

**Minutes of the Portlaoise Municipal District Meeting held in Áras and Chontae on  
the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 11:00 am**

**Present: John Joe Fennelly, 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., Thomasina O’Connell M.C.C. Mary  
Sweeney, M.C.C.**

**In attendance: Angela McEvoy, A/Director of Services, Seamus Quinn,  
Executive Engineer, Angela Marshall, Staff Officer.**

**1) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PORTLAOISE  
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019.**

On the proposal of Councillor Aird and seconded by Councillor Tuohy the minutes of the meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were confirmed and circulated.

**2) MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr. Dwane-Stanley referred to her motion from the last meeting in relation to the An Post Mail Centre and welcomed the announcement that the Portlaoise Mail Centre would remain operational while acknowledging that it was not good news for those employed at the Cork base. Cllr. Aird thanked everyone concerned for their work. Cllr. Tuohy wished to be associated with the remarks. Cllr. Fennelly acknowledged the efforts of Minister Flanagan and the local TD’s for their efforts in securing a positive decision from An Post. Cllr. Fitzgerald, Cllr. O’Connell and Cllr. Sweeney also welcomed the announcement.

Cllr. Aird referred to a previous motion in relation to water pressure in Dysart area. He would like the appropriate person in Water Services to prepare a report on the issue. Cllr. Sweeney mentioned similar issue in Ballyroan and Cllr. Fennelly mentioned problems in Clonad area.

Cllr. Fitzgerald mentioned previous motion in relation to taking in charge of Broomville estate and would like to see this progressed.

**3) NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

<b>100/2019 – Councillor William Aird, Tuohy &amp; Fitzgerald</b>	<b>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.</b>
“That this Council request a meeting with Transport Infrastructure Ireland to insist that a roundabout be installed at the entrance to Newpark adjacent to	Road design will arrange meeting with TII to discuss installation of new roundabouts on Mountmellick road N80.

<p>Dunnes Stores &amp; the Greenmill Lane on the Mountmellick Road”</p>	<p><b>Seconded by Cllr. Sweeney.</b></p> <p>Members requested that they be included in meeting with TII. Cllr. Fitzgerald asked that Dunnes Stores also be approached about roundabout in the area. Angela McEvoy said she will speak to the Director and make contact with Dunnes Stores.</p>
<p><b>101/2019 - All Members</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Donal Kiely, A/Senior Planner, Planning</b></p>
<p>“That the Portlaoise Municipal District calls on Bord na Mona to, with immediate effect, shelve their plans to build an Anaerobic Digester in Clonkeen, Portlaoise”</p>	<p>A letter will issue to Board na Mona expressing the views of the Portlaoise MD elected members in relation to the Anaerobic Digester proposed at Clonkeen Portlaoise</p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr. Sweeney</b></p> <p>Concerns of locals raised by all members and the unsuitability of the location of the proposed development discussed. Angela McEvoy indicated that contact will be made with Bord na Mona to request a meeting.</p>
<p><b>102/2019 – Councillor Willie Aird</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Donal Kiely, A/Senior Planner</b></p>
<p>“That the Portlaoise Municipal District calls on Mr. Michael Knowles, General Manager at the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise, to inform this meeting of his proposals for the Chapel of Rest at the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise</p>	<p>A letter will issue to Mr. Michael Knowles, General Manager at the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise, requesting an update on proposals for the Chapel of Rest at the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise</p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald</b></p> <p>Cllr. Aird proposed a deputation from Council meet with Mr. Knowles. This was seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald. Angela McEvoy indicated that a letter would be sent to Mr Knowles requesting a suitable date for a meeting to discuss proposed changes. The request would include that the meeting might occur within the next 2</p>

	<b>weeks.</b>
<b>103/2019 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</b>	<b>Ms. Nicola Lawler, A/S.E.O.</b>
“That this Council give an update on progress for the regeneration programmes for O’ Moore Place and Hepburn Court?”	<p><b><u>Hepburn Court:</u></b></p> <p>Demolition and site clearance works started on site on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The works currently being carried out on site include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A) Demolition of Units 9, 10, 11 and 12.</li> <li>B) Demolition of Squash Club Building.</li> <li>C) Demolition of Kingdom Hall Building.</li> <li>D) All associated site clearance works.</li> </ul> <p>Expected completion date for these works is 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019.</p> <p>Cluid Housing Association is the strategic partner on this project and they are currently preparing a design which will come before the members as a Part VIII for approval. Demolition of Units 1, 2, 3 4, 5 &amp; 6 will be included in this overall design.</p> <p><b><u>O’Moore Place:</u></b></p> <p>Contractor for demolition works has been appointed and site preparation works are due to commence in mid July with demolition works due to start in mid September. The works on site will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A) Demolition and site clearance of Units 43, 45, 47, 65 and 66.</li> <li>B) New car parking spaces and height restriction barrier to be erected at Units 65 and 66.</li> <li>C) New vehicle turning circle and bollards for emergency services to be installed at Units 43, 45, 47 and 49.</li> <li>E) All associated site clearance works.</li> </ul> <p>These works are expected to take 5/6 months to complete.</p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr. Tuohy</b></p> <p><b>Cllr. Dwane Stanley welcomed progress on this matter but would also like to see progress on the field at the back of O’Moore Park being handed over to Housing Association.</b></p> <p><b>Cllr. Fitzgerald would like Environment Section to progress the cleanup of</b></p>

	<p>rubbish dumped in area. Cllr. Dwane Stanley confirmed that the section had issued letter to all tenants in the area to confirm their refuse collector details.</p>
<p><b>104/2019 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Donal Kiely, A/Senior Planner</b></p>
<p>“That this Council calls for the retention of the Chapel of Rest at the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise”</p>	<p>A letter will issue to Mr. Michael Knowles, General Manager at the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise, requesting an update on proposals for the Chapel of Rest at the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise Same motion as no. 102.</p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald</b></p>
<p><b>105/2019 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</b></p>	<p><b>Ms. Ann Carroll, A.O., Environment</b></p>
<p>“That this Council give a timescale on the proposed works to graveyards in our Municipal District in particular Raheen, Abbeyleix, Ballinakill &amp; Portlaoise”</p>	<p>An extensive survey of the 27 local authority cemeteries in Laois was completed in 2018 and a report on the proposed operation and maintenance of the cemeteries prepared together with recommendations for additional funding. On foot of the report additional monies have been made available for the funding of cemetery improvement works throughout the county. Funding of €30,000 per District has been allocated for 2019. In the case of Portlaoise MD Improvement works are proposed at both Raheen and Portlaoise, as per the MD Works programme. See details below. These works are at tender stage and it is envisaged that works will be carried out in Q4. The provision of paths and plinths to delineate additional grave spaces at cemeteries are considered essential works based on available grave spaces at each cemetery and separately funded. In relation to paths and plinths for the provision of marked grave spaces this year’s county wide programme which is based purely on a need basis includes Mountrath, Ballyfin, Portlaoise and Abbeyleix</p>

	<p>Seconded by Cllr. Aird. Cllr. Fennelly disappointed with response. Footpaths in Raheen very dangerous. Cllr. Aird would like written reply in relation to Raheen and the timeline for completion of works for the September meeting.</p> <p>Cllr. Sweeney raised issue with dumping in St. Patrick's cemetery while Cllr. Dwane Stanley &amp; Cllr Tuohy advised of similar issue in Portlaoise cemetery.</p>
106/2019 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly	Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.
“That this Council seek a meeting with Mid Link Toll Company in an effort to reduce the volume of HGVs coming through our towns and villages”	<p>Road design has sent request to Midlink for meeting to discuss issue with HGVs coming through towns and villages.</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr. Sweeney</p> <p>Cllr. Fennelly requested that the meeting with Midlink be open to members to attend.</p>
107/2019 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald	Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.
“That this Council try to soften the bend on Shane Road just after the Rathnamanagh Road Junction”	<p>Road Design will review this section for road for safety improvement. This site will be considered for 2020 Low Cost Safety funding application.</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr. Aird.</p>
108/2019 – Councillor Noel Tuohy	Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.
“That this Council install a Pedestrian Crossing for the residents of Sue Ryder to walk safely to the Shops opposite and erect barriers at each end of the path to the Tennis Court to ensure safety of pedestrians”	<p>Road Design section will arrange site meeting with the elected member to identify the issues and requirement for a pedestrian crossing at this location.</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr. Dwane-Stanley</p> <p>All members agreed with this motion. Cllr. Tuohy asked that Roads Dept look at what can be done to slow or stop children cycling/skate boarding from pathway across green area straight across the pedestrian</p>

	crossing.
<b>109/2019 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b>	<b>Mr. Seamus Quinn, A/S.E.E.</b>
“That this Council re-surface a section of road at Cashel, Ballyroan”	<p>Re-surfacing of the R427 regional road east of Cashel Cross is not included in the 2019 Roads Programme but can be assessed for consideration in next year’s Roads programme.</p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr. Aird.</b></p> <p><b>Cllr. Sweeney to meet with Seamus Quinn in relation to this matter.</b></p>
<b>110/2019 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b>	<b>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.</b>
“That this Council cut the grass verges at the Bog Road, Ballyroan where it links with the Portlaoise/Abbeyleix Road”	<p>Verge maintenance will be carried out on N77 Portlaoise/Abbeyleix Road in next 2 weeks.</p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr. Aird.</b></p> <p><b>Cllr. Sweeney said this should not be an issue every year. There should be a programme to ensure verges are cut near junctions for traffic safety reasons.</b></p>
<b>111/2019 – Councillor Thomasina Connell</b>	<b>Ms. Anne Marie Maher, Sport &amp; Leisure Officer</b>
"That the Portlaoise Municipal District calls on Laois County Council to take immediate action to carry out essential repairs and renovations at the Portlaoise Leisure Centre Playground to restore it so that our community can utilise this amenity for the purpose it was intended."	<p>Portlaoise Leisure Centre Playground has recently undergone its annual maintenance and external inspection by ROSPA. While most essential repairs have been completed we are awaiting delivery of a small number of parts to complete the maintenance programme.</p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr. Aird.</b></p> <p><b>Cllr. O’Connell mentioned issue of anti-social behaviour. Fencing of area suggested. Cllr. Dwane-Stanley wants something done to ensure safety of staff in centre.</b></p> <p><b>Angela McEvoy will speak to Michael Rainey in relation to security at Playground at Leisure Centre.</b></p>

**4. Correspondence**

No correspondence

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

The next meeting is to be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 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.**

