

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21st OF APRIL VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT MS. Aisling Moran Cathaoirleach (In the Chair)
Mr. Aidan Mullins M.C.C.
Mr. Paschal McEvoy, M.C.C.
Mr. Padraig Fleming, M.C.C.
Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C.

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

**(1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the March meeting of the Graiguecullen
Portarlington Municipal District held on the 24th of March 2021**

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the March meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 24th of March 2021 as circulated.

(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: 31/2021

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install charging points in Graiguecullen, Killeshin & Ballylinan”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that a tender was undertaken in 2020 to facilitate the delivery of EV charging points. A pilot EV charging point has been installed in the public carpark outside County Hall (Block 2) and is available for use by full electric and plug in hybrid electric vehicle owners. The performance of this unit will be monitored over the coming 12-month period to establish usage patterns. This data will inform future roll out plans for EV charging points around the County.

The members were unhappy with this response and requested a timescale for the charging point rollout around Laois.

Notice of Motion No: 32/2021

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council make safe the public water supply in the Strand, Ballickmoyler”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Upgrade works have commenced to improve the contact time of disinfection by chlorination by installing a new clearwater contact tank and improved telemetry alarms. Installation works should be completed by the end of April 2021 with commissioning completed by the end of May 2021. The Boil Water Notice can be then lifted in consultation with Irish Water and the Health Service Executive.

Notice of Motion No: 33/2021

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council make some land available for allotments in Graiguecullen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that The Council own a narrow strip of land opposite the entrance to Fruithill Manor. We will examine the suitability of this land for allotments.

It was agreed that we would have an update on this for the May meeting of the Municipal District

Notice of Motion No: 34/2021

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install a Stop/Go light system at the pedestrian crossing at the Swan National School in the interest of health and safety”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that following the installation of the new speed ramps, Laois County Council will arrange for a survey to be carried out to determine the traffic speeds on the approaches to the pedestrian crossing.

Notice of Motion No: 35/2021

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council assess the issues relating to the boundary at Spindlewood Estate, Graiguecullen with people from other areas coming into the estate which is resulting in anti-social behaviour and is causing great concern and stress to the residents”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council staff will arrange to meet at this location in the coming week to see what can be done to improve the situation.

Councillor Fleming expressed concern in relation to the anti-social behaviour which is taking place under an overgrown hedge in the vicinity of the housing estate.

Notice of Motion No: 36/2021

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update and timescale regarding the taking in charge of Clarmallagh Estate, The Swan”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that a number of issues need to be resolved in relation to this estate, namely CCTV survey, As Built Drawings, Wayleaves, repairs to footpaths, construction of at least 2no. additional manholes and a report on the condition of the public lighting.

A Bond is in place in relation to this development and the Planning Section will be holding a meeting with the Bond Holder to consider options to resolving the above items. An update on this including a timescale will be given at the next meeting

Notice of Motion No: 37/2021

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council supply rubbish bins for Vicarstown”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet to review the potential for bin locations in the village.

Notice of Motion No: 38/2021

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council inspect the road outside house number 18 Oakley Park, Graiguecullen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will investigate this location and carry out any necessary repair works required.

Notice of Motion No: 39/2021

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council inspect the Long Lane, Ballyteskin, Stradbally with a view to resurfacing the road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that this road is included in the annual road surfacing programme. The works are expected to be carried out in June/July.

Notice of Motion No: 40/2021

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council investigate the possibility of constructing an additional social housing unit on the vacant site at the maisonettes at Crowe Lane, Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the Housing Department have indicated that the land in question is currently zoned Open Space and Amenity. The Planning Department have been asked to examine and advise on same.

A discussion took place on the suitability of the vacant site for housing purposes and it was agreed to have an update for the next meeting.

Notice of Motion No: 41/2021

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council liaise with Offaly County Council in relation to the installation of a footpath on Bog Lane, Portarlinton from the entrance to Derryounce Walks to Botley Lane Industrial Estate”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet with the Edenderry Municipal District office to scope the extent of the works required.

Notice of Motion No: 42/2021

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council take Crossneen Manor Estate in Graiguecullen in charge”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that the site will be assessed for taking in charge. However, there are outstanding issues in relation to compliance with conditions and with regard to the wastewater infrastructure which need to be addressed prior to taking in charge.

Councillor Aidan Mullins indicated that this Notice of Motion had been raised in March of 2017 and it was noted that the expiry on the bond was December 2017. Further issues were identified in May of 2018 and the bond was extended to September 2018. An update was requested for the next meeting of the Municipal District.

Notice of Motion No: 43/2021

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council put measures in place to make safe the junction where the R430 meets Joe’s Rd at Killeslin”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to carry out repairs to the localised

subsidence on the edge of Joe's Road. Laois County Council will also arrange to install bollards to prevent traffic encroaching on the footpath at this junction.

Councillor Aisling Moran requested an update on the TII addressing Laois County Council.

Notice of Motion No: 44/2021

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council investigate the possibility of carrying out a speed zone review around the County as some of the roads could take a higher speed limit and some minor roads need a reduction in speed limit for the safety of all road users and in doing so, also, to consider the changing of bye-laws to prevent HGV's from travelling on roads that are not suitable”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland provide guidance to County Councils in relation to setting and managing speed limits in Ireland. The recommended interval for conducting speed limit reviews is 5 years. The previous speed limit review in County Laois was adopted by the members in 2019. The next speed limit review is scheduled to commence in 2023.

Councillor Moran enquired as to whether or not a speed review could be done earlier than 2023 and requested that the Director for Services or Senior Engineer attend the next meeting to discuss.

Notice of Motion No: 45/2021

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair the damaged fence at Sleaty as previously pointed out”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The members were advised that Laois County Council have recently completed the works at this location.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

Councillor Ben Brennan raised the following Notice of Motion which had been dealt with in his absence at the March meeting of the Municipal District as follows:

“That Laois County Council give an update on the taking in charge of Doirin Alainn, Ballylinan”. The response was that the estate is already taken in charge.

Councillor Brennan indicated that there are a number of outstanding issues at this estate including manholes which are in need of repair and unfinished footpaths. It was agreed to follow up the matter with the Planning Department.

7. TIME & DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 19th of May 2021 at 2.00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams. This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Aisling Moran, Cathaoirleach