

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20th NOVEMBER 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.
Mr. Pádraig Fleming, M.C.C.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance
Mr. Philip McVeigh, Senior Executive Engineer

**1. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF GRAIGUECULLEN /
PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 17th OF OCTOBER 2019**

On the proposal of Councillor Mulhall seconded by Councillor Mullins, the minutes of the October meeting held on the 17th of October 2019 were confirmed 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. It was noted that the flashing lights at Newtown School, the lights at the New School, Canal Road, Portarlington and lights at the Swan and Stradbally have not been turned on.

Councillor Mulhall thanked the Council for sorting out the water connection at Killenard Lodge.

3. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 109/2019

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council locate the owner of the old convent in Stradbally with a possible view to issuing a CPO on the property”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that a site inspection will be carried out to ascertain the current status of the building. There was an old Derelict Site file on this property which was closed. Land Registry search will be carried out to identify if ownership has changed recently. It was agreed to update the members at the January meeting.

Notice of Motion No: 110/2019

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council upgrade the heating and insulation on the 9 houses in Dromineen, Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council’s Housing Department will carry out site inspections of these 9 properties to

determine if any insulation is currently in place. Once these investigations are complete a list of proposed remedial works will be drafted.

Notice of Motion No: 111/2019

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update as to when Graigueavern Housing Estate and the Pumping Station in Ballybrittas will be taken in charge”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that due to an ongoing legal issue, the Graigueverne Housing Estate and the Pumping Station in Ballybrittas is not in a position to be taken in charge.

Notice of Motion No: 112/2019

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council advertise the dates that the hedgecutting season is open and closed and to continue this on a monthly basis and not just advertise when the season closes – this might encourage landowners to cut their hedges during the prescribed period”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the Roads Section is currently arranging to advertise notice of period for hedge cutting in local media.

Notice of Motion No: 113/2019

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That this Council carry out surface water drainage works on the Barrowhouse Road in Ballylinan”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has arranged for these road drainage works including a significant length of water cuts to be carried out on the Barrowhouse Road in Ballylinan.

Notice of Motion No: 114/2019

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That this Council carry out road sweeping in the housing estates across the Municipal District”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has arranged for the road sweeper to be deployed in all of the housing estates that are taken in charge in the Graiguecullen area.

Notice of Motion No: 115/2019

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on when Cil Beag Manor Housing Estate, Stradbally will be taken in charge”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that following an inspection by the Building Control Officer the Developer has been advised to complete

some footpaths and plaster a wall. Following completion of these works a further inspection will be carried out to progress the taking in process. The current permission for the development (Planning Ref 14/420) has an expiry date of 20th August 2020.

Notice of Motion No: 116/2019

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council call on Irish Water to replace all water mains pipe at Church Avenue, Stradbally as there are leaks at this area on a continued basis”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that this main is located on Church Ave, Stradbally, is an 800m long, old AC main and is indeed in poor condition, bursting a minimum of 5 times per yr. It has been repeatedly referred to Irish Water for full replacement and is now listed by them as ‘High Priority for Replacement’ and one of five water mains next on the list – but not yet approved for replacement in 2020. Laois County Council We will follow up again with IW and copy them with Councillor McEvoy’s representations.

Notice of Motion No: 117/2019

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council give an update on the Compulsory Purchase Order on the derelict house (DOBBINS) at Main Street, Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that Laois County Council’s Housing Department has considered the acquisition of the vacant property at Main Street, Stradbally for housing purposes. The layout of the site has been deemed to be unsuitable for the provision of social housing. The property will be referred to the Planning Department for action under Derelict Sites legislation.

Notice of Motion No: 118/2019

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council include the Killeshin, Rossmore and Coolnariska areas and the cuts in the salting programme for the winter period”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the Laois County Council Winter Maintenance Plan prioritises the schedule of routes which are treated as part of the normal winter service operations. The roads identified by the elected member are not included in the plan. There is no spare capacity in the gritters to add additional roads.

Councillor Brennan agreed that he would meet Mr A Barrett on site.

Notice of Motion No: 119/2019

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install additional charging points in Graiguecullen for electric cars”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the Roads Department is currently evaluating the various EV charging point requirements with a view to generating a standardised policy for the County in this area. On completion of this Council will then be in a position to review the various location proposed for the installation and operation of EV points.

Notice of Motion No: 120/2019

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council name the new extension of the Northern Relief Road after Fr. John Fingleton, Parish Priest of Graiguecullen, Killeshin”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Moran. The Members were advised that there is currently no policy on the naming of infrastructure and the installation of commemorative monuments or plaques. It is proposed that such a policy will be brought before the newly constituted Roads & Environment SPC for approval before bringing it to full Council for adoption. This request can be revisited once a Policy has been established.

Notice of Motion No: 121/2019

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the taking in charge of Gracefield Manor estate in Ballylinan”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that weather permitting works are expected to finish by end of December 2019. Following completion the estate will have to be advertised for taking in charge (6 week process). Estimated taking in charge date would be March 2020.

Notice of Motion No: 122/2019

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install a footpath from the new boy’s school on Canal Road, Portarlinton to connect to Lea Road in the interest of school children’s safety.”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will review this proposal in terms of the funding required to construct this footpath and the available budget.

It was, also, noted that public lights and measures to slow down the traffic were required.

Notice of Motion No: 123/2019

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out a traffic survey on Lea Road outside Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has arranged for a traffic survey to be carried out on the R420 Lea Road. The survey results should be available after the data loggers are downloaded this week.

Notice of Motion No: 124/2019

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council resolve the water ponding and the surface water drainage issue on the hard shoulder on the N 78 at Ballylehane Lower outside of the house identified”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that the Roads Section has submitted funding application to TII for rectifying this issue. These works will be carried out after funding is approved by TII.

Notice of Motion No: 125/2019

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council resolve the major flooding issues outside the house at Luggacurren as identified”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has commenced these drainage works in Luggacurren and the works have now been substantially completed. These works will resolve the flooding issue outside this house.

Notice of Motion No: 126/2019

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council resolve the water ponding at Fairymount, outside the house as identified”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will schedule road drainage works at Fairymount to commence in the coming weeks.

5. Time & Date/ for Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on **11th of December 2019** at **2.00 p.m.** This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Paschal McEvoy, Cathaoirleach