

Minutes of the Portlaoise Municipal District Meeting held in Áras and Chontae on the 20th February 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.

1) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PORTLAOISE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 15TH JANURAY 2019.

On the proposal of Councillor Fennelly and seconded by Councillor Sweeney the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th January 2019 were confirmed and circulated.

2) MATTERS ARISING - None

3) NOTICE OF MOTIONS

21/2019 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley	Ms. Kim Kinsella, A.O., Roads
“That this Council contact the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris, T.D. to express concern about the difficulties to register with a GP in the Municipal Area and to advance plans for a Primary Care Centre in Portlaoise”	A letter will issue to the Minister in this regard. Seconded: Cllr. Tuohy
22/2019 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley	Ms. Kim Kinsella, A.O., Roads
“That this Council contact the Minister for Education & Skills, Mr. Joe McHugh, T.D. and ask him to give approval for a new site for Choláiste Dhun Masc”	A letter will issue to the Minister in this regard. Seconded: Cllr. Fitzgerald Supported by all Members Cllr. Stanley asked that Traffic Management would be managed appropriately depending on the site. Cllr. Stanley suggested Park and Ride

23/2019 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD
“That this Council be informed when the back lanes in St Brigids Place will be resurfaced and request that the trees along the railway line are cut back away from the public lights where they are obstructing them”	<p>Two separate applications were made for funding under the Community Involvement Scheme in relation to resurfacing the rear access lanes in St. Brigid’s Place Portlaoise.</p> <p>Funding for one application has been granted to date. It is intended that the resurfacing works relating to this area will be carried out in mid 2019.</p> <p>In relation to the cutting back of trees, the street lights in this location are mounted on ESB Networks poles.</p> <p>The cutting of overgrown trees adjacent to such poles is the responsibility of ESB Networks.</p> <p>The Public Lighting Section of LCC has notified ESB about the issue.</p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Fennelly Cllr. Stanley asked that the ESB be contacted again.</p>
24/2019 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly	Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E., Road Design
“That this Council replace the school flashing/warning lights at Spink National School”	<p>These signs will be repaired.</p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Sweeney</p>
25/2019 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD
“That this Council improve the visibility at Cromogue Junction as you exit onto the R430 Mountrath/Abbeyleix Road”	<p>The junction of the L-5658-0 and the R-430 will be examined and an application will be made for safety scheme in relation to this location.</p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Dwane Stanley Cllr. Fennelly enquired if Discretionary funds could be used at this location. Wes Wilkinson said they could be used</p>
26/2019 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly	Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E., Road Design
“That this Council request Killaree Lighting to prune the trees at the Tiles Housing Estate, Portlaoise Road, Abbeyleix, as the trees have overgrown the lights”	<p>Maintenance of green areas and trees is responsibility of residents of housing estates. Tree branches around lights will be trimmed.</p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Fitzgerald</p>

<p>27/2019 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</p> <p>“That Laois County Council investigate the concerns regards sewage effluent adjacent to the County Council properties at Gleann na Glaise”</p>	<p>Mr. Michael O’ Hora, S.E., Water Services</p> <p>Laois County Council is engaging with a specialist Company in relation to providing a design and full set of working drawings and for appointment as Project Supervisor for Design Process for a new state of the art facility within the footprint of the existing building.</p> <p>The Council will then consider its options for completing the construction and for the future maintenance of this new facility in the context of available capital funding.</p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Dwane Stanley</p> <p>Mr. Rainey advised that LCC have made a strong case to IW however it is discretionary on Irish Waters Capital Programme</p>
<p>28/2019 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</p> <p>“That Laois County Council address the concerns of the residents at Riverview Estate, Portlaoise regarding ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the estate”</p>	<p>Ms. Nicola Lawler, A/S.E.O., Housing</p> <p>The Tenant Liaison Officer has carried out an inspection of the estate and found it to be in good general order. Through Laois Partnership a Tús worker has been assigned to carry out general maintenance, however, it is noticed that the gutters on the property require cleaning and this will be going to contract shortly.</p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Dwane Stanley</p> <p>All Members supported this motion</p>
<p>29/2019 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</p> <p>“That Laois County Council erect signage/nameplate denoting Higgs Lane to recognise the Higgs family”</p>	<p>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, A/.S.E.E.</p> <p>This will be investigated further and will be accommodated if possible.</p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Tuohy.</p> <p>Mr. Wilkinson advised that he would liaise with the Heritage Officer</p>
<p>30/2019 – Councillor Pauline Madigan</p> <p>“That Laois County Council provide an update in relation to the taking over of Broomville Court Estate in Portlaoise”</p>	<p>Mr. Pat Delaney, A.O., Planning</p> <p>Laois County Council recently carried out an initial CCTV Survey of the estate. However this needs to be completed as there were manholes which were not exposed in the roadway to enable a full CCTV survey to be completed. The manholes were recently exposed and a final CCTV survey is being carried out. We are also liaising with reps of the residents committee to keep them updated of progress.</p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Fitzgerald – All Members supported this motion.</p>
<p>31/2019 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</p> <p>“That this Council resurface Road In Beechfield Estate”</p>	<p>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD</p> <p>The Portlaoise Municipal District Office will carry out repairs to the road surface in Beechfield Estate Portlaoise.</p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Tuohy</p> <p>Cllr. Fitzgerald requested that this be considered in the future Roads Programme.</p>

32/2019 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald	Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E., Road Design
“That this Council give an update on the roundabout at Rockview”	<p>Laois County Council has completed the Part 8 planning process for the roundabout and all of the lands required for the construction of the roundabout are in the possession of Laois County Council. The proposed layout was subjected to an independent Road Safety Audit and all of the recommendations of the Road Safety Audit have now been incorporated into the design of the roundabout. Due to the timeframe required to obtain Part 8 approval, Laois County Council were unable to avail of the funding that was initially approved for 2018. Subsequently Laois County Council submitted a specific improvement grant application for funding to the Department in November 2018 for 2019 scheme this has not been approved by Department for 2019 scheme. Laois County Council will again apply for funding in November 2019 for 2020 Scheme.</p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Dwane Stanley The Members requested a meeting with Donal Brennan on this matter.</p>
33/2019 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald	Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.
“That this Council install roundabouts on the Mountmellick Road at Harpurs lane/Dunnestores /Ballyfin Road”	<p>At present there is no funding available for design and construction of these roundabouts. Laois County Council road section will be submitting proposal to TII safety engineer to fund these projects in 2019.</p> <p>Seconded: Cllr. Dwane Stanley</p>
34/2019 – Councillor Noel Tuohy	Mr. Michael O’ Hora, S.E., Water Services
“That this Council give an update regarding the provision of public toilets in Portlaoise”	<p>Laois County Council is engaging with a specialist Company in relation to providing a design and full set of working drawings and for appointment as Project Supervisor for Design Process for a new state of the art facility within the footprint of the existing building.</p> <p>The Council will then consider its options for completing the construction and for the future maintenance of this new facility in the context of available capital funding.</p> <p>Cllr. Madigan Members requested a meeting with Chief Executive and Director of Services</p>

35/2019 – Councillor Noel Tuohy	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD
“That this Council revisit the concerns of many re the safety particularly of children crossing at the junction of Park View and the Ridge Road”	The Portlaoise Municipal District Office will carry out a video survey of this junction within the next 6-7 weeks. The outcome of the survey will determine the most appropriate design solution to address the issues at this junction. Seconded : Cllr. Fitzgerald. Mr. Wilkinson said that he would re-examine the location and circumstances.
36/2019 – Councillor Noel Tuohy	Ms. Kim Kinsella, A.O., Roads
“That in light of the continuing attacks on the elderly in their own homes that this Council call on the Dept. Of Social Protection to offer a mobile alarm system to all citizens as they reach the old age pension”	A letter will issue to the Minister in this regard. Seconded: Cllr. Aird
37/2019 – Councillor Willie Aird	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD Office
“That Laois County Council put in place as a matter of urgency traffic calming measures on the road at Crookedy, Portlaoise starting on the Mountmellick Road to the Ridge Road”	The L-2115-0 between the N80 Mountmellick Road to the L-2120-69 Ridge Road has an 80kph speed limit. As such, it is not possible to install the normal urban traffic calming measures such as speed ramps. L-2115-0 will be examined to see if there are any opportunities to make an application for works to be funded and carried out as part of a Road Safety Scheme for this location. Seconded : Cllr. Dwane Stanley
38/2019 – Councillor William Aird	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD Office
“That Laois County Council repair the footpaths outside the old Prison Officers Centre as a matter of urgency”	This location will be included on the list of footpath works for 2019. Seconded: Cllr. Tuohy
39/2019 – Councillor Willie Aird	Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.
“That Laois County Council advise the start up date as to when the pedestrian crossing will be installed at the Market Square from Rice’s Garage to the Portlaoise Arms”	Subject to funding approval from TII. The works will commence in April 2019. Seconded: Cllr. Tuohy

4. CORRESPONDENCE – NONE

5. A. O. B

- **Roads Programme 2019 – Proposed Cllr. Fennelly and Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley**
- **All Members welcomed Michael Rainey to the Post of A/Director of Services**

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

The next meeting is to be held on the 20th March 2019 at 11.00 a.m. in the Council Chamber of Áras an Chontae.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

Certified: _____

A/DIRECTOR OF SERVICE.