

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9th OF DECEMBER 2020**

- PRESENT** Ms. Aisling Moran, Cathaoirleach
Mr. Aidan Mullins M.C.C.
Mr. Paschal McEvoy, M.C.C.
Mr. Pdraig Fleming, M.C.C.
Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Ms. Julie Bergin, Financial Management Accountant
Mr. Philip McVeigh, A/Senior Engineer
Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer
- APOLOGIES:** Mr. Tom Mulhall, M.C.C.

1. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF GRAIGUECULLEN / PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 18TH OF NOVEMBER 2020

On the proposal of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming, the minutes of the November meeting held on the 18th of November 2020 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.

3. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 100/2020

Councillor Pdraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council give an update on its plans to resolve the serious flooding on the Rahin Road, Ballylinan which affects at least 12 houses and to also resolve the road infrastructure and footpaths which have been affected by the flooding”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is currently assessing several options to resolve the flooding issue at this location. Once the preferred option is confirmed Laois County Council will seek funding for the cost of the works required.

Notice of Motion No: 101/2020

Councillor Pdraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council give an update on the safety measures to be carried out including the removal of the ditch at Castletown Cross, Ballylinan with a view to making this crossroads safe for all road users”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is currently in discussion with the landowner with a view to improving sightlines at this junction. This safety scheme has also been included in our 2021 funding application to Department of Transport Tourism and Sport.

Notice of Motion No: 102/2020

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council carry out drainage improvements on the R430 from Graiguecullen to The Swan so as to minimise flooding over the winter months”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is currently carrying out water cuts and clearing of drainage channels along the R430 between Graiguecullen and The Swan.

Notice of Motion No: 103/2020

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council give an update on the funding application for safety measures at Oakvale, Stradbally and also an update on footpath to the cemetery”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that this site/junction had been discussed with Transport Infrastructure Ireland’s Safety Engineer. Road Design has included this site for the TII Safety Improvement (HD17) programme for 2021. Any works at this location will be subject to approval of proposed solution / design and funding from the TII.

Councillor McEvoy indicated that it is essential that these be carried out as a matter of urgency as it is an extremely dangerous road. She requested that an update be sought from Mr. Adrian Barrett, Senior Engineer and that a timeline for the works be obtained from the T.I.I.

Notice of Motion No: 104/2020

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That this Council assist residents from Ballybrittas Village to connect to the sewage scheme servicing the local housing estate (Graigueavern) – this estate was taken in charge recently”

This notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that technically, the connection of existing developments to the Graigueavern Lodge Wastewater Network will require the provision of gravity foul sewers through the village in excess of 500m in length to cater for 80% of all existing developments. In addition, 300 m of foul sewer and a pumping station is required to pick up the remaining 20%. In September 2020 the Council submitted applications to Irish Water under their Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme 2020 to 2024. The provision of a

wastewater network connecting to the network in Graigueavern Lodge for Ballybrittas was included in this submission. Water Services will be engaging further with Irish Water Asset Strategy at a workshop on Tuesday, December 15th following which a further update will be provided.

Notice of Motion No: 105/2020

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That this Council carry out repairs on the road at Fossey Upper, Timahoe – part of this road has collapsed”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has recently carried out patching unit repairs in this area. We will inspect this location to identify further works required.

Notice of Motion No: 106/2020

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That this Council consider the erection of three arms on each pole for public lights in order to increase the quality of the lighting and improve the effectiveness of same and also consider the possibility of a system where a box could be wound down to make it easier for the replacement of the bulbs”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that there are design standards and specifications for the installation of street lights which we follow. The type of lanterns and poles are selected using best practice and lighting guidelines. Installing additional lanterns on existing poles will not comply with lighting design and health and safety requirements.

The Members sought clarification from Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E on whether this proposal might be feasible for new lighting columns.

The Members also enquired as to the possibility of the staff member replying to individual Notices of Motions being present at the Municipal District meetings to take further queries that the Members may have. This was proposed by Councillor Ben Brennan and seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran.

Notice of Motion No: 107/2020

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council ensure that when sub-contractors are finished a job in a particular area that they be requested to remove all signage for it so that it can be re-used or re-cycled for the next job instead of charging the next job for similar signage”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that the Council will request Contractors to remove all temporary roadworks signage once they are no longer required and the job has been satisfactorily completed.

Notice of Motion No: 108/2020

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That this Council request the TII to carry out a pilot project in Laois to change the colour of the tar on the roads to identify the various speed zones/limits”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that TII has pavement specifications and standards for different type of roads. Road Design will be discussing this with TII to consider the option of different tar colours.

Councillor Moran indicated that her Notice of Motion refers to road safety measures and traffic calming and enquired if alternative options could be investigated. It was agreed to refer the matter to Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.

Notice of Motion No: 109/2020

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council repair the road at Kellystown, Wolfhill”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet the elected member at this location to identify the extent of works required

Notice of Motion No: 110/2020

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

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

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that documentation has now been received from Carlow County Council. It is expected that this estate will be recommended for taking in charge by the end of Quarter 1 2021.

A discussion ensued regarding the difference in rent that are currently paid, i.e. Laois County Council charges a maximum of €93 and Carlow County Council charges a maximum of €180. It was agreed that the matter could be raised at the proposed joint meeting of the two Municipal Districts.

Notice of Motion No: 111/2020

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council put in 2 or 3 lay-bys on the Newline Road, Mayo, Crettyard”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the Council will arrange to install these lay-bys early in the New Year.

Notice of Motion No: 112/2020

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council take Cill an Oir Estate in Graiguecullen in charge”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that A CCTV inspection will be carried out prior to the end of January 2021. The result of this will determine the next stage of the taking in charge process. It is hoped to have this estate taken in charge by May 2021.

Notice of Motion No: 113/2020

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council engage with Eircom to repair damaged and unsafe manhole covers on footpaths and roads around Portarlinton and other areas in the County”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has attempted to engage with Eir on several occasions over the last year. A meeting with Eir was held in Portarlinton at the beginning of March to identify the defects. We have not to date received any schedule or programme of works from Eir to repair the defects that were identified.

It was requested that Eir be contacted in relation to same as a matter of urgency.

Notice of Motion No: 114/2020

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council erect additional public lights on the road outside the entrance area to Portarlinton Railway Station”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Road Design will arrange a meeting with the elected member to identify the exact location. The installation of new lights will be subject to funding being available.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence. Councillor Aisling Moran raised the matter of Management Companies which was discussed at the November meeting of the Municipal District.

It was requested that a Fire Safety Report be made available at the next meeting and that an update be sought from Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance.

The Members requested an update on the taking in charge of both Cill Beg Manor and The Orchard for the next meeting.

The Members requested that the well wishes for the festive season be forwarded to Councillor Tom Mulhall.

5. TIME & DATE FOR NEXT MEETING & SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on **17th of February 2021 at 2.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.** The schedule of meetings for 2021 was also agreed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Aisling Moran, Cathaoirleach