

Minutes of the Portlaoise Municipal District Meeting held in Áras and Chontae on the 15th January 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.

Apologies: Mary Sweeney, M.C.C.

In attendance: Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, Wes Wilkinson Senior Executive Engineer, Angela Marshall, Staff Officer.

1) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PORTLAOISE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 18TH DECEMBER 2018.

On the proposal of Councillor Dwane Stanley and seconded by Councillor Aird the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th December 2018 were confirmed and circulated.

2) MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. Aird enquired if Mr. Wilkinson had met with CIE. Mr. Wilkinson responded that he was awaiting a re-draft of a licence agreement over the next few weeks. Cllr. Aird proposed that a deputation to meet with CIE would be arranged. Mr. Wilkinson would arrange the meeting.

3) NOTICE OF MOTIONS

01/2019 – Councillor William Aird <i>“That this Municipal District provide extra signage in Kilnacash approaching the bad bend just before the junction at Kilmainham”</i>	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise MD <i>The Portlaoise MD office will upgrade existing signage at this location in the coming weeks.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley <i>The letter is to issue to the School informing them that this issue will be referred to the Western Area Members.</i>
02/2019 – Councillor William Aird <i>“That this Municipal District carry out repair works at the junction of Bridge Street and the twin roundabouts”</i>	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD <i>The Portlaoise MD office will carry out repair works to the pavement at this location in the coming weeks.</i> Seconded Cllr. Tuohy
03/2019 – Councillor William Aird <i>“That this Municipal District trim the trees on the Abbeyleix Road right opposite the shopping centre from the roundabout to the entrance at Cherrygarth”</i>	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD <i>We will examine this location and determine the extent of the works that need to be carried out. Works will be carried out subject to the funding being available.</i> Seconded by: Cllr. Fitzgerald

04/2019 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise MD
<i>“That this Council solve the water ponding at Parnell Crescent Knockmay which is occurring since the road was resurfaced recently”</i>	<i>We will visit this location during a period of wet weather to investigate the issue. Any necessary works will be carried out as required.</i> Seconded by: Cllr. Aird Cllr. Stanley wished to acknowledge Laois County Council’s recent work
05/2019 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise MD
<i>“That this Council upgrade the Public lighting in Bianconi way Estate”</i>	<i>The upgrade of street lights in Binconi Way will be included in Portlaoise LED upgrade works in 2019.</i> Seconded by: Cllr. Fitzgerald who welcomed the response. Kieran Kehoe informed the Municipal that there would be an upgrade of over 2000 lights in Portlaoise under the Low Carbon funding
06/2019 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise MD
<i>“That this Council rectify the problem with the overflow drainage system from Gills pond that’s flooding Adjacent to the pool in Ballinakill”</i>	<i>I will make myself available to meet with Councillor Dwane Stanley on site to examine the issue at this location.</i> Seconded by: Cllr. Fennelly – who acknowledged the work of the Parish Council.
07/2019 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise MD
<i>“That this Council erect two signs warning of ‘Deer Crossing’ between Knapton Cross and Crookwood Cross, Abbeyleix”</i>	<i>LCC will install warning signs to indicate the possibility of deer on the road in the vicinity of this location in the coming weeks.</i> Seconded by: Cllr. Dwane Stanley
08/2019 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise MD
<i>“That this Council re-surface the Ballacolla Road from Oldtown to Knapton Cross under the 2019 Roads Programme”</i>	<i>This location may be considered for inclusion on the 2019 Roads Programme.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald
09/2019 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise MD
<i>“That this Council replace the footpath from the entrance to the Garda Station up past Mernagh’s Filling Station on the Ballinakill Road, Abbeyleix”</i>	<i>This location may be considered for inclusion on the 2019 Councillors Discretionary Footpath work programme.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald Mr. Kehoe informed the Members that there was IPB funding for risk abatement in Portlaoise and Abbeyleix

10/2019 – Councillor Pauline Madigan	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise MD
<i>“That the Council discuss what could be done at the top square in Portlaoise in order to deter anti-social behaviour at night time”</i>	<i>I will make myself available to meet with Councillor Madigan at this location to examine the issue.</i> Secoded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley
11/2019 – Councillor Pauline Madigan	Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E., Road Design
<i>“That the Council erect a ramp at the pedestrian crossing outside the Killeshin Hotel to prevent accidents”</i>	<i>Road design will review this pedestrian cross any upgrades works required will be carried out in 2019</i> Secoded by Cllr. Fitzgerald
12/2019 – Councillor Pauline Madigan	Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E., Road Design
<i>“That the Council move the ramp on Colliers Lane further down the road in order to prevent further accidents”</i>	<i>Road design will review this pedestrian cross any upgrades works required will be carried out in 2019</i> Secoded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley – Cllr. Fitzgerald supported this motion
13/2019 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise MD
<i>That this Council install double yellow lines on the left hand side in St. John’s Square, Portlaoise</i>	<i>St. John’s Square is outside the designated area for the Portlaoise Parking By-Laws.</i> Secoded by: Cllr. Tuohy. Cllr. Fitzgerald will arrange to set up a meeting with the Residents to get their views
14/2019 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise MD
<i>That this Council cut the hedges between Killeen and Eyne</i>	<i>We will visit this location and if required issue a notice under Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993 to the owner of the land requesting the owner to carry out works to ensure that tree and hedges are not a hazard or potential hazard to persons using the public road and that it does not obstruct or interfere with the safe use of a public road.</i> Secoded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley
15/2019 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise MD
<i>That this Council resurface the back lanes in Marian Avenue.</i>	<i>This location will be included as an application for Community Involvement Scheme funding for 2019.</i> Secoded by: Cllr. Tuohy.

<p>16/2019 – Councillor Noel Tuohy</p> <p><i>' That this Council clearly mark the one way system at the entrance to the Holy Family School Complex coming off the roundabout'</i></p>	<p>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD</p> <p><i>Signage and roadmarkings on the public road at this location will be reviewed in conjunction with the LCC Road Safety Officer.</i></p> <p><i>Once the works have been agreed, we will arrange for them to be carried out in the coming weeks.</i></p> <p>Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley</p>
<p>17/2019 – Councillor Noel Tuohy</p> <p><i>That this Council upgrade the Road Markings on Fr. Brown Avenue.</i></p>	<p>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD</p> <p><i>We will examine the road markings at this location and any works required will be carried out in the coming weeks.</i></p> <p>Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald</p>
<p>18/2019 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</p> <p><i>"That Laois County Council provide the connection to the sewerage scheme at Ballyroan Community hall without further delay"</i></p>	<p>Mr. Michael O' Hora, Senior Engineer</p> <p><i>Water Services can confirm that no application for a connection to the Ballyroan Wastewater Network has been submitted to Irish Water. The Councillor is advised to submit an application online at www.water.ie and the application will be referred to Water Services for assessment and response to IW.</i></p>
<p>19/2019 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</p> <p><i>"That overgrown hedges at Newtown Ballyroan are cut back as soon as possible"</i></p>	<p>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD</p> <p><i>We will visit this location and if required issue a notice under Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993 to the owner of the land requesting the owner to carry out works to ensure that tree and hedges are not a hazard or potential hazard to persons using the public road and that it does not obstruct or interfere with the safe use of a public road.</i></p>
<p>20/2019 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</p> <p><i>"That the car parking area at Ballyroan Church be re lined"</i></p>	<p>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD</p> <p><i>We will examine the road markings at this location and any works required will be carried out in the coming weeks.</i></p>

4. A.O.B.

- **IBAL report was circulated. Kieran Kehoe complimented there Area Office, particularity the cleaning crew and the Tidy Towns. He added that Portlaoise was clean to European norms, with the areas in public control grading A. Private lands were lower and the Council would work on engaging with the private landowners.**

All the Members congratulated the Area staff and the Tidy Towns.

All Members expressed praise to Mr. Furlong he is regularly seen pick up litter in Portlaoise.

- **Cllr. Fennelly expressed concern regarding the Rural Housing Policy in the Midland Regional Plan, that there would be no restriction on Rural Housing after the Plan was made. Kieran Kehoe advised the Angela McEvoy had made and circulated a submission that one off housing was not excluded from the Regional Plan and that Laois County Council's policy on Rural Housing in the Development Plan be included into the Regional Plan.**
- **Cllr. Fennelly enquired about Glenbrook. Mr. Wilkinson advised that the tender would be ready in the next few weeks**
- **All the Members expressed their Thanks to Mr. Kieran Kehoe for all his work with the Municipal District and his great work developing the Town Team. They all wished him well in his new post in Waterford City and County Council.**
- **Kieran Kehoe thanked the Members and said that it had been a pleasure working with the Member and staff. He was very proud of the Town Team and said all involved were dedicated and to keep up the good work.**
- **All Members extended their condolences to Cllr. Tuohy on the death of his brother.**

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

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

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

Certified: _____

DIRECTOR OF SERVICE.