

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2021 IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTE, PORTLAOISE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT Mr. Pádraig 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 September meeting of the Graiguecullen Portarlington Municipal District held on the 15th of September 2021

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins, the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the September meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 15th of September 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.

Mr G Murphy, Head of Finance agreed to review the issue regarding bonds for Rathmiles Housing Estate and a new housing estate that is the subject of a current planning application in Killenard

(3) NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The following two Notice of Motions were taken together:-

Notice of Motion No: 100/2021 – Councillor P Fleming:

“That Laois County Council examine and consider what extra safety measures can be taken on the R 430 on the straight stretch of road which is over 1 km long at Dromagh, Sallysbridge and Newtown as the speed of cars are making it very dangerous for residents entering/ exiting their homes and is becoming unsafe for people who walk or cycle this road . There are over 50 residents on this road” and

Notice of Motion No: 110/2021 – Councillor B Brennan:

“That Laois County Council give an update on the safety measures being put in place on the R430 between Turra and Newtown Crettyard”

This Notices of Motion was seconded by Councillors Ben Brennan and P Fleming, respectively. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location. Safety improvement works have now commenced with the installation of red/white barrier boards at each corner of Sally’s Bridge. Additional road markings will also be installed on both approaches. Laois County Council will also install additional hidden-dip signage and a solar powered flashing slow sign on both approaches.

Notice of Motion No: 101/2021

“That Laois County Council give an update on the taking in charge of Cill an Oir Estate in Graiguecullen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that the roads and services are in charge

Notice of Motion No: 102/2021

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council outline the plans for repairs to be carried out at the bridge at Clopook, Luggacurren”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this bridge. The parapet wall on one side of this bridge has been damaged. We have included this bridge in our funding application for 2022 Bridge Rehabilitation works.

Notice of Motion No: 103/2021

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council move the boundary fence from Whelan’s to Treacy’s Cross so that there is a safe area for pedestrians to exercise”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location. The overall length between these two points on the R445 is approx.700m with a shorter length of narrower verge. I will arrange to meet with the Elected Member on site to review the scope of works needed.

Notice of Motion No: 104/2021

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council support an application by Emo Community for a playground in the parish field”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that the Sport & Leisure Section assists local community groups to identify appropriate sites and funding to develop community play facilities. Several site visits were made previously to Emo at the request former councillor Mr Tom Mulhall. The key requirements to getting a community playground project started are:

1. Community Group to drive the project and
2. Availability of a Suitable Site

Community representatives should contact the Sport & Leisure Officer to arrange a meeting to explore available options to deliver a play facility.

Notice of Motion: 105/2021

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council install a yellow box on the N80 outside Court View, Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location. The yellow box hatching that was marked on the N80, before the development of Court View, will be reinstated on the N80 outside Court View.

Notice of Motion: 106/2021

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council take Lansdowne Estate in Portarlinton in charge”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that The Developer (Kingscroft Developments) or residents have not made an application to have Lansdowne (or any part of it) taken in charge. It is the subject of a live planning permission. It would be premature to TIC without the appropriate request.

Councillor Mullins indicated that he would arrange for a petition from the Residents

Notice of Motion No: 107/2021

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council contact Waterways Ireland to investigate the cause of dropping water levels in the Grand Canal and to clear the feeders supplying the canal with water. Barges and boats are being stuck in the canal at Vicarstown due to low water levels”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. A discussion ensued and it was agreed that correspondence issue to Waterways Ireland in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 108/2021

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair / replace the fence along the riverbank opposite Marian Hill in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location at Marian Hill. We will obtain quotations for this and include these fencing works in our programme of works.

Notice of Motion No: 109/2021

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council erect three stop signs at Sleaty Cross on the way out to Knockbeg”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this junction. Additional road markings could be installed at this junction. This will also be referred to Road Design to review any other options for improvement works at the junction.

Notice of Motion No: 111/2021

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council erect stop signs on the Aughaterry Ballickmoyler and Doonane Crettyard junctions”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected these locations. There is one stop sign on the Ballickmoyler side of the junction and two additional signs will be installed on the other approaches to the junction. A Stop sign will also be installed at the junction in Doonane/Crettyard.

Notice of Motion No: 112/2021

Councillor PJ Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council consider installing a temporary sewage treatment facility in Ballybrittas village to cater for 52 buildings, which includes dwellings and business. Flash flooding has caused overflowing of septic tanks out on to the Main Street in recent times”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that this is a Wastewater Infrastructure issue and is the responsibility of Irish Water. It is on their Laois Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme (No 4).

Notice of Motion No: 113/2021

Councillor PJ Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install signage at the crossroads, known as Alley Cross on the Heath/Coolbanagher Road. Speed seems to be the main factor on this stretch of road where vehicles are going out of control into ditches and fencing”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that this Laois County Council has inspected this location at the crossroads on the R419. Additional signage will be installed on the approaches to this crossroads.

Notice of Motion No: 114/2021

Councillor PJ Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install an extra island on the N7 in Ballybrittas on the Portlaoise side of the village to help slow traffic coming into the left turn for Portarlinton and also to help residents of the village to gain access on to the Main Street in a safe way”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this approach road into Ballybrittas. The provision of additional traffic calming measures will be considered in relation to the existing traffic islands along this stretch of road.

Notice of Motion No: 115/2021

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council examine safety measures in Ballylinan and in particular measures for making it safe for children to walk and cycle to school in the mornings and evenings”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has recently installed a new cycle track from the roundabout on the Rahin Road to the roundabout at the national school. Additional signage for the cycle track and parking restrictions during school drop off /collection times will be installed (along with some additional bollards) in the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 116/2021

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council repair the bridge on the Sleaty Road as it has been vandalised again”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location in Sleaty. It is the fence adjoining the bridge that has been damaged. As the property is in private ownership it is the responsibility of the property owner to repair the fence.

Notice of Motion No: 117/2021

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council cut the hedges on the Northern Relief Road to make it safe for pedestrians using the footpaths”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has commenced hedge cutting on the Northern Relief Road and the remaining sections should be completed by the end of October.

4. CORRSPONDENCE

It was noted that no correspondence had been received since the last meeting.

Councillor Aidan Mullins raised the issue of the removal of the pole from the middle of the footpath on Bracklone Street. Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance confirmed that an order has been placed within the last week with Eir for the removal of the pole. It was noted that Laois County Council will bear the costs of its removal.

5. TIME & DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 17th of November 2021 at **2.00 p.m.**

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Padraig Fleming, Cathaoirleach

