

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20th MARCH 2019 IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE,
PORTLAOISE**

PRESENT Mr. John Moran, Cathaoirleach (In the Chair)
Mr. Aidan Mullins M.C.C.
Mr. Paschal McEvoy, M.C.C.
Mr. Tom Mulhall, M.C.C.
Mr. Pádraig Fleming, M.C.C.
Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance
Mr. Darren Coss, A/Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer

1. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 20TH OF FEBRUARY 2019

On the proposal of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins, the minutes of the February meeting held on the 20th of February 2019 were confirmed as circulated.

2. PROGRESS REPORT

The report was noted and the Members complimented Mr. Darren Coss, A/Senior Executive Engineer and all the team on the works that had been completed since the last meeting.

It was noted that Virgin Media are currently working on the Offaly side of Portarlinton and the remainder of works in Laois would be completed at a later date.

Councillor Mullins raised the issue of the location of the Municipal District Office in Graiguecullen and noted that it is a 90km round trip for Engineering staff to travel to Portarlinton to inspect projects. A discussion ensued in relation to same.

3. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 19/2019

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council improve the road surface at Sallyford Junction, Rathronshin”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the Area office will arrange a crew to complete these works in the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 20/2019

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council liaise with the OPW to widen the hard shoulder on the R445 at the Heath from the Wheel Inn to the road down by the Heath GAA Grounds”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The members were advised that Road Design Section will review this junction with a view to improving safety at this location. Any proposed works at this location will be subject to funding being available.

Councillor Mulhall requested that the Council liaise with the OPW in relation to this.

Notice of Motion No: 21/2019

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on what safety measures they have to improve the junction on the N80 Stradbally side of Oakvale Cemetery”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that this site has been discussed with the TII Safety Engineer. This will be progressed to design stage later in the year for submission to TII for approval.

Notice of Motion No: 22/2019

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council erect warning signs at bad bend at Cremorgan, Timahoe”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the Eastern Area office will arrange for chevron signage to be installed at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 23/2019

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out safety measures at Treacy’s Cross, the Heath. There have been a number of bad accidents at this area recently”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that an investigation of this location will be undertaken to assess current safety measures in place. Remedial measures will be taken if deemed necessary.

Notice of Motion No: 24/2019

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council make available a disabled parking space at Main Street, Stradbally to facilitate parking outside the Muiriosa Foundation house”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that the Area office has installed a drop kerb at this location during the Stradbally footway upgrades to assist in access for disabled users. The remaining works have been completed.

Notice of Motion No: 25/2019

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That this Council investigate the pond/flood on the Carlow Road, Ballylinan near the pump”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the Eastern Area Office has been in contact with the contractors who recently carried out works in this location. They will be installing remedial measures at this location in the coming week

Notice of Motion No: 26/2019

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council erect a stop sign at Ballinakill, Ballickmoyer”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that the Eastern Area office will arrange for a new stop sign to be installed at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 27/2019

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council cut the hedge at the footpath near the roundabout on the Carlow/Portlaoise Road in Graiguecullen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that an assessment of the area will be carried out to confirm if this is a road

safety issue prior to works commencing. If the hedge is deemed to be a road safety issue the works will be completed.

Notice of Motion No: 28/2019

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council take measures to stop the water going in to a property at the Swan”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the area office will install a new gully grating and kerbing to prevent water flowing onto the public footway in order to alleviate this issue.

Notice of Motion No: 29/09

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give consideration to the inclusion of the Roman Catholic Church in Barrowhouse on the list of protected structures”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the Planning Section is going to carry out a conservation appraisal of the building and property. On receipt of that appraisal, its inclusion will be considered and due process will be followed. The addition of structures and buildings to the Record of Protected Structures is a reserved function of the Council following consultation with the owners and public.

Notice of Motion No: 30/2019

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on when Garrendenny Lane will be repaired as agreed”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that all crews are currently being utilised to carry out drainage works in preparation for the roads programme. Once a crew becomes available works will be carried out on this lane.

Notice of Motion No: 31/2019

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council investigate the possibility of installing a boardwalk at the Barrow Bridge in Spa Street in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council previously included a proposal for the installation of a boardwalk at the bridge on Spa Street as part of a larger application for Portarlinton under the most recent call by the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. While no funding was awarded on that occasion, the proposal will be examined as part of any future development proposals for Portarlinton in consultation with the MD members and local community interests.

Councillor Aidan Mullins indicated that he hoped funding would be secured for this project and requested that a survey/costing exercise be carried out.

Notice of Motion No: 32/2019

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council erect public lighting at Killyganard Cross outside Ballylinan”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the Road Design Section will review this junction for the provision of street lighting. Any proposed street lighting at this location will be subject to funding being available.

Notice of Motion No: 33/2019

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“To ask Laois County Council for an update on the taking in charge of Lansdowne Estate in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that this estate has not been completed. There is a current live planning permission to complete the estate. A CCTV of the completed element has been submitted. There is no application from the developer to take the estate in charge and no “as Constructed Drawings” have been submitted.

Councillor Mullins requested further clarification on the taking in charge of a portion of the estate. It was noted that a Road Safety Audit is required.

Notice of Motion No: 34/2019

Councillor Pdraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an up to date position on the taking of charge of Doireann Alainn estate in Ballylinan and also Whitethorn Grove”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the Council has advertised the taking in charge of these estates in this week's local newspaper.

Notice of Motion No: 35/2019

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair the collapsed manhole on the footpath near Glanbia, Graiguecullen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that this issue has been highlighted by the Area Engineer and is currently on his programme of works. A work crew will have this completed by close of business on Friday.

Notice of Motion No: 36/2019

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an up to date position regarding the safety measures to be taken at Graham's corner, Tolerton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that the Eastern Area Office has installed new chevron signage at this location and that we are currently waiting on line marking “Slow” texts to be installed; however weather conditions have been a hindrance. Once weather conditions dry the markings will be installed.

4. Correspondence

The Members were circulated with details of the Clár Programme for 2019.

The Members noted the response received from the Department of Education & Skills dated the 25th of February 2019 in relation to a Notice of Motion which was passed as follows:-

“That Laois County Council initiate a process to secure a small piece of land opposite Sandy Lane NS in Portarlinton to accommodate school buses and parents in the interest of children's safety and road safety”

It was noted that there is an existing planning permission (extended to June 2020) which has a condition for a set down area/lay by. Councillor Aidan Mullins enquired as to the possibility of the Council purchasing this piece of land for the purpose of parking. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance agreed to review the planning file.

5. **ROADS PROGRAMME 2019**

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor John Moran, the Members unanimously agreed to the Roads Programme for 2019.

6. **TIME & DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on **24th of April 2019** at 11.00 a.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
John Moran, Cathaoirleach