

**Minutes of Meeting of Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District held in The Courthouse,
Main St, Bailieborough on Monday 16th September 2024 at 4pm**

Councillor Sarah O'Reilly, Cathaoirleach presiding.

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

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

Cathaoirleach S. O'Reilly welcomed all to Bailieborough Courthouse and commended the work being done on this historic building. (John Brady from Bailieborough Courthouse gave a short talk on the history of the building before the meeting commenced).

1. To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 15th July 2024.

Miontuaririsci cruinnithe 15th Lúil, 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 15th July 2024 be hereby approved”

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Cllr C Kelly asked for an update on safety measures in Kingscourt at Kells Rd junction and St Mary's Rd and also about flooding issues at the rivers. Mr C Mulligan advised that he would get an update from Road Design in relation to the safety measures at the junction. In relation to the flooding issues, the responsibility is with the OPW as the drain is part of their arterial drainage channel. Mr J McKernan advised that we would need permission from the OPW to carry out any work under a section 50 application. Cllr C Kelly asked about the river at Tierneys. Mr C Mulligan advised that OPW confirmed that they will inspect, and it may be in their 2025 Maintenance programme.

Cllr C Kelly asked for an update on the planning issues in relation to the houses on the Kells road entrance. Mr C Mulligan advised that the issue is currently ongoing with Planning Enforcement. Cllr C Kelly informed the meeting that people in the area are not happy with the delay and may even block the road if necessary. He stated that he may have to put this issue on the agenda of the full council meeting if not resolved soon. He asked that signage be put back in place and Mr C Mulligan replied that he would look at that.

Cllr C Brady commended the great work being done on the Station road. She enquired as to when the survey on the footpaths in Cootehill would be completed. Mr C Mulligan advised that the survey had been done. A cost estimate has been submitted to Roads department and we are trying to secure funding for the work. Mr J McKernan confirmed that he has discussed this with Mr P Connaughton and is hoping to secure the funding.

Cllr C Kelly stated that the Minister was not providing funding for Station road and that the funding has been provided under Cavan CC's own resources, voted for by Members at the beginning of the year.

2. Disclosure of Interests.

There were no disclosures of Interest.

3. Members Questions – Cllr S O'Reilly

Cllr S O'Reilly thanked Mr C Mulligan for answers to the Members questions she had raised.

4. Part VIII Planning Application – Former Bank of Ireland, Cootehill

Mr G Hurson, Executive Engineer, gave a presentation on the plans for the former BOI in Cootehill. He outlined planned change of use to a community-based facility comprising various spaces plus the development of a community garden to the rear of the building. Cllr C Brady remarked that it was great to see the plans finally put on paper after the consultation process and highlighted the wheelchair access and lift as a wonderful asset. She thanked Mr G Hurson for all the work on the project. Cllr S O'Reilly enquired about the day to day running of the facility. Mr G Hurson advised that there is a business plan in place and that it will most likely be a community group who will run it. Cllr S Conaty enquired if there would be an overflow from the Ulster Bank building and Cllr C Brady stated that it is currently oversubscribed so there may well be overflow from there. Cllr S O'Reilly enquired as to where the funding for the project comes from. Cllr C Brady said €0.5m came from the Town & Village Regeneration Phase 1 and also possibility of contribution from Community Recognition Fund and Peace, with Cavan CC providing 10% of the cost.

It was

Proposed by Cathaoirleach S O'Reilly

Seconded by Councillor C Brady

And

Resolved;

"that Part VIII Application for Former Bank of Ireland, Cootehill be hereby approved.

Members Items

5. Cllr S O'Reilly – To propose the extension of Kingscourt road footpath along the R165 in Bailieborough from junction of L3528 to the 80km speed limit

Cllr O'Reilly said this issue was brought up a lot during the last election campaign. She said this issue was brought up before and that the answer appeared to be land take. Cllr V Smith added that he had also heard that landowners were agreed but he didn't know what was planned next. Mr C Mulligan stated the existing funding for footpaths is limited and mainly through Active Travel. He said that there is significant cost involved and it may not pass the NTA criteria and even if it does it may not be a priority. Cllr S O'Reilly stated that the landowners seem to be in agreement but the biggest issue now is funding. Mr J Mc Kernan advised that the NTA have a rigorous process and it may be difficult to justify going forward. Active Travel funding is difficult to secure but we can add to the list for funding although when it comes to it the landowners may not agree or agree at a price. Mr J Mc Kernan and Mr C Mulligan stated that it would be added to the list. Cllr N Smith asked if it could possibly be extended out into the 80k zone however Mr C Mulligan advised that my cause other issues. Cllr V Smith said we need to ensure landowners are on board first but with only four householders questioned if it is appropriate use of funds. Mr J McKernan replied that the NTA may not view it as priority as it's a dead end, not a link up.

6. Cllr S O'Reilly – To highlight the need for additional lighting required in the high population density residential area along the L7566 at Curkish, Bailieborough

Cllr S O'Reilly said this issue was raised a lot during the last two elections. She acknowledged that there is a limited budget. However, Cavan CC gave planning permission for the housing estate and householders would have paid huge contributions so she said we should look at assisting here if at all possible.

Mr C Mulligan stated that there are approx. 32 dwellings with c.600m public lighting required so we would need some external funding towards this. He said we can submit an application under Active Travel but may not be successful. Mr J Mc Kernan advised that there are a lot of streets with dark spots and our existing funding is being used to upgrade these areas.

7. Cllr S O'Reilly – To discuss parking and unloading issues in Bailieborough

Behind MARKET STALL

Cllr S O'Reilly stated that this is a recurring issue for her. She advised that the new owners of J & L Stores have stopped people parking there which is a loss of 12/14 parking spaces. Also 15 spaces on Market Place have now been closed down and some shopkeepers are parking their own cars in front of each other's shops. She was hoping the media would be there to highlight the issue as she is being hounded by it. Mr J McKernan said this is a common problem in all towns and requires cooperation of all business to prevent it. Cllr N Smith mentioned the bus stop at the Bailie Hotel also causes problems and wondered if the bus route could be altered and a stop added on the bypass to alleviate the problem, but Cllr S O'Reilly said we can't change a bus route. Mr J McKernan indicated that relocating bus stops can be difficult as property owners could object to them being placed outside their premises. Cllr S O'Reilly asked why there has been no traffic warden in Bailieborough for the last two years. Mr J McKernan advised that the traffic wardens are managed by the Environment section and will bring this to their attention. Mr C Mulligan advised that Environment section is in the process of reviewing bye laws at present on a town by town basis. It will go to public consultation, and we will look at loading bays, parking warden etc as part of that process.

8. Cllr S Conaty - Imní faoi eachtraí frith-shóisialta agus frith-thimpeallachta ag an láthair oidhreacht Shliabh Shean Tuaman / Antisocial and environmental concerns at the Shantemon Mountain heritage site

Cllr S Conaty mentioned issues around illegal dumping and cars pulling up in the area. He said he has been in contact with the Gardai about some issues in the area. He enquired if we could get a dummy camera installed to try and deter this behaviour. He said there was great potential for tourism in the area and that they potential hasn't been fully realised. Mr C Mulligan advised that Coillte, as landowner have responsibility for the The Shantemon Mountain Heritage site. Also The Five stones known as the five fingers or 'Fin Mc Cools Fingers' are a national monument in state care, so national Monuments Service and the Minister for Housing, local Government & heritage would also have responsibility here as well. He said that there is a GDPR issue regarding cameras. Cllr S O'Reilly seconded Cllr Conaty's comments and asked that we write to Coillte to advise them of these issues.

9. Cllr S Conaty - Gá chun dul i ngleic le fadhbanna bonneagair i sráidbhaile Chnoc Rua / Need to tackle infrastructure issues in Redhills village

Cllr S Conaty raised issue of broken footpaths and lack of street lights in Redhills village. Apart from the aesthetics there is also a Health & Safety concern around this. He also mentioned the bridge and asked if it could be assessed re structural concerns/remedial works if needed. Cllr C Kelly supported him and stated that he was told of these concerns on his election canvas. Cllr C Brady also supported and stated that she knew of three people who had fallen and sustained injuries on a damaged footpath in the village. Mr C Mulligan advised that the Bridge section would inspect the bridge and advise re any remedial works. He stated that he is aware there are issues with the footpaths. In terms of new footpaths, he confirmed that he has reviewed this on site with the Active travel team and an active travel application for the village will be submitted to the NTA in 2025, but any scheme will be subject to approval and funding from the NTA. He acknowledged that the footpath on the Cootehill road was in a very poor state in sections and advised that if Active Travel application is not successful he will commit to funding from our own resources to carry out sectional repairs of the worst affected areas.

Mr C Mulligan also gave an update on works that have already happened in Redhills village as follows:

Redhills was subject to an active travel scheme in 2022 to provide a new concrete footpath along with roadside drainage, Road resurfacing & Public lighting on the L-1503 (Belturbet Rd)

Redhills also received almost 100k in funding through the town & Village renewal scheme to cover

- Painting of 18no properties
- Upgrade of 7 public seating benches
- New signage within the village
- Installation of a zipline beside the playground
- 3 new public lights & upgrade of existing lights
- 6 no new poles with hanging baskets

Funding of over 42k has been approved this year under the Community climate action fund to Redhills GAA for upgrade of floodlights to LED lighting, installation of solar panels and bike rack.

Cllr V Smith also mentioned that Redhills has received support and mentioned that Ballyhaise have very proactive community groups who got a lot of support for, and work done in Ballyhaise.

10. Cllr S Conaty - Gá d'athchóiriú agus deisiú droichid /Need for upkeep and repairs on Bridges

Cllr S Conaty mentioned overgrown shrubbery on Ballinallen bridge and asked if it could be tidied up. He also mentioned a number of other bridges including one in Bunnoe which may need attention. Cllr S O'Reilly commented that a lot of work has been done on bridges in the county. Mr J McKernan advised that Cavan CC is one of the most proactive LAs in relation to the upkeep of bridges and that this is reflected in the funding it receives. There were three major projects in recent years totalling c.2.5/3m in total. Funding received from the department has been just under 700k for the past few years with own resources from the council in the region of 230k per year. Mr C Mulligan advised that this year 13 no bridge repairs have been funded by the department. On a yearly basis a list is put forward to the dept seeking funding, done on a priority basis of the ones with the most structural defects. Credit needs to go to the bridge asset management section within the roads department because some fantastic work has been done in recent years, all to a very high standard. Cllr C Brady mentioned that an older man used to spray the Ballinallen bridge but that he has stopped now. She said they clean up the bridge in Tullyvin as part of the Tidy Towns and that neighbours spray the one in Rathkenny.

A.O.B

Cllr C Kelly commended the great work done on Hill and Hollow Road but that there is a back up of water on it now. Also, a very bad back up at the Diamond, Shercock road. He also mentioned that there are serious problems at Frasers, Kingspan, O'Reilly Bros, and Dun a Ri lane, can't walk footpaths with overgrown hedges. He said there was money from Active Travel at one time, but the owner wouldn't agree to work. Another very dangerous spot is at the football pitch with overgrown hedges up Corrygarry hill into the town. He asked Mr C Mulligan to urgently look at these issues.

Cllr N Smith commended the great work done on bridges to date and asked to ensure that bridges which are not safe are looked at first. Mr C Mulligan advised that the work is already prioritized based on structural needs.

Cllr C Brady mentioned a problem with deer on the road at Tullyvin. She requested warning signs to warn people of the danger. She said that from Rathluden to George Crowes is very dangerous. She advised that a deer had been killed and was obstructing the road recently and that the Gardai have a report of it. Mr C Mulligan agreed to look at the need for warning signs in the area.

Cllr S O'Reilly requested an update on the Town lake. She mentioned she saw Quigleys there recently and asked if they had found anything. Mr C Mulligan advised that most has been cleared from the model school to the council depot but that a covered manhole had been found near the nursing home (between nursing home and the open green). He advised that we are working on this at present. Mr C Mulligan credited the GSS for the area on all the work undertaken to resolve this issue to date. Cllr S O'Reilly thanked the MD office for the great work done so far and also commended former Cllr P McDonald for his work on this issue in the past. She stated that this has been an ongoing problem, and it is great that progress is being made to resolve the issue.

Mr C Mulligan requested a date for an In Committee meeting to discuss the 2025-2027 RI Programme. A date of 3rd October 2024 at 2pm in the Courthouse Cootehill was agreed by all.

A date for the next MD meeting was scheduled for Monday 18th November at 4p.m. in the Courthouse in Cootehill.

Cathaoirleach S. O'Reilly thanked everyone present. The meeting concluded at 5.30pm.

