

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 17th OF MAY 2023 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.

APOLOGIES: 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 April meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 19th of April 2023

On the proposition of Councillor Padraig Fleming seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the April meeting of the Graiguecullen / Portarlington Municipal District held on the 19th of April 2023.

Good wishes and a speedy recovery from illness were expressed to Councillor A Moran.

(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.

G Murphy advised that the topographical design for the resolution of the blockage in the culvert at Maidenhead is expected to be completed in the coming weeks. Once completed the survey will inform the design to resolve the blockage issue. Notice of Motion 01/2023 refers.

(3) Notice of Motions:-

Notice of Motion No: 52/2023

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install a portable toilet in the graveyard in Sleaty as there are no toilet facilities and it is around 2 km from town”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that it is not the practice of Laois County Council to provide toilets at cemeteries for reasons including the capital cost and maintenance costs of same.

Notice of Motion No: 53/2023

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the taking in charge of the Meadows Housing Estate in Graiguecullen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the taking in charge of Meadows Way (no’s 1-18), Graiguecullen will be advertised within the next two weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 54/2023

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the junction on the Cuts Road in Killeshin”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will carry out the works relating to road markings and signage at this junction within the next month.

Notice of Motion No: 55/2023

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council along with the TII provide traffic calming measures and solutions for Arles village”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that following consultation between Laois County Council and the TII Road Safety Section, a comprehensive review and assessment of options will be undertaken throughout the extent of the speed limit within the village for the provision of road safety and traffic calming measures.

Notice of Motion No: 56/2023

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair the footpath at the entrance to Imleach Estate, The Swan in the interest of health and safety”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location and will arrange for these works to be carried out as soon as possible.

Notice of Motion No: 57/2023

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council upgrade the markings at the junctions in Spindlewood Estate, Graiguecullen and examine the issue of ash trees as their roots are spreading underneath the ground at boundary walls in the estate”

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

Notice of Motion No: 58/2023

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council move the digital speed sign on the Portlaoise Road in Portarlinton further out from its current location”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this speed radar and identified a suitable location to relocate it. This will be arranged with Killaree Lighting.

Notice of Motion No: 59/2023

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the refurbishment of the Market House in The Square in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The members were advised that tenders for the works contract have been received and the tender assessment process is ongoing. Subject to the necessary clarifications being provided and Departmental approval being received it is intended to award the contract for the works by the end of June 2023.

Notice of Motion No: 60/2023

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council erect signs in public parks warning the public of the risk of Lyme Disease from tick bites”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that the HSE has a National Advisory Committee on Lyme's disease that provides advice to the public. The Environment Section will meet with Cllr Mullins to identify suitable locations for signage.

It was agreed to contact the O.P.W. regarding the provision of similar signs in Emo Park and in other properties managed by them.

Notice of Motion No: 61/2023

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council trim back the trees in the old cemetery Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the old cemetery in Stradbally is not one of the cemeteries under the control and management of Laois County Council. Only the new cemetery is managed by and registered to the Council.

Councillor Mc Evoy agreed to review with Cemetery Committee.

Notice of Motion No: 62/2023

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council install a speed ramp at the Heritage Centre, Timahoe to slow traffic approaching the children's playground”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet with the Elected Member on site to confirm the scope of works required.

Notice of Motion No: 63/2023

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council give an update on the provision of streetlights at Charter Road Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that The Road Design section will seek quotations for the provision of an initial installation of two public lights at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 64/2023

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

“That Laois County Council consider reducing the speed limit down to 30 kph through Emo Court for the health and safety of the 350,000 tourists using these roads. Emo Court is becoming more popular, and a lot of people walk these roads as well”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that consideration will be given to the proposed reduction as part of the next speed limit review process.

Notice of Motion No: 65/2023

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

“That Laois County Council repair the footpath on Ballymorris Road as one residence is constantly being flooded”

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

Notice of Motion No: 66/2023

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

“That Laois County Council arrange with the Department of Transport to repair the severe dips on the Main Dublin Cork Road (old N7) 100m from the New Inn Roundabout on the Portlaoise side and also halfway between the old Montague Hotel and the Christmas Tree Depot”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has included the areas in question in previous applications to the Department of Transport under the Former National Road Rehabilitation Works Category. To date, funding has not been forthcoming for these locations. Laois County Council will continue to work with the Department of Transport to secure funding for the works required.

As Councillor Aisling Moran was absent from the meeting it was agreed that her Notices of Motion be read into the Minutes as follows: -

Notice of Motion No: 64(B)/2023 in the name of Councillor Aisling Moran

“That Laois County Council give an update on the proposed river works on the Crompaun River in Killeen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that the screening reports to facilitate the undertaking of these works are currently being completed by Atkins Consulting Engineers. It is intended that these works will be undertaken in 2023.

Notice of Motion No: 65(B)2023 in the name of Councillor Aisling Moran

“That Laois County Council install a section of new kerbing adjacent to the bridge in Killeen Village”

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

Notice of Motion No: 66(B)2023 in the name of Councillor Aisling Moran
“That Laois County Council repair the collapsed drain in Ballynakill/Ballickmoyler and provide a lay-by/passing bay”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location and has completed these repair works along with the provision of a new 20m long passing bay.

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 21st of June 2023 at 2.00 p.m. followed by the A.G.M.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Paschal McEvoy, Cathaoirleach

