

Minutes of the Portlaoise Municipal District Meeting held in Áras and Chontae on the 16th May 2018 at 11:00 am
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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.,

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

Apologies: Noel Tuohy, M.C.C.

1) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PORTLAOISE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 25TH APRIL 2018

On the proposal of Councillor Fennelly seconded by Councillor Fitzgerald, the minutes of the meeting held on the 25th April 2018 were confirmed and circulated.

2) MATTERS ARISING. - NONE

3) NOTICE OF MOTIONS

74/2018 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley	Mr. Pat Delaney, A.O., Planning
<i>“That this Council give an update as to the ownership and plans for the vacant site at Woodgrove Lawns Estate and a progress report on the pumping station in Woodgrove and a time scale for taking the Estate in Charge”</i>	<i>This site is going through legal transfer at present. Laois County Council have received 7 no. tenders for the pumping station which have been referred to Water Services to assess. Mr. Kehoe informed the Members that the state was currently performing a transfer into LCC ownership and will update the Members when it transfers Seconded by: Cllr. Fennelly</i>
75/2018 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley	Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise Municipal District
<i>“That this Council contact CIE and ask them when are they going to repair the Cemetery wall they knocked at Straboe Cemetery “</i>	<i>Irish Rail have been contacted and requested to follow up on this issue. We are currently awaiting a response from Irish Rail. Seconded by: Cllr. Aird</i>

76/2018 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley	Mr. Michael Rainey, S.E.O., Housing
<p>“That this Council clarify what housing repairs are they no longer carrying out for Council Tenants and update Councillors as to when this decision was made and why this was not discussed with Councillors prior in advance”</p>	<p>The current Tenant Handbook clearly outlines what repairs are the responsibility of the tenant and what repairs are the responsibility of Laois County Council. The Housing Section is ensuring that the resources available to Housing Maintenance go towards the Laois County Council responsibilities. An appeal process is in place if any tenant wishes to appeal a refusal.</p> <p>Secoded by: Cllr. Sweeney</p> <p>Kieran Kehoe reminded Members that this was not the forum for specific Housing Maintenance cases. If there were strategic issues these should be addressed at the Housing SPC. Cllr. Fennelly proposed a meeting of the SPC be sought through Cllr. Paddy Bracken.</p>
77/2018 – Councillor Mary Sweeney	Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise Municipal District
<p>“That Laois County Council install ‘Children Walking’ signs adjacent to Byrnes garage, Clonkeen in the interest of road safety”</p>	<p>I will visit this location and assess the site in the coming days.</p> <p>Secoded by: Cllr. Fennelly</p>
78/2018 – Councillor Mary Sweeney	Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise Municipal District
<p>“That Laois County Council address the very serious issues at Grenville Estate in relation to car parking at the entrance to this estate in order to make safe this area”</p>	<p>I will visit this location and assess the site in the coming days.</p> <p>Secoded by: Cllr. Fitzgerald.</p> <p>Both Cllr. Fitzgerald and Cllr. Sweeney would meet Wes Wilkinson on site</p>
79/2018 – Councillor Mary Sweeney	Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise Municipal District
<p>“That Laois County Council give a timeframe indicating when the pedestrian crossing will be installed in Ballyroan”</p>	<p>Details of the Road Safety Audit are currently being finalised. It is intended that the pedestrian crossing will be installed at this location in July of this year, subject to contractor availability.</p> <p>Secoded by: Cllr. Dwane Stanley who indicated she would contribute some of her discretionary funding</p>

80/2018 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly	Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise Municipal District
<i>“That this Council install a Children at Play Sign at Byrnes Panel Beating Services at Clonkeen, Portlaoise”</i>	<i>I will visit this location and assess the site in the coming days. Seconded by Cllr. Sweeney</i>
81/2018 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly	Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise Municipal District
<i>“That this Council give an update on when the car parking area at Shanahoe Cemetery will be re-surfaced”</i>	<i>Works are due to be carried out at Shanahoe Cemetery car park and should be completed in the first week of June 2018. Seconded by; Cllr. Fitzgerald. Cllr. Fennelly indicated that he would contribute some discretionary monies to this.</i>
82/2018 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly	Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise Municipal District
<i>“That this Council widen the footpath as you enter Ballinakill Village just before the two big trees as the path is very narrow at this particular area”</i>	<i>Due to the geometry of the road layout at this location it is not feasible to widen the path, maintain the current road width and allow the tree to remain in place. However, we will carry out works to prune the lower braches of the trees that are impacting on pedestrians in the coming weeks Seconded by: Cllr. Fitzgerald and added that there is a new committee set up and there is a planned playground and this would be necessary for safety.</i>
83/2018 – Councillor Willie Aird	Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services
<i>“That this Council liaise with the people in Clonad regarding the development works at Togher, Portlaoise to allay the fears of the residents with regard to road safety”</i>	<i>The development works at Togher are on the North Side of the Motorway and are a substantial distance from Clonad which is a few kilometres south of the Motorway. However irrespective of location of the works road safety would not be impacted upon by these works as they are on a Greenfield site. Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald Kieran Kehoe reminded the Members that this forum could be discuss a live planning application. He informed that Consultants have been appointed to look at a Master Plan for the overall area and will consult with the Members in due course. Cllr. Swenney said that it was important to visit the site.</i>

84/2018 – Councillor Willie Aird	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E. Portlaoise Municipal District
<i>“That this Council carry out repairs to the road in Clondarrig”</i>	Road repairs will be carried out at this location in the coming weeks. Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald
85/2018 – Councillor William Aird	Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.
<i>“That this Council liaise with Transport Infrastructure Ireland to ensure that a ghost island is installed at the junction for Knightstown off the Emo, Mountmellick Road”</i>	Roads section will carry out review on this Junction. If warrant this site will be considered for Safety improvement scheme in 2019. Kieran Kehoe clarified the location and that this was a Regional Road. Seconded by Cllr. Sweeney

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

All Members expressed their concerns at the recent Cervical Scandal and expressed their sympathy for the woman and families affected and stated that the screening programmes were vital but public confidence has been rocked. They especially Thanked Vicky Phelan and wished her the best. They said that this was an opportunity to reform the HSE and that accountability is required now.

Cllr. Aird requested an update on the Courthouse for the next meeting. Kieran Kehoe informed that discussions with the landowners were ongoing. It was requested that Minister Flanagan update the Council on this matter.

Update on Library – In a tender process at the moment and expected to commence at the end of the year/start of next year. There is funding of €1.65 million and the CE is seeking to secure further funding.

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

The next meeting is to be held on the 20th June 2018 at 11.00 a.m. in the Council Chamber of Áras an Chontae followed by the AGM at 12.30pm

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Certified: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

DIRECTOR OF SERVICE.