

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT  
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2018 IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE,  
PORTLAOISE**

**PRESENT** Mr. John Moran, Cathaoirleach (In the Chair)  
Mr. Aidan Mullins M.C.C.  
Mr. Paschal McEvoy, M.C.C.  
Mr. Tom Mulhall, M.C.C.  
Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C.  
Mr. Padraig Fleming, 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 THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF  
GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON  
THE 17<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER 2018**

On the proposal of Councillor Aidan Mullins seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming the minutes of the October meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 were confirmed as circulated.

**2. PROGRESS REPORT**

The report was noted and the Members complimented Mr John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer on the works that had been completed since the last meeting.

Councillor Paschal McEvoy extended compliments to Ms. Emily Doyle, Litter Warden on all her hard work in Stradbally Area.

**3. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**Notice of Motion No: 124/2018**

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That Laois County Council give an update on the efforts to date and to outline the current position regarding taking in charge of Gracefield Manor, Ballylinan and the timescale regarding the substantial bond to be drawn down for to resolve the outstanding issues”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that since notification that the bond was to be released to the Council on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018, Mr. Pat Delaney, A.O., Planning contacted a named employee of Ernst and Young (appointed

receivers), Harcourt Street Dublin on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018 requesting release of the bond. Following a response from the company a further letter issued to another named employee of Ernst and Young on the 30/07/2018 calling in the bond.

Further correspondence issued on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2018 and 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Details of Laois County Council's Bank Account were, also, forwarded. A number of phone calls have been made since 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018, the latest made on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018. No response has been received.

Councillors Mullins & Fleming expressed concern in relation to this matter and Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance indicated that he would contact the Developer in this regard with a view to progressing the matter.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 125/2018**

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council give an update on the derelict house at Cottage Gate, Ballylinan”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that The Planning Authority has served a number of derelict sites notices on this property with no action on the behalf of the owner. The Planning Authority is now considering options to carry out works to the site to render it non derelict subject to funding.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 126/2018**

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council establish the owners of land from Kavanaghs Cross, Luggacurren, to the next junction with the view that they are advised to cut their hedges as this road is proving difficult for the school buses and other road users”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/S.E.E. will arrange to have this location inspected and a hedge cutting notice will be issued to the property owner(s) should it be deemed necessary.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 127/2018**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:

***“That this Council give an update on when the perimeter wall at Timahoe cemetery will be replaced as it is in a very danger state”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that works to secure the perimeter wall at Timahoe cemetery have been prioritised for 2019. Design options are currently being examined and it is anticipated that the project will go to tender in early 2019.

**Notice of Motion No: 128/2018**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council call on TII to carry out works at Portlaoise Road Stradbally to remove overgrown area and turn it into a green area”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that Road Design will be requesting funding from TII in 2019. Subject to funding approval these works will be completed in Q1 of 2019.

**Notice of Motion No: 129/2018**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council provide extra rubbish bins in Ballybrittas”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/S.E.E. will arrange to have the current provision and location of bins reviewed in Ballybrittas. The relocation of the existing bin or provision of additional bins will be discussed with the Tidy Towns Committee in advance of any works.

**Notice of Motion No: 130/2018**

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council put in place measures to prevent flooding at Killmurray, the Heath”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that this location was previously inspected and drainage works were completed at this location. Water cuts have again been opened at this location within the past week. It was agreed that the location would be monitored.

**Notice of Motion No: 131/2018**

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council liaise with the OPW in erecting signs to direct traffic and visitors to the Main Entrance to Emo Court as there are some motorists using local roads and not been able to gain access”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/S.E.E. is currently liaising with the OPW regarding the provision of additional directional signage for Emo Court.

**Notice of Motion No: 132/2018**

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:

***“That Laois County Council carry out a survey on the number of vacant properties in Portarlinton/Graiguecullen district”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that The Vacant Homes Officer will be in place from 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018. His priority will be to identify long-term vacant and derelict properties across the County that can be acquired either voluntarily or through the Compulsory Purchase Order process and made available for social housing. This will include properties in the Portarlinton/Graiguecullen district.

**Notice of Motion No: 133/2018**

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council provide details of the Emergency Plan which is in place for this winter and that an explanation be given as to why some Contractors were not paid in full and some not paid at all”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that all Contractors engaged by the Eastern Area office for snow clearance works have been paid in full.

As is the case every year and in line with best practice, the 2018/2019 Winter Maintenance Plan has been prepared by identifying the major strategic routes to be treated based on the route classifications in the public road network (eg. Motorways, National Secondary Roads and Regional Roads) and the associated traffic volumes. Under the 2018/2019 Plan, Laois County Council will treat 468km of this strategic road network, which equates to 23% of the entire road network, one of the highest percentages in the Midlands region. During the winter months, air and road surface temperatures will be continuously monitored by Laois County Council staff and, when appropriate, salting crews called out. The 2018/2019 Winter Maintenance Plan is currently available for viewing on the Laois County Council website, [www.laois.ie](http://www.laois.ie)

A discussion ensued during which Councillor Ben Brennan recommended that payments/gesture should be made to people who came out voluntarily to clear roads.

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance re-iterated that all Contractors engaged by Laois County Council for snow clearance works have been paid in full.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 134/2018**

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council include Killeshin and Knockbeg on the salting route for this winter”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that all requests for additional routes will be reviewed to determine their feasibility. In the event of extreme winter weather conditions, additional salt or grit could be stored at a strategic location by agreement with and for use by local community representatives in a particularly challenging area.

Councillor Brennan & Fleming both expressed concern in relation to the areas of Springhill and Upper Rossmore during periods of bad weather.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 135/2018**

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council install a bigger pipe in the drain opposite property in Bilboa as his house and yard were flooded on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2018 – also that an update be given on the bridge wall at Bilboa and when repairs will be carried out”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/S.E.E. will arrange to meet Councillor Brennan on site to inspect the existing drainage and to determine the cause of the flooding at Mr Farrell's house. The Eastern Area Office is currently preparing tender documents for the repair works in Bilboa.

**Notice of Motion No: 136/2018**

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council provide a stop sign at Warrens of Kilabban”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/S.E.E. will arrange for a stop sign to be installed at this location.

**Notice of Motion No: 137/2018**

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council provide line markings at Kilabban Cross”***

*This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that this location will be included on the schedule of works for the line marking contractor. Markings will be completed as soon as weather conditions permit.*

**Notice of Motion No: 138/2018**

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council repair a hole on the street outside the Talbot Hotel”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/S.E.E. will inspect this location to determine if the area is in the charge of the Council. Any necessary repairs will be completed if the location is in the charge of the Council.

**5. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence since the last meeting.

**5. Time and date of next meeting:**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 12<sup>th</sup> of December at 2.00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**John Moran, Cathaoirleach**