

**Minutes of Meeting of Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District held in The Courthouse, Cootehill
on Monday 18th November 2024 at 4pm**

Councillor Sarah O'Reilly, Cathaoirleach presiding.

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

In Attendance; Paddy Connaughton, Director Of Service
Clinton Mulligan, A/Senior Executive Engineer
A McQuillan – Minutes Administrator
N. O'Reilly – Clerical Officer.

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

- 1. To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 16th September 2024 subject to the following amendment, members items, item 7 - Market Place should read Market Stall.**

Miontuaririsci cruinnithe 16th Meán Fómhair, 2024 a dhearbhu.

It was

Proposed by Councillor N Smith

Seconded by Councillor C Brady

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of meeting of Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District held on 16th September 2024 be hereby approved”

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Cllr C Kelly asked for an update on the situation on the Kells Road in Kingscourt where a development is taking place without planning. An illegal entrance has been made onto a property in front of these houses. Residents of this housing estate have paid approx. €370,000 for their houses and have won many awards for their estate and they feel that this situation is being ignored by the council. He stated that members of the public are ringing him and he feels that the council is ignoring this illegal entrance.

Cllr C Kelly also wished to express the situation in front of the Granada ballroom in Kingscourt, the footpath comes from Cluan Dara as far as the Granada ballroom on the Bailieborough side and then it stops and comes from the town to the other end of the Granada Ballroom. He advised that there is a gap of around 150 yards with 2 white lines and no lighting, where people walk with buggies etc and children walking at night, its causing a serious problem and on a very busy road and He would like to know why the footpath was not continued. Cllr C Kelly advised that this is serious situation and would need to be investigated, footpaths and street lightening is very important.

Mr C Mulligan replied that on the first issue regarding the development, as previously stated, there is a live enforcement file opened on it, therefore he would not be commenting on it publicly, but he did check with Planning Enforcement Section before this meeting and there is no further update on this issue at the moment. Cllr C Kelly replied that the public cannot understand that there is no further update as this is situation is ongoing for months. Cllr C Kelly expressed that the public feel he is not addressing this situation. He feels that the council should issue legal proceedings immediately. Cllr C Kelly also wished to advise that a sign was flattened down and has not been replaced and this has also been raised. Mr C Mulligan replied that a replacement sign has been ordered and we are waiting on delivery of this.

Cllr S Conaty wished to get an update on the motion he put through last month on the investment in Redhills, is there any update re broken footpaths and street lightening. Mr C Mulligan responded that he had discussed this with the Active Travel Section and that they would put together an application for 2025, but he wished to point out that this application may not be successful. Mr C Mulligan wished to point out in terms of getting funding it is quite difficult at the moment as the NTA are moving away from small projects. Having said that, we will look at it and see what potential or alternative funding is available but our own resources within the Municipal District are very limited.

2. Disclosure of Interests.

There were no disclosures of Interest.

3. Adoption of the Restoration Improvement (RI) Programme 2025-2027 for Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District.

Mr C Mulligan gave a detailed review of the RI Programme for the district for 2025-2027.

Cllr S O'Reilly commended the district on the variety of roads that are on the RI Programme and that it has to be very difficult to get roads from each part of the district on the programme. Cllr S O'Reilly enquired as to how may kilometres are on the RI Programme.

Mr C Mulligan replied there is approximately 11 Kilometres per year.

Cllr S O'Reilly replied that the length of road has gone down from 22kms to 11 kms. Cllr S O'Reilly expressed her disappointment with the direction in which the Department of Transport are going forward with no increases in funding. She feels we hit all the roads that we could with the amount of money we have been allocated. She also enquired if we have a contingency plan for roads deteriorating with bad weather etc.

Mr C Mulligan replied every year one or two of our roads deteriorate significantly requiring immediate intervention and in that case we use own resources / discretionary funds.

Cllr S Conaty asked for clarity on the Ballyhaise slip road from Cavan, this road it is not mentioned on the plan, but it is on the map.

Mr C Mulligan replied yes that it was on the plan.

Cllr C Kelly asked when would surface dressing start and if there is there any criteria for roads that seem sound but have potholes appear.

Mr C Mulligan stated that surface dressing is a separate fund and in terms of the criteria for getting a road on the surface dressing Programme, a road has to be rated a minimum of a 7. A rating of 10 would mean a road is almost perfect and 1 rating means the road is almost undriveable.

Cllr C Kelly stated that if a good patching job is done, the road should be ok.

Cllr V Smith asked when do we start the 2025 programme. Mr C Mulligan replied we would be expecting to start End Feb/March 2025. Cllr V Smith asked in what order were the roads started. Mr C Mulligan replied that it depended on the amount of work that was needed on the particular road. Cllr S Conaty wished to state that the roads were fairly spread out and wished to state that we do need more funding.

Cllr S O'Reilly wished to welcome that Barrack St Bailieborough, Station Road Cootehill, Virginia Road Bailieborough and Main Street Shercock were on the programme. She wished to state that she is disappointed on the number of roads that we will be able to get done and would hope we would get more funding.

Cllr N Smith wished to commend the great work done on the RI Programme. He asked for clarification of the different categories of roads. Mr C Mulligan replied that the names on the roads were really stating the importance of the road. Cllr N Smith stated that the local tertiary roads are usually never repaired, and Cllr S O'Reilly stated that it is down to the amount of funding we are allocated and that the funding we get is prioritised to Local and Regional roads and we don't even have enough funds for them.

Cllr C Brady welcomed phase 1 and 2 on the Aghateeduff Ballyhaise 2018 and the John Tully Road on the RI Programme. She stated that with no trains etc we all have to use vehicles to get to work and college and we need to keep the roads as best as we can. She like to thank again the council for spreading it out as well as we have done and hopefully, we will get more funding in the future. Cllr V Smith agreed with Cllr C Brady its great to see some roads on the programme and he also wished to express that the school bus goes on the L-7504 twice a day and thanked Clinton for including this on the programme.

Cllr S'O Reilly thanked Clinton and all the team in the office and as Cllr N Smith previously said when the work is done it is done exceptionally well, top quality work.

Proposed by Councillor C Brady

Seconded by Councillor C Kelly

4. Adoption of the Bailieborough/Cootehill Municipal District Draft Budget 2025

Cllr S O' Reilly asked everyone if they were happy with the draft budget. She stated that it was the same as last year with no changes. Cllr C Kelly and Cllr C Brady stated that they would have liked more money allocated to the district.

Proposed by Councillor C Kelly

Seconded by Councillor N Smith

5. Approve the Community and Voluntary Grants and Festival Grants 2024.

Cllr C Brady wished to express that €1,000 or €2,000 seems like a small amount of money but its huge money to the festivals and all volunteers that work at these festivals. It is just wonderful that we are giving them a little help in hand as it gives huge benefits to the physical and mental health of our communities.

Proposed by Councillor C Kelly

Seconded by Councillor N. Smith

Members Items

- 6.** Cllr N Smith wished for an update on the Traffic situation in Bailieborough, has there been a new traffic plan developed for Bailieborough town and what would the expected timeline for the implementation of this plan be.

C Mulligan replied to Item 1 they are looking at a number of options regarding traffic flow and junctions in Bailieborough which are in draft report status and hoping to be completed next year.

7. Cllr N Smith wished to ask also regarding Item 2 on the traffic congestion in the town. C Mulligan stated that traffic congestion is a common issue and there are several long-term solutions but unfortunately no quick fixes. Regarding the construction works, the Courthouse and the Garda Station are near completion, and both are a very welcome project to the town. When these projects come to an end, it will alleviate the congestion of traffic somewhat and they should be completed soon. Cllr Carmel stated that Cootehill Chamber provide parking at the football pitch for workers during the Christmas period to alleviate traffic congestion.

Cllr N Smith stated that the absence of the traffic warden in Bailieborough was a problem and if there was a traffic warden even 2 days a week during the Christmas period it would sort out this situation somewhat. Cllr S O Reilly wished to support Cllr N Smith on this matter and asked if there was any update on a new traffic warden in Bailieborough. She stated that when she enquires about a new Traffic Warden, she is told by the Council that it is an environmental matter. DOS P Connaughton explained that the Environmental Section deals with the placement of traffic wardens. He stated that in regards to the congestion of traffic, the council are looking into Bye Laws to be passed which would allow enforcement of parking.

8. Members item no 3 Cllr N Smith enquired if the MD could write out to TFI to ask if they could consider installing designated 'Official Bus Stops' on the Bailieborough / Cavan road. Regular users of the 170 Bus Service have contacted Niall and have said that some Bus Drivers do not stop to do pickups, along the route and consequently they have missed hospital appointments in Cavan as the bus have driven past them. If one or two designated Bus Stops were in place which people could wait at, this situation could be avoided. Cllr Sarah O Reilly advised that she contacted Bus Eireann regarding this situation, and they replied that it depends on the bus driver and also that the person is standing in a safe location for the bus to stop and also to signal early. She asked if Cllr Niall Smith wished a letter to go out to the NTA, and he replied he would appreciate that.

AOB.

Cllr C Brady wished to express her delight at the work that is ongoing on the Station Road in Cootehill, it will be a fantastic when it is completed.

Cllr C Kelly wished both his fellow councillors S O Reilly and C Brady all the very best in the upcoming Dail elections.

Cllr N Smith also wished both Councillors the very best of luck in the upcoming Dail elections.

A date for the next MD meeting was scheduled for Monday 20th January at 4p.m. in the Courthouse in Cootehill.

Cathaoirleach S. O'Reilly thanked everyone present. The meeting concluded at 5.00pm.