

**Minutes of the Portlaoise Municipal District Meeting held in Áras and Chontae on  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 at 11:00 am**

**Present:** Catherine Fitzgerald, M.C.C. Chairperson

Caroline Dwane Stanley, M.C.C. Willie Aird, A.C.C., John Joe Fennelly,  
M.C.C., Noel Tuohy, M.C.C., Pauline Madigan, M.C.C., Mary Sweeney,  
M.C.C.

**In attendance:** Michael Rainey, A/Director of Services, Wes Wilkinson Senior  
Executive Engineer, Kim Kinsella, Administrative Officer.  
Linda Meredith, Staff Officer, Business Support Unit

**1) (i) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PORTLAOISE  
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2019.**

On the proposal of Councillor Fennelly and seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th February 2019 were confirmed and circulated.

**(ii) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PORTLAOISE  
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019.**

On the proposal of Councillor Madigan and seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th March 2019 were confirmed and circulated.

**2) MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr. Fennelly raised the issue of the Lighting Contract; he asked that the contract be examined regarding response times. A report will be prepared for the next Meeting for the Members.

**3) NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

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| <b>42/2019 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b>   | <b>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.</b>   |
| “That Laois County Council investigate road safety measures at Bondra Lane, Colt, Ballyroan L16811 and implement same” | 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.<br><b>Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley<br/>Mr. Wilkinson advised that the Central Area would carry out minor changes at this location. The Members requested a meeting with the TII</b> |

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| <b>43/2019 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b>  | <b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise M.D.</b>  |
| “That this Municipal District provide an update on the provision of a wall/ safety measures at the rear of houses at Glenbrook estate Ballyroan”  | The works will be tendered by mid April, it is expected that the works will commence in June.<br><b>Seconded by Cllr. Fennelly</b>   |
| <b>44/2019 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b>  | <b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise M.D.</b>  |
| “That this Municipal District examine the Rock Road, Ballyroan and repair where necessary”  | Road repairs will be carried out at this location in the coming weeks.<br><b>Seconded by Cllr. Fennelly</b>  |
| <b>45/2019 – Councillor Noel Tuohy</b>  | <b>Mr. Michael Rainey, A/DOS</b>   |
| “That this Council supports in whatever way it can the possibility of hosting TJ Doheny in a world title fight in Portlaoise and if possible in O’ Moore Park”  | Laois County Council will support such an event and will meet interested bodies to discuss their requirements.<br><b>Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley</b><br><b>Cllr. Tuohy paid tribute to Pat Ryan</b>  |
| <b>46/2019 – Councillor Noel Tuohy</b>  | <b>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E., Road Design</b>  |
| “In light of the increasing number of vehicles using the road servicing the schools complex that this Council introduce traffic calming measures particularly on the stretch between The Holy Family Schools and the Aghnaharna roundabout. Apart from heavy passing traffic this road is used by residents of Beladd upper and lower, Summerhill and Summerhill Lane, Aghnaharna And Aghnaharna Court, And Ashewoid Walk And is also a popular pedestrian and cycling route. | There is adequate public lighting along this road, in addition to controlled and uncontrolled facilities for pedestrians. Cycling facilities are also integrated into the footpaths with ample width for both cyclists and pedestrians. The appropriate traffic control measures are already in place. This stretch of road is within a 50kph speed limit zone. It is the duty of An Garda Síochana to enforce the speed limit on this road.<br><br>Road Design are available to meet Councillors on site to review.<br><b>Seconded by Cllr. Madigan</b> |
| <b>47/2019 – Councillor Noel Tuohy</b>  | <b>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E., Road Design</b>  |
| “That this Council undertake to review and assess the situation in Kilminchy where there are more than 700 houses , in terms of traffic calming , lighting and other safety measures”   | Some of the street lights has been upgraded and remaining lights will be upgraded to LED which will improve the lighting level in Kilminchy.<br>Road design section will review this estate in view to improve safety in Kilminchy. Any proposed works will be subject to funding being available.<br><b>Seconded by Cllr. Madigan.</b><br><b>Kim Kinsella will forward map of the Areas in charge to the Members</b>  |

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| <p><b>48/2019 – Councillor Willie Aird</b></p>  | <p><b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E., Portlaoise MD</b></p>   |
| <p>“That the Portlaoise Municipal District calls on Laois County Council to take in charge roads at the Holy Family schools campus”</p>                                     | <p>The Portlaoise MD Roads Office will examine this location under Section 11 (Declaration of Public Roads) of the Roads Act, 1993. A report and recommendation will be made to the Senior Engineer in the coming weeks.<br/><b>Seconded by Cllr. Tuohy</b></p>  |
| <p><b>49/2019 – Councillor William Aird</b></p>   | <p><b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD</b></p>   |
| <p>“That this Municipal District install bollards outside Scoil Bhride on Harpurs Lane, Portlaoise”</p>   | <p>A meeting was recently held with the Principal to discuss parking issues on the public road adjacent to the school. It was proposed that bollards be installed on one side of the road from the pedestrian entrance of the school to the junction on the Ballyfin Link Road.<br/><b>Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley</b></p>   |
| <p><b>50/2019 – Councillor Willie Aird</b></p>  | <p><b>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.</b></p>  |
| <p>“That this Municipal District be informed as to the up to date plans on the roundabout at the junction of Meelick Road &amp; the Abbeyleix Road”</p>                     | <p>This is being considered by TII for a safety scheme with a plan to introduce a no right turn coming out of Meelick Rd. Design is currently in progress, there is no commitment from TII at present.<br/><b>Seconded by Cllr. Fennelly</b><br/><b>Members requested Meeting with the TII and that the Island is re-painted immediately</b></p>   |
| <p><b>51/2019 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</b></p>   | <p><b>Mr. Pat Delaney, A.O., Planning</b></p>  |
| <p>“That this Council begin the process of taking in charge Phase 1 of Clonrooske Abbey Estate and contact the Developer to have the vacant site of the crèche cleared”</p> | <p>A meeting was held with the Developer before Christmas. kingscroft developments Ltd have to provide a CCTV and evidence that there are wayleave agreements in place prior to taking in charge. The matter of the creche site will be inspected.<br/><b>Seconded by Cllr. Aird</b><br/><b>Michael Rainey informed the Members that Planning will continue to engage with the Developer</b></p> |

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| <b>52/2019 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</b>  | <b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise M.D.</b>  |
| “That this Council carry out road repairs and address the drainage issue on the road at Cappagh North”  | Road repairs and drainage works will be carried out at this location in the coming weeks.<br><b>Seconded by Cllr. Fennelly</b>   |
| <b>53/2019 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</b>  | <b>Ms. Angela McEvoy, Senior Planner &amp; Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E., Portlaoise MD</b>  |
| “This Council give a progress report on the derelict house in laurel Drive Eskers hills and reinstate the signs on the two traffic islands and the fence that has fallen down at the End of Laurel Drive” | No 70 Esker Hills is on the Derelict Sites Register. Notices have been issued to the owners and posted on the site but no response has been received. The Planning Section has referred it to the Vacant Homes Officer for an assessment. The Roads Office will examine the signs and fence at the end of Laurel Drive and carry out any appropriate repairs.<br><b>Seconded by Cllr. Aird</b><br><b>Mr. Rainey advised that this site is being considered for CPO. Also Mr. Rainey encouraged the Members to contact the Vacant Homes Officer with vacant sites</b> |
| <b>54/2019 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</b>   | <b>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.</b>   |
| “That this Council install a roundabout at the junction of Heywood Community School, Ballinakill”   | Road design section will review this junction in view to improve safety at this location. Any proposed works at this location will be subject to funding being available.<br><b>Seconded by Cllr. Aird</b>   |
| <b>55/2019 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</b>   | <b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E. Portlaoise M.D.</b>   |
| “That this Council give a timescale on the repair of the stone bridge at Spink close to the creamery”   | Consultants have been engaged to carry out an assessment and prepare a detailed design in relation to the provision of a vehicle restraint barrier at this location. It is expected that the repair works would be carried out in Q3 of this year.<br><b>Seconded by Cllr. Aird</b>  |

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| <b>56/2019 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</b>   | <b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E. Portlaoise M.D.</b>   |
| “That this Council improve safety measures in Ballinakill at the junction for Durrow/Kilkenny Road & Chapel Street”   | A road safety scheme funding has been granted to carry out works at this location in 2019. Designs/proposals will be drawn up in the coming months.<br><b>Seconded by Cllr. Sweeney</b>  |
| <b>57/2019 – Councillor Pauline Madigan</b>   | <b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E. Portlaoise M.D.</b>   |
| “That this Council improve the cobble locking in the Hermitage Housing Estate”  | The Portlaoise MD Roads Office will carry out minor repairs at this location in the coming weeks.<br><b>Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald</b>   |
| <b>58/2019 – Councillor Pauline Madigan</b>   | <b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E. Portlaoise M.D.</b>   |
| “That the Council liaise with ESB Networks in relation to trees that need to be cut back in Hawthorn Drive following Storm Freya and that the Council sort out footpaths in the estate” | The Portlaoise MD Office referred the issue relating to the trees in Hawthorn Drive to ESB Networks in early March.<br><br>The Portlaoise MD Office will arrange to carry out the footpath repairs in the coming weeks.<br><b>Seconded by Cllr. Tuohy</b>  |
| <b>59/2019 – Councillor Pauline Madigan</b>   | <b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E. Portlaoise M.D.</b>   |
| “That the Council provide speed ramps in Highfield Meadows, Portlaoise”   | I will make myself available to meet with the residents to discuss the provision of a speed ramps in Highfield Meadows.<br><b>Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley</b><br><b>All Members requested continuous double yellow lines at this location</b>  |
| <b>60/2019 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</b>  | <b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise M.D.</b>  |
| “That this Council install signage at the bridge at the Rock National School and also address the sudden bump in the road near Culletons”.  | I will make myself available to meet with Councillor Fitzgerald and the residents near the Rock School to discuss the provision of a signage at this location.<br><br>The Portlaoise MD Office will examine the road near Culletons and carry out any repairs as appropriate.<br><b>Seconded by Cllr. Aird</b> |

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| <p><b>61/2019 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</b></p>  | <p><b>Ms. Ann Carroll, A.O., Environment</b></p>   |
| <p>“That this Council give assistance to residents near the Rock of Dunamaise who collect litter”</p>  | <p>Environment fund the areas to collect litter from bins and street sweepings. Residents of this area may participate in Clean Up Laois Week, 8<sup>th</sup> April to 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Once the group register, they will be provided with bags, gloves and litter pickers and the rubbish will be collected as per the Rota basis by our sponsors, AES. Litter Wardens are happy to assist and advise communities throughout the year.<br/> <b>Seconded by Cllr. Aird</b><br/> <b>All Members supported the motion</b></p>  |
| <p><b>62/2019 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</b></p>  | <p><b>Ms. Georgina Ireland, A/S.E.O.</b></p>   |
| <p>“That this Council be given an up to date position from the Sports &amp; Leisure Section regarding the proposed indoor sports facility for Portlaoise Town”</p> | <p>Laois County Council recently engaged with a number of stakeholders to discuss the possibility of developing a large indoor sporting facility to cater for the needs of a number of sporting groups in Portlaoise.<br/> A needs analysis is currently underway to determine the demand for such a facility. If need is clearly identified, Laois County Council will submit an application in April to the Dept of Transport, Tourism and Sport under the Large Scale Capital Infrastructure Fund, aimed at funding a full Feasibility Study to Design Stage.<br/> <b>Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley</b></p> |

4. **Business Incentive Scheme – Extension of the BIS to include Bull Lane, Peppers Lane and Lyster Lane.** Proposed by Councillor Dwane Stanley and seconded by Councillor Tuohy
5. **AOB – Cllr Fitzgerald congratulated Scoil Christ Ri**
6. **FIX TIME, DATE & VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING.**

**The next meeting is to be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 11.00 a.m. in the Council Chamber of Áras an Chontae.**

**This concluded the business of the meeting.**

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Certified: \_\_\_\_\_**

**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**DIRECTOR OF SERVICE.**