

**Minutes of the Portlaoise Municipal District Meeting held in Áras and Chontae
on the 21st November 2018 at 11:00 am**

Present: Catherine Fitzgerald, M.C.C. Chairperson

Mary Sweeney, 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., Pauline Madigan, 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 17TH OCTOBER 2018

On the proposal of Councillor Dwane Stanley and seconded by Councillor Fennelly, the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th October 2018 were confirmed and circulated.

2) MATTERS ARISING

The Members queried when outstanding Housing Estates would be taking in charge. Kieran Kehoe informed that Westlands and Chantiere Gate would be before the next Council meeting. A number of housing estates will be advertised to be taking in charge in early 2019. All Members welcomed this.

All Members and the Executive extended their sympathies to Pat Delaney, Administrative Officer, Planning and Cllr. Fennelly on the deaths of their mothers.

139/2018 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley	Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services
<i>“That this Council be informed of what is causing the delay with the tendering process for the Completion of works for Woodgrove and Woodgrove Lawns Estate”</i>	<i>It has been agreed to advertise this estate for taking in charge and progress the required improvement works to the pumping station in the interim. Seconded by Cllr. Tuohy – Members welcomed the move to take the long standing estates in charge.</i>
140/2018 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley	Farhan Nasiem S.E.E Road Design
<i>“That this Council install a Pedestrian Crossing at Colaiste Dhun Masc Tower Hill Portlaoise”</i>	<i>Road Design will review this section of the road. Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald It was clarified that this was Towerhill Road and not Railway Street</i>

<p>141/2018 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</p>	<p>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise Municipal District</p>
<p><i>“This Council install road safety measures that are badly needed at Ballypickas Cross Abbeyleix.</i></p>	<p><i>The existing line markings at the junction have been refreshed and additional markings have also been installed to highlight the approach to the junction within the last 3 weeks. An additional STOP sign will be installed in the coming weeks.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Fennelly</p>
<p>142/2018 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</p>	<p>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise Municipal District</p>
<p><i>“That this Council increase safety measures at the Rock National School to consider ramps as current safety measures in the area are not resulting in speed reduction and also to upgrade drainage works in this area”</i></p>	<p><i>In relation to further traffic calming measures at this location, the installation of additional kerbing, traffic islands or ramps would also require a significant upgrade to the public lighting scheme in the vicinity of the Rock National School. I will liaise with the Road Design Section to determine if there is a funding mechanism available from the DTTaS to cover a high cost safety scheme.</i></p> <p><i>In relation to the drainage issue at this location, I will arrange to have the existing gully and pipe jetted and cleaned in the coming weeks.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Aird</p>
<p>143/2018 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</p>	<p>Mr. Michael O’ Hora, S.E., Water Services</p>
<p><i>“That this Council install an inspection chamber on the main sewer line outside Scoil Mhuire, Ballyroan, Abbeyleix as there has been problems in this area the last number of months”</i></p>	<p><i>The Councillor has been advised to contact IW with his query. In the meantime, Laois County Council will arrange for a survey to be carried out to ascertain the source of the problem.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Tuohy – a progress report was requested for the next meeting.</p>
<p>144/2018 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</p>	<p>Ms. Ann Marie Maher, Sports & Leisure Officer</p>
<p><i>“That this Council continue to support the new development committee in Ballinakill with their plans for playground outdoor swimming pool and other local initiatives”</i></p>	<p><i>The Sport & Leisure Officer has had a preliminary meeting with Ballinakill Development Committee and will continue to provide advice and support with their plans to develop a playground and upgrade their outdoor swimming pool.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley</p>

	<i>Kieran Kehoe informed that Heritage Department has committed matched funding.</i>
<i>145/2018 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</i>	<i>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E., Road Design</i>
<i>“That Laois County Council repair the light column which is severely damaged behind the petrol station at Fairgreen, Portlaoise”</i>	<i>The Damaged pole is not in charge by Laois County Council. Secoded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley</i>
<i>146/2018 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</i>	<i>Ms. Ann Marie Maher, Sport & Leisure Officer</i>
<i>That Laois County Council provide a M.U.G.A facility at the People’s Park in Portlaoise”</i>	<i>The People’s Park (Páirc an Phobail) in Portlaoise is designated a Passive Park and would not be a suitable location for the installation of Multi Use Games Area. Additionally the rubber/sand infill of the surfacing, following run-off from rainfall, could potentially harm the lake/river flowing through the park. Other sites in Portlaoise may be examined as potential alternatives, as part of the Sport, Recreation and Play infrastructure programme. Secoded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley</i>
<i>147/2018 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</i>	<i>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E., Road Design</i>
<i>“That Laois County Council undertake a review of current lighting in Ballyroan village and surrounding areas to ensure that they are all in working order and repair any that not currently working and also that the switching on of the lights at the new pedestrian crossing in Ballyroan Village be advanced without further delay”</i>	<i>Maintenance contractor has been asked to patrol lights in Ballyroan – any lights found not working will be repaired. In relation to the pedestrian crossing, all electrical and installation works are now complete, we are currently awaiting confirmation of an electricity supply connection date from ESB networks. Secoded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley</i>
<i>148/2018 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</i>	<i>Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services</i>
<i>“That this Council ensure that the road from the roundabout to the Heath School is included in the Roads Salting Program”</i>	<i>This location is included in the salting programme for 2018/2019. Secoded by Cllr. Aird Agreed to discuss this at SPC</i>
<i>149/2018 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</i>	<i>Mr. Tom O’ Carroll, Area Engineer, Water Services</i>
<i>“That this Council request Irish Water for an up-date on Water Supply in Portlaoise”</i>	<i>Portlaoise PWS has a current supply of ~9100m³/day. There is a surplus of almost 2,000 m³/day available within this figure.</i>

	<p>The harnessing of existing non-producing boreholes in Coolbanagher is now underway – with an estimated completion date of 2nd Qtr 2019 which will provide an extra 3,000 m³/day.</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr. Fennelly Kieran Kehoe advised that letter which issued from IW was precautionary.</p>
150/2018 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald	Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E., Road Design
“That this Council install traffic calming measures on the Meelick Road Portlaoise”	<p>Speed limit at this section of the road is 60km/h. Speeding at this section of the road is enforcement issue. Road design will propose traffic calming measure and implementation will be subject funding being available.</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr. Aird Mr. Kehoe advised that a proposal had been forwarded to the TII at this location and TII’s initial response was positive. Mr. Kehoe would in committee show the Members the draft plan.</p>
151/2018 – Councillor Pauline Madigan	Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise Municipal District
“That Laois County Council give an update in relation to Glendown’s Housing Estate, Portlaoise and in particular in relation to the cleaning of the lake”	<p>An ecology study has been carried out and a draft report has been submitted in relation to pond in Glendown’s housing estate.</p> <p>While there are some items in the report that have to be clarified, the draft report outlines short term and longer term maintenance works and the associated measures to ensure compliance with environmental legislation such as the EU Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Subject to the clarifications received, the Portlaoise MD Office will compile budget costings for the short term works. The works may be carried out in early 2019 subject to funding being available.</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr. Tuohy Mr. Wilkinson agreed to meet with the Members to discuss the report</p>

<p>152/2018 – Councillor Pauline Madigan</p>	<p>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.</p>
<p><i>“That Laois Council give an update on work on roundabouts in Portlaoise, particularly the roundabout at the top of Colliers Lane”</i></p>	<p><i>Road Design are available to discuss the particular issue on the roundabout with Councillor Madigan.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Tuohy</p>
<p>153/2018 – Councillor Noel Tuohy</p>	<p>Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services</p>
<p><i>“That this Council recommend a no postering policy during the upcoming local and general elections”</i></p>	<p><i>There is legislative provision in the litter Management Act which allows the erection of election posters for certain timeframes before and after the election date. Should a town / village wish to insist upon a no-postering policy it should be requested by the relevant Tidy Towns association and adherence / compliance is at the discretion of the nominated candidates in each case.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald. All Members agreed, although this was not legally binding. New Candidates should be informed of this in advance of campaign.</p>
<p>154/2018 – Councillor Noel Tuohy</p>	<p>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise Municipal District</p>
<p><i>That this Council review the junction at ridge road and Moneyballytyrell regarding erecting a railing to encourage use of the pedestrian crossing particularly children exiting the leisure centre.</i></p>	<p><i>A road safety audit was carried out at this location in 2017.</i> <i>The audit concluded that the provision of a guardrail to divert pedestrians to the existing zebra crossing would result in a longer diversion for pedestrians and as a result pedestrians may travel to the front of the guardrail to avoid walking the longer distance to the controlled pedestrian crossing. These pedestrians would be at an increased risk of being struck by a passing vehicle.</i> <i>On this basis, the Portlaoise MD Office do not intend installing railings at this location.</i> Seconded by: Cllr. Fitzgerald Wes Wilkinson will meet Cllr. Tuohy and Cllr. Fitzgerald at this location</p>
<p>150(a) /2018 – Councillor William Aird</p>	<p>Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise Municipal District</p>
<p><i>“That this Council put in a hard shoulder on the left hand side of the road at Rossleighan in order to give safety to the people who are</i></p>	<p><i>The Road Design Section will discuss the proposal to install a hard shoulder on the N80 at Rossleighan at the next meeting</i></p>

turning right into their houses off the main Portlaoise to Mountmellick Road	with the TII Road Safety Engineer. Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald
151 a/2018 – Councillor William Aird	Mr. Wes Wilkinson S.E.E Portlaoise Municipal District
“That this Council repair the footpath and alleviate the water flooding on a stretch of the footpath leading from JFL Avenue at the junction of the New road to the Vet Care Centre”	The issue at this location will be investigated and repairs carried out. Seconded by Cllr. Fennelly
152 a/2018 – Councillor William Aird	Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services
“Following the recent increase in the Council’s budget for river cleaning I am now requesting the Area Engineer, Mr. Wes Wilkinson that he ensures that the Portlaoise MD area gets one third of this money so that the cleaning can commence on the River Triogue from Green Mill lane through Kyle onto Cooltoran”	As is normal practice the area engineer Wes Wilkinson will liaise with the relevant Senior Engineer regarding budgetary apportionment. Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald

4. A.O.B.

Kieran Kehoe advised that funding had been secured to purchase new Market stalls which would be uniform and display the Portlaoise logo.

Cllr. Fennelly requested that an application for same be made in 2019 for the Abbeyleix Market.

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

The next meeting is to be held on the 12th December 2018 at 11.00 a.m. in the Council Chamber of Áras an Chontae

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Certified: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

DIRECTOR OF SERVICE.