

**Minutes of the Portlaoise Municipal District Meeting held in Áras and Chontae  
on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 11.30 a.m.**

**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., Gerry Lodge, M.C.C.,  
Noel Tuohy, M.C.C.**

**In attendance:** Kieran Kehoe, D.O.S., Wes Wilkinson, A.S.E., Kim Kinsella,  
A.O., Dermot Leonard, Assistant Engineer

**1) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PORTLAOISE  
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017.**

On the proposal of Councillor Jerry Lodge seconded by Councillor  
John Joe Fennelly, the minutes of the AGM meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2017  
were confirmed and circulated

**2) Matters Arising**

Cllr. Aird sought clarification on Higgs Lane. Mr. Wilkinson informed that the works  
would commence on Monday next.

**3) 45 Minute Free Parking**

Discussion on 45 minute free parking in Portlaoise took place. There was discussion as  
to flexibility after the 45 minutes were up. The Municipal were inform that there  
would be no extension of the 45 mins free and that any increase in free parking would  
have to be discussed at Full Council.

On the proposal of Cllr. Dwane Stanley and seconded by Cllr. Lodge Free Parking for  
45 minutes as adopted.

4) NOTICE OF MOTIONS

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>124/2017 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b></p>  | <p><b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E.</b></p>  |
| <p><i>“That Laois County Council repair the road at Rockview Walkway, Cashel, Ballyroan”</i></p>  | <p><i>This will be investigated and followed up with Councillor Sweeney</i></p> <p><b>Seconded by: Cllr. Aird</b></p>  |
| <p><b>125/2017 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b></p>  | <p><b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E.</b></p>  |
| <p><i>“That Laois County Council submit a Progress Report (if any) on provision of Disability Access and other works at St. Patricks Cemetery, Ballyroan Road, Abbeyleix”</i></p> | <p><i>Tenders have been received for these works and are currently being assessed.</i></p> <p><b>Kieran Kehoe to confirm for next meeting</b></p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr. John Joe Fennelly</b></p>  |
| <p><b>126/2017 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b></p>  | <p><b>Mr. Michael O’ Hora, S.E.</b></p>  |
| <p><i>“That Laois County Council investigate upgrade to Ballyroan Sewerage Scheme”</i></p>  | <p><i>This query has been forwarded to Paraic Joyce, A/Regional Lead Wastewater for response.</i></p> <p><b>Seconded by: Cllr. Aird</b></p>  |
| <p><b>127/2017 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</b></p>   | <p><b>Ms. Deirdre Hunt, S.S.O., Planning</b></p>   |
| <p><i>“That this Council clarify the up to date position in relation to the dangerous building at the Square in Ballinakill”</i></p>  | <p><b>SECTION 8(7) – ENTRY ON THE DERELICT SITES REGISTER AND AND SECTION 11 NOTICE SPECIFYING WORKS REQUIRED UNDER DERELICT SITES ACT 1990 ISSUED TO REGISTERED OWNER ON 25/09/2017.</b></p> <p><b>ALL WORKS ARE REQUIRED TO BE CARRIED OUT ON OR BEFORE 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2017.</b></p> <p><b>THIS SITE WILL CONTINUE TO BE MONITORED.</b></p> <p><b>Requested to be discussed again at the December Meeting if works not carried out by 1/12/2017</b></p> <p><b>Seconded by; Cllr. Sweeney</b></p> |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>128/2017 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</b>  | <b>Mr. Michael O’ Hora, S.E.</b>  |
| <i>“That this Council resurface all the footpaths in Raheen Cemetery as they are now a serious trip hazard”</i>   | <i>Tenders have been received for these works and are currently being assessed.</i><br><br><b>Seconded by : Cllr. Lodge</b>   |
| <b>129/2017 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</b>  | <b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E.</b>  |
| <i>“That this Council repair the culvert at Doon, Raheen as this has been damaged for a long time”</i>  | <i>This will be investigated and followed up with Councillor Fennelly</i><br><br><b>Seconded by : Cllr. Lodge</b>   |
| <b>130/2017 – Councillor Jerry Lodge</b>  | <b>Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services</b>   |
| <i>“That this meeting calls on Laois Co Co to establish a specific property unit which will ensure that all our properties/lands are properly registered and also maintain a record of derelict sites with appropriate follow up”</i> | <i>Laois County Council has a dedicated Property Section which has details of all Laois County Council property. Planning Section have a dedicated Derelict Sites team.</i><br><br><b>Seconded by: Cllr. Dwane Stanley</b>  |
| <b>131/2017 – Councillor Jerry Lodge</b>  | <b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E.</b>  |
| <i>“That this meeting calls on Laois Co Co to remove any debris currently blocking the outlet to Glendowns Lake to ensure that no flooding of this area can occur during the upcoming winter”</i>                                     | <i>Works will be carried out at the outlet and will be monitored over the winter period.</i><br><br><b>Seconded by Cllr. Tuohy</b>  |
| <b>132/2017 – Councillor Jerry Lodge</b>  | <b>Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services</b>   |
| <i>“That this meeting be given an update on progress to install a pedestrian crossing at the exit to Dun Masc Estate”</i>   | <i>There are no plans at present to install a pedestrian crossing at this location</i><br><br><b>Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley</b>  |
| <b>133/2017 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</b>   | <b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E.</b>  |
| <i>“That this Council put in place Traffic Management and Road Safety measures in the vicinity of Scoil Bhride Knockmay to address the concerns for residents in Parnell Crescent and upgrade the Roundabout at Birchgrove”</i>       | <i>The existing ramp at Scoil Bhride is being moved to a more suitable location following the upgrade of the school. The line markings at the Birchgrove roundabout will be upgraded in the coming weeks. Other works funded through Councillors discretionary works will be carried out in the coming weeks also.</i><br><br><b>Seconded by: Cllr. Tuohy</b> |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>134/2017 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</b></p>   | <p><b>Ms. Deirdre Hunt, S.S.O., Planning</b></p>  |
| <p>“That this Council request the owner of the Derelict house adjacent to the entrance of Triogue Manor Estate to cut the bushes and growth at the front of the site and also request the owner of the vacant site at the end of the above estate to secure the fencing around the site to make it safe”</p> | <p>A site inspection is being carried out, land registry and mapping of property/site is being prepared on foot of inspection. The required letters and notices will issue to registered owner/interested parties in accordance with derelict sites act 1990 thereafter.</p> <p><b>Kieran Kehoe – will follow up as vacant site levy.</b></p> <p><b>Congratulations to Team at Triogue.</b></p> <p><b>Seconded by: Cllr. Fennelly</b></p> |
| <p><b>135/2017 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</b></p>   | <p><b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E.</b></p>   |
| <p>“That Laois County Council give an update on progress to have a Pedestrian Crossing and Road Safety measures put in place on Main Street Ballyroan”</p>   | <p>€100k funding has been received through the TVRS to carry out works in the town and at the old schoolhouse.</p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr. Sweeney</b></p>  |
| <p><b>135a/2017 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</b></p>  | <p><b>Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services</b></p>  |
| <p>“That this Council address the Old Prison Officers site which is now a littered derelict site and also there are issues of anti-social behaviour”</p>   | <p>Laois County Council are considering potential uses for the building and will be contacting the owners to ensure site is cleaned up.</p> <p><b>Require a progress report for next meeting</b></p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley</b></p>  |
| <p><b>136/2017 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</b></p>   | <p><b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E.</b></p>   |
| <p>“That this Council again ask CIE what progress if any has been made in relation to the footpath at the Railway Crossing on Fr. Browne Avenue”</p>   | <p>Laois County Council obtained a revised licence agreement from CIE and we are still trying to finalise the terms and conditions therein and have sought legal advice also.</p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr. Aird</b></p>  |
| <p><b>137/2017 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</b></p>   | <p><b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E.</b></p>   |
| <p>“That this Council provide improved lighting/awareness of the pedestrian crossing at Lower Main Street off Peppers Lane “</p>   | <p>This will be referred to public lighting engineer for a report</p> <p><b>Kieran reported that Bull an Lyster Lane are priority for lighting.</b></p> <p><b>Seconded by; Cllr. Sweeney</b></p>  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>138/2017 – Councillor Noel Tuohy</b>   | <b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E.</b>  |
| <i>“That this Council erect a pedestrian crossing and a ramp at the top of Summerhill Estate nearest the Stradbally Road, due to the huge increase in the number of children crossing as they journey to and from the new school”</i> | <i>This will be examined as part of the overall traffic management upgrades in this area.</i> |
|   | <b>Mr. Wilkinson said it was design stage and going to tender.</b>                            |
|   | <b>Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley</b>  |

**5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Cllr. Fennelly is seeking a letter from the Department for the reasons Abbeyleix’s application failed under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.
- Mr. Wilkinson informed the Members that the TII will be resurfacing on the N80 on JFL from the church to the Blue Bridge in the next few weeks.
- All Members praised the Council’s response to Storm Ophelia. All Services were commended for the co-ordinated response. Communication was excellent at all times. The outdoor staff were especially commended.
- Cllr. Tuohy and Cllr. Dwane Stanley extended their condolences to the family of Joe McCormack former Mayor of Portlaoise Town Council

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

*None*

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

***The next meeting is to be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> November @ 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.**