

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15th OF SEPTEMBER 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 June meeting of the Graiguecullen
Portarlington Municipal District held on the 16th of June 2021**

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins, the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the June meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 16th of June 2021 as circulated.

(2) PORTARLINGTON REGENERATION STRATEGY 2030

Mr. Gerry Murphy gave an update on the Portarlington Regeneration Strategy 2030 and the adjustments made to the Draft Strategy as a result of the submissions received. He, also, advised that tenders for the appointment of a Design Team for the refurbishment of the Market House had been advertised and that a Part VIII would be required for a number of elements in the revised Strategy document.

The members were advised that the works on the Main Street are due to be completed on the 1st of October 2021 and that the works on Foxcroft Street are due to finish on the 12th of October 2021. It was further noted that a meeting with the ESB in relation to the lighting on the Main Street in Portarlington is scheduled for the 16th of September 2021.

**(3) NOMINATION OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE TO THE EIRGRID LAOIS
KILKENNY REINFORCEMENT PROJECT COMMUNITY FORUM**

The Members were advised that Eirgrid has committed to establishing a community forum in relation to the Laois Kilkenny Reinforcement Project and has appointed Irish Rural Link as the Community Forum's independent facilitator. The purpose of the forum is to ensure constructive communication between community stakeholders during project delivery and to oversee the implementation of the community benefit scheme.

On the proposition of Councillor Aidan Mullins seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming, it was agreed that Councillor Paschal McEvoy be nominated from this Municipal District.

(4) 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.

(5) NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 82/2021

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That this Council give an update as to when the work will begin on the boundary wall at Timahoe Cemetery”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that the Council is currently finalising the legal agreement with the vendor’s solicitor for the purchase of the necessary lands. Following completion, the commencement of work will be subject to the council receiving an economical tender price and the availability of works contractors.

Councillor McEvoy indicated that this matter was ongoing for a significant period of time and that there was a danger of the wall collapsing. It was agreed that the matter be pursued as a matter of urgency.

Notice of Motion No: 83/2021

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That this Council give an update as to when road safety measures will start at Treacy’s Cross on The Heath”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Road Design is preparing a design for Treacy’s Cross Junction Safety Scheme. Construction work will be completed by the end of November.

Notice of Motion No: 84/2021

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That this Council give a time frame as to when The Orchard Housing Estate near Stradbally will be taken in charge”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised of the following works which need to be completed before we can commence the taking in charge process:

- Replacement of hydrant cover at house No. 8.
- Works to surface water manholes including benching, provision of steps, removal of silt, debris, etc.
- Replacement of footpaths to rear of house No 7 and side of house No 8
- Reinstatement of Roadway / parking area adjacent to rear of No. 8 (subsided in last 12 months).
- Wayleave issue of Foul Sewer adjacent to No. 1 & laneway to main street to be resolved.

A discussion ensued regarding the above matter. Councillor McEvoy indicated that the residents have erected signage to stop and slow down traffic in the estate. Councillor McEvoy requested that the situation with the bond be clarified.

Notice of Motion No: 85/2021

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council implement traffic controls at the Killimy junction on the Portlaoise/Portarlinton Road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the Council is currently arranging for road markings to be installed at this junction following the recent road surfacing. Additional junction-ahead signage can also be included. It was noted that a meeting of the Joint Policing Committee in November 2019 that An Garda Síochána had given a commitment to the provision of a GoSafe van here. This has yet to happen

Notice of Motion No: 86/2021

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council address the serious flooding on the L31542 at Morette, Emo”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that the Council will arrange to meet with the Elected Member to agree the scope of works to address the flooding here.

Notice of Motion No: 87/2021

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council give an update on the Taking in Charge of The Glen in Kilnacourt Estate in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the following works remain to be completed:

Sewage Pumping Station

1. Cover slab to be removed and pump sump extended to make flush with adjacent ground level, cover slab and access cover/ fall arrest system to be replaced.
2. Guide rails and mounting hangers to be replaced (consequent to extension of pump sump).
3. Control kiosk to be replaced/ relocated.
4. Concrete slab to be provided for access to pump sump.
5. Palisade fencing to be provided around Pumping Station.

Landscaping

Approximately 3000m² of open space adjacent to Pumping Station and rear / side of recently completed dwellings /apartment block to be levelled, top soiled & seeded.

Minor Works

Sections of footpath (approx. 10m²) to be replaced and inspection / certification of public lighting to be done.

The developer is awaiting delivery of a new Control Panel and new ESB connection for the pumping station. He has also advised that the works to same should be completed by the end of October this year if everything goes according to Plan.

It should be noted that there is a grant of planning permission for 26 houses at the rear of the Glen Housing Estate.

Notice of Motion No: 88/2021

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council give an update on resolving the severe flooding at Pimlico Cross, Fallaghmore, Ballyadams as it is causing difficulties for road users when flooded”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has investigated the flooding issue at this location and an old road gully beside the well was found. The drain from this gully to the nearby pond was jetted and this is now flowing freely. This gully will be raised to

road level to drain surface water from the road directly into the pond. The pond will also be cleared to increase its storage capacity.

Notice of Motion No: 89/2021

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council give an update on when the flooding outside the houses in Imleach Estate, The Swan, will be resolved”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that A new road gully and drainage pipework is needed at this location. These works will commence in the next fortnight and will take 3 to 4 days to complete.

Notice of Motion No: 90/2021

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council give an update for the plan to resolve the flooding outside the houses at Skehana, Ballylinan”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has investigated the flooding at this location. The existing drain in the verge has now been cleared and water cuts have been carried out. We will also arrange for bunds to be installed at each of the entrances in the coming weeks. We can monitor the effectiveness of these works to see if any further works are needed.

Notice of Motion No: 91/2021

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council make safe the road from Sleaty Road roundabout to Knockbeg College”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has carried out pothole repairs and some hedge cutting has been carried out by landowners along this road in the last week. The Council would welcome a meeting on site to consider potential locations for passing bays, given the volume of traffic at peak times and the narrow width of the road.

Notice of Motion No: 92/2021

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council make safe the footpath in Oakley Park, Graiguecullen as the path has subsided”

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

Notice of Motion No: 93/2021

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council make safe a culvert in Springhill, Killeshin”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet with the Elected Member in Springhill to agree the scope of the works needed.

Notice of Motion No: 94/2021

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That this Council erect stop signs and road markings at all four roads at Cullenagh Cross, Ballylinan and at Castletown Cross and to remove the ditch at Castletown Cross as it is a health and safety concern”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that signage will be installed on the two approach roads to the Cullenagh crossroads where there is currently no signage. Road markings will be installed on the approaches making the crossroads an all-stop. At Castletown, additional signage will be installed on the approaches.

The removal of the hedge at Castletown was included in the 2021 Safety Improvement Scheme but may have to be included in a compulsory purchase process in order to complete the full scope of works at this location. Councillor A Moran requested that the C.P.O. process should be initiated as quickly as possible where agreement could not be obtained.

Notice of Motion No: 95/2021

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council erect a ‘No HGV or heavy traffic sign’ on the slip road at Ballylinan as previously pointed out”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the Council will arrange to install HGV straight ahead road markings and ‘Local Access Only’ signs on both the N78 and Aghanure Road approaches to this slip road.

Notice of Motion No: 96/2021

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That the Council finish the Bruach na hAbhann estate as it has been taken in charge by the Council and also that the derelict building be removed as it is a health and safety issue”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Planning permission (21/374) was granted on the 16th August 2021 to demolish the existing structure and construct a storey and a half style domestic dwelling and all associated site works. No timeline has been given in relation to the commencement of the proposed works. This will be followed up by the Derelict Sites Section and we will advise for the next meeting.

It was noted also that the railing needs to be repaired at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 97/2021

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

“That Laois County Council clear the bushes from in front of signage on the old N7 out of Monasterevin indicating the right hand turn for Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the Council will arrange to have the bushes cleared to highlight the right hand turn for Portarlinton.

Notice of Motion No: 98/2021

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

“That Laois County Council call on the owners of the Heritage Golf Resort in Killenard to cut back the ditch on the Portarlinton to Ballybrittas road at Rathleash as large vans and lorries are keeping further out on the road to avoid mirror breakage”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that the Council had issued hedge cutting notices to the appropriate landowners along this length of road.

Notice of Motion No: 99/2021

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

“That Laois County Council contact the TII or those in charge of the motorway network to investigate the possibility of adding an extra metre of barrier at the top of the exit lane going on to a roundabout, no higher than 2 feet at the right hand side of the exit as all traffic has to turn left onto the roundabout – this would greatly benefit vehicles accidentally or otherwise getting onto the motorway on the wrong side”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that all motorway infrastructure, including junctions with the motorway network are designed and constructed in accordance with the specifications and standards contained within the TII Design Manual for Roads and Bridges. All motorway infrastructure is subject to the Road Safety Audit process at the design, construction and post completion stages and any issues identified are rectified.

6. CORRSPONDENCE

It was noted that correspondence had been received from the TII in relation to a request to meet a delegation. TII confirmed that it would meet a delegation from Laois County Council consisting of two members from each Municipal District. It was unanimously agreed that Councillors Aisling Moran and Padraig Fleming would represent the Graiguecullen/Portarlinton Municipal District Area.

7. TIME & DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 20th of October 2021 at **2.00 p.m.**

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Padraig Fleming, Cathaoirleach