

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24TH JULY 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.

APOLOGIES: Mr. Pádraig Fleming, M.C.C.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Julie Bergin, A/Head of Finance
Mr. Philip McVeigh, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer

1. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING OF GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 24TH OF APRIL 2019

On the proposal of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the minutes of the April meeting held on the 24th of April 2019 were confirmed as circulated.

Councillor Aidan Mullins referred to Notice of Motion 42/2019 in relation to the installation of new sections of footpath between the GAA ground and the new primary school on Canal Road and the other section on the Edenderry Road leading out to Slí na Mona estate. Mr. Philip McVeigh, Senior Executive Engineer indicated that he would investigate both these locations.

It was noted that there have been two meetings with the ESB in relation to the pedestrian crossing at Bracklone Street, Portarlington. The Council is awaiting confirmation of their requirements for the civil works. It was noted that the lights at the new boy's primary school are not connected and that the lights on the Vicarstown Road, Stradbally and Newtown, Crettyard need to be connected. Mr. Philip McVeigh advised that he would report these matters to the Public Lighting Section.

The issue of street cleaning in Portarlington was raised by Councillor Mullins and it was requested that same be increased in line with Portlaoise.

Councillor Ben Brennan requested that the following matters be investigated:-

- Hedgecutting on the Northern Relief Road
- Litter near Tommy Murphy Park Estate
- Re-Surfacing of road at Ardenteggle – Mr. Philip McVeigh agreed to meet Councillor Brennan at this location to discuss

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: 55/2019

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on their Government budget allocation for adaptation works on Council houses including cost of works carried out to date by Laois County Council, cost of works in progress and amount received in 2018”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that the Council has been advised that the 2019 allocation for adaptation works to our social housing stock is €242,000 – this is a reduction of one third on the 2018 allocation of €362,000. To date works to the value of €208,713 have been completed and works to the value of €124,322 are in progress. A further 7 cases, where works are urgently required, have been identified. The estimated costs of these works is €68,317.

A submission has been made to the Department requesting that the allocation be increased in order to meet the above commitments and further emergency works which may come to the fore before year end.

The Members expressed concern in relation to the reduction. Ms. Julie Bergin, A/Head of Finance indicated that she would discuss with Mr. Michael Rainey, A/Director of Services.

Notice of Motion No: 56/2019

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install a speed ramp at the Community Creche in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pashcal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location and would like to meet with the management of the Community Creche to review possible solutions for this area.

Notice of Motion No: 57/2019

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the Taking in Charge of Rosecourt Estate in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that Rosecourt & Rosecourt Lawns were formally taken in charge at the Council Meeting of 27th November 2000

Notice of Motion No: 58/2019

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council relocate the sign for the Rock of Dunamaise on the N80 from the local road (The Rock Lane) to the more direct route at Grange Upper”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that there are two directional signs at the existing junction on the N80 for the Rock of Dunamaise. These are located in the Portlaoise Municipal District. This request will be reviewed by Mr. Philip McVeigh, S.E.E. in consultation with the Area Engineer for the Portlaoise Municipal District.

Notice of Motion No: 59/2019

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council make safe the junction Charter Road to Ballintekin and the Graig Road, Stradbally with stop sign and line markings”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to install ‘Stop’ line road markings and signage at this junction in order to make the junction safer.

Notice of Motion No: 60/2019

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council prune the trees on the green in Court Square, Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to have the trees pruned in consultation with the landowner and in the autumn outside of the nesting season.

Notice of Motion No: 61/2019

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update as to when will work begin on the wall at Timahoe Cemetery”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that an extensive survey of the 27 local authority cemeteries in Laois was completed in 2018 and a report on the proposed operation and maintenance of the cemeteries prepared together with recommendations for additional funding. On foot of the report additional monies have been made available for the funding of cemetery improvement works throughout the county. Funding of €30,000 per District has been allocated for 2019.

Improvement works are proposed at Timahoe as per the MD Works programme – Repair of damaged walls and railings. These works are at tender stage and it is envisaged that works will be carried out in Q4 2019 / Q1 2020.

The provision of paths and plinths to delineate additional grave spaces at cemeteries are considered essential works based on available grave spaces at each cemetery and separately funded.

Mr. Philip McVeigh, S.E.E. indicated that he would request further detail on the scope of the works from the Environment Section.

Notice of Motion No: 62/2019

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council replace the footpath at The Drive Vicarstown”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this footpath. The footpath is currently in poor condition and it is in need of replacement. The cost to replace the full length of footpath is €22,500 inc.VAT and we will be seeking funding to carry out these works as a priority.

Notice of Motion No: 63/2019

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install a wheelchair parking bay on the Main Street in Stradbally outside Dunne’s Public House”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that these works will be included in the next round of roadmarkings that are being carried out in the area. We expect this should be completed in the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 64/2019

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council put a signpost coming from the school in Wolfhill that there is no left turn down to Kyle Lane and on the way back out that there is no right turn”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that this is a particularly tight junction with turning movements by long timber transport lorries. Laois County Council will arrange to install the signs at this junction in the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 65/2019

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council change the yield sign on the exit of Crosneen Manor to a stop sign”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the installation of this stop sign at the exit from the estate will improve road safety for traffic exiting out onto the Leighlin Road from the Crosneen Manor housing estate. Laois County Council will install this sign.

Notice of Motion No: 66/2019

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council resolve the flooding problems on the Killeshin Road in Graiguecullen near the school”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to have the required drainage works carried out at this location on the R430.

Councillor Padraig Fleming was absent from the meeting but it was agreed that his Notice of Motions and responses be read into the Minutes of the Meeting.

Notice of Motion No: 67/2019

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council refresh the road markings/ramps in the Graiguecullen area, in particular outside St. Fiacs school, Barrowvale Estate entrance, Crosneen/O’ Loughlin Road and to assess other relevant areas”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to have these road markings refreshed and will carry out an assessment of roadmarkings in Graiguecullen.

Notice of Motion No: 68/2019

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair the footpaths on the N80 between the Barrow Bridge and the Sleaty Road roundabout on both sides and also to carry out an assessment of footpaths in the Graiguecullen area including estates”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for these footpath repairs to be carried out in the coming weeks and will carry out a condition assessment of footpaths in the Graiguecullen area.

Notice of Motion No: 69/2019

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council resolve the flooding at the entrance near Hollymount”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for these works to be carried out in the next fortnight

Notice of Motion No: 70/2019

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council resolve the flooding issue in Killeshin on the R430

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location. These works will be carried out in the next fortnight.

Notice of Motion No: 71/2019

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council make safe the junction at Molloy's Cross on the R430”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Road Design will review this section of road for safety improvement. Any proposed works will be subject to funding being available.

Councillor Moran enquired as to the possibility of the NPA making a contribution towards getting these works done.

Notice of Motion No: 72/2019

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council give an update on when the road from Keelogue to Tolerton will be re-surfaced”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this stretch of road on the R430. These works will be carried out in the next fortnight.

4. Correspondence

Correspondence dated the 13th of June 2019 from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government was circulated to the Members in relation to Notice of Motion No: 40/2019 with regard to the rents for tenants in Fruithill Manor in Graiguecullen.

Councillor Mullins requested that the matter be discussed with Carlow County Council.

5. Time & Date for Next Meeting

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 25th of September 2019 at 2.00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Paschal McEvoy, Cathaoirleach