

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17th MAY 2017 in ÁRAS AN CHONTAE AT
2.00 p.m.**

PRESENT Mr. Paschal McEvoy M.C.C., Cathaoirleach
Mr. Aidan Mullins M.C.C.,
Mr. John Moran M.C.C.,
Mr. Tom Mulhall, M.C.C.
Mr. Pdraig Fleming, M.C.C.

APOLOGIES: Mr. Ben Brennan, 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 Minutes of the April Meeting held on the 19th of April 2017

On the proposal of Councillor John Moran seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins, the minutes of the meeting held on the 19th of April 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

2. Roads Progress Report

The report was noted and the members complimented the Council on the works that had been completed since the last meeting.

3. Fix Date for the Cathaoirleach's Reception – Portarlington Lions Club

The Members agreed that the Cathaoirleach's Reception for Portarlington Lions Club would be held on the 8th of June 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

4. TOWN & VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2017 and Mr. Gerry Murphy briefed the members on the contents and criteria of the scheme and responded to any queries raised by the Members. It was noted that the closing date for applications is the 30th of June 2017.

5. Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion No: 55/2017

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“To ask Laois County Council what land banks are in their possession in Portarlington for social housing and their plans to acquire additional land for this purpose”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that the Council has 2 land banks in Portarlinton at Ballymorris and Bracklone. A Design Team will be appointed in the coming weeks for the housing development in Ballymorris and the position with regard to our land at Bracklone will be reviewed in the coming months. We do not have plans to acquire additional lands at this point in time but other housing options are presently being considered on alternative sites in Portarlinton. Eight apartments in Bracklone Street will be made available by a Voluntary Housing Body for housing applicants in June 2017.

Councillor Aidan Mullins expressed concern regarding the current position in relation to the provision of housing. Councillor Tom Mulhall requested that a survey of vacant houses in Portarlinton be carried out. Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance responded to the various queries raised by the Members and confirmed that Laois County Council are in discussions with a number of voluntary housing bodies regarding Corrig Glen apartments with a view to acquiring some of these for social housing.

Notice of Motion No: 56/2017

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“To ask Laois County Council to enquire about the possibility of acquiring the site of the former Avon factory in Portarlinton for Community use”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. Councillor Aidan Mullins advised the meeting that Capital Assets Services are the Company to contact. Cerebrus act as special advisors to Promontoria Gem. It was agreed that Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance would contact the Company regarding the disposal of the site for community use to the Council. Councillor Tom Mulhall expressed concern regarding contamination on the site as well as temporary dwellings at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 57/2017

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“To ask Laois County Council to install double yellow lines inside the entrance to Portarlinton Enterprise Park to prevent parking at this location”

This Notice of Motions were seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond will arrange to meet Councillor Mullins on site to confirm the exact location of where the double yellow lines are required. These lines will be installed when the line marking contractor is next carrying out works in the Portarlinton Area, probably in the next 4 – 5 weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 58/2017

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council put measures in place on the L7981-70 Ballyfoyle to remove the water that lies on road between Cassidy’s and Connolly’s”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer will arrange to meet Councillor Moran on site at this location to determine the cause of the flooding and to identify what works are required to resolve this issue.

The following two Notice of Motions were discussed together:-

Notice of Motion No: 59/2017

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council replace the sign posts that have been taken at Old Court, Aughanure L3975-0. Also to replace the signpost gone at Killyganard Cross, L43973”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that both these locations will be inspected to determine what signs are missing. Replacement signs will be ordered and erected once delivered.

Notice of Motion No: 67/2017

Councillor Pdraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“To ask Laois County Council to give a timescale as to when the directional signs will be erected at Shaedog Cross, Ballylinan and also the Stop/Yield sign at Anneville , Hollymount”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that replacement finger post signs will be ordered and erected at Shadeoge Cross. Yield signs will be erected at Anneville. It is expected that these works will be completed within 10 to 12 weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 60/2017

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council put measures in place on the N78 between Mooney’s cross roads and Pedigree Corner to keep traffic off /out from the grass margin”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond will inspect this area on site to determine the extent of the work required. Minor works can be completed using the National Secondary maintenance budget. If significant works are required an application for funding will be submitted to Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Notice of Motion No: 61/2017

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council erect advanced warning stop sign on the R419 entering onto the R445 at the Heath”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy . The Members were advised that Laois County Council will erect an advanced warning stop sign at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 62/2017

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council remove the bollards at Main Street, Portarlinton at Centra Supermarket as this would enable traffic to enter from Main Street into the car park”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the bollards at this location are on private property and were not installed by Laois County Council. Should the owner of this private car park wish to open a vehicular entrance onto the Main Street it will be necessary to submit a planning application for the new entrance.

Notice of Motion No: 63/2017

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an up to date as to when the apartments in Bracklone Street, Portarlinton and the two bed houses in Dromineen Stradbally will be ready for tenancy”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy . The Members were advised that the apartments in Bracklone Street, Portarlinton will be made available to the Council in June and the six 2 bed-houses in Droiminin, Stradbally will be made available to the Council in July.

Notice of Motion No: 64/2017

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out necessary work on the footpath at Hunters Lane Stradbally “

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will complete a Land Registry search to determine if the footpath identified is a public footpath. If this footpath is in the charge of Laois County Council remedial works can be completed as part of 2017 footpath programme.

Notice of Motion No: 65/2017

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair the road outside Mary Oxley's house at Coolnabacca Timahoe”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond will arrange to have the patching unit carry out repairs at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 66/2017

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out necessary work to alleviate the flooding out side a house at Ballycarroll, Killenard”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall . The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond will arrange to meet Councillor McEvoy on site at this location to determine the cause of the flooding and to identify what works are required to resolve this issue.

Notice of Motion No: 68/2017

Councillor Pdraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“ To ask Laois County Council for an update on their negotiations with Transport Infrastructure Ireland regarding the flooding issue on to the N 80 from the Ballylehane Lower Road ,near Mill Cross , Pedigree Corner”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Members were advised that Road Design is preparing detailed design and costings at present. Road Design will submit funding application to TII to resolve flooding issue at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 69/2017

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council outline the up to date position on the taking in charge of Highfield Manor, Graiguecullen and what remaining issues are there and what is the timescale to its being taking in charge”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Members were advised that correspondence was received from the Developer on the 15/5/2017 and the Council is assisting him in preparing a wayleave agreement. This is the main issue outstanding. The taking in charge timeframe is dependent on the wayleave agreement being signed by the landowner.

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

Notice of Motion No: 70/2017

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council makes safe the Croughan Cross at Ballyhide, Carlow”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond will arrange to meet with Councillor Brennan on site to determine the scope of works required at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 71/2017

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the road at Lanigan’s Lough as this road floods every winter and is impassable”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that *Mr. John Ormond will arrange to meet with Councillor Brennan on site to investigate the flooding issue at this location.*

Notice of Motion No: 72/2017

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council cleans the road and cuts the grass between the Castlecomer Road Roundabout and Graiguecullen Chapel”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to have these works completed in the next two to three weeks.

4. Correspondence

The Members were advised that no response had been received from the H.S.E. regarding the discontinuation of physiotherapy treatment at the health centre in Graiguecullen. It was agreed that a reminder letter issue to the H.S.E. in this regard.

5. Time & Date for next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on the 21st of June 2017 at 2.00 p.m. and that the A.G.M. would be held on the same day at 3.30 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Paschal McEvoy M.C.C. Cathaoirleach