

**Minutes of the Portlaoise Municipal District Meeting held in Áras and Chontae
on the 21st February 2018 at 11:00 am**

Present: Mary Sweeny, M.C.C. Chairperson

Catherine Fitzgerald, M.C.C., Caroline Dwane Stanley, M.C.C.
Willie Aird, A.C.C., John Joe Fennelly, M.C.C., Gerry Lodge, M.C.C.,
Noel Tuohy, M.C.C.

In attendance: Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, Mr. Wes Wilkinson,
Senior Executive Engineer, Ms. Angela Marshall, S.O.

**1) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PORTLAOISE
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 17TH JANUARY 2018.**

On the proposal of Councillor Fennelly seconded by Councillor Dwane-Stanley, the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th January 2018 were confirmed and circulated.

2) MATTERS ARISING.

No matters arising from previous meeting.

**3) PROJECT IRELAND 2040 – NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018 – 2027
& NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK**

Extract from Project Ireland 2040 – National development Plan 2018 – 2027 & National Planning Framework was circulated.

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, presented the extract and welcomed the fact that Portlaoise was one of only 3 regional towns mentioned within the framework. The Members thanked Mr. Kehoe for the presentation, however, Members expressed concern in relation to Portlaoise Hospital not being referred to in the plan.

4) COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SCHEMES

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services informed the member that the Community Involvement Scheme will be available in 2018 following notification from the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport.

The scheme will be advertised locally and on social media and the Laois County Council website. All Members welcomed the scheme.

5) **PORTLAOISE TOWN TEAM PROGRESS**

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, advised that next meeting of Town Team was Friday 23rd February 2018. Mr. Kehoe, Director of Services outlined progress to date including:

- Health Checks Indicators with a view to forming a Town Plan, Occupancy & Vacancy Survey, Online Visitors Survey, Destination Footfall Survey are being carried out.
- Laneways Project to include Bull Lane, Lyster Lane & Pepper’s Lane.
- Historic Town Initiative – LCC making an application to Heritage Council for funding.
- Triogue Cycleway – the slight change to proposed layout was mentioned.
- Lyster Square upgrade with a view to make area more pedestrian friendly and include some extra car parking spaces.
- Discussions with National Transport Authority for 2 new local bus routes for the town to serve areas such as Kilminchy, Fairgreen and Mountrath Road.

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, advised members of Part VIII proposals in respect of (i) Infrastructural Development at Togher and (ii) Rockview Roundabout. They will be advertised next week and will be presented at full Council meeting. There will also be public information evening, date to be finalised.

6) **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

19/2018 – Councillor Jerry Lodge	Mr. Pat Delaney, A.O., Planning
<p><i>“That this meeting be given an update on the taking in charge of the following estates as agreed previously – Millbrook, Westlands and Garden Village”</i></p>	<p><i>CCTV for Westlands has been completed and is currently being inspected. Millbrook CCTV is expected to commence Wednesday 21st February 2018.</i></p> <p><i>Garden Village estate is at a standstill due to issue between the Developer and Road Surfacing Contractor.</i></p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Dwane-Stanley</p> <p>Cllr. Jerry Lodge requested that LCC provide a response for April meeting with regard to legal advice in the matter of Garden Village.</p>

	<p>Cllr. Fitzgerald, Cllr. Tuohy, Cllr. Aird, Cllr. Dwane-Stanley & Cllr. Sweeney also supported this motion.</p>
<p>20/2018 – Councillor Jerry Lodge</p>	<p>Ms. Angela McEvoy, Senior Planner</p>
<p><i>“That this meeting calls on Laois County Council to issue a CPO in respect of the vacant derelict building formerly known as the Prison Officers Club in the interest of the image of the town”</i></p>	<p><i>Prior to considering the commencement of the CPO process in relation to this site, the Council must consider the potential uses of the site and challenges to its development and costs related to same.</i></p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Catherine Fitzgerald.</p> <p>Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services agreed that this is a high priority site and would be an important building in the Town Renewal Plan.</p> <p>Cllr. Jerry Lodge, Cllr. Noel Tuohy & Cllr. Fitzgerald supported this motion.</p>
<p>21/2018 – Councillor Jerry Lodge</p>	<p>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.</p>
<p><i>“That this meeting be informed of Laois County Council’s plans for the enforcement of the ‘entrance only’ at the first entrance to Fairgreen”</i></p>	<p><i>This matter will be referred to An Garda Siochana for their consideration.</i></p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Caroline Dwane-Stanley</p> <p>Cllr. Jerry Lodge would like Laois County Council also to take steps to ensure road safety in this area.</p>
<p>22/2018 – Councillor Noel Tuohy</p>	<p>Mr. Wes Wilkinson SEE Portlaoise MD</p>
<p><i>“That a mirror be erected at the exit of Station road to Mountmellick Road to facilitate the safe exit of traffic”</i></p>	<p><i>In general, Laois County Council does not supply or give agreement to the erection of mirrors at new locations on public roads. Mirrors can give a distorted view of the road and a misleading impression of the speed of approaching vehicles. Convex mirrors will not give a clear view of smaller vehicles, such as motorcycles and bicycles. They can cause drivers to feel a sense of security when entering a main road, to such an extent that due care may not be taken when completing the manoeuvre.</i></p>

	<p>However, in this instance, as the issue relates to the replacement of an existing mirror mounted on the pole opposite Station Road, Laois County Council will replace the mirror.</p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Mary Sweeney.</p>
23/2018 – Councillor Noel Tuohy	Mr. Michael O’ Hora, S.E.
<i>“That this Council discuss the restoration of the public toilets in Portlaoise”</i>	<p>Water Services is preparing documentation for advertisement on e-tenders for expressions of interest for Design, Build and Operation of new Public Toilet Facilities to be housed in the existing Toilet Block at Lyster Square. It is planned to have this advert posted by the end of February 2018.</p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Willie Aird</p>
24/2018 – Councillor Mary Sweeney	Mr. Wes Wilkinson SEE Portlaoise MD
<i>“That Laois County Council clean the river at Mounteagle, Ballyroan”</i>	<p>Roads staff will remove silt from the culvert on the L-2716-0 at Mounteagle in the coming weeks.</p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Willie Aird</p>
25/2018 – Councillor Mary Sweeney	Mr. Wes Wilkinson SEE Portlaoise MD
<i>“That LCC carry out repair roads at Newtown Road, Ballyroan”</i>	<p>Road repairs will be carried out at this location within the next 3-4 weeks.</p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. John Joe Fennelly</p>
26/2018 – Councillor Mary Sweeney	Mr. Wes Wilkinson SEE Portlaoise MD
<i>“That LCC investigate the recent line realignment at Coliseum Lane”</i>	<p>This issue will be reviewed.</p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Willie Aird.</p> <p>Cllr. Willie Aird suggested an alternative surface would be better in this lane</p>
27/2018 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald	Mr. Pat Delaney, A.O., Planning
<i>“That this Council take Summerhill Estate in charge”</i>	<p>CCTV Survey is to be carried out after Millbrook. When completed As Constructed Drawings will be prepared and progressed for Taking in Charge.</p>

	<p>Seconded: Cllr. Noel Tuohy</p> <p>Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, recommended a separate item on the Agenda for March meeting to include an update on taking estates in charge by Mr. Pat Delaney, Admin Officer, Development Control.</p>
28/2018 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald	Mr. Wes Wilkinson SEE Portlaoise MD
<i>“That this Council give an update on Roads Program re: Hawthorn Estate”</i>	<p><i>Hawthorn Estate will be considered for resurfacing as part of the 2018 Roads Programme. Please note that roads will be assessed and prioritised based on their condition, PCSI rating and funding available.</i></p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Dwane-Stanley</p>
29/2018 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald	Mr. Wes Wilkinson SEE Portlaoise MD
<i>“That this Council address the surface water problem in Grenville Estate”</i>	<p><i>This issue will be investigated in the coming weeks and monitored during periods of rainfall.</i></p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Mary Sweeney</p>
30/2018 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly	Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.
<i>“That this Council contact ESB/Killaree Lighting to prune trees on the approach road to Abbeyleix from Durrow at the junction of the Well Road as there are two to three lights totally overshadowed by the trees”</i>	<p><i>This is included in maintenance works and will be carried out in next 2 weeks.</i></p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Mary Sweeney</p>
31/2018 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly	Mr. Wes Wilkinson SEE Portlaoise MD
<i>“That this Council replace footpaths at Market Square, Abbeyleix from the Horseshoe inn up to the Bed and Breakfast”</i>	<p><i>This location can be considered as part of the Discretionary Footpath works for 2018.</i></p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Willie Aird. Cllr. John Joe Fennelly is open to use of discretionary funds if it means the work will be completed in 2018.</p>

<p>32/2018 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</p>	<p>Ms. Orla Barrett, S.E., Environment</p>
<p><i>“That this Council install cameras on the new bottle banks in Abbeyleix and Ballinakill and other areas in our district as the amount of illegal dumping has increased around these facilities”</i></p>	<p><i>Mobile CCTV cameras are a regular feature at our bottle banks. We are seeking funding this year under the Anti-illegal dumping initiative to purchase permanent fixed cameras for 4 of our worst sites. Unfortunately Ballinakill is one such site.</i></p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Noel Tuohy</p> <p>Cllr. John Joe Fennelly referenced the fact that Ballinakill was down 3 points in the Tidy Towns as a result of the litter at bottle banks. Cllr. Noel Tuohy suggested a warning letter be issued before a fine in some cases.</p>
<p>33/2018 – Councillor William Aird</p>	<p>Mr. Wes Wilkinson SEE Portlaoise MD</p>
<p><i>“That Laois County Council include in the re-surfacing programme O’ Neills Road to Raheenduff”</i></p>	<p><i>The L-27763-0 at Raheenduff will be considered for resurfacing as part of the 2018 Roads Programme. Please note that roads will be assessed and prioritised based on their condition, PCSI rating and funding available.</i></p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. John Joe Fennelly</p>
<p>34/2018 – Councillor William Aird</p>	<p>Mr. Wes Wilkinson SEE Portlaoise MD</p>
<p><i>“That Laois County Council include in the Roads Programme Clonboyne, Oldtown & Clonadacasey”</i></p>	<p><i>These roads will be considered for resurfacing as part of the 2018 Roads Programme. Please note that roads will be assessed and prioritised based on their condition, PCSI rating and funding available.</i></p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Caroline Dwane-Stanley</p>
<p>35/2018 – Councillor William Aird</p>	<p>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.</p>
<p><i>“That Laois County Council make more visible as a matter of urgency the new pedestrian crossing at the Timahoe Road, Portlaoise”</i></p>	<p><i>Road marking was not completed by resurfacing contractor. This will be completed in next 2 weeks which will improve this pedestrian crossing.</i></p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Noel Tuohy</p>

	<p>Cllr. Willie Aird acknowledged marking that has been done but requested that improved lighting be provided on some pedestrian crossings.</p>
<p>36/2018 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanely</p>	<p>Mr. Michael Rainey, S.E.O., Housing</p>
<p><i>“That his Council bring forward Plans for the Regeneration of O Moore Place and the adjoining field”</i></p>	<p><i>The lands adjoining O’Moore Place are in private ownership and the Council are in discussions with the current owners. Acquisition of this land is critical to the overall regeneration of this area.</i></p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Noel Tuohy</p> <p>Cllr. Dwane- Stanely requested that a plan be available in 3 months time in relation to this motion. Also requested that a turning area large enough for fire trucks to turn be provided.</p> <p>Cllr. Dwane-Stanley requested that Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, liaise with Director of services for Housing in this matter. Cllr. Noel Tuohy supported this motion.</p>
<p>37/2018 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</p>	<p>Mr. Michael Rainey, S.E.O., Housing</p>
<p><i>“That this Council clarify the reasons for awarding the Contract to services boilers in their Social housing units to a Company outside the Jurisdiction.</i></p>	<p><i>The contract value is greater than €50,000 and was advertised on e-tenders. Therefore contractors throughout the EU are entitled to bid for the work.</i></p> <p>Cllr. Dwane-Stanley requested clarification why local companies not used.</p> <p>Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, clarified that procurement is laid out strictly under the National Policy for Procurement Framework.</p>
<p>38/2018 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</p>	<p>Wes Wilkinson SEE Portlaoise MD</p>
<p><i>“That this Council Contact Cie / Iarnrod Eireann and impress on them their responsibility to carry out regular Maintenance on Drainage under the Railway</i></p>	<p><i>Portlaoise MD staff have been in close contact with Irish Rail over the past 4-6 weeks relating to the drainage issues in Clonboyne.</i></p>

<p><i>lines at Clonboyne, Clonkeen, and Clonadacase"</i></p>	<p><i>The drainage issue arose at this location in mid January following a period of heavy rainfall. The road side drainage and land drainage adjacent to the relevant properties were checked and verified as being clear by our Roads Staff.</i></p> <p><i>There was however an issue with the drainage adjacent to the rail line. I contacted the regional maintenance office in Irish Rail and they arranged to carry out investigative works immediately.</i></p> <p><i>Following on from this Irish Rail scheduled and carried out works to install a new culvert under the rail line in late January and connected the land drainage to their rail side drainage. While this does alleviate the issue for the moment, the Portlaoise MD Road Office and Irish Rail will be developing a proposal divert the land drainage away from Railside surface water system and divert it to a land drainage on the north side of the rail line.</i></p> <p>Seconded: Willie Aird Cllr. Caroline Dwane-Stanley enquired as to long term solution. Mr. Wes Wilkinson, Senior Exec. Engineer, advised working with CIE and will inform PMD when proposal available.</p>
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7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. Willie Aird welcomed recent decision that planning permission will not be needed to provide residential accommodation above a business.

Mr. Wes Wilkinson, Senior Executive Engineer presented the Draft 2018 Portlaoise Municipal District Roadworks Programme and requested that it be adopted.

Proposed: Cllr. Willie Aird

Seconded: Cllr. Caroline Dwane-Stanley

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, thanked Wes Wilkinson, Senior Executive Engineer, Roy Glynn and all Roads staff for the work that has gone into the Roads Programme for 2018.

Cllr. Willie Aird voiced his appreciation to the outdoor staff for their work around the town and Members agreed with this also.

8. FIX TIME, DATE & VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting is to be held on the 21st March 2018 at 11.00 a.m. in the Council Chamber of Áras an Chontae.

8. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2018

Schedule of Meetings 2018 circulated.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

Certified: _____

DIRECTOR OF SERVICE.

