

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2019 IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE**

PRESENT Mr. Paschal McEvoy, Cathaoirleach (In the Chair)
Mr. Aidan Mullins M.C.C.
Ms. Aisling Moran, M.C.C.
Mr. Tom Mulhall, M.C.C.
Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C.
Mr. Pdraig Fleming, 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 NOVEMBER MEETING OF GRAIGUECULLEN / PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 20TH OF NOVEMBER 2019

On the proposal of Councillor Ben Brennan seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall, the minutes of the November meeting held on the 20th of November 2019 were confirmed 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. Councillor Mullins made enquiries regarding the emptying of bins, the mini-sweeper and Eircom covers to which Mr. Philip McVeigh, S.E.E. responded on.

Councillor Moran referred to the large tree which was partially removed adjacent to the N80 at Grange, Stradbally and indicated that the tree is still coming out a little onto the road. In relation to Sli Na Mona in Portarlington Irish Water has indicated that there is a pressure problem here.

Councillor Brennan referred to the street cleaning and requested that more street machines be made available. The works on Bilboa Bridge have ceased and Mr. Philip McVeigh, S.E.E. indicated that he would have the matter checked out.

3. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 127/2019

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council clean up and fence the field at the back of the Group Housing Estate in Portarlington”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that having carried out an inspection of the land in question Laois County Council’s Housing Department will make an application to the Department to seek funding to cover the costs associated with a new fence and to clean up the field.

Notice of Motion No: 128/2019

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out safety measures in Emo Village at the Junction for Emo Court”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E. will arrange to meet the Elected Member on site to identify exact location and required traffic claiming measures. Once issues are established Road Design will prepare safety proposals subject to funding being available.

Notice of Motion No: 129/2019

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council remove the grass from the green area in front of the two houses of the side that they purchased recently in the Orchard, Stradbally and make car park spaces out of that area”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the provision of car parking spaces in this instance is a roads issue and perhaps could be considered when preparing the 2020 Road Works Programme. Details will be forwarded to the Roads Department for consideration.

Notice of Motion No: 130/2019

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council replace directional signs at Munney Cross, Timahoe as these signs are covered in graffiti”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for the signage at the crossroads to be renewed.

Notice of Motion No: 131/2019

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council re-instate road markings at the Heath Church on the road from Treacy’s Cross.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will inspect this location and will arrange for the road markings to be reinstated, as required. This work is on the list for the Contractor to carry out.

Notice of Motion No: 132/2019

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council give an update as to when the new social houses are expected to go to build at Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that the Housing Department is not in a position to give a clear indication of when construction may start on this site. This development will be considered under the Departmental 4 Stage Approval Process. We currently have Stage 1 approval and endeavour to make the Stage 2 application in Q1 2020. It will be possible later in 2020 to give an indicative construction start date.

Notice of Motion No: 133/2019

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install line markings at the T Junction at Coolnariska/Collane, Killeshin including stop/text and centre line and also to install three directional signs on the appropriate roads to the junction in the interest of health & safety”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has arranged for these linemarkings to be installed at this T-junction. Directional signage on the approach roads will also be installed. These will improve safety for car turning-movements at the junction.

Notice of Motion No: 134/2019

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council install line markings at the T junction at Aughanure, Ballylinan including stop/text and centre line in the interest of health and safety”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has arranged for stop line/text and centreline line markings to be installed at this T-junction. These will enhance safety at the junction by improving the visibility from the location of the new stop line.

Notice of Motion No: 135/2019

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council resolve the flooding issue on the road outside the house identified at Ballyadams and take whatever action is necessary to prevent water ponding on the road during heavy periods of rainfall that at times covers most of the road in the interest of health & safety”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has recently carried out drainage works at this location (including the installation of a new gully, pipe work and surface water storage area) to resolve the flooding issue on the road. Further surfacing works are also to be carried out at this location to prevent water ponding on the hard shoulder

Notice of Motion No: 136/2019

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council erect two signs welcome to County Laois at the two bridges across the Barrow in Graiguecullen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council can arrange to have these signs installed. A meeting on site to agree the locations for the signs and to specify the design for the signage would be necessary. This could then be progressed with the procurement and installation of the signs.

Notice of Motion No: 137/2019

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council address the problem at the house identified where the water is lying outside at Monure”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has carried out some works at this location. Further drainage works will be carried out to resolve the water ponding on the hard shoulder.

Notice of Motion No: 138/2019

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council cut the hedges and erect a sign at the Castlecomer Road Roundabout as you enter Graiguecullen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to have these works carried out in the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 139/2019

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council remove the hedge at Killaban at Ryan’s Corner for health and safety purposes as this will leave a clear line of sight making the junction much safer”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has completed the first stage of safety improvement works at Ryan’s corner with the removal of trees on the bend. Further hedge-removal works will be carried out in order to significantly improve sight-lines at the junction.

Notice of Motion No: 140/2019

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair the road from Shrule Castle to the Sleaty Road Roundabout filling all potholes, etc”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council completed these pothole repairs in the last week.

Notice of Motion No: 141/2019

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council extinguish the public right of way on the Derrymoyle Lane from the last house on the Portlaoise Road side to the first house on the Sleaty Road side and to hang gates on either end giving the landowners a key for access so as to alleviate the anti social behaviour and illegal dumping”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will commence this process in relation to Derrymoyle Lane, under Section 73 of the Roads Act for the ‘Extinguishment of public rights of way’. Derrymoyle Lane is currently designated as a public road (L-39932) between the N80 Portlaoise Road and the Sleaty Road (just over 1.5km in length). It is a tertiary road and is in extremely poor condition, impassable by car or van. There is some dumping occurring along the lane as well as some anti-social behaviour reported. Extinguishing the right of way will significantly enhance the area for the local residents that live at each end of the lane as well as the landowners along the lane itself.

The issue of a passing bay at this location would require TII input and Mr. Philip McVeigh, S.E.E. agreed to refer this to the Road Design Office.

Notice of Motion No: 142/2019

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council replace the broken fence along the river Barrow bank on the green area opposite Marian Hill in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for chainlink fencing to be installed where the existing fencing is badly damaged or missing.

Notice of Motion No: 143/2019

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the taking in charge of The Glen, Kilnacourt”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that although the developer has indicated he wishes to have part of the development taken in charge, there are a number of issues to be addressed (in particular the Sewage Pumping Station) before it can be recommended for taking in charge. It should also be noted that the developer is in the process of selling the undeveloped part of the site (including the unfinished apartment block) to another developer.

Councillor Mullins requested that Planning Section liaise with the developer to bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

Notice of Motion No: 144/2019

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 Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that this estate has not been completed and that there is a current live planning permission to complete the estate. A CCTV of the completed element has been submitted. There is no application from the developer to take the estate in charge and no “As Constructed” drawings have been submitted.

It was also noted that Kingscroft Developments have been requested to finish the part of the estate which will be part of the Relief Road for Portarlington

5. Time & Date/ for Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 19th of February 2020 at 2.00 p.m. This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Paschal McEvoy, Cathaoirleach