

**Minutes of the Portlaoise Municipal District Meeting held in Áras and Chontae
on the 17th October 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 26TH SEPTEMBER 2018

On the proposal of Councillor Aird and seconded by Councillor Fennelly, the minutes of the meeting held on the 26th September 2018 were confirmed and circulated.

2) LAUNCH OF ME2U PORTLAOISE CARD

Cllr. Fitzgerald explained that the new card was an initiative of the Town Team and that it was being launched today. She said it was a great initiative and Thanked all involved especially Alison Browne.

All Members welcomed the card and thanked the Town Team.

Kieran Kehoe added that it had the new Town Logo and that there were currently 36 shops on board. He encouraged businesses and employers to use these for perhaps bonuses for their employees.

3) PAINT SCHEME

Cllr. Fitzgerald informed the group that a painting scheme had also been launched in Bridge Street which was another initiative of the Town Team.

She praised the Team for the work to date and said that there were many projects in the pipeline.

She Thanked Kieran Kehoe for his work

Kieran Kehoe gave details of the scheme to the Members and informed them that it would be going out for tender in the next few weeks.

3) MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cllr. Aird enquired about CIE crossing – Correspondence has issued and the issue has been raised locally. LCC awaits response.

Cllr. Tuohy enquired about the proposed extinguishment of a Right of Way at Rathevan. – This is currently on Public display

4) NOTICE OF MOTIONS

120/2018 – Councillor Mary Sweeney	Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E.,
<i>“That Laois County Council repair the road at Ballyruin, Ballyroan”</i>	<i>Road repairs were carried out in Ballyruin Lane in early 2018 – we will investigate this road again and carry any necessary repairs</i> Seconded by: Cll. Aird Cllr. Sweeney said that the entrance was broken up again
121/2018 – Councillor Mary Sweeney	Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E.
<i>“That Laois County Council install rumble strips adjacent to the new pedestrian in the interest of extra safety measures”</i>	<i>It is not appropriate to install rumble strips in an urban area due to nuisance road noise for residents living close by. Advance warning signs will be put in place on the three approach roads to the new pedestrian crossing in Ballyroan. Road markings in the area will also be refreshed following the works.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley
122/2018 – Councillor Mary Sweeney	Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E.
<i>“That Laois County Council provide safety measures at Cullenagh, as this road is currently of concern to residents with speeding traffic and no signage is in place”</i>	<i>I will be available to meet with Councillor Sweeney on site to investigate the specific issues relating to this location.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Aird
123/2018 – Councillor Pauline Madigan	Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E.
<i>“That Laois County Council arrange for the cleaning of the lake at Glendowns Housing Estate, Stradbally Road, Portlaoise and also cut back the trees in order to improve the appearance of the lake and to avoid the serious risk of flooding”</i>	<i>The outlet of the lake will be monitored over the winter period and debris will be removed from the mouth of the culvert as required.</i> <i>The lake in Glendowns is a habitat for a variety of wildlife. A Consultant working on behalf of the Portlaoise Municipal District is in the process of compiling an ecologist report in relation to this location. It is intended that the report will provide guidance in relation to the types of works that can be carried out in this area. It is intended to apply for funding in 2019 to carry out remedial works.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Tuohy Wes Wilkinson reported that ecological report due in the next few weeks

<p>124/2018 – Councillor Pauline Madigan</p> <p><i>“That Laois County Council consider the opening of a Tourist Office from Monday to Sunday in the town of Portlaoise”</i></p>	<p>Mr. Dom Reddin, Administrative Officer</p> <p><i>Fáilte Ireland own the office and decided to withdraw their services some years ago. The office was subsequently leased from Fáilte Ireland by Laois County Council</i></p> <p><i>The Tourist Office is now staffed through the Tús – Community work placement initiative through the Laois Tourism Board. Placements are for a maximum duration of 52 weeks, which means staff must be recruited each year. This year there was a delay in finalising that recruitment process which subsequently caused the office to be closed for a short period. However, the County Council will be consulting with the Tourism Board as to ways to improve the service to Tourists visiting the town.</i></p> <p><i>Seconded by Cllr. Aird who added that it was a Laois Office not just Portlaoise</i></p> <p><i>Kieran Kehoe added that there was strengthened position in Tourism in Laois over the last 18 months and that there was a lot of excellent work being done by Big Ideas</i></p>
<p>125/2018 – Councillor Pauline Madigan</p> <p><i>“That Laois County Council give an update on the tender for the public toilets in Portlaoise”</i></p>	<p>Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services</p> <p><i>Laois County Council sought Expressions of Interest (EoI) in relation to the upgrade and reopening of the Public Convenience in Lyster Square, Portlaoise. One preliminary proposal has been submitted. Management are considering this proposal and other alternatives for the upgrade of the Public Convenience and an update on this matter will be provided after the completion of the process.</i></p> <p>Seconded by Cllr. Tuohy</p>
<p>126/2018 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</p> <p><i>“That Laois County Council purchase land for a new cemetery in Portlaoise”</i></p>	<p>Ms. Orla Barrett, Senior Executive Engineer</p> <p><i>Laois County Council accepts that the growing population of Portlaoise will increase demand for grave spaces and that it is proper to begin planning for a new cemetery for Portlaoise; A first step in that process will be the examination of demand and the identification of potential suitable sites for that new cemetery.</i></p> <p><i>The provision of grave space in the county is included in a larger body of work which forms part of a comprehensive report on cemeteries in the County, currently in finalization. The requirements for Portlaoise are being examined in some detail looking at current</i></p>

	<p>demand, remaining effective capacity and anticipated future needs in the location. This report will form part of the required justification process for the timing of investment in increased burial ground capacity. Proposals including the possible need to purchase land in the future will be presented in this report.</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr. Aird Kieran Kehoe will confirm when report will be available</p>
<p>127/2018 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald “<i>That Laois County Council install lights in Lyster Lane</i>”</p>	<p>Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services <i>The lighting in Lyster Lane will be upgraded as part of the forthcoming laneways project for Portlaoise Town Centre.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley</p>
<p>128/2018 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald “<i>That this Council provide some assistance to the Order of Malta in securing an alternative premises</i>”</p>	<p>Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services <i>As the Order of Malta provides a Countywide service, this will be considered under a Notice of Motion at the full Council plenary meeting scheduled for the 22nd of October 2018.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Aird All agreed with the Motion for Full Council</p>
<p>129/2018 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly “<i>That this Council raise the manhole covers on the road close to De Vesci Close, Abbeyleix</i>”</p>	<p>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E. <i>We will investigate this location and carry out any required works in the coming weeks.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Aird</p>
<p>130/2018 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly “<i>That this Council remove the trees on the left hand side of St. Patrick’s Graveyard</i>”</p>	<p>Ms. Orla Barrett, S.E.E., Environment <i>Approximately €40,000 of capital works have been identified in St. Patrick’s Cemetery in Abbeyleix including the removal of a number of trees. These works are included in a larger body of work which forms part of a comprehensive report on cemeteries in the County, currently under preparation.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Sweeney</p>
<p>131/2018 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly “<i>That this Council replace the broken railing/fencing at Cashel Cross, Ballyroan</i>”</p>	<p>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E. <i>We will investigate this location and carry out any required works in the coming weeks.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Aird</p>
<p>132/2018 – Councillor William Aird “<i>That this Council carry out repair works to the back lane of Marian Avenue from the Archway to the end of the back lane</i>”</p>	<p>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E. <i>Laois County Council will review the issues at this location and carry out repair works in the coming weeks.</i> Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald</p>

133/2018 – Councillor William Aird	Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E.
<i>“That this Council immediately paint the two pedestrian crossings at the Ridge Road and at the entrance to Moneyballytyrrell”</i>	<i>The repainting of the line markings at both of these locations will be included on the schedule of works for road markings in the coming weeks. Seconded by Cllr. Sweeney</i>
134/2018 – Councillor William Aird	Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E., Road Design
<i>“That this Council request an update from Transport Infrastructure Ireland in relation to the proposed roundabout at the junction on the Dublin Road to Ballyclider Road”</i>	<i>This section of the road does not come under the TII. However, Laois County Council will discuss this with the TII Road Safety engineer to consider this junction for improvement as M7 traffic does use this junction to access the N80 Carlow road. Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald Kieran Kehoe informed that this was a Regional Road and that LCC have sought support from TII and that they are supportive in principle</i>
135/2018 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley	Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services
<i>“That this Council assist the Order of Malta to secure an alternative premises given the fact that they have to move from their present location at the Council offices on the Mountrath Road”</i>	<i>As the Order of Malta provides a Countywide service, this will be considered under a Notice of Motion at the full Council plenary meeting scheduled for the 22nd of October 2018. Seconded by Cllr. Aird All agreed with the Motion for Full Council</i>
136/2018 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley	Mr. Pat Delaney, A.O., Planning
<i>“That this Council give an update on the progress of taken in Charge Millbrook Estate”</i>	<i>CCTV Survey was completed which highlighted a number of issues which need to be remedied i.e. silting up of surface water system. Foul sewer requires 2no manholes. One at the end of each line. These traverse a very narrow space(alleyway at back of houses) and will be very difficult to remedy. Benching is also required for manholes. A site resolution plan with Irish Water is being prepared. Seconded by Cllr. Aird Request for Pat Delaney to be at the next Municipal meeting</i>
137/2018 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley	Mr. Pat Delaney, A.O., Planning
<i>“That this Council give an update on the competition of works and the taking in charge of Steeple View Abbeyleix”</i>	<i>This estate is unfinished and we have not been furnished with As Constructed Drawings or CCTV survey. However we are trying to make contact with the developers in question to progress the taking in charge of this estate. Seconded by Cllr. Fennelly</i>

138/2018 Noel Tuohy	Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services
<i>"That this Council writes to the Minister for education, supporting the call of the staff and the parents of the pupils of Kolbe house, to be part of a new building project on the site which has been selected for some years, and further that this Council assist in any way it can to expedite this badly needed project for the most vulnerable children in our society"</i>	<i>A letter will issue to the Minister for Education in this regard. Seconded by Cllr. Aird</i>

5. Budget Meeting

Kieran Kehoe advised the Cllrs. of the requirement for the Members to indicate on how the Municipal Discretionary funding would be split. He advised that the funding for 2019 was €23,000 per Member.

Cllr. Aird raised the issue of Public Lighting and the minimum requirement of 3 lights. Mr. Kehoe said that a Public Lighting Paper would be before the SPC at the next meeting.

Cllr. Fennelly praised the footpath matched funding for 2018 and said it was great value for money.

There was a discussion on Members discretionary monies going to Cemeteries in light of the many Notice of Motions throughout the year.

It was agreed that if there is no additional monies from the Full Council that part of the footpath discretionary budget could be used for this purpose.

The split for the 2019 budget would be the same as 2018. Proposed by Cllr. Dwane Stanley and seconded by Cllr. Aird.

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

The next meeting is to be held on the 21st November at 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.

