

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 19th of APRIL 2023 HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT Mr. Paschal McEvoy (In the Chair)
Mr. Aidan Mullins M.C.C.
Mr. Padraig Fleming, M.C.C.
Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C.
Mr. P.J. Kelly, 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 March meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 15th of March 2023

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the March meeting of the Graiguecullen / Portarlington Municipal District held on the 15th of March 2023.

(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.

(3) Notice of Motions:-

Notice of Motion No: 34/2023

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council replace the railing at the corner of Church Avenue, Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is currently in the process of engaging a contractor to carry out this work.

Notice of Motion No: 35/2023

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install the ‘Dangerous Bends Ahead’ warning signs between Cormack’s Cross and Timahoe”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will inspect the section of the R426 between McCormack’s Cross and Timahoe for the installation of this additional signage.

Notice of Motion No: 36/2023

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out an inspection on the old Dublin Road at Treacy’s Cross as it is in bad repair”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this section of the R445 and is arranging to carry out road surfacing works under the 2023 roads programme.

Notice of Motion No: 37/2023

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council put safety measures in place in Crettyard Creamery and Geneva Stores on the N78”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council, in consultation with TII Road Safety Section, will review this location to establish what safety measures may be appropriate.

Notice of Motion No: 38/2023

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair the gullies outside of the house on the junction between the N78 and the R431”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will inspect this location and investigate the repair works to be carried out.

Notice of Motion No: 39/2023

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council put a weight restriction on lorries using the Doonane Road, Crettyard”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Road Design will examine this request with Councillor Brennan and the Municipal District Office staff to establish the need for a weight restriction on this section of public road.

Notice of Motion No: 40/2023

Councillor Pdraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council rebuild the bridge wall at Kilmoroney, Barrowhouse and make visible the bridge wall on the opposite side by removing overgrown scrub and weeds”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this bridge and will arrange to carry out repair works to the bridge wall and remove the overgrowth on the opposite side.

Notice of Motion No: 41/2023

Councillor Pdraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council replace the damaged safety barriers at the pedestrian crossing on Main Street, Ballylinan and at the playground in Ballylinan in the interest of Health and Safety for all”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to carry out repair works for the safety barriers at these locations.

Notice of Motion No: 42/2023

Councillor Pdraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council, in the interest of Health and Safety, replace the grass verge at Loughglass T Junction, Ballyadams with a hard-core surface as 3 different buses collect students there each morning and deliver them back in the evening”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet with the

Elected Member on site to agree the extent of works to be carried out at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 43/2023

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council repair the road verge at Ballintubbert and put in a lay-by”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location and will arrange to install a lay-by in addition to the lay-bys that are being funded by Roadstone in this area.

Notice of Motion No: 44/2023

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council surface the road between Killeen and Coolnaugh Cross and continue it on to Hollymount”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this section of road and that it will be considered for inclusion in the next road surfacing programme.

Notice of Motion No: 45/2023

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council repair the dropped footpath on the way into Bruach na hAbhainn Killeen, as it is a serious trip hazard”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location and repair works on this footpath have now been completed.

Notice of Motion No: 46/2023

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council review the traffic controls currently in place in Ballickmoyler where traffic coming on to the N80 from the Strand Road must turn left”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that the current arrangement exists as a result of the limited visibility both from the Strand Road in the direction of Graiguecullen and forward visibility of the junction when travelling from that direction. Road Design will review the request.

Notice of Motion No: 47/2023

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the taking in charge of Lansdowne Estate in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that the Developer (Kingscroft Developments) has not made an application to have the Lansdowne Estate taken in charge. It should also be noted that there is a live permission on the site. Councillor Mullins advised that he would get a petition from the residents in support of taking the estate in charge.

Notice of Motion No: 48/2023

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council advise when the water supply in Bruach na hAbhann in Killeen will be taken in charge by Irish Water”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council’s Water Services Section are currently operating and maintaining the water supply in the Bruach na hAbhann estate in Killeen pending its taking in charge by Uisce Eireann. Water Services are engaging with Uisce Eireann in relation to the taking of the estate in charge.

The Members requested some detail on the expenditure to date on the maintenance of the water supply.

Notice of Motion No: 49/2023

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

“That Laois County Council put in place measures to stop overtaking on the hill on the Portlaoise side of Ballybrittas at the Christmas Tree Depot. Some residents there have had narrow escapes trying to gain access onto that road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet on site with the Elected Member to scope the additional measures to be put in place.

Notice of Motion No: 50/2023

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

“That Laois County Council trim the side of the hedge on the left-hand side of the road at the junction known locally as Minister’s Hill near O’ Dempsey’s GAA ground at the turn off for Killenard as this will improve the visibility for traffic turning right”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for this work to be carried out as soon as possible.

Notice of Motion No: 51/2023

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

“That Laois County Council clear a small section of bank opposite Rath National School and lay with hard core to help ease traffic congestion during school times”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will inspect this location to see what works can be carried out within the public roadway side of the boundary opposite the school.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

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

Councillor Paschal McEvoy advised that the footpath from Stradbally to the graveyard was commencing on Wednesday 26th April. He raised the issue of a pedestrian crossing from the footpath to the graveyard.

Gerry Murphy agreed to have a response for the next meeting on Notice of Motion 124/2022, raised at the November 2022 MD meeting.

5. FIX DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlinton Municipal District would take place on the 17th of May 2023 at 2.00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Paschal McEvoy, Cathaoirleach

