

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

PRESENT Mr. Aidan Mullins, Vice Chair (In the Chair)
Mr. Padraig Fleming, M.C.C.
Mr. Paschal McEvoy, M.C.C.
Mr. P.J. Kelly, M.C.C.
Ms. Aisling Moran, M.C.C.

APOLOGIES: Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Julie Bergin, Financial Management Accountant
Mr. Philip McVeigh, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer

(1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the October meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 18th of October 2023

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly, the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the October meeting of the Graiguecullen / Portarlington Municipal District held on the 18th of October 2023.

(2) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Budget meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 18th of October 2023

On the proposition of Councillor P.J. Kelly seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the Budget meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 18th of October 2023

(3) Laois LECP 2023-2028 – Consideration of Draft Objectives and Actions/Outcomes for High Level Goals

Ms. Suzanne O’ Connor & Ms. Orla Fitzpatrick, Community Section delivered a presentation to the Portlaoise MD Members on the objectives and high level goals of the Laois LECP 2023-2028 and responded to the various queries by the members. The Members were given a summary of the public consultation process, the surveys carried out and the feedback from same. It was noted that Laois County Council are at Stage 3 of the process and it is proposed that the plan will be adopted by the Members at the January 2024 Council Meeting.

(4) 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.

(5) Notice of Motions:-

Notice of Motion No: 121/2023

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install a public light on Lea Road outside Portarlington at the turn off for Lea Castle”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council’s Road Design Staff will visit the junction, assess the need & feasibility of installing a light at this location and thereafter make arrangements as appropriate.

Notice of Motion No: 122/2023

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council implement a safety scheme at the blind bend at the junction of the R420 and R424 at Kilmullen, Portarlington”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has applied to the Department for funding low-cost safety improvement works at this junction under the 2024 works programme. The works would involve the removal of the existing fence line and setting back the fence and hedge on a new line to improve sightlines at the junction.

Notice of Motion No: 123/2023

Councillor Pádraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council, following a presentation by the local community regarding flooding issues in the Killavally, Beatogue and Loughteaguein, Ratheniska, seek once off special funding from the Department to carry out a comprehensive plan to resolve the flooding issues in the area so as to ensure that the threat to homes /garages is resolved. Consideration to the installation of a flood ramp outside the homes for further protection should be examines. Also, to consider the re-strengthening and re-surfacing of the road at Ratheniska”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location and has applied to the Department of Transport for Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works funding for these drainage works.

Notice of Motion No: 124/2023

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion: _

“That Laois County Council include in the 2024 Regional Roads Budget The Swan Village as the road through the village has deteriorated significantly over the years and also in light of the mains water pipe being replaced a few years ago”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will consider this road for inclusion in the next road surfacing programme.

Notice of Motion No: 125/2023

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out water cuts on the N80 from Loughglass, Ballyadams to Derrymoyle, Graiguecullen in order to alleviate the flooding on the road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has applied to TII for funding drainage maintenance works along this section of the N80 and are arranging for works to commence in the coming weeks.

Councillor Ben Brennan requested that the following Notice of Motions be deferred to the December meeting of the Municipal District.

Notice of Motion No: 126/2023 – Councillor Ben Brennan

“That Laois County Council put in place crash barriers at the Strand Bridge, Ballickmoyler”

Notice of Motion No: 127/2023 – Councillor Ben Brennan

“That Laois County Council trim back the trees on the Northern Relief Road in Graiguecullen”

Notice of Motion No: 128/2023 – Councillor Ben Brennan

“That Laois County Council carry out new markings on the road at the Crugan Cross and cut back the hedges and repair the road at Ballyhide Cross”

Notice of Motion No: 129/2023

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council carry out works at the bridge Fossey Timahoe. There is considerable flooding at this area”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location and has applied to the Department for Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Works funding to install a new bridge structure at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 130/2023

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council include the Cremorgan Road Timahoe in the 2024 resurfacing programme”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will consider this road for inclusion in the next road surfacing programme.

Notice of Motion No: 131/2023

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council add the old Convent to the Derelict Site register in Laois”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that The Old Convent, Stradbally is on the Derelict Site Register. A levy of 7% of the market value of the property has been issued to the registered owner.

Notice of Motion No: 132/2023

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

“That Laois County Council rise the footpath outside a residence on the Ballymorris Road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for improvement works to be carried out at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 133/2023

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

“That Laois County Council erect speed warning signs on the Portlaoise Road into Portarlinton from Blackhall Bridge similar to those between Ballybrittas and The Old Pound”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for a speed survey to be carried out on the R419 Portlaoise Road into Portarlinton. This will assist in identifying the most appropriate location for speed radar installations on this road.

Notice of Motion No: 134/2023

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

“That Laois County Council erect two green bollards at Woodbrook Crossroads opposite the two that are currently there to clearly mark the junction”

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

Notice of Motion No: 135/2023

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council include the river Crompaw in the river cleaning program for 2024, from Killeen to Killabban and beyond”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council carried out river cleaning works in 2023 on the Crompaw River in Killeen, following a previous motion by the Elected Member. We will arrange to carry out further river works on the Crompaw River in 2024 with the ecological reports to be completed in advance of the next river maintenance season.

Notice of Motion No: 136/2023

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council put a pedestrian crossing in Stradbally from Court View to the Stradbally Pharmacy. This will also help slow the traffic coming into the town from the Carlow Road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will assess the need for a Pedestrian Crossing at the location in the context of the existing crossing provision in Stradbally along this section of the N80. The provision of Pedestrian Crossings on National Roads is subject to the TII approval process & subsequent allocation of funding.

The following Notice of Motion was deferred to the December meeting of the Municipal District.

Notice of Motion No: 137/2023 – Councillor Aisling Moran & Councillor Aidan Mullins
“That this Council investigate and determine the level of responsibility that the N.P.A. had in causing the recent serious flooding of the roads and properties adjacent to the Ratheniska Ploughing Championships site and that the NPA make a proportionate contribution to the prevention measures carried out by Laois County Council.”

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Ben Brennan, M.C.C. , Cathaoirleach