

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 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
Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer

**1. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING OF GRAIGUECULLEN /
PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON
THE 24TH OF JULY 2019**

On the proposal of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the minutes of the July meeting held on the 24th of July 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. The following issues were raised:-

- ✚ overgrown trees affecting the lights on the Northern Relief Road,
- ✚ advertisement by the Roads Department to be placed on social media regarding hedge cutting,
- ✚ the €184,000 cost to the Council for repair works to the L3896 road at Ardenteggle and its effect on the 2020 budget.
- ✚ Councillor Aisling Moran to be given a copy of the report from the tree surgeon in relation to the removal of a tree at Joe's road off the N80 at Ballickmoyer.

3. VOTE OF BEST WISHES

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously extended a vote of best wishes to Mr. Des Walshe, G.S.S. in the Graiguecullen/Portarlington area on his forthcoming retirement and thanked Mr. Walshe for all his work across the Municipal District.

4. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 88/2019

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council give an update on the entrance/right of way to land on the Sleaty Road Roundabout, Graiguecullen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that an outline drawing showing a possible entrance onto the Sleaty Road has been developed. In

order to comply with Laois County Council's Roads & Parking Standards for sight distances, an alternative proposal for an entrance is currently being prepared for discussion.

Mr. Philip McVeigh, S.E.E. indicated that he would meet Councillor Brennan on site to consider the matter further.

Notice of Motion No: 89/2019

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council give an update on the bridge in Bilboa and also the bridge in Killeshin as both are damaged and in need of repair”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Council will seek quotations to repair the wall at the bridge in Bilboa. Repair works on the bridge in Killeshin are commencing this week.

Notice of Motion No: 90/2019

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council indicate when the bridge at Fairymount in Crettyard be made safe on the R430 as the wall has subsided following an accident”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to progress the detailed design of a vehicle restraint barrier system for this bridge. This could be installed on the bridge under the 2020 Bridge Rehabilitation programme.

Notice of Motion No: 73/2019

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the taking in charge of Killenard Lodge Housing Estate”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that the Building Control Officer inspected this estate and considered the roads, footpaths and public lighting were completed to a satisfactory standard and in compliance with the permission granted. This estate has its own water supply. It is my understanding that the developer is to apply to Irish Water to connect to the public mains prior to taking in charge. To date this has not been done. There are also outstanding development charges due on this Housing Estate. When these items have been satisfied the estate can be considered for taking in charge.

Councillor Mulhall advised that the developer had made an application to Irish Water in October 2018 and requested that the Water Services Department contact the developer with a view to bringing this matter to a conclusion.

Notice of Motion No: 74/2019

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair the decline in the road at Screagh Cross outside house”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected the surface condition on this section of the roadway at Screagh Cross and we have arranged for the necessary surfacing works to be carried out in the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 75/2019

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council consider putting in place a footpath from the Train Station in Portarlinton to the road at Corrig in the interest of pedestrian safety”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. 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.

Notice of Motion No: 76/2019

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council erect ‘Children at Play’ signs at Rathglen, Killeshin”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council can erect these ‘Caution Children at Play’ signs at the entrance to the estate.

Notice of Motion No: 77/2019

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council put a bollard at the roadway between Heatherhill Square & Heatherhill”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that there is one existing bollard on this roadway connecting Heatherhill Square and Heatherhill. Laois County Council, will arrange for additional bollards to be installed in order to deter anti-social behavior.

Councillor Moran expressed concern regarding the anti-social behaviour at this estate. A discussion ensued with many members making contributions.

Notice of Motion No: 78/2019

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council resolve the issue of flooding at the Monument Road, Arles”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has arranged for these works to be completed. The works involved approximately 150m of open channel surface water drains to be cleared along with water cuts for road drainage.

Notice of Motion No: 79/2019

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council clean the river in Timahoe village”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has carried out some 400m of river bank clearance works earlier this year. We expect to carry out further river maintenance works in 2020 subject to the required ecological screening reports being approved.

Notice of Motion No: 80/2019

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council cut the hedges at Grange Upper, Stradbally as they are dangerously overgrown”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will carry out an inspection on this road and will arrange for hedge cutting notices to be issued to all of the relevant landowners.

Notice of Motion No: 81/2019

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois Council put extra street lights at Kylebeg Housing estate on the Athy Road Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that the Roads section will review the requirement for an additional light. At present there is no funding to install new lights. Mr. Philip McVeigh, S.E.E. indicated that he would review the matter with Mr. Farhan Nasim, S.E.E., Public Lighting Section.

Notice of Motion No: 82/2019

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install left and right filter lanes at the junction of Ballymorris Road and Canal Road adjacent to the new social housing development – this along with 2 other planned housing developments in the area, will greatly increase traffic volumes at this location”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that the Council’s Housing Section is constructing 22 houses on the site adjacent to the corner of Canal Road and Ballymorris Road. A filter lane at the junction may be beneficial in anticipation of the future increase in traffic volume. We will liaise with the housing section regarding the proposals for the junction.

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance indicated that a Road Safety Audit was carried out and that a need was not identified for such a filter lane. However, it was agreed that Mr. Philip McVeigh, S.E.E. would investigate and follow up.

Notice of Motion No: 83/2019

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out road safety remedial works at the dangerous dip/subsidence in the road at Clonanny, outside Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected the road in Clonanny and identified the remedial works required. Mr. Philip McVeigh, S.E.E. indicated that a Contractor has now been appointed and the works will be commencing over the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 84/2019

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council implement a new plan for the management of litter bins in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is currently reviewing the number and location of the litter bins in the town.

Councillor Mullins indicated that additional litter bins are required in the town of Portarlinton and also the frequency of emptying bins needs to be considered. Mr. Philip McVeigh, S.E.E., indicated that he would schedule a meeting with the Tidy Towns Group.

Notice of Motion No: 85/2019

Councillor Pdraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council fully replace the footpaths at Leylandi Drive, Ballylinan in the interests of the residents and users as they are about 40 years there and in poor condition”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that the full length of footpath in Leylandi Drive is currently being replaced. Construction works are now substantially completed and we expect to close out any snags in the coming week.

Notice of Motion No: 86/2019

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council re-do the road markings at Rahin T Junction, Ballylinan and also directional signs for Ballylinan, Ballyadams and Athy in the interest of road safety”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that the road markings at the T-junction will be carried out in the coming weeks. The directional signs will also be installed at the junction.

Notice of Motion No: 87/2019

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the derelict house in Bruach na hAbhainn, Killeen with a view to providing funds to remove this derelict two storey house and also an update on the other vacant houses in the same estate”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is progressing this matter through the derelict site process.

Initial Letter issued on 1/8/19 to Registered Owners and AIB requesting proposals for works to be carried out by them. No response was received. The site was also referred to the Vacant Homes Officer in Housing. The Housing Agency was in contact with AIB with a view to purchasing these units. However, AIB did not progress with the matter. It has subsequently transpired that the AIB sold the property to Everyday Finance. Link Asset Services in Maynooth are a subsidiary of Everyday Finance looking after this property. Laois County Council is issuing a Section 8 (2) Notice (Notice of our intention to enter the Site on the Derelict Site Register) which is the next stage of the Derelict Site process. The recipients of this notice have 28 days to respond.

It was agreed that an update be sought from Mr. Gerry Ryan, Vacant Homes Officer.

5. Time & Date for Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on **16th of October 2019** at the earlier time of **9.30 a.m. followed by the Municipal District Budget Meeting at 10.45 a.m.**

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Paschal McEvoy, Cathaoirleach