

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE**

**PRESENT** Mr. Pádraig Fleming, Leas-Cathaoirleach (In the Chair)  
Mr. Aidan Mullins M.C.C.  
Mr. Paschal McEvoy, M.C.C.

Mr. Pádraig Fleming, M.C.C.  
Ms. Aisling Moran, M.C.C.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance  
Mr. Philip McVeigh, A/Senior Engineer  
Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer

**APOLOGIES:** Mr. Tom Mulhall, M.C.C.  
Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C.

**1. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF GRAIGUECULLEN / PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 21<sup>ST</sup> OF OCTOBER 2020**

On the proposal of Councillor Aidan Mullins seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the minutes of the October meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2020 were confirmed as circulated.

Councillor Aisling Moran complimented the Council on supporting the LGBTI+ awareness week 16<sup>TH</sup> – 20<sup>TH</sup> November 2020 and for raising the LGBTI+ flag for the first time at Aras an Chontae, Portlaoise. This is a time for second-level schools, youth services and Youthreach Centres in Ireland to join and take a stand against homophobic, bi-phobic and transphobic bullying. It provides an opportunity for schools to look at how they can make schools safe and supportive places for LGBTI students and to educate and train the school communities around support LGBTI young people.

**2. SUPPLEMENTARY STANDING ORDERS**

On the proposition of Councillor Aisling Moran seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the Members unanimously agreed to the supplementary standing orders as circulated in relation to the holding of remote meetings and in particular the introduction of voting – a vote taken remotely in accordance with these Standing Orders constitutes a valid vote towards the decision of the Municipal District.

**3. MANAGEMENT COMPANIES FOR APARTMENT BLOCKS**

This matter was raised by the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Aisling Moran. She read out a four-page letter outlining concerns in relation to 48 apartments, built and completed in Portarlington between 2004 and 2005. The main issues related to not holding AGM's, non-provision of Management accounts and minutes, non-engagement with owners, extensive leaks, necessary works not being carried out and fire safety concerns regarding disconnection of fire alarms, intercom system not working, no public lighting in the common hallway, etc.

Councillor Moran requested that Laois County Council & the Fire Officer carry out a full investigation. It was also indicated that the Company has planning applications currently with Laois County Council.

It was agreed that Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance would follow up on this matter and revert in due course.

#### **4. DERELICT SITES PORTARLINGTON & STRADBALLY**

The Members were circulated with a report on sites in Portarlington and Stradbally that were on the Derelict Sites Register as well as a number that required attention. Mr G Murphy, Head of Finance briefed the meeting on the report and the Members thanked him for the update

#### **5. 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.

#### **6. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

It was agreed to take the following two Notice of Motions together:

##### **Notice of Motion No: 85/2020 – in the name of Councillor Paschal McEvoy**

*“That this Council extend the footpath on the Rathmore Road, Stradbally to the end of the houses on this stretch of road”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Aidan Mullins.

##### **Notice of Motion No: 88/2020 – in the name of Councillor Aidan Mullins**

*“That Laois County Council install a footpath in Stradbally from the corner of Ashtrees and in front of the 6 houses along the Rathmore Road”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy.

The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to measure up this footpath location and obtain a quotation for these footpath extension works.

##### **Notice of Motion No: 86/2020**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

*“That this Council remove part of the green area at the front of Church Avenue, Stradbally to create extra car parking spaces”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council would welcome a meeting on site to view this location and scope the extent of the works required.

**Notice of Motion No: 87/2020**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

***“That this Council carry out some work on esker Lane, Timahoe to make it safe for walkers who use this lane to access the walking trail in that area”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will inspect this location to scope the extent of the works to be carried out.

**Notice of Motion No: 89/2020**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

***“That Laois County Council install speed ramps in Railway Mews and Lough Gate Estates in Portarlinton”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council would welcome a meeting on site in both estates to confirm the required locations for these ramps.

**Notice of Motion No: 90/2020**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

***“That Laois County Council repair or replace the section of footpath on Foxcroft Street in Portarlinton which constantly floods during heavy rain forcing pedestrians onto the street”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to obtain a quotation for this footpath work on Foxcroft Street to be considered for the 2021 works programme.

**Notice of Motion No: 91/2020**

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

***“That Laois County Council investigate the issue of flooding at the Mill Cross as it is prone to flash flooding”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Road Design will be submitting a funding application to TII to rectify the flooding issue at this location. Works will be carried out after TII approves funding.

Councillor Moran requested that a timeframe be sought from the TII in relation to these works being carried out.

### Notice of Motion No: 92/2020

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

***“That Laois County Council make safe the evergreen trees on Church Road, Graiguecullen as high vehicles have to move to the opposite side of the road to avoid the trees. This is extremely dangerous and will cause an accident”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for a hedge/tree cutting notice to be issued to the landowner.

### Notice of Motion No: 93/2020

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

***“That Laois County Council repair the footpath from the roundabout to Doyle’s of the Shamrock on the right hand side of the road as it has completely collapsed beside the man hole cover and also to replace the stop sign at Oakley Park, Graiguecullen – this sign will have to be put at a height across the road as it is continually being taken down”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has recently completed these important repair works at this location. Laois County Council will arrange for this sign at Oakley Park to be placed at a height.

### Notice of Motion No: 94/2020

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

***“That Laois County Council given an update and timescale for the taking in charge of Gracefield Manor, Ballylinan”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that the taking in charge of Gracefield Manor was advertised in the Leinster Express on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2020. Subject to Irish Water sign off on the Water Services element, the estate will be placed on the agenda for the January Council meeting to be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2021

### Notice of Motion No: 95/2020

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

***“That Laois County Council erect a security fence on the perimeter wall of Mount Clare Court, Graiguecullen, in order to deter anti-social behaviour”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has recently removed boundary hedging that had been facilitating anti-social behaviour in this area. The Council will be installing further security measures around the perimeter to deter anti-social behaviour in this green area.

### Notice of Motion No: 96/2020

Councillor Pádraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:

*“That Laois County Council resolve the flooding on the road outside the house as identified in Ballyadams”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has recently completed surfacing works at this location in Ballyadams – raising the road level and resolving the flooding issue at this location.

The following Notice of Motions were read into the Minutes with Councillor Brennan’s agreement as he was absent from the meeting.

### Notice of Motion No: 97/2020

*“That Laois County Council make safe Molloy’s Cross on the R430 near Behan’s Pub”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that this is an important junction of two regional roads. The Council has submitted this scheme to DTTA’S for funding under the 2021 ‘Safety Improvement Works’ programme – to realign this junction and improve visibility for road users.

### Notice of Motion No: 98/2020

*“That Laois County Council make safe the junction at property on the Portlaoise Road near Ballickmoyler”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Road Design will be submitting a funding application to TII to rectify safety issue at this location. Works will be carried out after TII approves funding.

### Notice of Motion No: 99/2020

*“That Laois County Council remove the hedge to Doyle’s corner on the R430 near Tolerton”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet at this location to identify the extent of the works required.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

## 6. TIME & DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on **9th of December 2020** at **2.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber**. This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

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Padraig Fleming, Leas Cathaoirleach