

**MINUTES OF THE PORTLAOISE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 17th OF MAY IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE**

PRESENT: Mr. Barry Walsh, Cathaoirleach (In the Chair)
Ms. Catherine Fitzgerald, M.C.C.
Ms. Caroline Dwane Stanley, M.C.C.
Mr. Willie Aird, M.C.C.
Mr. John Joe Fennelly, M.C.C.
Ms. Marie Tuohy, M.C.C.
Ms. Thomasina Connell, M.C.C.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Simon Walton, Director of Services
Mr. Wes Wilkinson, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer

1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THE 19TH OF APRIL 2023

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Willie Aird, the minutes of the Portlaoise Municipal District meeting held on the 19th of April 2023 were confirmed as circulated.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING HELD ON THE 19TH OF APRIL 2023

There were no matters arising from the meeting held on the 19th of April 2023

3. VOTE OF SYMPATHY

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously expressed a vote of sympathy to Mr. Simon Walton, Director of Services on the recent death of his father, Mr. Joe Walton.

4. Notice of Motions

Notice of Motion No: 54/2023

Councillor Willie Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That Portlaoise Municipal District repair the footpath at Glenlahan as a matter of urgency"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald. The Members were advised that the Portlaoise MD Office will examine the footpath

at Glenlahan, Stradbally Road, Portlaoise and identify priority areas for repairs and re-surfacing with a view to carrying out these works as a matter of urgency.

Notice of Motion No: 55/2023

Councillor Willie Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That Portlaoise Municipal District indicate when the houses in Clonrooske Abbey and Golden Cross will be occupied"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley. The Members were advised that both Cluid turnkey schemes currently under construction have experienced delays due to financing issues and utility connections. The new Capital Assistance Leasing Facility (CALF) model recently announced will now be used to fund these schemes. Cluid has advised that 37 units in Goldencroft and the final phase of Clonrooske Abbey (18 units) will be occupied by mid-Quarter 3 2023. The remaining units in Goldencroft (30) will be delivered mid-Quarter 4 2023.

The Members requested that correspondence issue to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage in relation to the issues that are delaying the occupancy of the houses. It was agreed that Minister O' Brien be requested to liaise directly with the utility providers, with a view to expediting connections.

Notice of Motion No: 56/2023

Councillor Willie Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That Portlaoise Municipal District get an update on when the proposed footpath will be constructed from the Rugby Club to Togher Woods"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh. The Members were advised that pedestrian accesses to and from the public road into and through the Rugby Club Grounds have been made at the Northern (J17 side) and on the Southern side adjacent to the entrance road to Togher Woods. An interconnecting walkway between these locations has been constructed. The works were part funded under the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme.

Councillor Aird indicated that he was referring to a request for a cycleway along the roadside verge of Portlaoise Rugby Club and requested an update on same.

Notice of Motion No: 51/2023

Councillor Thomasina Connell proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Council repair the footpaths on the Timahoe road across from Cummins Motors"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird. The Members were advised that Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E. will make himself available to meet with Councillor Connell to examine the footpaths on the Timahoe Road in the vicinity of Cummins Motors.

Notice of Motion No: 52/2023

Councillor Thomasina Connell proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That the Portlaoise Municipal District request our Local Auctioneers to refrain from erecting property signs relating to the sale of the property at the entrance to housing estates but rather erect signage at the particular property location as they are negatively impacting our streetscapes and are contradictory to the ethos of Tidy Towns"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh. The Members were advised that Class 9 of Article 6, Part 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended allow for Advertisements relating to the sale or letting of any structure or other land on which they are exhibited with the following conditions and Limitations: 1. The area of any such advertisement shall not exceed— (a) in the case of an advertisement relating to the sale or letting of a house, 0.6 square metres, (b) in the case of an advertisement relating to the sale or letting of any other structure or land, 1.2 square metres. 2. Not more than one such advertisement shall be exhibited on the structure or other land. 3. No such advertisement shall be exhibited, and no advertisement structure erected for the purpose of exhibiting such advertisement shall remain on the structure or land, for more than 7 days after the sale or letting to which the advertisement relates. Advertisements for the Sale of structures outside the above exemption may require planning permission or a sign licence depending on their location (on public or private lands). The Planning Authority once it becomes aware of unauthorised signage will commence enforcement action to remedy such breaches. Mr. Dom Reddin, A.O., Environment - The Environment Section will take upon writing to all Local Auctioneers requesting them to refrain from putting house sales signs up without the proper authorisation. Any signs

identified without such authorisation will be deemed litter which will come with a penalty fine of €150.00.

Notice of Motion No: 53/2023

Councillor Thomasina Connell proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Council carry out required drainage works to prevent water pooling on the road in the vicinity of House No. 32 & 33 Abbey Crescent, Abbeyleix to prevent the water pooling on the road surface"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly. The Members were advised that the Portlaoise MD Office are making arrangements to carry out drainage works in the vicinity of No. 32 & 33 Abbey Crescent, Abbeyleix in the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 57/2023

Councillor Barry Walsh proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That Laois County Council install a road layby on the L-2776-0 between Pass and Cullenagh Ballyroan"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh. The Members were advised that The Portlaoise MD Office expects to commence work within the next week to install a road layby on the L-2776-0 at Cullenagh, Ballyroan in the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 58/2023

Councillor Barry Walsh proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That Laois County Council provide concealed entrances signage at Cashel Cross Ballyroan"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald. The Members were advised that Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E. will make himself available to meet Councillor Walsh at Railway Street, Portlaoise beside Kavanaghs Bicycle shop to examine the footpath.

Notice of Motion No: 59/2023

Councillor Barry Walsh proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That Laois County Council widen and repair the footpath at railway street Portlaoise beside Kavanaghs Bicycle shop"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird. The Members were advised that Mr. Wes Wilkinson will make himself available to meet Councillor Walsh at Railway Street, Portlaoise beside Kavanaghs Bicycle shop to examine the footpath.

Notice of Motion No: 60/2023

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Council accord a civic reception to Seamus Dooley to acknowledge his achievement on being awarded The Presidents Lifetime achievement award from Basketball Ireland"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird. The Members were advised that this matter will be considered at the May meeting of CPG scheduled for the 22nd of May 2023

Notice of Motion No: 61/2023

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Council explore all options to provide footpath/bicycle lane from Portlaoise to Rock of Dunamase"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is investigating options to provide safe and sustainable connectivity from Portlaoise to the Rock of Dunamase. A Feasibility Report will be available in Autumn 2023.

Notice of Motion No: 62/2023

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Council give an update on the proposed bus Service for Portlaoise"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley. The Members were advised that Elected Members are aware that Laois County Council is supporting and liaising with the National Transport Authority (NTA) for the delivery of the Portlaoise Town Bus Service. Laois County Council has completed designs for all of the bus stop locations. Laois County Council has submitted the designs to the NTA and sought NTA approval to tender for the delivery of required works. Separately, in parallel, in order to introduce the

service, the NTA are required to tender for the appointment of a service operator.

Notice of Motion No: 63/2023

Councillor Marie Tuohy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Council give an update as to any progress made in liaising with relevant parties and businesses to make Portlaoise an Autism friendly town"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley. The Members were advised that the Business Support Unit liaised with Laois Chamber who are very supportive of a project to designate Portlaoise as an autism friendly town. They would like to see this project lead by an autism organisation who have the necessary expertise and knowledge in this area and they are happy to become a supporter of same and contribute to the accreditation process where required.

The Members requested that a representative from Autism Ireland be invited to a future meeting to discuss the matter.

Notice of Motion No: 64/2023

Councillor Marie Tuohy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Council deploy the appropriate environmental measures to address the pollution and emissions being caused by some bus operators while idling and parked at bus stops in Portlaoise"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council's Environment Section will contact the main bus operators stopping in Portlaoise advising them of their responsibilities to ensure that adequate measures are taken to prevent/reduce the environmental pollution caused by their fleet. The operators will be asked to provide details of measures they have taken to: Reduce air pollution when the bus is idling at a drop-off/pick-up point; Prevent water pollution from oil/fuel release following a pipe burst or leakage. The Council can only assist in increasing the bus operators awareness of their responsibilities to protect public health and the environment.

Notice of Motion No: 65/2023

Councillor Marie Tuohy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Council include Road number L-2113 in the programme for Roads for 2024. The address is at Ballina Portlaoise , near Eircode R32Y26C"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird. The Members were advised that The Portlaoise MD Office will include the road L-2113 at Ballina, Portlaoise on the list of roads for consideration for re-surfacing in the 2024 Roads Programme.

Notice of Motion No: 66/2023

Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Municipal District carry out refurbishments and upgrade to the 3 Maisonettes on Harpers Lane"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald. The Members were advised that these properties are not currently part of the Retrofitting programme for 2021/2022, but could be considered for future programmes should further DHLGH funding streams become available. LCC maintenance team have carried out an inspection on each property and a list of maintenance works was compiled with some of these works already completed.

The Members requested that a meeting be arranged at the maisonettes on Harpur's Lane to review and prioritise works. It was agreed that this would be arranged with Housing.

Notice of Motion No: 67/2023

Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Municipal District erect Cul De Sac signs at the following locations - Castle Drive Kilminchy and Lakeside Gardens Kilminchy and improve public lighting in the area"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Thomasina Connell. The Members were advised that Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E. & Mr. Paul McLoughlin S.E. Roads will make arrangements to meet Councillor Dwane Stanley on site to examine the location for signage. The Road Design section will assess the existing provision of public lighting in Castle Drive to establish if it is to the standard required and if not to identify the improvements required.

Notice of Motion No: 68/202

Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Municipal District give a timeline as to when the trees in St. Brigid's Place along the railway line will be replaced with native hedgerow and also give an update on the CIS Community Involvement Scheme for the resurfacing of the back lanes"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird. The Members were advised that Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E. & Mr. Paul McLoughlin, S.E. - The Portlaoise MD Office intends to remove 65 metres of trees in St. Brigids Place at the boundary adjacent to the Railway Line this coming Autumn after the Wildlife Act restrictions have been lifted. Planting of native trees/hedging will be carried out in Spring 2024. The CIS Schemes for 2023 are under assessment with offers due to issue before the end of May 2023.

Notice of Motion No: 69/2023

Councillor John Joe Fennelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Municipal District repair or replace the old concrete post and rail fence at the boundary to Spink G.A.A. Club and also replace the sign for Ballinakill at this junction"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh. The Members were advised that The Portlaoise MD Office will include the replacement of the concrete post and rail fence at the junction of the R430 and the L-7797 in an application for a safety scheme for 2024. The Portlaoise MD Office will make arrangements to replace the sign for Ballinakill at the junction in the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 70/2023

Councillor John Joe Fennelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Municipal District carry out drainage works on the Portlaoise Road, Abbeyleix."

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh. The Members were advised that The Portlaoise MD Office is making arrangements to survey the existing drainage in the vicinity of this location. An application will be made

to the T.I.I. for funding to carry out drainage works on the Portlaoise Road, Abbeyleix.

Notice of Motion No: 71/2023

Councillor John Joe Fennelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That this Council install safety measures at the Monument Cross, Tonduff, Abbeyleix"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird. The Members were advised that The Portlaoise MD Office will submit an application for funding for safety measures to be carried out in the vicinity of the junction of the L-16565 & the L-1656 at Monument Cross, Tonduff, Abbeyleix"

5. Correspondence

It was noted that no correspondence had been received since the last meeting of the Municipal District.

6. Fix Date for Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on **Wednesday, 21st of June 2023.**

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Director of Services