

Minutes of the Portlaoise Municipal District Meeting held in Áras and Chontae on the 20th June 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., Noel Tuohy, M.C.C.

In attendance: Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, Wes Wilkinson Senior Executive Engineer, Kim Kinsella, A.O.

1) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PORTLAOISE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 16TH MAY 2018

On the proposal of Councillor Aird seconded by Councillor Fennelly, the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th May 2018 were confirmed and circulated.

2) MATTERS ARISING. – Cllr. Dwane Stanley thanked Mr. Wilkinson for the works to Cemetary wall in Straboe

3) NOTICE OF MOTIONS

86/2018 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly	Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD
<i>“That this Council clean the drain at Cappagh North, Portlaoise”</i>	<i>This will be included on our list of maintenance works and will be addressed when carrying out other works in the vicinity. Seconded by Cllr. Aird</i>
87/2018 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly	Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD
<i>“That this Council organise a meeting between the Area Engineer, & Residents at Clonohill/Crookedwood Cross, Abbeyleix to discuss road safety measures in this area”</i>	<i>I am available to meet with Councillor Fennelly and the residents at Clonohill/Crookedwood Cross Abbeyleix to discuss road safety measures next week. We will confirm a suitable date/time shortly. Seconded by Cllr. Aird</i>
88/2018 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly	Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD
<i>“That this Council move the sign on the Abbeyleix Road, Ballyroan close to Corcoran’s house – that this be sign be moved back towards Abbeyleix by 50 metres as it is causing visibility problems when the residents are exiting their dwelling”</i>	<i>We will investigate this issue and adjust or move the sign if required. Seconded by Cllr. Aird</i>

<p>89/2018 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</p>	<p>Mr. Michael Rainey, S.E.O., Housing</p>
<p><i>“That this Council give an update on their plans for the derelict houses in O Moore Place with particular reference to the two council owned fire damaged houses , and the field adjacent to the Estate”</i></p>	<p><i>Laois County Council remains committed to the regeneration of O’Moore Place, Portlaoise. It is the Council’s aspiration that this will include the development of social housing on the adjoining lands where considerable anti-social behaviour has occurred. In that regard, the Housing Section has had a number of very productive meetings with the landowner and Co-operative Housing Ireland. I can now confirm that the landowner has agreed to enter into a Heads of Agreement with the Voluntary Housing Body for the provision of up to 34 houses on the site subject to planning. Co-operative Housing Ireland has now instructed an architect firm to prepare preliminary drawings and these will be presented to the Portlaoise Municipal District Members when completed.</i></p> <p>Seconded by Cllr. Tuohy Cllr. Dwane Stanley welcomed the work by LCC and thanked the Gardai for their work. She acknowledged that the area had improved but requested a regeneration plan for the area.</p>
<p>90/2018 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</p>	<p>Ms. Orla Barrett, S.E.</p>
<p><i>“That this Council take the necessary action to ensure that all houses in Portlaoise, Ballyroan, Abbeyleix and Ballinakill are supplied with a brown bin for Compostable waste”</i></p>	<p><i>Portlaoise, Abbeyleix and Ballyroan have populations in excess of the 500 and as such all waste collectors operating in them are required to provide customers with brown bins and a brown bin collection service. Customers in these areas should contact their waste collector.</i></p> <p><i>If their waste collector refuses to provide a brown bin they should contact the Environment Section of Laois County Council and the matter will be investigated. The Council are currently working with a number of service providers to increase brown bin usage throughout the County. The population of Ballinakill is under the 500 threshold, waste operators may still provide the service here, but are not required to do so.</i></p> <p>Seconded by Cllr. Sweeney Mr. Kehoe informed that the Co</p>

91/2018 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley	Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD
<i>“That this Council put whatever Measures are necessary in place to prevent a serious accident or fatality happening in the area of the pond at the back of the IDA Offices”</i>	<i>Our office has contacted the Property Section of the IDA Ireland Midlands Office in Athlone regarding the issue of members of the public swimming in the pond and we have requested that additional measures be put in place to alert people not to swim in the pond.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Sweeney
92/2018 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald	Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD
<i>“That this Council in conjunction with businesses and residents install safety measures on the bend on The Stradbally Road opposite last gate of Church”</i>	<i>It is intended to install double yellow lines on the bend on N80 Stradbally Road opposite last gate of Church in the coming weeks after resurfacing works have been carried out adjacent to this location.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Noel Tuohy
93/2018 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald	Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD
<i>“That this Council improve road marking and erect larger speed limit signs on Colliers Lane”</i>	<i>We will review the road markings along this section of road and we will refresh/improve road markings where required.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Aird
94/2018 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald	Mr. Pat Delaney, A.O., Planning
<i>“That this Council be given an-update on the taking in charge of Summerhill estate”</i>	<i>CCTV Survey of the underground services was carried out in April 2018. The video and report has been provided to the Planning Dept and is currently being assessed by the Building Control Officer. Should the result of the survey be satisfactory, the estate will be referred to Water Services for taking in charge.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Tuohy Cllr. Dwane Stanley appealed to have this Estate TIC as soon as possible
95/2018 – Councillor Mary Sweeney	Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD
<i>“That Laois County Council repair road at Balyruin, Ballyroan”</i>	<i>The road at Ballyruin can be considered for the Roads Strengthening Programme 2019 – this road will be included on the works schedule for repairs in the coming weeks in the interim.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Aird

96/2018 – Councillor Mary Sweeney	Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise MD
<i>“That Laois County Council provide remedial measures at dangerous bend at Ballinlough, Ballyroan”</i>	<i>The verges at this junction will be trimmed in the coming days as part of the annual summer verge trimming programme on regional roads. This will improve site lines for drivers on the Main Road and those exiting the minor road from Ballinlough.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Fennelly
97/2018 – Councillor Mary Sweeney	Mr. Michael Rainey, SEO, Housing
<i>“That Laois County Council address concerns of some residents at Hillview Drive re: anti-social behaviour”</i>	<i>Council tenants are encouraged to report any concerns in relation to anti-social behaviour to the Tenant Liaison Officer of Laois County Council. All reports are treated confidentially. In addition, Laois County Council will be meeting with An Garda Siochana next week to address a range of strategic issues including estate management.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley Mr. Kehoe advised that Housing Department and Chief Executive would be meeting the Gardai.
98/2018 – Councillor Willie Aird	Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E.
<i>“That Portlaoise Municipal District call on Laois County Council to ensure that the L26965-0 (Clonad) is included in the 2018 strengthening works programme”</i>	<i>The road at Clonad can be considered for the Roads Strengthening Programme 2019 – this road will be included on the works schedule for repairs in the coming weeks in the interim.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Sweeney
99/2018 – Councillor Willie Aird	Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E.
<i>“That Portlaoise Municipal District call on Laois County Council to immediately fill potholes on Ballyruin Lane and to include L27152-0 Ballyruin in the 2018 strengthening works programme”</i>	<i>The road at Ballyruin can be considered for the Roads Strengthening Programme 2019 – this road will be included on the works schedule for repairs in the coming weeks in the interim.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Sweeney
100/2018 – Councillor Willie Aird	Mr. Michael Rainey, SEO, Housing
<i>“That Portlaoise Municipal District call on Laois County Council to embark immediately on building a new scheme of social houses for Portlaoise”</i>	<i>The Council plans on commencing the development of social houses at Hepburn Court/Knockmay as soon as the acquisition of the site is completed. The Council is also actively looking for other sites in Portlaoise suitable for social housing development.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Tuohy

101/2018 – Councillor Noel Tuohy	Ms. Kim Kinsella, A.O. Roads
<i>“That in the interest of safety of not just local children, but also the many hundreds who pass it on their way to and from the school complex, that this Council ensure that the ‘Lake’ in Beladd is safe and take whatever action is necessary to ensure same”</i>	<i>This lake/amenity is in private ownership. Laois County Council will make contact with the landowner in question.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald All Members supported the motion

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ***Acknowledged the Plaque erected in Portlaoise Cemetery honoring formers MCC Kathleen O’Brien***

6. AGM

On the proposal of Councillor Fennelly seconded by Councillor Aird, Cllr. Fitzgerald was elected as Cathaoirleach to Portlaoise Municipal District

On the proposal of Councillor Sweeney seconded by Councillor Aird, Cllr. Fennelly, Cllr. Aird was elected as Leas - Cathaoirleach to Portlaoise Municipal District

Mr. Kehoe welcomed and congratulated both Cllr. Fitzgerald and Aird. He thanks out going Cathaoirleach Cllr. Sweeney for her professionalism and courtesy to staff. Her term was positive to Portlaoise and the Municipal District especially driving development in Ballyroan.

Mr. Kehoe added that it would be a busy year ahead many projects before the Municipal including

- Portlaoise as a demonstration project under the Urban Regeneration fund,
- Portlaoise Southern Circular – Commencing in next 4/5 weeks
- Historic Town Initiative with €160k funding for Fitzmorris Place
- New Library – tendering process has commenced
- Painting Scheme from Peppers Lane to Bridge Street
- Public Realm/Laneway upgrades – Plans will come before MD in September
- Two new Local Bus Routes Agreed and will be hopefully commencing early in 2019

All Members thanks Cllr. Sweeney. Cllr. Sweeney thanked all Members and staff who had helped her throughout her year.

Cllr. Fitzgerald thanked Cllr. Sweeney and all staff and expressed her delight, honour and privilege at her election to Cathaoirleach. She added that there was

a huge amount of positives in the MD and challenges and she looked forward to the year ahead.

The Municipal Schedule of meetings was agreed.

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

The next meeting is to be held on the 19th September 2018 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.