

**Minutes of Meeting of Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District held in the Courthouse on Monday
15th May, 2023 at 4pm**

Councillor Aiden Fitzpatrick, Cathaoirleach presiding.

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

Apologies; Paddy Connaughton, Director of Services

In Attendance; John McKernan, Senior Engineer
A. Lyons, Municipal District Manager
C. Murray – Minutes Administrator
M. Conroy – Minutes Administrator

Cathaoirleach A. Fitzpatrick welcomed all to the meeting.

1. To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 6th March 2023.

Miontuaririsci cruinnithe 6th Márta 2023 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 6th March 2023 be hereby approved”

2. Disclosure of Interests.

There were no disclosures of Interest.

Members Items - May

3.To discuss an update on Station Road, Cootehill

Cllr Carmel Brady spoke about the negative commentary on social media regarding station road.

She stated that Cavan CC are being thrashed on Facebook in relation to the state of the road.

Comments are being made that it is a disgrace given the wages paid to the councillors and staff that the road can be left in such a state. It is one of the main roads leading into our town and it portrays a very bad first impression.

Cllr Brady asked for a timeline of when works might be completed. She wants to be able to answer complaints from people who are asking if anything is being done about the road.

Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick also asked for an update on Station Road. He has been receiving the same complaints and feedback. He has had people calling to his house, even from as far away as Monaghan and other areas, complaining about the state of this road. He commended the great work that has been completed on the Cootehill/Shercock road and remarked that it's a pity that the same good work couldn't be done on the Station Road.

In response, Alan Lyons, stated that the MD office is also receiving the same complaints. He advised that CS Pringle, Consultant Engineers in Monaghan, have been engaged to progress the scheme and they are currently working on options and preliminary designs. There is a lot of preliminary work to be done and a detailed process to follow in terms of project delivery. He could not provide a specific timeframe but advised that when the preliminary design is completed, it will be brought to the Elected Members. He indicated that the cost of the overlay is significant, and that the MD are keeping an eye on possible alternative funding streams. He advised that it will be kept patched in the meantime.

Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick asked when work on the footpath will start. Alan Lyons advised that due process must take place in terms of planning, public consultation, and procurement. Consultants have been engaged as the National Transport Authority approve such schemes at various stages to justify monies being spent. Parts of the Active Travel elements may start before year end, all going to plan.

Cllr Carmel Brady stated that Councillors have been screaming for more money and making representations to TD's, Ministers etc. John McKernan stated that the matter of additional funding was raised with Minister Chambers last week.

Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick said that we have 500K available under the Active Travel Scheme and that Consultants were appointed over 6 months ago. He asked why it is taking so long to get things started and why it takes so long to design a footpath. Other towns have footpaths, why not Cootehill?

Cllr Sarah O'Reilly stated that 500K available is a good amount and asked what the issue was. Alan Lyons stated that he understood the Councillors frustration but that due process must take place. Cllr Clifford Kelly reiterated that it doesn't portray a good image of Cootehill. Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick suggested that there needed to be a push put on the Consultants to get the ball rolling.

4.To discuss permissions regarding rental properties and laws with regards Fire Safety.

Cllr Carmel Brady said it has been brought to her attention that there are families living in apartments in Cootehill without adequate fire exits. The government are paying the rent but there is no checking of the properties re fire safety etc. She asked who is responsible for this. Cllr Paddy McDonald stated that he has had similar enquiries. Alan Lyons stated that this is a grey area, but he will contact Housing and Fire Services for clarity and revert to Cllr Brady. Cllr Clifford Kelly agreed that there is clarity needed here and it is important to establish who is responsible for this.

5.To discuss the condition of the roads within the district.

Cllr Clifford Kelly brought up the condition of the roads within the district in relation to potholes and drainage. He said that surface dressing of the roads would help hold them but that we are still behind in Cavan in relation to drainage. He mentioned the wonderful job Meath CC have done in relation to drainage on the roads in the county. He asked what the plan is until we can manage to source extra funding. Are there grants available or does it come out of our own funding? He asked what resources we have available in relation to patchers for roads needing immediate attention. He said he made a strong case to the Minister last week re extra funding for the area.

Cllr Sarah O'Reilly supported Cllr Kelly in relation to the points he raised. She mentioned the top of Kingscourt Rd at Barrack St, Bailieborough. She said she has had Cllrs from other areas in Cavan contact her about it. There is a lot of heavy traffic including HGVs using the road. She also mentioned the road in Shercock beside Tabetex where the road is almost worn away. Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick also mentioned the roads in Shercock. Cllr Kelly stated that an extra €3m was needed to complete the 2023 county roads programme as originally agreed.

Cllr O'Reilly queried roads that were cut from the Road Works Programme this year. Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick reaffirmed comments at the last MD meeting that these roads should be included on next year's programme.

Alan Lyons acknowledged that it is a huge challenge. March was one of the wettest on record, resulting in an increase in number of potholes and worsening of existing ones. He stated that two Velocity Patchers are in the area (one in North, one in South of the area), in addition to one council patcher. Key issues are the funding levels and capacity.

Cllr Kelly said that all Cllrs agree that the work carried out to date has been of top-class and that he realises it's a funding issue but that we urgently need funds to carry out drainage works. He stated the need to have a plan in place so that we are not waiting on patchers. We need to get to potholes as soon as they appear. Alan Lyons reiterated that climate events are doing a lot of damage. He mentioned that the MD has been allocated €55K for a section of the R165 under the Climate Adaptation Grant for 2023.

Cllr Sarah O'Reilly asked about the new Technicians being recruited by Cavan CC. John McKernan confirmed that there will be one Technician appointed to each MD. Positions have been offered through our H.R. Dept. The Technicians will assist with drainage issues, reports to the Dept., Pavement Conditions Surveys, road opening licences, LIS and CIS schemes etc. They will be an additional technical resource based in each of the MDs. Cllr Carmel Brady stated that they need to mark exactly where the water is running on the roads.

6. To discuss the hazardous condition of the R162

Cllr Paddy McDonald asked about the policy of Cavan CC in relation to burst tyres. Alan Lyons advised that IPB look after these claims. Cllr Sarah O'Reilly mentioned that she recently attended a recent IPB meeting and was informed that there has been a huge increase in claims by pedestrians and cyclists.

Cllr Paddy McDonald brought up Northlands, Shercock. A lorry went into the hedge recently. There are cones in the area. Alan Lyons advised that the overseer had investigated and that it needs work, but it is not an immediate threat. Delineator posts have been placed to help define

the road edge. The road itself is fine but there is a dip behind the hedge, and it is on our list of works.

7. To discuss possible solutions for the increasing problem of lack of parking in Bailieborough.

Cllr. Sarah O'Reilly stated that parking spaces in Bailieborough are being lost on an ongoing basis. The J & L Stores car park which includes 14 spaces the Gardai use has been rented out and parking has been stopped there. Town car park at Cootes, behind Market Stall, is now closed off (15 spaces were available there, now gone). While it is welcome that funding has been provided under Active Travel for a path at Adelaide road, people used to park there and they spaces will now be lost. Also, at the courthouse 9 spaces will be lost. She asked if there was any option for Cavan CC to procure a piece of affordable land for car parking. This was also supported by Cllr Paddy McDonald. It was mentioned that Caroline Brady, Town Regeneration Officer, is visiting Bailieborough, trying to get goodwill of landowners re more space for parking etc. Alan stated that Cavan Co Co does not own any land so we need landowners/businesses to work with us. The Town Regeneration Officer is working on a Master Plan for Bailieborough and this will be included as part of that.

8. To discuss an update on the turning point at Kill GFC and at the Corravoggy Rd Junction

Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick brought up the above junction and how dangerous it is especially when there are matches or training on in Kill pitch. This is a very busy stretch of road and cars are speeding along here. He suggested painting a section down the middle of the road to help alleviate the problem. Cllr Carmel Brady supported this and advised that great work has been done by the GAA club, but they need help in providing a clear view. There are 2 churches and a school in that road so there are large volumes of travel.

Alan Lyons advised that a traffic study was carried out last year at the Kill Junction and the data was assessed. Based on the recorded traffic volumes and turning movements, and available collision data the provision of a ghost island right turn lane was not warranted under the relevant road design standards. The data revealed that there were no recorded collisions between 1990-2022 at Kill junction. A Lyons stated it is important to provide safe overtaking location on the network, and the Corrick Straight is one of the few safe locations on the R188 Cavan Cootehill Road to overtake. The provision of a right turn lane at both the GAA grounds entrance and Kill Junction would sterilise and remove a significant portion of the available space to overtake, this may lead to drivers overtaking at less safe locations.

Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick accepted the outcome of the study but stated that local knowledge would be a better indicator of incidents. Cllr Sarah O'Reilly suggested people should be encouraged to report all near misses/collision's to provide evidence for future studies.

John McKernan said evidence was needed to warrant any change. The Department will ask has an assessment been completed, which in this case has been done. The outcome of which doesn't support any action.

AOB

Cllr Carmel Brady mentioned Connolly's Corner/Cavan Road junction needs stop sign or marking of a white line. Alan Lyons would arrange the necessary measures.

Cllr Clifford Kelly asked Alan Lyons how many ground staff we have in the area. Alan Lyons advised that there were 21 with 3 on long term sick leave. He also advised that there is currently a GO recruitment drive. Closing date has passed and HR and are in the process of arranging interviews.

Cllr Kelly thanked Alan Lyons for the work being done under Active Travel in Kingscourt.

Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick advised that a representative from each MD was required for the Disability Network.

Cllr Sarah O'Reilly proposed Cllr Carmel Brady for the position and Cllr Brady accepted.

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

Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick closed the meeting. The meeting concluded at 5.25pm.