funding and remarked that it was great news for all our towns.

Cllr P Mc Donald welcomed the funding. He reiterated that there are a lot of LIS schemes outstanding and we need to do more in this area. He welcomed the news that there is now only one herd number required for the scheme.

Cathaoirleach C. Kelly welcomed the 1.2m announcement from Minister Humphries and thanked her for same.

7. Cllr Val Smith – to discuss current signage and remedial works required in Stradone Village

Cllr V Smith voiced concerns about the fact that there have been temporary traffic lights in operation in Stradone Village for the last two months. He stated that there are a lot of small industries in the area and the lights are causing problems for traffic. He noted that Wilkins are doing works and asked when they would be finished.

Mr K Lennon advised that there has been slippage of a retaining wall and that this is a public safety issue. Consultants have been appointed to determine the best course of action, but it is not an easy fix. He advised that we are awaiting a final design from the Consultants. We will then procure a specialist Contractor for the work. Mr K Lennon advised that the lights would have to remain in place to ensure public safety until then and that he couldn't give a definitive time frame as to when that would be at present.

Cllr V Smith also mentioned that signs in the village are hanging down and asked if these could be attended to. Mr K Lennon advised that the MD could look at this, bearing in mind the resources for this type of work are extremely limited.

Cllr A Fitzpatrick supported Cllr V Smith and highlighted that Stradone village is a busy area with 150/160 people working in it and that signs, footpaths etc. need attention. Mr K Lennon confirmed that the MD Office had some communication with the Active Travel Team about potential works in the village. Further site visits may take place by the Active Travel Team to assess if it is feasible for some footpath upgrades.

8. Cllr C Kelly - Report on Traffic Management problems in Kingscourt, in particular at Bailieboro Rd Junction, Kells Rd Junction and Market Square

Cllr C Kelly voiced concerns about these junctions. Mr K Lennon gave the following updates : -

Bailieborough Road Junction –

Since the last MD meeting a meeting with the Road's safety section took place. The meeting was to look at potential plans or solutions for this junction, but all agreed there were a lot of constraints at this location. As a short-term measure the safety section agreed to prepare a design to upgrade the road markings and signage at this junction whilst a potential bigger scheme is explored.

Kells Road Junction –

This junction has also been discussed with the Roads department safety section. The feedback from them is that there is no easy fix for this junction and that significant investment would be needed to address this junction.

Market Square –

This junction will fall under the scope of the Kingscourt Regeneration Plan as per the approved Part VIII drawings and will be addressed through this project. There is a known issue with paving at this location that a contractor has been engaged to address shortly.

Cllr C Kelly also raised an issue on the Kells Rd at the Garda barracks/Church regarding a blind spot which may need a ramp.

A.O.B

Cllr A Fitzpatrick raised concerns regarding near miss incidents at Knappagh Cross (at Corcloghan) located on the R192 Cootehill – Shercock Road. He stated that vehicles which were overtaking on the R192 had near miss incidents with vehicles exiting the local road network. He asked if you could overtake at a junction where you can turn left and right and if there is adequate signage or if not is it possible to get signage in place.

Mr K Lennon stated that the crossroads is located mid-way along a straight and fast stretch of Regional Road Network where overtaking does occur as overtaking opportunities are limited along this route between both towns. He advised that driver responsibility also comes in to play here. Cllr A Fitzpatrick stated that there should also be a responsibility with Road Design and asked Mr K Lennon to investigate the issue.

Cllr C Brady informed the meeting that Monaghan Councillors share social media posts in relation to roads in their area that are due to be treated over the following 6/8 weeks. They met with the Engineer and CE and were given a list of the relevant roads. She asked if this is something that can be done in Cavan. Mr P Connaughton advised that it was something we could look at.

Cllr S O'Reilly enquired about a pothole she reported on 27th February this year which has still not been filled (Carrickashoke). Mr K Lennon replied that priority is given to Regional and Local Primary roads and that this may be a secondary road. He advised that he will look into the matter further.

Cllr P McDonald asked about drainage at Longview, Bailieboro. Mr K Lennon advised that this is part of Restoration Improvement Grant and that works at this location are due to finish up this week. Cllr P McDonald stated that water enforcement notices were needed for residents at this stage.

Cllr P McDonald welcomed the completion of the new footpath at the cemetery on the Bailieboro/Kells road.

Cathaoirleach C. Kelly congratulated C Murray on her new appointment and wished her every success. He welcomed M Conroy to her new role and wished her well. He thanked Mr C Mulligan, Mr K Lennon and all the staff in the area office for their hard work and assistance over the past five years. He also thanked Mr P Connaughton, Director of Services for his support and assistance over this time. He wished his fellow Councillors well in the upcoming election.

Cllr Val Smith stated for the record that the six councillors in this area have all worked hard together and achieved a lot during their term, for the benefit of their communities.

Cllr P Mc Donald and Cllr A Fitzpatrick both agreed with this and said it had been an enjoyable five years working together.

Cllr C Brady complimented the staff and thanked them for their courtesy and assistance over the last five years.

Mr P Connaughton, on behalf of the Executive, wished all Councillors well in the upcoming election and stated that they had the wellbeing and interests of the people of their county and MD at heart.

A date for the next meeting was not scheduled due to Local Elections taking place on 7th June.

The meeting concluded at 5pm.