

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24TH OF MARCH 2021 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.

APOLOGIES: 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 FEBRUARY MEETING OF GRAIGUECULLEN / PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 18TH OF FEBRUARY 2021

On the proposal of Councillor A Mullins, seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the minutes of the February meeting held on the 18th of February 2021 were confirmed as circulated.

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance updated the members in relation Notice of Motion No. 02/21 and advised them that the cost of the controlled crossing at Station Road / Canal Road is €25,000 and that the cost of the Kilnacourt crossing is €30,000. He further advised that he would liaise with Mr Farhan Nasiem, Road Design, in relation to the advancement of the works.

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. AGREE AGENDA FOR MEETING WITH CARLOW MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

A copy of the draft agenda for the proposed meeting with Carlow Municipal District was circulated to the members and it was agreed that the following additional items be included for consideration: -

- Anti-social behaviour to be included with Housing
- CCTV/Illegal Dumping
- AOB

It was agreed that the draft agenda be forwarded to Carlow County Council for their perusal with possible dates for the meeting (via Microsoft Teams) being either April 8th/9th or 14th at 11.00 a.m.

4. FIX DATE FOR MEETING WITH EDENDERRY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance advised the Members that the Portarlington Regeneration Strategy 2030 report would be available shortly and it was agreed to hold a meeting in committee on the 7th of April at 11.00 a.m. via Microsoft teams to discuss same.

The draft agenda for the meeting with Edenderry Municipal District was circulated and it was agreed that the additional item of AOB be included on the agenda.

It was agreed that the draft agenda be forwarded to Offaly County Council for their perusal with possible dates for the meeting (via Microsoft teams) being either April 13th or 16th at 11.00 a.m.

5. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 16/2021

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

‘That Laois County Council give an update on the flooding of the green area inside the entrance of the Barrowvale / The Vale Estate, Graiguecullen and what are the options to resolve the issue in the interest of health and safety in particular for younger children’

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that this pond in the green area is part of the drainage infrastructure for the Barrowvale estate. It is designed to temporarily hold rainwater runoff when the downstream network capacity is exceeded. There may be a blockage in the network currently and we will arrange for it to be jetted in the coming week.

If the problem persists, consideration could be given to making the ponded area larger and shallower or fencing off the area around the pond.

Notice of Motion No: 17/2021

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council put a Controlled Traffic Light System (Stop /Go) on the existing pedestrian crossing on the R 430 at the location of Newtown National School/Crettyard Childcare Services/Mayo Doonane Credit Union in the interest of safety for children/parents and the general public and also give an update for the installation of a ramp on the Doonane Road (400 meters straight) already agreed in the interests of safety for all local residents and the general public”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has investigated this location and completed a risk assessment. The primary objective is to make the road crossing safe for parents and children during the school opening hours, as

there are good footpaths on both sides of the road. The most appropriate solution in this instance will be a controlled pedestrian crossing at the existing crossing with stop /go traffic lights and Laois County Council is currently progressing with these works. The ramp in Doonane is included in the 2021 works programme.

Notice of Motion No: 18/2021

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council repair the Bridge Wall at Old Derrig Bridge, Killeshin and install reflectors on the bridge wall”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this bridge and will arrange for these works to be carried out at the earliest opportunity.

Apologies were noted from Councillor Ben Brennan for his inability to attend the meeting.

Councillor Aidan Mullins agreed to propose the following three Notice of Motions which were submitted by Councillor Ben Brennan: -

19/2021 – Councillor Ben Brennan

“That this Council take in charge Meadows Way, Graiguecullen and give an update on the taking in charge of Tommy Murphy Housing estate also in Graiguecullen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that no formal request has been made by the Developer to have Meadows Way taken in charge. However, a meeting with the developer is due to take place to assess what will be required for the taking in charge process to commence. A thorough inspection of the Tommy Murphy Park will have to be carried out (when Covid-19 restrictions are eased) before a recommendation can be made.

20/2021 – Councillor Ben Brennan

“That Laois County Council install a ramp outside Newtown National School, Crettyard”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has investigated this location and completed a risk assessment. The primary objective is to make the road crossing safe for parents and children during the school opening hours, as there are good footpaths on both sides of the road. The most appropriate solution in this instance will be a controlled pedestrian crossing at the existing crossing with stop /go traffic lights and Laois County Council is currently progressing with these works.

21/2021 – Councillor Ben Brennan

“That Laois County Council give an update on the taking in charge of Doirin Alainn, Ballylinan”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that this estate is already in charge.

Notice of Motion No: 22/2021

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

‘That Laois County Council install a footpath from the Railway Station to Corrig Hill in Portarlinton’

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council applied to the National Transport Authority in early March (under the NTA Active Travel 2021 Programme) for funding for the installation of this footpath.

Notice of Motion No: 23/2021

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

‘That Laois County Council install CCTV cameras at the Children’s Playground in the People’s Park in Portarlinton’

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is mindful of data protection concerns on the use of CCTV in playgrounds. The Council has maximised public lighting in the vicinity and continues to liaise closely with An Garda Síochana in relation to the security of the Children’s playground in the People’s Park, Portarlinton.

Councillor Mullins indicated that there had been a number of incidents and damage carried out to the playground in Portarlinton recently and requested that the matter be referred to the Data Protection Commission for its advice.

Notice of Motion No: 24/2021

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council use a herbicide-free weed control system on footpaths, public parks, playgrounds, shrubs, flower beds etc”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council would be very much in favour of this approach to weed control and would consider it for a pilot project in a small area to start with. A suitable trial area could be designated for wildlife supporting biodiversity with information signage explaining the benefits. The Council’s Heritage Section would also be interested in supporting this initiative.

Councillor Aidan Mullins suggested the use of a new local company in Portarlinton, WeeditGreenIreland Ltd for the trial. The Company uses the Foamstream system, a combination of heat and a biodegradable foam to kill the weeds. It is herbicide free.

Notice of Motion No: 25/2021

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That this Council remove the high kerb from outside the Stradbally Health Centre and install a wheelchair car parking space”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has checked this location and the installation of a wheelchair parking space would be feasible here. Laois County Council will proceed to obtain a quotation for the works.

Notice of Motion No: 26/2021

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That this Council carry out works to address the flooding outside property at Kyle, Timahoe”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will investigate the flooding at this location with a view to carrying out the required remedial works.

Notice of Motion No: 27/2021

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois Council meet with Rath School management to assess car parking facilities at the school”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council would be very pleased to meet with the school management to review the parking facilities at the school.

Notice of Motion No: 28/2021

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That this Council erect lighting on the poles, which are already in place on the flat verge, at the houses on the N78 at Killyganard Cross, Ballylinan in the interest of health and safety as the area is extremely dark”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the Road Design Section will contact the elected member to identify the exact location and decide if street lights are required. New Street lights are not installed on other utility infrastructure i.e. telecom / ESB poles.

Notice of Motion No: 29/2021

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council re-surface the road from Ballylinan GAA to Aughanure Cross as it is a state of disrepair”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will investigate this section of road with a view to getting repair works carried out.

Notice of Motion No: 30/2021

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That this Council re-surface and widen the road at Ballyharmon Cross back towards the Ballickmoyler Road and also give an update on the Derrymoyle Lane”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has investigated this road and it is in need of re-surfacing. Laois County Council will look at the funding options to get this surfacing completed in 2021.

The report on the extinguishment of the right of way along Derrymoyle Lane has been prepared and it is planned to advertise this shortly.

Councillor Aisling Moran expressed concern regarding Derrymoyle Lane and requested if consideration could be given to the provision of a turning lane at the location or a road parallel to the road where sightlines would be better. Mr. Philip McVeigh indicated that this would involve submitting a proposal to the TII. It was agreed that a meeting on site with the Road Design Section would be arranged.

Councillor Aisling Moran raised concerns regarding sulky racing on these rural roads and it was noted that a Notice of Motion relating to same was on the agenda for the March meeting of Laois County Council.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

7. TIME & DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 21st of April 2021 at **2.00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.** This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Aisling Moran, Cathaoirleach