

**Minutes of the Portlaoise Municipal District Meeting held in Áras and Chontae
on the 17th May, 2017 at 11.00 a.m.**

Present: John Joe Fennelly, M.C.C. Chairperson ,

Catherine Fitzgerald, M.C.C., Caroline Dwane Stanley, M.C.C.
Willie Aird, A.C.C., Mary Sweeney, M.C.C., Noel Tuohy, M.C.C.,
Gerry Lodge, M.C.C.

In attendance: Kieran Kehoe, D.O.S., Wes Wilkinson, A.S.E., Kim Kinsella,
A.O.,

**1) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PORTLAOISE
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 19TH OF APRIL 2017.**

On the proposal of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the minutes of the meeting held on the 19 April, 2017 were confirmed and circulated.

2) MATTERS ARISING

None

3) Town & Village Renewal Scheme

Mr. Kieran Kehoe advised that

- expressions of interest for Town and Renewal were to be submitted by 4th May
- Maximum of 15 applications per LA

Cllr. Sweeney thanked the Members of Portlaoise Municipal District for their support with last year's application for Ballyroan

Mr. Kehoe also advised on the Recreation funding scheme and called for applications to be forwarded. Examples include walking trails, bikeways etc.

4) NOTICE OF MOTIONS

<p>69/2017 – Councillor Mary Sweeney Seconded Cllr. Fennelly</p>	<p>Mr. Wes Wilkinson SEE Portlaoise MD</p>
<p><i>“That Laois County Council provide an update on the implementation of safety measures and road strengthening on the R430 Spink/Derryfore Road, Abbeyleix.”</i></p>	<p><i>The tenders for the Roads Strengthening works on the R430 at Spink/Derryfore have been received.</i></p> <p><i>We would expect the contract for Road Strengthening to be awarded in the 1st week in June and for the strengthening works to be carried out 4-6 weeks thereafter subject to contractor availability.</i></p> <p><i>It is also intended that the additional signage and road markings required as part of the Safety Scheme for the same location will be installed at this time also.</i></p>
<p>70/2017 – Councillor Mary Sweeney Seconded Cllr. Fennelly</p>	<p>Mr. Wes Wilkinson SEE Portlaoise MD</p>
<p><i>“That Laois County Council repair damaged paths on Ballinakill Road, Abbeyleix, adjacent to traffic lights.”</i></p>	<p><i>Repairs to the footpath will be carried out at this location in the coming weeks.</i></p>
<p>71/2017 – Councillor Mary Sweeney Seconded Cllr. Caroline Dwane Stanley</p>	<p>Mr. Wes Wilkinson SEE Portlaoise MD</p>
<p><i>“That Laois County Council refresh road markings at the Cross of Newtown Estate, Ballyroan.”</i></p>	<p><i>The road markings at this location will be refreshed when similar works are being carried out in the area in the next 2-4 weeks.</i></p>
<p>72/2017 – Councillor Noel Tuohy Seconded Cllr. Sweeney</p>	<p>Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services</p>
<p><i>“That This Council call on the Department of Justice and the OPW to arrange for the return of the Harry Clarke stain glass window, removed from the chapel at Portlaoise Prison, so that this important cultural, artistic and heritage artifact can be restored to its rightful location as a centre piece in the Dunamaise Arts Centre, a Laois museum or at the new Portlaoise library.”</i></p>	<p><i>Laois Co Co will write to both Dept of Justice & OPW in relation to this issue</i></p>

<p>73/2017 – Councillor Noel Tuohy Seconded Caroline Dwane Stanley</p>	<p>Mr. Wes Wilkinson SEE Portlaoise MD</p>
<p><i>"That this Council erect a barrier rail on the corners of the junction of Moneyballytyrell and the Ridge road in the interest of safety especially that of children"</i></p>	<p><i>A request has been submitted to the Road Design Office to carry out a Safety Audit on the junction and pedestrian crossing at this location</i></p>
<p>74/2017 – Councillor Noel Tuohy Seconded Cllr. Dwane Stanley</p>	<p>Ms. Martina Bracken, A.O., Environment</p>
<p><i>"That Laois County Council ensure the proper enforcement and its responsibilities under the Control of Dogs Act, particularly as it applies to the muzzling and restraint of particular breeds in the interests of public safety, especially for children"</i></p>	<p><i>The Dog Warden Service, including the provision of the Laois Dog Pound, is provided by the I.S.P.C.A. for Laois County Council, by Agreement. The Laois Dog Warden deals with all dog related complaints, incidents, stray dogs etc. Other duties include carrying out daily checks on dog licences & daily patrols including enforcement in relation to restricted breeds (including muzzling and leashing). Restricted Breeds leaflets are distributed to the all owners of restricted breeds, when stopped during patrols.</i></p>
<p>75/2017 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley Seconded Cllr. Tuohy</p>	<p>Mr. Ian McCormack, S.E.O., Housing</p>
<p><i>"That This Council inform the meeting of what land banks are in their possession in the Portlaoise Municipal Area for Social housing and their plans to acquire land for this purpose"</i></p>	<p><i>The following lands are in the possession of Laois County Council: Coniberry Way: Being developed for 33 houses 2 Harpurs Lane. 54 Hillview Drive Part of the Hepburn Court Estate; The Council is continuing in its efforts to purchase the remaining derelict properties. Knockmay open space area (possibility of a small number of houses) It is hoped to finalise the purchase of the Squash Court and Kingdom Hall in the coming weeks. Five houses in Jessop Street will be made available for social housing in July 2017 Discussions are ongoing with a number of Voluntary Housing Bodies with regards to the provision of housing in a number of areas in Portlaoise Members should note refusal by An Bord Pleanala for 39 houses on the Abbeyleix Road. Part 5 properties being agreed in :Bellingham, Higgs Lane, Rockview, 26 properties. Negotiations are also ongoing with other developers.</i></p>
<p>All Members supported the motion and requested an in-committee meeting of Full Council in relation to Housing. Mr. Kehoe would also speak with the SPC Chairs</p>	

76/2017 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley Seconded Tuohy	Mr. Farhan Nasiem
<i>“That This Council install roundabouts on the Mountmellick Road at the following junctions Ballyfin Road , Dunnes Stores , and Harpers Lane”</i>	<i>Road Design is continuously raising this issue with TII but TII has not approved installation of roundabouts at these locations. TII may consider funding for Traffic lights on these junction.</i>
Cllr. Dwane Stanley would go back to Mr. Nasiem to follow up with the TII	
77/2017 – Councillor Caroline Seconded Cllr. Tuohy	Mr. Ian McCormack, S.E.O., Housing
<i>“This Council carry out works to achieve a permanent solution to the sewage problems at two Council owned houses in Belladd”</i>	<i>In recent weeks, the Housing Dept has attended at this house to remedy a sewerage blockage. It is planned to undertake further investigative work on the House sewer and the public sewer, on the public road/footpath, in the coming week.</i>
Cllr. Dwane Stanley wanted it on record that there are two houses not one	
78/2017 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly Seconded Cllr. Sweeney	Mr. Ian McCormack, SEO
<i>“That this Council replace the boundary fences on all its housing stock”</i>	<i>The Housing Department is currently assessing the condition of boundary fencing. This assessment will be completed in the next number of weeks and following completion of this assessment ,it is intended to go to contract with these refurbishment works.</i>
Cllr. Fennelly agreed to raise at Full Council meeting	
79/2017 –Councillor John Joe Fennelly Seconded Cllr. Fennelly	Mr. Pat Delaney, A.O., Planning
<i>“That this Council ensure that the boundary around the site of the quarry at Spink is up to the proper safety standards for such a large site”</i>	<i>Condition No. 16 of Planning Reference 10/383 required a stock and trespass proof fence to be erected around the perimeter of the site and a lockable gate to be maintained at the site entrance. Following an inspection by planning enforcement, we note that a barrier is placed in front of the entrance gate to the site which is padlocked and secured with various warning signs attached to the gate ‘Danger, Quarry, Keep Out’, within the quarry we noted multiple signs within the pit, along the quarry edge ‘Danger, Cliff Edge, Stay Out’. The operator is substantially compliant with Condition 16 of Planning Reference 10/383.</i>

<p>80/2017 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly Seconded Cllr. Fitzgerald</p>	<p>Ms. Anne Marie Maher, Sport & Leisure Officer</p>
<p><i>“That this Council carry out a feasibility study on the old railway line from Abbeyleix to Attanagh as this would make a very good walking and bicycle trail”</i></p>	<p><i>The Sport & Leisure Section will undertake to liaise with Rural Recreation Officer in Laois Partnership to explore the potential of a feasibility study on the section old railway line from Abbeyleix to Attanagh.</i></p>
<p>81/2017 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald Seconded Cllr. Dwane Stanley</p>	<p>Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services</p>
<p><i>“That this Council give an-to-date on the roundabout at Rockview on the Mountrath Road”</i></p>	<p><i>The re-design of this roundabout is under consideration as part of the Further Information on the Planning Application for this development.</i></p>
<p>82/2017 –Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald Seconded Cllr. Dwane Stanley</p>	<p>Ms. Kim Kinsella, A.O., Roads</p>
<p><i>“That this Council install a loading bay on Railway Street”</i></p>	<p><i>This will be considered as a submission to the draft bye-laws currently on display for Portlaoise. Closing date for submission is 31/05/2017</i></p>
<p>83/2017 – Councillor Willie Aird Seconded Cllr. Fitzgerald</p>	<p>Mr. Farhan Nasiem</p>
<p><i>“That this Council as a matter of urgency request the TII to install a roundabout on the Dublin Road at the junction of Ballyclider”</i></p>	<p><i>This junction is not on National Route therefore TII will not be providing funding for construction of Roundabout at this junction.</i></p> <p><i>Currently there is no other source of funding available for construction of Roundabout at this location.</i></p>
<p><i>Cllr. Aird requested that other members support this. Kieran Kehoe advised that the cost of a Roundabout was approx €250K</i></p>	

84/2017 – Councillor Willie Aird	Ms. Ann Carroll, A.O., Water Services
<i>“That this Council immediately contact Irish Water to alleviate the serious ongoing problem of little or no water in Burnwood, Clonad, Portlaoise”</i>	<i>This was a result of a failed control valve at Ballyroan Water supply pumphouse. On Sunday 7 May Pressure on the system dropped and was very poor in Clonad, Burnwood. Caretaker action corrected the problem and pressure was back by Sunday evening . Permanent repair now in place.</i>
Mr. Kieran Kehoe would refer to Irish Water	
85/2017 – Councillor Willie Aird Seconded; Cllr. Fennelly	Mr. Wes Wilkinson SEE Portlaoise MD
<i>“That this Council call on the Roads Section to repair the road from the cross roads at Shanahoe back to Poorman’s Bridge”</i>	<i>Repairs to the road will be carried out at this location next week.</i>

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Agreed that there would be no meetings in July and August.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

None

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

The next meeting is to be held on the 21st Juneth 2017 @ 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.