

**MINUTES OF THE PORTLAOISE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BUDGET MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> OF NOVEMBER 2022 IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE**

**PRESENT** Mr. Barry Walsh, Cathaoirleach (In the Chair)  
Ms. Catherine Fitzgerald, M.C.C.  
Ms. Caroline Dwane Stanley, M.C.C.  
MS. Thomasina Connell, M.C.C.  
Mr. Willie Aird, M.C.C.  
Mr. John Joe Fennelly, M.C.C.

**ABSENT:** Mr. Noel Tuohy, M.C.C.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. Simon Walton, Director of Services  
Mr. Wes Wilkinson, Senior Executive Engineer  
Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer

**1. (i) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER 2022**

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the minutes of the meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 were confirmed as circulated.

**(ii) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING HELD ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER 2022**

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the minutes of the budget meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 were confirmed as circulated.

**2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING HELD ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER 2022**

There were no matters arising from the meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2022.

Cllr Dwane Stanley confirmed that previously raised matters pertaining to lighting at Clonrooske Abbey and Treo Nua were being addressed and this was welcomed.

### 3. Notice of Motions

#### Notice of Motion No: 155/2022

Councillor Thomasina Connell proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council install double yellow lines at certain points of Laurel Drive, Esker Hills to prevent vehicles parking on corners and blocking the view of drivers coming onto the Main Road”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird. The Members were advised that Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E. will make himself available to meet Councillor Connell on site to review the requirements for double yellow lines at this location and will make arrangements to install double yellow lines as appropriate.

#### Notice of Motion No: 156/2022

Councillor Thomasina Connell proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That the Portlaoise Municipal District review the lane in Fairgreen adjacent to Glenkeen Park which continues to be a dumping black spot with a view to finding a solution to include blocking it off”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird. The Members were advised that a review of the lane will be undertaken in the coming weeks and a report prepared for MD Members. The review will focus on the use of the laneway, the degree to which illegal dumping is occurring together with remedy options including CCTV surveillance (when permitted) and/or extinguishment of the existing public right of way or other solutions as agreed locally.

#### Notice of Motion No: 157/2022

Councillor Thomasina Connell proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That the Portlaoise Municipal District confirm that the Christmas parking scheme will be rolled out again for the month of December to incentivise our community to shop local”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald. The Members were advised that similar to previous years, free parking will be accommodated on the three Saturdays leading into Christmas i.e. 10th, 17th and 24th December 2022.

Following a discussion in relation to the above it was also agreed that free parking would be made available on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022. Time limited parking

will continue as per normal. It was noted that this would be advertised on the appropriate social media outlets.

### **Notice of Motion No: 158/2022**

Councillor Barry Walsh proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council re-surface upper Main Street, Ballyroan as part of 2023 programmed works”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird. The Members were advised that this location will be examined for consideration for re-surfacing as part of the 2023 Roads Programme.

### **Notice of Motion No: 159/2022**

Councillor Barry Walsh proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council remove overgrowth grass and hedging at Cashel Cross Ballyroan. The Stradbally Road bend is overgrown which impairs the sightline for surrounding homeowners. This is a busy road, and ideally could the works that were completed the other side of the road be replicated and to include a biodiversity project to the wide currently grassed margin”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird. The Members were advised that the Portlaoise MD office will carry out verge trimming works at this location to remove vegetation to maintain sightlines.

### **Notice of Motion No: 160/2022**

Councillor Barry Walsh proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council carry out flood prevention/maintenance works on the road between Dooray Cross & Blandsfort Cross Ballyroan and Include Blandsfort Cross to Blands gate. There were three areas on the above roads that had high flood water making it difficult for traffic to pass. There appears to be a blockage somewhere which is preventing the flood water to dissipate quickly”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly. The Members were advised that water cuts and inlets on the Road L-2778 between Dooray Cross and Blandsford Cross have been cleaned and reopened. The Portlaoise MD office will open water cuts where possible on the L-3777 from Blandsford Cross towards Ballyking Lane in the coming weeks and Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E. advised that he

would make himself available to meet Councillor Walsh on site to examine any other issues as required.

### **Notice of Motion No: 161/2022**

Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley propose the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council include the following vacant sites on the new vacant sites register that's being compiled at present:- Site at Clonrooske Abbey Housing Estate; Site at Woodgrove Lawns Housing Estate and the two sites at Triogue Manor Housing Estate”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald. The Members were advised that the 3 areas identified in the Notice of Motion have been identified on the RZLT map prepared by Laois County Council. The sites are within “scope” of the provisions of the residential Zoned land tax. Any person can make a submission on the lands identified in the maps by January 1st 2023 and the maps are available to view at the public planning counter, online at [www.laois.ie](http://www.laois.ie) and on <http://www.consult.laois.ie/>. The following are the reference numbers for the sites; Triogue Manor LSLA00000021 and 20; Woodgrove LSLA000000275; Clonrooske Abbey – LSLA00000019

### **Notice of Motion No: 162/2022**

Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council cut back the trees on the spine road in Esker Hills, clean out the drains/manholes with the road sweeper to address the water ponding near the junction adjacent to the shop and and install traffic calming measures in buttercup Avenue and Heatherlane”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald. The Members were advised that installation of traffic calming measures at Buttercup Avenue and Heatherlane will be provided under the Councillors Discretionary Traffic Calming funding within the coming weeks. The blocked gullies in the vicinity of the shop at Esker Hills will be addressed within the next week. The trees on the entrance road to Esker Hills will be examined for pruning on a phased basis commencing in Q. 1 of 2023.

### **Notice of Motion No: 163/2022**

Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council carry out drainage works in the Clonad/Burnwood area”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly. The Members were advised that Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E. will arrange to meet Councillor Dwane Stanley in Burnwood next week to review the drainage issue at this location with a view to carrying works in early 2023.

**Notice of Motion No: 164/2022**

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council correct the boundary error between Knockmay and Newpark”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird. The Members were advised that a recent request for a boundary rectification in respect of the lands to the rear of a residence in Newpark Estate raised a query in relation to the general boundary between Newpark and Oakleaf Place and how title was originally divided in respect of land between the two estates. Laois County Council acknowledges the issue raised and will be contacting the residents involved to address the matter.

**Notice of Motion No: 165/2022**

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council find the registered owner of the vacant house at 15 Abbey Court and CPO the property”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird. The Members were advised that Laois County Council’s Vacant Homes Office has made a number of attempts to contact the registered owner of the property at 15 Abbey Court, Portlaoise. Contact details on the folio are for a solicitor whom we are informed no longer acts for the owner. A further attempt will be made to make contact in this regard and if this is unsuccessful, the option of acquiring the property by Compulsory Purchase Order will be examined.

**Notice of Motion No: 166/2022**

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council take Cullenagh Lane in charge”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh. The Members were advised that the lane with an address at Cullenagh, Timahoe will be examined

for taking in charge for the junction with the local primary road L-2776 to the property with the Eircode R32 K522.

**Notice of Motion No: 167/2022**

Councillor Willie Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That the Portlaoise Municipal District be given an update on the taking in charge of the Garden Village, Mountmellick Road, Portlaoise”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley. The Members were advised that this estate will be advertised for Taking in Charge late November/early December 2022.

It was also noted that Ashewood Walk and Ashewood Gardens together with Bellingham (Phase 2) will be advertised for taking in charge.

The following two Notice of Motions were taken together

**Notice of Motion No: 168/2022 proposed by Councillor Willie Aird**

***“That this Municipal District carry out repairs on Clonking Lane back to the N77 and can this road be included for re-surfacing and drainage works in the 2023 Roadworks Programme”***

**Notice of Motion No: 171/2022 proposed by Councillor John Joe Fennelly**

***“That this Council include Clonking Road between Lisbigney and Moran’s Cross as part of the road and drainage programme for 2023”***

These Notice of Motions were seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley. The Members were advised that arrangements will be made to carry out repairs on the L-5733 from Clonking Lane towards the N77 and this location will be examined for consideration for re-surfacing as part of the 2023 Roads Programme.

**Notice of Motion No: 169/2022**

Councillor Willie Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Municipal District carry out extensive drainage works and cleaning of gullies and cleaning of existing drains at Ironmills as a matter of urgency due to the amount of rainfall that has occurred recently and what is forecasted for the months ahead – while the Council are in this area that the potholes be repaired at Boleybawn”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird. The Members were advised that works to open water cuts, clean gullies and pipelines on L-1738 were carried out within the last few days. The Portlaoise MD Office will include this section of the L-1738 at Ironmills Ballinakill in the application for funding for drainage works under the "Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works Scheme" for 2023. The Portlaoise MD will make arrangements to carry out road repairs in the Boleybawn area.

Cllr. Fennelly requested that drainage works at Blackhill Abbeyleix also be included in the application for funding for drainage works under the "Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Works Scheme" for 2023.

### **Notice of Motion No: 170/2022**

Councillor John Joe Fennelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council secure funding to prune all the trees on Main Street, Abbeyleix as trees are impeding pedestrians & cyclists and some branches are coming into contact with houses on the Main Street”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh. The Members were advised that the Portlaoise MD Office will liaise with Adrian Barrett Senior Engineer Roads with a view to securing funding from the TII carry out tree maintenance and pruning works on the N77 Main Street Abbeyleix.

### **Notice of Motion No: 172/2022**

Councillor John Joe Fennelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council repair the main door on Abbeyleix Library to facilitate wheelchair users as the push button system is not working”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh. The Members were advised that Laois County Council are awaiting a contractor to do the repair works and it is hoped to have the repair of the internal door completed as soon as possible .

#### **4. Correspondence**

It was noted that no correspondence had been received since the last meeting of the Municipal District.

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald the Members unanimously agreed that consideration be given to the according of a Civic Reception to Mr. Teddy Fennelly for his recent award of Heritage Hero for 2022. It was agreed that the matter would be tabled on the agenda for the CPG meeting scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2022.

#### **5. Fix Date for Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on **Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2022.**

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Cathaoirleach**

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**Director of Services**