

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL  
DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2020 IN ÁRAS AN  
CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE**

**PRESENT** Ms. Aisling Moran, Cathaoirleach (In the Chair)  
Mr. Aidan Mullins M.C.C.  
Mr. Paschal McEvoy, M.C.C.  
Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C.  
Mr. Pádraig Fleming, M.C.C.

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance  
Mr. Philip McVeigh, S.E.E.  
Ms. Michelle McCormack, S.O.

**1. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF  
GRAIGUECULLEN / PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON  
THE 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

On the proposal of Councillor Ben Brennan seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins, the minutes of the September meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020 were confirmed as circulated.

**2. AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS**

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins, the Members unanimously agreed to the amendment to Standing Orders in light of the Standard Operating Guidance – Attendance at Council Meetings by Elected Members & Council Officials/Others (Media & Public) and attendance at other meetings or Council Buildings issued on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2020 as follows:-

The maximum duration of a meeting of Graiguecullen/Portarlington MD shall be 115 minutes (as measured) from the notified start of the meeting. It shall not be in order for the Cathaoirleach to accept any motion (whether in relation to urgent business or otherwise) which seeks to extend the duration of the meeting.

### **3. DATA CONTROLLER**

Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services was in attendance to update the meeting on the issue of Data Controller.

### **4. PROGRESS REPORT**

The report was noted and the Members complimented Mr. Philip McVeigh, S.E.E. and all the staff for the work done in the Municipal District.

### **5. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

#### **Notice of Motion No. 70/2020**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council extend the footpath at property on the Vicarstown Road, Stradbally”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to get a quotation for these works and will investigate the feasibility of carrying out the works within the available budget.

#### **Notice of Motion No. 71/2020**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council repair section of road outside new houses at Timogue, Stradbally”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange an inspection of this location to assign the appropriate priority level for it to be repaired.

### **Notice of Motion No. 72/2020**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council inspect the road from Guillean Cross to Timogue Cross as part of this section is in a very serious state and requires immediate attention”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange an inspection of this road with a view to inclusion in the annual roads programme.

### **Notice of Motion No. 73/2020**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council give an update on the taking in charge of Clarmallagh Estate in The Swan”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The members were advised that 2 manholes need to be constructed, a section of footpath needs to be replaced, a cctv survey needs to be carried out and as constructed drawings need to be prepared by the developer prior to considering this estate for taking in charge. The Council is currently liaising with the developer with a view to completing same in 2020.

### **Notice of Motion No. 74/2020**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council outline and commence the process of naming the access road around the Leisure Centre in Portarlinton after the late Mr. Niall McElwaine”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that there is no adopted policy for the naming of infrastructure in Laois. The process of preparing a policy on the naming of infrastructure for presentation to the Roads & Environment S.P.C. has commenced. It is expected that this will progress to full council for adoption by end of Q2 2021.

It was agreed that this matter would be followed up with a view to expediting the matter and it being tabled for discussion at the December Strategic Policy Committee.

### **Notice of Motion No. 75/2020**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council provide a skate park in Portarlington”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that as with the development of all recreational facilities the following criteria require consideration before commencing the development of a project:

- Clear Demonstration of need,
- An available site and relevant permissions
- Funding Source

Laois County Council’s Sport & Leisure Officer is available to meet local representatives to discuss further.

Councillor Mullins requested a meeting with the officials and it was agreed that this would be scheduled.

### **Notice of Motion No. 76/2020**

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council contact Carlow County Council to repair the fence on the N80 from the Sleaty Road roundabout to the Athy Road Roundabout”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that correspondence will issue to Carlow County Council regarding this matter.

### **Notice of Motion No. 77/2020**

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

### **Notice of Motion No. 78/2020**

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council contact the TII again in relation to the Ashfield junction on the N80 at Arles. This junction is deadly dangerous and any further delays are increasing the risk of an accident occurring”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that this junction will be included in a safety improvement funding application to the TII for 2021. Once funding is approved works will be carried out immediately.

### **Notice of Motion 79/2020**

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council make safe the junction at the old Post Office in Crettyard”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will investigate this location with a view to carrying out appropriate safety improvement works.

### **Notice of Motion No. 80/2020**

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council replace the two bollards that are missing at Newtown Cross”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for these bollards to be replaced.

### **Notice of Motion No. 81/2020**

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council give an update on the subsiding ditch on the junction road between the Pedigree Corner and the N80”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that a water main was laid in the verge outside the site where the subsidence is occurring. The water main is part on the Ballylehane No. 1 Public Group Water Scheme. There is a suggestion that the laying of this watermain by the GWS has contributed to the subsidence and if so it would be up to the GWS to seek funds to rectify the matter.

The members were also advised that the Group Scheme members have been seeking to have the scheme taken in charge by Irish Water. The Council would support an application from the GWS. However, Laois County Council cannot guarantee that the

cost to rectify this matter would be approved for funding under the taking in charge protocol.

#### **Notice of Motion No. 82/2020**

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council give an update on the installation of two ramps in The Swan Village, including signs indicating ‘Ramps ahead’ as well as Road Signage indicating the same so as to help with the safety of everyone in the Village in light of the continuous fast speeds of motorists/vehicles driving through the Village”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will be installing two traffic calming ramps on the R430 in The Swan village. The works have now been procured and the ramps, including upgrades to the adjacent street lights and road signage, will be installed in the coming weeks.

#### **Notice of Motion No. 83/2020**

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council request an update from Transport Infrastructure Ireland as to when the drains will be cleaned out on the N 78 / N 80 as they have not been done for a couple of years. This leads to flooding on the roads, thereby damaging same. Also, in the interest of Health & Safety, to take into account the frost factor from water flowing on the roads”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Road Design will arrange a meeting with Cllr Fleming to identify the exact location and will rectify the blocked drains on N80/N78.

#### **Notice of Motion No. 84/2020**

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council erect a Cul de Sac sign at Kelly’s Lane, The Swan as cars are diverted that way by satellite navigation and it is not a through road”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for this sign to be installed on Kelly’s Lane.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Members were notified of the correspondence received from Mr. Peter Burke, T.D., Minister of State for Local Government and Planning in relation to the holding of remote meetings and in particular that any decision made or vote taken or other act done at such a meeting shall be as good and effectual as a decision made or vote taken or other act done by the Members concerned would have been if such a meeting had been held in person.

Councillor Aidan Mullins enquired about the public lights on the Barrow Bridge in Portarlinton and requested an update for the next meeting. It was agreed that the ESB be contacted in this regard.

## **7. TIME & DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on **18<sup>th</sup>November2020** at **2.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber**. This concluded the business of the meeting.

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