

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL  
DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2017 in ÁRAS  
AN CHONTAE AT 2.00 p.m.**

**PRESENT** Mr. John Moran, Cathaoirleach (In the Chair)  
Mr. Aidan Mullins M.C.C.  
Mr. Paschal McEvoy, M.C.C.  
Mr. Tom Mulhall, M.C.C.  
Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C.

**APOLOGIES:** Mr. Padraig Fleming, M.C.C.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance  
Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer  
Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff officer

**1. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 15<sup>TH</sup> OF NOVEMBER 2017**

On the proposal of Councillor Ben Brennan seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall, the minutes of the November meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

**3. PROGRESS REPORT**

The report was noted and the Members complimented Mr John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer on the works that had been completed since the last meeting.

Mr. John Ormond indicated that the footpath at the Railway Bridget at Shiphouse, Portarlington will be extended by approximately 100m to the newly - completed roadside green area during 2018.

In response to Councillor Mullins, Mr. Murphy, Head of Finance advised that the sale of the former AIB building on Main Street, Portarlington was proceeding and was expected to be completed shortly, while a separate sale involves another property in Bracklone Street, Portarlington.

Councillor Mullins also sought an update on proposals for the derelict site on Foxcroft Street where a building has been demolished.

Councillor Mulhall welcomed the installation of two speed detection signs at Kilmullen and noted that they are proving successful. Councillor Mulhall also welcomed the additional funding received for Local Improvement Schemes. The Barrow Drainage works were also welcomed.

Councillor Brennan requested that the hedge be trimmed down on the Castlecomer Road. Mr. John Ormond advised that the works will be completed during February 2018.

#### 4. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

##### **Notice of Motion No: 145/2017**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council give an update on the Taking in Charge of Gracefield Manor in Ballylinan”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the Planning Section have contacted both Capital Assets and Capital Assets in relation to the resolution plan for this estate. A programme of works have been agreed and initially Laois Council Council were to carry out the works with Capital Assets under the bond, however the ownership of the Bond changed (to above named). A further update will be given for the next meeting.

Councillor Mullins requested that the Council draw down the Bond and complete the outstanding works to allow the estate to be taken in charge.

##### **Notice of Motion No: 146/2017**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council give an update on when Railway Mews estate in Portarlinton will be taken in charge”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Water Services are finalising reports for the taking in charge of 4 estates, including Rahin Wood, Ballylinan. Railway Mews will be inspected in February 2018.

##### **Notice of Motion No: 147/2017**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council give an update on the Taking in Charge of Graigueaverne Estate in Ballybrittas”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall . The Members were advised that there are issues to be addressed including water connection to public mains to eliminate the on-site water treatment plant, handover of the sewage pumping station which is outside the control of the Developer, and repairs to footpaths, boundary walls and the replacement of road markings & final surfacing of Phase II of the development. Until such time as all these issues are fully resolved, it will not be considered for Taking in Charge.

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance indicated that he would have a further update at the next meeting.

**Notice of Motion No: 148/2017**

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council put in place measures to alleviate flooding outside house at Tierhogar, Portarlinton”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that a *topographic survey has recently been completed at this location and a drainage design is currently being undertaken.*

*It is anticipated that works at this location will be undertaken in quarter 1 2018.*

**Notice of Motion No: 149/2017**

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council erect signs on local roads making drivers aware that there is cyclists and pedestrians using these roads”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that ***Chapter 6 of the traffic signs manual states that Warning Sign W 143, Cyclists, is available for use where it is considered necessary to warn traffic of a cycle track crossing or joining a road, other than at a controlled crossing. It may also be used to warn of the likely presence of a significant number of cyclists along a route.***

*Sign W 140, Pedestrians, is available for use where the visibility to an uncontrolled pedestrian crossing or to a zebra crossing is impaired by a bend or hump in the road. The sign may also be provided where vulnerable road users are likely to cross a road in appreciable numbers or where pedestrians frequently use a road without a proper footway. Any specific locations identified by Councillor Mulhall can be reviewed to determine if the above warning signs are suitable for specific locations identified.*

**Notice of Motion No: 150/2017**

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council remove the grass mound on the centre of Ballyaddin Lane and also put in place bays for vehicles to pass going in the opposite direction”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormonde, A/S.E.E. *will inspect this location and have a survey completed to identify suitable locations for passing bays. Once the locations have been identified I will meet with Councillor Mulhall on site and also arrange for the grass in the centre of the lane to be sprayed once weather conditions are suitable.*

**Notice of Motion No: 151/2017**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council carry out works at house on the Timahoe Road the Swan to prevent flooding in her yard”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond will arrange for the patching unit to complete works which will divert surface water past Orla Ryan’s entrance and will also arrange to have additional water cuts open at this location.

**Notice of Motion No: 152/2017**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council give an update on yellow box at pedestrian crossing in front of the church Stradbally to help alleviate traffic congestion at school times”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Road Design will include installation of Yellow box in 2018 programme of works.

**Notice of Motion No: 153/2017**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council ask TII to remove the hedge on the Portlaoise Road past Knowles house, Stradbally and make this stretch of waste land into a green area”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that funding application will be submitted to TII in 2018. Subject to funding approval these works will be included in 2018 programme of works.

**Notice of Motion No: 154/2017**

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council give an an update on the bridge wall on the R431 in Mayo, Crettyard”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that *these works have been procured and a Contractor has been recently appointed to carry out the works. It is expected that the works will be completed early in 2018*

**Notice of Motion No: 155/2017**

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council take measures to resolve the flooding at the farm entrance in Ballyadams”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that a contractor has been appointed to complete the works on Laois County Council property and it is expected that the works will be completed by the end of January 2018.

**Notice of Motion No: 156/2017**

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council erect 2 lights on the road to Doonane Church”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that there is no funding for new street lighting installation. But this location can be consider in councillor’s discretionary funding 2018.

**Notice of Motion No: 157/2017**

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council check the Gayles Bridge at Castletown, Ballylinan, repairs previously carried out – however it is now cracked as a result of an accident”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond will inspect this Bridge and have any necessary repairs completed once weather conditions permit

**Notice of Motion No: 158/2017**

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:

***“That a stop sign be erected at Grange Maganey”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond will meet with Councillor Moran on site to identify the exact location and a stop sign will be installed where required.

**Notice of Motion No: 159/2017**

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council indicate a timeframe for the repair of the bridge on the Killen Road, Maganey”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that it is expected that these works will be completed by early January 2018.

It was agreed in the absence of Councillor Moran that the replies to his Notices of Motion be read out and noted in the Minutes.

**Notice of Motion No: 160/2017**

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council give an update on the remaining issues on the taking in charge of Rahin Wood Ballylinan”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that the taking in Charge of this estate is at an advanced stage. As Constructed Drawings for the foul sewer and watermain have been received. Water Services have carried out their inspection. We are awaiting drawing of the gas network in the estate to progress the taking in charge. The estate has been advertised for taking in charge. It is hoped that the estate will be on the Agenda for the January/February 2018 Council meeting.

**Notice of Motion No: 161/2017**

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council resolve the flooding issues at Crossard, Wolfhill which is affecting two houses”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that this location has recently been inspected and the drainage works identified will be completed in the coming days.

**Notice of Motion No: 162/2017**

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council take measures to alleviate the flooding/ponding on the road between Wolfhill National School and Wolfhill Church”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/S.E.E. will arrange for a work crew and excavator to open water cuts along this section of road. This location will be monitored over the coming weeks to determine if further drainage works will be required.

**6. Time and date of next meeting:**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on **21<sup>st</sup> of February 2018 at the 2.00 p.m.**

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**John Moran, Cathaoirleach**