

Minutes of Meeting of Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District held in the Courthouse, Cootehill on Friday 9th February 2023 at 2pm

Councillor Clifford Kelly, Cathaoirleach presiding.

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

Apologies;

In Attendance; Paddy Connaughton, Director of Service
Clinton Mulligan, Acting Senior Executive Engineer
Mr Gabriel Hurson, Executive Engineer, C&E
Mr John Donohoe, Senior Executive Officer, C&E
Ms Deirdre Donnolly, Administrative Officer, C&E
C. Murray – Minutes Administrator

Cathaoirleach C. Kelly welcomed all to the meeting.

1. To confirm Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 20th November 2023.

Miontuaririsci cruinnithe 16th Samhain 2023 a dhearbhu.

It was

Proposed by Councillor C Brady

Seconded by Councillor V Smith

And

Resolved;

“that minutes of meeting of Bailieborough-Cootehill Municipal District held on 20th November 2023 be hereby approved”

Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Cllr C Brady asked for an update on the public lighting on the new line in Cootehill. Cllr C Brady advised a lady had been injured her because of no lighting. Mr C Mulligan advised that he had referred this onto the asset management section who were liaising with a civil works contractor to get a costing for this project and if funding could be sought. If funding was available the Municipal District would be agreeable to completing the works here.

2. Disclosure of Interests.

There were no disclosures of Interest.

3. Part VIII Planning Application – Ballyhaise Playground

It was

Proposed by Councillor A Fitzpatrick

Seconded by Councillor V Smith

And

Resolved;

“that Part VIII Application for Ballyhaise Playground be hereby approved”

4. Part VIII Planning Application – Dun a Rí Natural Play Area and Access track

It was

Proposed by Cathaoirleach C Kelly

Seconded by Councillor S O'Reilly

And

Resolved;

“that Part VIII Application for Dun a Rí Natural Play Area and Access track be hereby approved”

5. Consider for adoption a statement on the Draft Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029's consistency with the core strategy and objectives of the Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028

Mr J Donohoe advised members after a lengthy consultation process that the proposal for the Draft plan would be presented at the full council meeting in March of this year. One of the final steps was to have the objectives agreed, to have the regional assembly adopt the statement and that the statement was consistent with the county development plan. The senior planner is satisfied with the core strategy as well as the as the assembly regional statement. The Local economic and community plan has 6 goals. Mr J Donohoe went through each of these with the members highlighting the objectives of each and was the blueprint for development in the county for the next 6 years. Cathaoirleach C. Kelly voiced his sincere thanks to the executive for the large amount of work that had been put into this and Cllr P McDonald concurred with this.

It was

Proposed by Councillor A Fitzpatrick

Seconded by Councillor C Brady

And

Resolved;

“that the statement on the Draft Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029’s consistency with the core strategy and objectives of the Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028 be hereby approved”

6. Councillor Val Smith - To discuss Safety measures at Laragh National School

Cllr V Smith advised members that he was concerned about the safety at Laragh National School. He advised members that the area was very congested especially with the church and afterschool near by and particularly at finishing time that the area was very dangerous. Mr C Mulligan advised members that he had visited the location. He advised some road markings had been reinstated and that the amber warning lights were due to be fixed by a contractor. Cllr V Smith wanted an update on when further works would be completed. Cllr S O’Reilly and Cathaoirleach C. Kelly supported this request. Mr C Mulligan advised members that the school was situated in a rural environment and this limited the intervention measures that can be implemented. Further advance warning road signs were to be added and finished in the next 3/4 weeks, the public road edge was due to be remarked and that the contractor working on the beacon signs should have them fixed shortly.

Cllr A Fitzpatrick asked when there would be a speed review and asked were rural schools eligible for reduced speed limits. Cllr C Brady advised measures like these had been implemented in county Monaghan and should the rules not be the same for each county. Mr P Connaughton advised members that a review, possibly taking place this year, would bring consistency to all counties to work to a national standard.

Cathaoirleach C. Kelly voiced concerns that conditions should be written into planning permissions granted to schools. Proper and adequate parking and drop off locations are needed due to the fact as soon as schools are built these issues arise and that any cost incurred to alleviate these issues should be billed to the department of education. Mr P Connaughton advised that he would speak to the senior management team on this.

7. Councillor Val Smith - To Discuss an outcome on request submitted for extra funding as per meeting held with Minister Eamon Ryan

Cllr V Smith asked for an update on whether any additional funding had been secured following Minister Ryan's visit to Cavan. Cllr V Smith advised he believed that the Minister had only answered prepared questions on the day and that there seemed to be plenty of funding for greenways and active travel but no funding for rural areas and that the roads in the district were in a terrible state. Cllr Smith voiced his frustration about salting routes currently and the efficiency of the new council patchers. Cllr V Smith advised money needed to be secured from somewhere to bring in private contractors before the road network deteriorates further.

Cllr A Fitzpatrick advised that there was a large number of potholes widely across the district and that requests from him had been made from before Christmas to fill potholes that weren't filled. Cllr C Brady added that there was no harm in Minister Ryan visiting but that arrangements should have been made for him to see parts of the road in poor condition. There was a lot of excess water lying on the road and the weather was hampering efforts to fix them. Cllr C Brady suggested that the Department of Agriculture should have grants available to landowners to fix drainage issues. Cllr S O'Reilly supported Cllr V Smith and Cllr A Fitzpatrick and added it was hard this time of year to address all the issues and that the patcher was working well when weather conditions were favorable. Cllr P McDonald also concurred that the patcher was completing work to a high standard and that the government needed to address additional finance to help with these issues. Cathaoirleach C. Kelly agreed that Cavan County Council was totally underfunded and expressed how thankful LIS and CIS funding had been. Mr. P Connaughton advised members that Minister Ryan had visited at the request of councillors and voiced umbrage to the idea that the questions were pre-prepared and there was no decision made by the executive to control the questions put to the minister. Mr P Connaughton reminded members that there was a €2 million euro shortfall due to inflation on top of the €95 million deficit shortfall from 2010-2018. An additional €9 million had been made available to bring the network up to standard over the past number of years. Cllr V Smith added that he felt the councillors got a set list of questions and that the answers received were polished and pre-prepared.

Cllr V Smith voiced his frustration over the fact that the patcher was not in use on days that the winter maintenance crews were out as there was no driver. He asked could another driver be got as it was embarrassing the level of complaints he was receiving about the condition of the roads. Cllr S O'Reilly added that the weather this year had been mild and there was very little frost and that there should have only been a small percentage of days of bad weather. She did not agree that the patcher was lying

idle. Cllr V Smith added that in the past 2 weeks no potholes had been filled in his area. Cllr P McDonald supported Cllr V Smith and added that the patcher should have preference and always be out. Mr. C Mulligan advised members that there were currently 2 permanent patcher drivers with relief drivers available and unless the patcher is having maintenance it is available. The patcher works on a schedule and when the area does not have the patcher crews are dispatched with delay set. Mr. P Connaughton added that the concerns of councillors would be taken on board.

8. Councillor P McDonald - To discuss Contacting The HSE to find out what proposals they have for the Health Centre in Ballyhaise.

Cllr P McDonald advised members that for the past few years the health centre in Ballyhaise was closing and wanted to see if anything could be done. Cllr V Smith supported Cllr Mc Donald on this and advised he had received calls that the doctor was leaving the area. Cllr C Brady also supported this but advised the doctor had advised there were not enough patients to keep it going and that the local link services here should facilitate patients attending the clinic in Cavan. Cllr A Fitzpatrick advised he would raise the issue with the HSE committee and report back.

9. Councillor S O'Reilly - To discuss remedial repair works urgently required on the L2026 at Tullyunshin

Cllr S O' Reilly advised members that she had been contacted by a group of people living on this road to advise it was in very poor condition. The road is a busy road with a lot of traffic and businesses using the road, but its condition had deteriorated and an incident on this road with a lorry, where it had left the side of the road, meant a substantial cull of chickens. Mr C Mulligan advised members that the L2026 was a local primary road with a PSCI rating of between 4-7, depending on the location. Significant sections of the road need repaired, and it should be considered for the next roads work programme. Cllr A Fitzpatrick supports Cllr S O'Reilly on this as well as Cllr C Brady and Cllr P McDonald advising they had received calls in relation to the condition of the road.

A.O.B

Cathaoirleach C. Kelly asked was it possible to look at temporary slow speed signs to be added to the Bailirborough Road in Kingscourt. He advised the junction is very dangerous at the school. He also asked that the sign on the Shercock road be visible as it was currently covered by trees and an additional sign at the pedestrian crossing at Gilmore's garage. He also asked that additional slow signs be placed opposite the footpath out to Kingspan on the Carrickmacross road as well as asking if the junction of St. Mary's Church and the Kells Road had been looked at as there was no viability for cars exiting the

junction. Mr C Mulligan advised members that the roundabout at the Bailieborough road and the footpath out to Kingspan had been referred to the road design team to look at but in the interim a proposal on road markings had been sent to the safety section for approval. Cllr P McDonald added that you needed to address the children's behaviour as all the signs can be there but that they do not heed them. The children had to take some personal responsibility for their safety also.

Cllr A Fitzpatrick welcomed the additional funding for Cootehill and wanted to know if the €735,000 was in addition to the previously granted €500,000 and when works would take place. Mr C Mulligan advised that the €735,000 included the carryover from last year and was not in addition to. He advised members that he was liaising with Active travel on this as the road would be completed in a few phases. Mr P Connaughton advised members that they were currently looking at funding and the condition of allocations but that the worst parts of station road would be addressed this year.

Cllr A Fitzpatrick also raised issues about footpaths on the Cavan Road. Cllr C Brady supported this and advised there was issues with the footpath and accessibility issues for footpath users. Cllr P McDonald also included the location at the Ivy Bar in Cootehill. Mr C Mulligan advised that some of these were proposed for active travel schemes including Redhills Village but some isolated locations where outside the remit of the scheme. Significant works would need to be undertaken out of Own Resources and currently the funding wasn't there.

Cllr S O'Reilly raised the issue of the condition of the tesco roundabout and that previous repairs were unsuccessful. She also raised the condition of Barrack Street and the Virginia Road. Cllr P McDonald supported Cllr O'Reilly on this and advised the conditions in these locations were deteriorating. Mr C Mulligan advised that sectional repair had been scheduled for December but didn't happen, but the contractor had been engaged to complete sectional repair at the top of barrack street next week. Mr C Mulligan advised this was isolated sections and that the road needs significant investment and may need to be considered for the next roads work programme.

Mr C Mulligan noted and furnished members with a response from the Department of Education in relation to the letter send from the MD about St. Aiden's Comprehensive School.

The Date of the next meeting was scheduled for Monday 25th March 2024 at 4pm in the Courthouse in Cootehill.

The meeting concluded at 3.20pm

