

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2021 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN
CHONTE, PORTLAOISE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT Mr. Pdraig Fleming, Cathaoirleach (In the Chair)
Mr. Aidan Mullins M.C.C.
Mr. Paschal McEvoy, M.C.C.
Ms. Aisling Moran, M.C.C.
Mr. P.J. Kelly, M.C.C.
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

**(1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the October meeting of the Graiguecullen
Portarlington Municipal District held on the 20th of October 2021**

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins, the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the October meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 20th of October 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.

It was noted that the ESB connection to lights at pedestrian crossing in Portarlington had yet to be carried out and that the digital camera going into Timahoe was not working.

(3) NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 118/2021

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install safety measures at Sleaty Cross on the Knockbeg Road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Road Design will arrange meeting with elected member to identify issues at this location and will propose safety measures.

Notice of Motion No: 119/2021

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council include the Knockbeg Road on the salting route during the frosty weather”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council’s winter salting operation consists of 7 routes that treat 479.5km of public roadway in county Laois. The capacity of the salting vehicles is utilised fully i.e. there is no salt remaining when a route is completed. The inclusion of any additional lengths of road for salting would be subject to the removal of an existing salted road.

A discussion ensued in relation to this matter and It was agreed that the matter be referred back to Mr. Adrian Barrett, Senior Engineer.

Notice of Motion: 120/2021

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council make safe the road in Ardenteggle as it is unsafe when two vehicles meet each other due to stones outside a dwelling house”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for a notice to be issued to the landowner to remove the road-side hazard.

Notice of Motion No: 121/2021

Councillor Pádraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair the dip in the road and remove the blockages in the deep drains from the Ball Alley to the Booster Station in Wolfhill”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has recently carried out works along this stretch of road. The open drains on both sides of the road travelling towards the Booster Station have now been cleared and the subsidence in the road has been repaired.

Notice of Motion No: 122/2021

Councillor Pádraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair the foundation plinth and also carry out pointing on some of the stonework at the bridge at Kilfeacle, Wolfhill”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has carried out an inspection of this bridge at Kilfeacle. There is some scouring of the abutments at the upstream arch and at the midpoint under the arch. Repointing of the underside of the arch is, also, required. These works are included in the funding application to the Department for 2022 Bridge Rehabilitation Works.

Notice of Motion No: 123/2021

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council open up or pipe the deep drain at the T junction at Kavanaghs Cross, Luggacurren”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is proposing to pipe this open drain to connect to the existing drain as the verge has subsided. These works should be completed by the end of November.

Notice of Motion No: 124/2021

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council apply under Part VIII for permission to construct a boardwalk at Spa Street Bridge in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that this will be considered as part of an overall Part VIII plan for various works outlined in the Portarlinton Regeneration Strategy 2030.

Notice of Motion No: 125/2021

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council provide an annual budget for ongoing maintenance work in the People’s Park in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the Council currently undertakes a range of maintenance and upkeep works in the Peoples Park in Portarlinton. These works include annual tree maintenance, monthly weed control, hedge maintenance, landscape planting / maintenance and weekly servicing of litterbins and park furniture.

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance agreed to examine.

Notice of Motion No: 126/2021

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council provide an access ramp to either replace the steps or install it alongside the steps at Marian Hill in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is aware of the need for a ramp at this location. We are currently engaging with the Contractor who installed the new footpath on the options for installing the ramp.

Notice of Motion No: 127/2021

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council give an update as to when they will take in charge Dromineen Retirement Village, Church Avenue, Stradbally”

This Notice of motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that a preliminary site inspection was carried out with the Developer present, earlier this month. From the initial inspection, the hydrant chambers need to be reconstructed and the manholes need to be located, however a full list of works is presently being compiled. It will be 2022 before it will be recommended for Taking in Charge subject to all outstanding issues being addressed.

Notice of Motion No: 128/2021

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install a disabled parking space outside the Catholic Church in Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that this disabled parking space could be provided at a relatively low cost. We will look at modifying the road markings for one of the existing parking spaces to a disabled parking space.

Notice of Motion No: 129/2021

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion;

“That Laois County Council carry out a skid resistance test at Old Mills, Stradbally as there have been a number of accidents in this area”

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 obtaining quotations from Contractors to carry out improvement works.

Notice of Motion No: 130/2021

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council pipe and cover the open drain, as pointed out In Ballintubbert, to make the road safe”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location and appointed a Contractor to carry out these works. We plan to have these works completed in the next month.

Notice of Motion No: 131/2021

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council install cycle safe signs on the Killabban to Killeen road and realign the road markings at the junction at the graveyard to make the sight lines better and the road safer for pedestrians and motorists”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is currently installing cycle safe signs on the Killabban to Killeen road and these should be completed in the coming week.

The road markings at the junction at the graveyard (involving realigning the road centreline, for greater visibility, at the junction) have now been completed.

Notice of Motion No: 132/2021

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council install public lighting outside the houses on the Rahin Road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has obtained a quotation from our Lighting Contractor for the installation of new public lighting outside these houses. The Contractor has now been instructed to proceed and the civil works should commence on site in the next month.

Notice of Motion No: 133/2021

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

“That Laois County Council consider the winter cleaning of the three monuments in Stradbally in front of the library”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the Council will examine the monuments and sculpture this week to identify what works are required.

Notice of Motion No: 134/2021

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

“That Laois County Council have a tree cut back that is on the same green area as the monuments in Stradbally as telephone wires are passing through it and if blown down could cause a lot of trouble over the Christmas period”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet with the Elected Member to agree the extent of works needed at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 135/2021

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

“That Laois County Council investigate the possible subsiding of a small stretch of road from Vicarstown to Stradbally, 300m from Inch cross on the Stradbally side”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has investigated this stretch of road and identified two patches for surface repairs. These surfacing works were completed in the last week.

4.Municipal District Additional 2021 Allocation

The Members were advised that €25,000 was being re-allocated in relation to unspent training and conference monies for 2021. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed and agreed after the meeting.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) The correspondence received from Waterways Ireland dated the 5th of November in relation to Notice of Motion, 107/2021 (Grand Canal) was read and noted.

5. Any other Business

The Cathaoirleach advised the members of the concerns of the R.T.S. Group in relation to the development being carried out at Ratheniska by ESB / Eirgrid. He gave a detailed verbal report on the history of the project and of the works being carried out and advised that the Group had a meeting with the Planners earlier today. He requested that the Council ensure that the planning conditions attached to the planning permission are complied with. A request was made for the Council's Planning Department to carry out an immediate inspection of the site.

Further contributions were made by Councillors B Brennan, A Moran and A Mullins in support of the group. They indicated that a Notice of Motion in the names of the four Councillors would be submitted for consideration at the November meeting of Laois County Council in relation to addressing issues of concern and in relation to compliance with planning conditions by the ESB, Eirgrid and Contractors on the site for the substation in Ratheniska.

Mr. G Murphy, Head of Finance advised that he would discuss the planning inspection issue with the Director of Services for Planning after their meeting and that he would ensure that the Cathaoirleach would be given an update later in the afternoon.

5. TIME & DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 8th of December 2021 at **2.00 p.m.**

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Padraig Fleming, Cathaoirleach