

**Minutes of the Portlaoise Municipal District Meeting held in Áras and Chontae  
on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 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:** Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, Wes Wilkinson, Senior Executive Engineer, Sandra Southern, ASO

**1) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PORTLAOISE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017.**

On the proposal of Councillor Lodge seconded by Councillor Dwane-Stanley, the minutes of the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 were confirmed and circulated

**2) MATTERS ARISING.**

Further to query from Cllr. William Aird in relation to recent flooding, Mr. Wes Wilkinson confirmed that locations identified, i.e. Boughlone, Harpur's Lane, were currently being inspected and works would be progressed over the coming weeks.

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, confirmed to the meeting that LCC were currently preparing a detailed submission to DTTaS.

Cllr. Catherine FitzGerald requested confirmation that gritting/salting was carried out in accordance with standards on 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, confirmed that salting was carried out at 3:00 pm and 8:00 pm on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and again at 8:00 pm on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The Duty Engineer monitored the situation and as rain was forecast salting was not carried out as rainfall would negate the effects.

Cllr. William Aird requested that the Winter Maintenance Route Map be circulated to the Portlaoise MD prior to the next meeting.

Cllr. Caroline Dwane-Stanley requested that a small area of road on LHS of Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise appears to be subsiding and requires attention. Mr. Wes Wilkinson, SEE, to investigate.

**3) IBAL RESULTS FOR PORTLAOISE.**

The IBAL results were circulated and it was noted that Portlaoise was ranked 11<sup>th</sup> out of 40 of the towns/cities surveyed.



Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, recognised the work of LCC staff, Tidy Towns, Residents Associations and Downtown Traders and also the considerable investment of LCC in purchasing/maintaining planters.

Cathaoirleach Mary Sweeney congratulated all involved and noted Cllr. Jerry Lodge's contribution through his work with Tidy Towns.

Cllr. Jerry Lodge noted the rise of Portlaoise from 40 to 11 and complimented all involved. However, he noted that fly tipping/illegal dumping was becoming too common and this problem needed to be addressed.

Cllr. Noel Tuohy noted the IBAL results and advised that same were a credit to all involved.

Cllr. William Aird extended his congratulations to all involved in achieving such results and also thanked the traders for the efforts made. Cllr. Aird added that a quicker response time is required when dealing with reports of illegal dumping on the periphery of Portlaoise Town. Increasing the number of CCTV could be considered.

Cllr. John Joe Fennelly congratulated LCC staff and all those involved in achieving such results on his own behalf and on behalf of Abbeyleix Tidy Towns.

Cllr. Catherine FitzGerald also recognised the hard work carried out by LCC, Tidy Towns, Residents Associations, Downtown Traders which resulted in such improved IBAL results.

Cllr. Caroline Dwane-Stanley noted the results and wished to convey her congratulations to all involved. Cllr. Dwane-Stanley informed the meeting that she had been informed litter problems associated with the David Allen Billboard at the junction of Mountmellick Road/Station Road. Cllr. Dwane-Stanley requested that LCC contact the operator and advise of issues with littering as a result of 'posters' falling from billboard.

#### **4) RIVER TRIOGUE CYCLEWAY BLUEWAY**

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, presented proposals in relation to the River Triogue Cycleway Blueway and advised that LCC were successful in securing €99,500 funding for Phase 1 of the Triogue Cycleway Blueway. This would commence at the corner of JFL Avenue continue to the Peoples Park and towards the School Campus. LCC are currently finalising the design. Mr.



Kehoe was pleased to state that this would be the first project to be advanced under the Portlaoise Vision Statement 2040.

Each member of Portlaoise Municipal District wished to convey their congratulations to LCC on securing funding to promote such a facility and complimented all involved.

5) **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

<b>01/2018 – Councillor William Aird</b>	<b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise M.D. Office</b>
<i>“That this Council include in the 2018 Roads Programme the re-surfacing of the back lanes in St. Brigid’s Place as they haven’t been done for many years”</i>	<i>The back lanes in St. Brigid’s Place will be considered for inclusion in the 2018 Roads Programme. Please note that roads will be assessed and prioritised based on their condition and the PCSI rating and funding available.</i>
	<b>Seconded: Cllr. Dwane-Stanley</b>
<b>02/2018 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b>	<b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise M.D. Office</b>
<i>“That Laois County Council replace broken pipes at Main Street, Ballyroan”</i>	<i>Portlaoise MD Roads staff will investigate the issue with the surface water pipe &amp; gully on lower Main Street Ballyroan and carry out repairs as required.</i>
	<b>Seconded: Cllr. Dwane-Stanley</b>
<b>03/2018 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b>	<b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise M.D. Office</b>
<i>“That Laois County Council remove hedging at Colt, Ballyroan as it is causing an obstruction to vehicles”</i>	<i>Portlaoise MD Roads staff have met with residents in the area regarding the hedging. Arrangements are being made locally to address the hedging at this location.</i>
	<b>Seconded: Cllr. John Joe Fennelly</b>
<b>04/2018 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b>	<b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise M.D. Office</b>
<i>“That Laois County Council investigate junction at Glenbrook as it is currently causing a danger to traffic”</i>	<i>Additional edge lining will be installed at this location to better define the road edge at this location.</i>
	<b>Seconded: Cllr. John Joe Fennelly</b>



<p><b>5/2018 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Michael Rainey, S.E.O., Housing</b></p>
<p><i>“That this Council bring forward the plan for Hepburn Court , the Squash Centre and the field at the rear of Knockmay”</i></p>	<p><i>It is the intention of the Housing Department to bring forward plans at the earliest opportunity. There are still a number of key sites within the development that are not in LCC ownership and that will be the priority objective over the coming months.</i></p> <p><b>Seconded: Cllr. Noel Tuohy</b></p> <p><b>Cllr. Dwane-Stanley requested that LCC prioritise securing (3) properties not in LCC ownership.</b>  <b>Cllr. Catherine FitzGerald also supported this motion.</b></p>
<p><b>6/2018 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Pat Delaney, A.O., Planning</b></p>
<p><i>“That this Council give an update on Woodgrove and Woodgrove Lawns and an explanation as to what is delaying taking the Estate in Charge”</i></p>	<p><i>Irish Water have approved the tender documents for the upgrade to the Foul Sewer Pumping Station. This tender has been advertised on E tenders. Closing date for return of tender prices is 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018. Estate cannot be taken in charge until these works have been completed.</i></p> <p><b>Seconded: Cllr. Noel Tuohy</b></p> <p><b>Cllr. Dwane-Stanley wished to acknowledge and thank the assistance of Mr. Pat Delaney, AO – Planning in progressing this matter. It was noted that the (6) lights not working in the estate would be fixed in the coming days.</b></p> <p><b>Cllr. Dwane-Stanley requested that a report be made available for the next meeting on plans for the vacant site.</b></p>
<p><b>7/2018 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise M.D. Office</b></p>
<p><i>“That this Council give an update regarding the funding that has been secured for Road Safety measures at Glenfield after a number of serious accidents”</i></p>	<p><i>We are currently awaiting the list of approved schemes for 2018 from the Department. It is expected that the approved list of scheme will be issued in February.</i></p> <p><b>Seconded: Cllr. William Aird</b></p>



	<p>Temporary measures were discussed in advance of securing funding, etc Speed Detection Sign. Mr. Wes Wilkinson, SEE advised that LCC would await decision on funding prior to making decision.</p>
<p><b>8/2018 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.</b></p>
<p>“That this Council request the TII to install a sign for Mountrath nearer to exit lane”</p>	<p>On M7 Junction 18 there are directional signs on both directions installed on gantry indicating exit for Mountrath. Signs on motorways have been installed and maintained by TII as per Guidelines and standards for motorways Signs.</p> <p><b>Seconded: Cllr. Jerry Lodge</b></p> <p><b>Cllr. John Joe Fennelly advised that JDP ‘missing’ at this location. LCC to correspond with TII.</b></p>
<p><b>9/2018 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise M.D. Office</b></p>
<p>“That this Council resurface Sheffield Avenue, Portlaoise”</p>	<p>The L-67143-0 will be considered for inclusion for resurfacing as part of the 2018 Roads Programme. Please note that roads will be assessed and prioritised based on their condition and the PCSI rating and funding available.</p> <p><b>Seconded: Cllr. William Aird</b></p> <p><b>Cllr. Aird queried if Mr. Wes Wilkinson could consider including Sheffield/Ballyroan Road when tendering for works.</b></p>
<p><b>10/2018 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise M.D. Office</b></p>
<p>“That this Council install go slow signs on the road from the Rugby club as you go to Clonad”</p>	<p>I will meet Cllr Fitzgerald on site to view the issues at the specific locations, signage or roadmarking can be installed if appropriate.</p> <p><b>Seconded: Cllr. William Aird</b></p>
<p><b>11/2018 – Councillor Noel Tuohy</b></p>	
<p>“That this Council congratulates and recognise the work of all those involved in Portlaoise’ achievement</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p><b>Seconded: Cllr. Dwane-Stanley</b></p>



<p><i>in becoming the cleanest town in the midlands in the latest litter rankings”</i></p>	<p><b>Congratulations to all involved were expressed.</b></p>
<p><b>12/2018 – Councillor Noel Tuohy</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise M.D. Office</b></p>
<p><i>“That this Council repair or replace bollards or railings, that require same on the Main Street”</i></p>	<p><i>These works are to be included in the upgrade works to Portlaoise Town.</i></p> <p><b>Seconded: Cllr. Jerry Lodge</b></p> <p><b>Location at Fortune’s Corner and Ramsbottom’s referred to by Cllr. Lodge.</b></p>
<p><b>13/2018 – Councillor Noel Tuohy</b></p>	<p><b>Ms. Angela McEvoy, Senior Planner</b></p>
<p><i>“That this Council again request that owners of unused properties on the Main Street upgrade the said properties”</i></p>	<p><i>Portlaoise Town Team have identified vacant properties on Main Street and Laois Co Co have commenced the process of contacting the owners in relation to these premises</i></p> <p><b>Seconded: Cllr. Catherine FitzGerald</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, advised that the Derelict Sites Team and Portlaoise Town Team have contacted (1) owner and a commitment has been received. Plans are in place.</b></p>
<p><b>14/2018 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise M.D. Office</b></p>
<p><i>“That this Council move the disabled parking signs from the centre of bays to either side to allow people to exit their vehicles at the back at Lower Main Street, Abbeyleix”</i></p>	<p><i>These works will be carried out in the coming weeks.</i></p> <p><b>Seconded: Cllr. William Aird.</b></p>
<p><b>15/2018 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.</b></p>
<p><i>“That this Council give an update as to when the new lights are going to be connected at Knock Church, Spink”</i></p>	<p><i>Light has been connected by ESB and is now operational and all other issues will be resolved in the next two week.</i></p> <p><b>Seconded: Cllr. William Aird</b></p> <p><b>Cllr. Fennelly &amp; Cllr. Aird requested that LCC correspond with the ESB with a view to reducing the connection time for new public</b></p>



	<b>lights from what is now 3/4 months</b>
<b>16/2018 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</b>	<b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise M.D. Office</b>
<i>“That this Council include, under the Roads Programme for 2018, the following two roads:- Tullyroe, Abbeyleix (from the Ballacolla junction) Knapton Road, Abbeyleix (from Corby’s Cross as you head for Shanahoe)</i>	<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 and the PCSI rating and funding available.</i>  <b>Seconded: Cllr. William Aird</b>
<b>17/2018 – Councillor Jerry Lodge</b>	<b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise M.D. Office</b>
<i>“That this meeting calls on Laois County Council to reinstate the yellow lines at the Ballytegan houses in the interest of road safety”</i>	<i>These works will be carried out when the Contractor is carrying out works in the Portlaoise MD Area.</i>  <b>Seconded: Cllr. Caroline Dwane-Stanley</b>  <b>Cllr. Lodge suggested ramps to slow traffic.</b>  <b>Cllr. Dwane-Stanley also referred to drainage issue along this section of road as ponding occurs.</b> <b>LCC to investigate</b>
<b>18/2018 – Councillor Jerry Lodge</b>	<b>Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services</b>
<i>“That this meeting calls on Laois County Council to upgrade all the entrances from Main Street onto Lyster Square as a priority for 2018”</i>	<i>These works are scheduled for 2018</i>  <b>Seconded: Cllr. Noel Tuohy</b>

## 6. CORRESPONDENCE

None

## 7. FIX TIME, DATE & VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING.

*The next meeting is to be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 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.**

