

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 15th OF FEBRUARY 2023 HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT Mr. Paschal McEvoy, Cathaoirleach (In the Chair)
Mr. Aidan Mullins M.C.C.
Mr. Pdraig Fleming, M.C.C.
Mr. P.J. Kelly, M.C.C.
Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C.
Ms. Aisling Moran, M.C.C.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance
Mr. Philip McVeigh, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer

(1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the December meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 7th of December 2022

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the December meeting of the Graiguecullen / Portarlington Municipal District held on the 7th of December 2022.

(2) Progress Report

The report was noted, and the Members complimented Mr. Philip McVeigh, Senior Executive Engineer and all the team on the works that had been completed since the last meeting.

Councillor Moran requested that the cost of the works for the monument should be paid by the National Ploughing Association.

(3) Notice of Motions:-

Notice of Motion No: 01/2023

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council provide a progress update on the resolution to the blockage of the culvert at Maidenhead”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that maintenance works were undertaken in September 2022 to remove deposited gravels. To support a longer-term solution, the Council is

progressing with a detailed topographical survey of the river upstream and downstream of the culvert. This survey will, then, be utilised by RPS Consulting Engineers to prepare a design to address the deposition of gravels in the culvert.

The following two Notice of Motions were taken together: -

Notice of Motion No: 02/2023 – Councillor Aisling Moran

“That this Council approach Roadstone again in relation to the passing bays and improvement works in the vicinity near the quarry in Ballyadams”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming.

Notice of Motion No: 07/2023 – Councillor Pdraig Fleming

“That Laois County Council give an update on the recent meeting in the Graiguecullen Office with the management team of Roadstone Quarry, Ballyadams as a result of recent issues raised regarding road safety for all”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran.

The Members were advised that Laois County Council met with the management of the Roadstone Quarry in January to discuss the ongoing management of quarry traffic to and from the Ballyadams quarry site. Following the meeting, Roadstone agreed to fund the provision of a number of passing bays on the roads in the immediate vicinity of the quarry. Laois County Council will arrange to have these road improvement works carried out as part of the 2023 Roads Programme.

Notice of Motion No: 03/2023

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council examine installing extra parking spaces in Imleagh Estate, The Swan”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet with the Elected Member on site to agree the scope of works.

Notice of Motion No: 04/2023

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council replace the tarmacadam used in recent footpath repairs along Main Street in Portarlinton and reinstate the brick paving”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that these temporary macadam repairs were required following the completion of the ESB works on the footpaths in November. Eir are currently removing some overhead lines and poles and should be finished by the end of February. Laois County Council will then arrange for all of the temporary macadam areas to be permanently reinstated with brick paving.

Notice of Motion No: 05/2023

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install public lights outside Barrowhouse National School”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Road Design Public Lighting staff will arrange to meet Councillor Mullins at the National School in order to establish the lighting requirements at the location.

Notice of Motion No: 06/2023

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council underground the overhead lines on French Church Street and Upper Main Street in Portarlinton between Bank of Ireland and Kilnacourt Roundabout”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that the undergrounding of overhead lines at the suggested locations will be considered in the context of future public realm / footpath improvements works at the respective locations. To inform potential future works, a design and associated costing will be sought from ESB Networks.

Notice of Motion No :- 08/2023

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council examine the Y junction near Ballyhide Cross, Killeslin with the view to installing road markings in the interest of road safety”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location

and arranged for road markings to be installed at the junction in the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 09/2023

Councillor Pádraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install two ramps on the R430 at a distance to be agreed on the Newtown Cross side of the National School/Credit Union and near Crosskeys Cross, Newtown in the interest of health & safety for all pedestrians and road users”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to carry out a speed survey on both sides of the school pedestrian crossing to identify the most appropriate locations for a speed ramp.

Notice of Motion No: 10/2023

Councillor PJ Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council contact Coillte or the OPW to investigate and make safe the trees or branches of trees between the old entrance and the new entrance into Emo Park, as some branches have fallen and damaged cars over the last few months”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will contact the landowner regarding cutting back the trees and branches overhanging this section of road.

Notice of Motion No: 11/2023

Councillor PJ Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council investigate the possibility of reducing the speed limit from 80 km down to 60 km for 200m either side of Carn Railway Bridge on the Emo/Mountmellick Road as this would reduce the amount of bad accidents that happen there”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that the Road Design Section will investigate the matter including the carrying out of a review of the available collision data for this location. The

outcome will inform the appropriate interventions required including consideration for a speed limit reduction under the next countywide speed limit review.

Councillor Aidan Mullins requested that correspondence issue to the Department in relation to the review of speed limits

Notice of Motion No: 12/2023

Councillor P.J. Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council erect more warning signs along the stretch of road from Ballybrittas Christmas tree Depot to the Montague Hotel to warn motorists of deer crossing especially during the dark winter months and during rutting season. A huge amount of deer pass through this area and rotate over and back between the motor way and the old Dublin, Cork and Limerick Road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is currently arranging for signage to be installed on this section of the R445.

Notice of Motion No: 13/2023

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council give an update on the taking in charge of Cil Beag Manor Housing Estate Stradbally and Drominin Housing Estate, Church Avenue, Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that in relation to Cill Beg Manor there are a number of issues to be resolved with the developer including plastering of boundary wall and the provision of As Built drawings and wayleaves where foul and storm sewers pass through private lands. The Council will use the Bond to complete works if the developer does not resolve same. In relation to Dromineen this will be advertised for taking in charge in March of 2023.

Notice of Motion No: 14/2023

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council call on Irish Water to fully replace all old water pipes from the reservoir at Oughval to Old Mills / Ballyteskin”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that these works are ongoing at present and are being undertaken by Uisce Eireann. There is a slight delay to a portion of these works due to an archaeology find near the old cemetery. A temporary solution was progressed last week due to a further burst in private lands.

Notice of Motion No: 15/2023

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council provide a footpath from the new houses on the Stradbally Road to the School in Timahoe”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that the NTA has not provided funding under the Active Travel Scheme for the delivery of this scheme in 2023.

Councillor Moran raised a query in relation to the €3.3 million budget for Active Travel and its breakdown over the three Municipal Districts and in particular the amount of €76,000 allocated to the Graiguecullen / Portarlinton Municipal District. Councillor Moran requested a breakdown of allocations and additional information for projects with a low carbon focus.

On the proposal of Councillor Fleming seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly it was agreed that the €25,000 discretionary funding for 2023 be used to alleviate the issue at Timahoe School.

Notice of Motion No: 16/2023

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the safety measures being put in place in Killeshin Village and at the dangerous junction at the Mall Pub in Killeshin on the R430”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Killeshin Village has previously had additional safety measures installed which are to be added to by the installation of further speed radar signs at the Mall Pub in the coming weeks. Following a period after the installation of these agreed additional measures a review of the R430 through Killeshin Village will be undertaken.

G Murphy agreed to discuss this with Mr P Mc Loughlin, Senior Engineer

Notice of Motion No: 17/2023

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair the side of the road from Sleaty Road roundabout to Knockbeg School”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this road and will arrange to carry out road improvement works as part of the 2023 road surfacing programme.

Notice of Motion No: 18/2023

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install additional gulleys and repair the footpath in Oakley Park, Graiguecullen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected these locations and will arrange to carry out these works as soon as possible.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

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

5. FIX DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlinton Municipal District would take place on the 15th of March 2023 at 2.00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Paschal McEvoy, Cathaoirleach

