

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19th OF MAY 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. Pdraig Fleming, M.C.C.
Mr. P.J. Kelly, 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

At the outset the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Aisling Moran, welcomed Councillor P J Kelly to his first Municipal meeting and wished him well.

Councillor Aisling Moran praised the raising of the Pride Flag at County Hall, Portlaoise on International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia on May 17th.

**(1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the March meeting of the Graiguecullen
Portarlington Municipal District held on the 21st of April 2021**

On the proposition of Councillor Aidan Mullins seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the April meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 21st of April 2021 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.

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance confirmed that the ownership and zoning of a vacant site adjacent to Congress Terrace, Portarlington is currently being checked and that there would be an update available for the next meeting (Notice of Motion No: 40/2021).

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance confirmed that there would be an update available for the next meeting on the taking in charge of Clarmallagh Estate, The Swan (Notice of Motion No: 56/2021).

It was agreed that there would be updates at the next meeting on the taking in charge of the Orchard Housing Estate, Stradbally (Notice of Motion 65/2020), Cil Beag Manor Housing Estate, Stradbally (Notice of Motion 66/2020 and Crossneen Manor, Graiguecullen.

(3) NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion: 46/2021

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council install a ramp in Whitethorn Grove, Ballylinan as you drive towards the main area in the estate in the interest of health and safety for all and also to jet the gullies in the same estate where relevant”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location and is currently considering options for traffic calming. A meeting with the Residents Association to agree the scope of works would be welcome. The road gullies in the estate have now been jetted.

Notice of Motion No: 47/2021

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council examine what safety measures can be taken to slow traffic on the Milltown Road, Ballylinan as well as considering the estates on this road as follows: i.e. Kilkenny Road Estate and Doireann Alainn in the interest of health and safety for all”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location with a view to installing traffic calming measures on this road both within the 80kph and 50kph speed limit zones.

Notice of Motion No: 48/2021

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council permanently repair the road crossing at Shanragh, Wolfhill following flood repairs”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is currently seeking quotations for the reinstatement works at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 49/2021

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council review the contradictory and confusing speed limit signs on the relief road in Graiguecullen and to reduce the limit to 80 kph”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that the Road Design section is arranging to rectify the speed sign issue. Speed signs will be replaced as per speed limit byelaws.

Notice of Motion - 50/2021

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council progress the acquisition of land for the provision of a parking area for school buses and cars at Sandy Lane Primary School in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that a new dropping-off lay-bye opposite the primary school on Sandy Lane was included in planning permission (09/357) which was previously granted for a development on the private land opposite the school. This planning application is expired since 28/06/2020. Installation of a lay-bye opposite to the primary school will be included as a condition for any future planning applications for this site. In the interim, the council will seek funding from the National Transport Authority to progress a solution to the issues identified at this location.

Councillor Aidan Mullins outlined that there is a requirement for parking facilities to be provided as approximately 100 students now attend the school.

Notice of Motion No: 51/2021

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the provision of traffic calming measures on Lea Road and Ballymorris Road Roundabout in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Road Design will arrange a site meeting with elected member to examine the exact issues at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 52/2021

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council remove the raised surrounding from the footpath at Ashtrees, Stradbally (formerly an area where a tree was planted but it has been removed). This is dangerous and a health and safety hazard”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to reinstate this location.

Notice of Motion No: 53/2021

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council address the flooding outside property at Grange, Maganey”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to inspect this location to review the scope of works required. P Mc Veigh, Senior Executive Engineer, agreed to examine the road surface as well.

Notice of Motion No: 54/2021

“That this Council meet with the Timahoe Playground Committee with a view to addressing road safety concerns”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council would be pleased to meet with the Timahoe Playground Committee to review road safety concerns.

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notices of Motion in the absence of Councillor Ben Brennan: -

Notice of Motion No: 55/2021

“That Laois County Council examine the flooding issue at Coolane, Killeshin and Tolerton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has examined the flooding issues at Coolane, Killeshin and Tolerton. The collapsed culvert in Coolane is on our current schedule of works. The remedial drainage works in Killeshin and Tolerton have now been completed.

Notice of Motion No: 56/2021

“That Laois County Council replace the broken manhole covers at Heather Hills and Ballickmoyler Village on the N80”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is currently arranging to carry out the repair works at both locations.

Notice of Motion No: 57/2021

“That Laois County Council repair the collapsed pipe between 2 manholes in the Swan Village”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for this pipe to be replaced in the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 58/2021

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council please provide the Ballylinan Community Development Association with planters and flowers and replace the 2 litter bins in the Main Street in Ballylinan”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has arranged with the Ballylinan Community Council to remove the old timber planters and to provide 14 new fabricated steel planters as well as 2 new litter bins along the Main Street in Ballylinan. These works are being funded under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme.

Notice of Motion No: 59/2021

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council complete the drainage works outside the house in Hollymount as previously pointed out”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has met with the residents and we are currently arranging to carry out drainage improvement works at this location to prevent future flooding.

Notice of Motion No: 60/2021

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council replace the signs near the Ashfield junction on the N80 at Arles and also seek an update on the meeting with the TII which I requested for the making safe of this junction for nearly 2 years now”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the 2 recently damaged signs can be repaired at this junction.

Councillor Moran expressed concern about safety at this junction. She requested that contact again be made with the TII to ask them to address the Members on various issues of concern.

It was agreed that Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E. be requested to arrange a meeting with the Members.

Notice of Motion No: 61/2021

Councillor P.J. Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council outline what plans they have to carry out drainage works on the River Barrow and its tributaries in 2021”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is currently progressing the Ecological Assessment Reports to obtain the statutory consents for silt removal works at the following locations:

- Stradbally River (at Ballymanus, upstream of the Aqueduct)
- Stradbally River (between Main Street and Garrans Bridge)
- River Barrow (between Belan and the M7 motorway)
- River Barrow (between Stradbally River and Blackford Stream confluences)
- Douglas River
- Timogue River (between Poles Bridge and Stradbally River)

Notice of Motion No: 62/2021

Councillor P.J. Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council surface the Cappakeel to Vicarstown Road and the Emo/Killimy Road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that the Council will be carrying out surfacing works along a section of the L3930 Cappakeel to Vicarstown road this year under the annual roads programme. We will also be surfacing a section of the L3154 Emo/Killimy road under this programme following completion of the advance drainage works on this road in 2020.

Notice of Motion No: 63/2021

Councillor P.J. Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois Council provide additional planters and outdoor seating for Portarlinton Town Centre”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is currently procuring additional planters and outdoor seating for the town centre area. These works are being funded under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. We have also applied for funding for outdoor seating under the Additional Outdoor Infrastructure Fund.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Portarlinton Regeneration Strategy 2030 – Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance indicated that the closing date for submissions is the 24th of May 2021

Councillor Paschal McEvoy raised concerns regard overgrown leylandiis on the N80 footpath in Stradbally and if the matter could be followed up.

In response to Councillor A Mullins, Mr Gerry Murphy advised that he would contact Eir in relation to the pole located in the middle of the narrow footpath on Bracklone Street, Portarlinton and that he would outline the legislation in relation to the establishment / operation of Management Companies.

The Members were advised of the carrying out of works from French Church Street to Bracklone Street, Portarlinton from 7pm to 6am from Monday 31st May 2021 for a period of 3 weeks.

7. TIME & DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 16th of June 2021 at **2.00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.** It was noted that the A.G.M. of the Municipal District would take place following the monthly meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Aisling Moran, Cathaoirleach

