

**Minutes of the Portlaoise Municipal District Meeting held in Áras and Chontae  
on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 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 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2018**

On the proposal of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Tuohy, the minutes of the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018 were confirmed and circulated.

**2) MATTERS ARISING. – None**

**3) NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

<b>102/2018 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b>	<b>Mr. Michael O' Hora, Senior Engineer</b>
<i>"That Laois County Council continue to engage with Irish Water with regard to Ballyroan sewerage treatment plant to ensure that the capacity issue is dealt with and that the plant is fully compliant with the licence"</i>	<i>We will continue to engage with Irish Water on this issue.</i>  <b>Seconded by Cllr. Aird</b>
<b>103/2018 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b>	<b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E.</b>
<i>"That Laois County Council inspects the drain behind the houses at Glenbrook Estate Ballyroan and implement whatever safety measures are deemed necessary as a result of the inspection"</i>	<i>Portlaoise MD Staff have visited the location and have put together costings and a proposal to deal with the issues on site. An application for special funding has been made to the Senior Engineer in Roads.</i> <b>Seconded by Cllr. Fennelly</b> <b>Cllr. Sweeney said that an urgent response was required</b>
<b>104/2018 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b>	<b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E.</b>
<i>"That Laois County Council provide remedial measures to improve road safety at Blandsfort Cross"</i>	<i>The grass verges and hedges at this location were cut back in the last two weeks. This location has been included on the list of works for our Line Marking Contractor and will be carried out over the coming weeks.</i> <b>Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley</b>

<b>105/2018 – Councillor Noel Tuohy</b>	<b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E.</b>
<i>“That this Council erect ramps at the front of Beladd and also after the exit from Ashewood Walk onto Summerhill Lane”</i>	These locations can be considered under Councillor’s Discretionary Funding for traffic calming measures in 2019. <b>Seconded by Cllr. Aird</b>
<b>106/2018 – Councillor Noel Tuohy</b>	<b>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.</b>
<i>“That this Council ensure that due to the extra traffic the new ring road should be fully resourced with appropriate safety measures i.e. Pedestrian crossings, ramps, rumble strips and any other traffic calming measures that may be required to help ensure the safety of the large number of school children crossing this road daily. This would also ensure as far as possible the safety of the children and residents of the adjacent housing estates, Summerhill, Aghnaharna and Aghnaharna Court”</i>	Controlled Pedestrian Crossings with Flashing Becons are included in the design of PSCR between Timahoe Road and Abbeyleix. Road safety Audit has been completed during Design stage. Road Safety Audit will also be carried out after completion of new Road. <b>Cllr. Noel Tuohy welcomed the Audit</b> <b>Cllr.s praised LCC works at summerhill</b> <b>Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley</b>
<b>107/2018 – Councillor Noel Tuohy</b>	<b>Ms. Martina Bracken</b>
<i>“That this Council reopen the Public toilets in Lyster Square”</i>	Laois County Council sought Expressions of Interest (EoI) for the Design, Build and Operation (DBO) of a new Public Convenience in Lyster Square, Portlaoise. There were no submissions received by the closing date of May, 24 <sup>th</sup> . Water Services staff are now in contact with a Company, based in Northern Ireland, regarding this work. This Company are preparing a proposal for submission to the Council for consideration. <b>Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley</b> <b>Cllr. Aird suggested Design and build only.</b> <b>Mr. Kehoe said LCC were endeavouring to get the toilets open</b>
<b>108/2018 – Councillor Willie Aird</b>	<b>Ms. Orla Barrett, S.E.E., Environment</b>
<i>“That this Municipal District arrange to carry out repair works and consider the installation of new footpaths in the Cemetery in Raheen as the paths are in an unsafe state at present”</i>	An area of approximately 460m <sup>2</sup> of footpath has been identified in Raheen Cemetery requiring repair and improvement. 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. <b>Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald</b> <b>Cllr. Aird stressed that this work was required immediately</b> <b>Cllr. Stanley said that the cross needed repair too</b>

<p><b>109/2018 – Councillor Willie Aird</b></p> <p><i>“That this Council repair the footpaths on the Main Street in Portlaoise and also to include the entrance from the Main Street into Church Avenue”</i></p>	<p><b>Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services</b></p> <p><i>These will be examined and repair works as necessary will be carried out. If any of the locations are part of the proposed works around the Fort Protector they will be upgraded under this scheme subject to funding.</i></p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley</b></p>
<p><b>110/2018 – Councillor Willie Aird</b></p> <p><i>“That this Municipal District write to CIE inviting their representative to discuss the issue of the continuation of the footpath on Fr. Browne Avenue at the level crossing”</i></p>	<p><b>Ms. Kim Kinsella, A.O., Roads</b></p> <p><i>A request will issue to Irish Rail on this issue</i></p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald</b></p> <p><b>Kieran Kehoe Thanked the Cllrs. For the motion and he would draft and sign a letter highlighting the safety issues.</b></p>
<p><b>111/2018 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</b></p> <p><i>“That this Council give an update on progress made with the regeneration of O’ Moore Place and the adjoining field”</i></p>	<p><b>Mr. Michael Rainey, S.E.O., Housing</b></p> <p><i>Co-operative Housing are in the process of signing a Heads of Agreement with the owner of the adjoining field for the delivery of social housing. The Housing Section have completed a preliminary drawing in that regard. A separate funding application will be made to the Urban Regeneration &amp; Development Fund to support regeneration works within the existing estate. The Housing Section will continue to acquire any derelict units within the estate that become available and through compulsory purchase as necessary.</i></p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr. Tuohy</b></p> <p><b>Cllr. Stanley acknowledged and welcomed the progress. Cllr. Dwane Stanley looking for timeframe on Regeneration programme</b></p>
<p><b>112/2018 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</b></p> <p><i>“That this Council give an update on the progress made with the regeneration of Hepburn Court and the adjoining field”</i></p>	<p><b>Mr. Michael Rainey, S.E.O., Housing</b></p> <p><i>The acquisition of this site is nearly complete with only one unit still in conveyancing. The preliminary design has been completed showing the potential for 54 new housing units. The Housing Section is currently preparing the tender for the demolition of the Squash Club, Kingdom Hall and some of the derelict</i></p>

	<p>residential units in Hepburn Court.  <b>Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald</b>  <b>All Cllrs acknowledged the work of the Housing Department</b></p>
<p><b>113/2018 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Pat Delaney, A.O., Planning</b></p>
<p><i>“That this Council take enforcement action on the derelict and burn out House No. 58 Lakeglen”</i></p>	<p>An up-to-date inspection is being carried out and the matter will be progressed when completed.  <b>Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley</b>  <b>Cllr. Stanley welcomed that enforcement will progress this matter. She asked that the Environment Department progress the illegal dumping, clean and secure site. All Members agreed.</b></p>
<p><b>114/2018 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</b></p>	<p><b>Ms. Kim Kinsella, A.O., Roads</b></p>
<p><i>“That this Council request the Department of Justice to provide a new Garda Station for Portlaoise”</i></p>	<p>A letter will issue to the Department in this regard.  <b>Seconded by Cllr. Tuohy</b>  <b>It was agreed that there would be a deputation from the Portlaoise Municipal District to discuss this matter with the Minister for Justice</b></p>
<p><b>115/2018 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Pat Delaney, A.O., Planning</b></p>
<p><i>“That this Council take the following estates in charge, Summerhill, Broomville Court and Broomville Close”</i></p>	<p>Summerhill – CCTV has been inspected. A few minor items need to be addressed prior to referring to Water services for taking in Charge. We have made contact with the bond company in relation to this matter and are awaiting a response.</p> <p>Broomville Court &amp; Close – Prices in accordance with proper procurement are currently being sought to progress this matter i.e manholes need to be exposed to complete camera survey of the sewer lines. Some of the CCTV survey has already been completed. It is hoped to carry out this work in the coming weeks.  <b>Seconded by Cllr. Tuohy</b></p>

<b>116/2018 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</b>	<b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, S.E.E.</b>
<i>“That this Council install measures to reduce speed on the Ridge Rd/Ballyteegan”</i>	<i>I will make myself available to meet with Councillor Fitzgerald and the Residents to get an understanding of the specific issues involved at this location. Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley</i>
<b>117/2018 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</b>	<b>Ms. Bernie Foran, A/County Librarian</b>
<i>“That this Council replace the digital information point at Abbeyleix Library as this has not been functioning for a long time”</i>	<i>Yes this will be addressed in conjunction with the Laois County Council IT Department Seconded by Cllr. Aird</i>
<b>118/2018 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</b>	<b>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.</b>
<i>“That this Council in conjunction with Killaree Lighting replace all the hinges on the access panels on electricity poles at Main Street, Abbeyleix”</i>	<i>These poles will be assessed and works will be carried out as required. Seconded by Cllr. Aird</i>
<b>119/2018 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</b>	<b>Ms. Orla Barrett, SEE, Environment</b>
<i>“That this Council give a timeframe on when works will take place on the footpaths in Raheen Cemetery”</i>	<i>An area of approximately 460m<sup>2</sup> of footpath has been identified in Raheen Cemetery requiring repair and improvement. 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. Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald</i>

## 5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ***Cllr. Noel Tuohy proposed a extinguishment of a Right of Way at Rathevan be advertised for submissions. Seconded by Cllr. Aird***
- ***Congratulations to Abbeyleix on Tidy Towns win. It was acknowledged that they were 5 points off the National winner***
- ***Acknowledged Portlaois’s 5 point jump and silver medal***
- ***Acknowledged Spink improving every year and scoring well***
- ***Acknowledged that Ballinakill was back in the competitions***
- ***Acknowledged that Mounmellick got an endeavor award***
- ***Cllr. Fitzgerald acknowledged the work of former Members, volunteers and Laois County Council***
- ***Cllr. Fennelly Thanked the Abbeyleix committee, Director of Service, Area and Outdoor staff.***

- *Cllr. Madigan said that as a new Cllr. It was a very exciting time for Portlaoise.*
- *Kieran Kehoe advised the Members that Portlaoise has ranked in the top 10 in the world for its efficiency in using the Belly Bins. He praised Mark Bergin and his team for their work.*
- *Cllr. Fitzgerald Thanked staff for TJ Doheny's Civic Reception*
- *Cllr. Aird requested that the voluntary housing bodies would be invited in to meet the Members with Michael Rainey. Kieran Kehoe would speak with Michael Rainey.*
- *Kieran Kehoe advised the Members there was need for an in committee meeting in the next few week to discuss a Part 8 for Convent lands and other critical Infrastructure. This would be organised over the next few weeks.*

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

*The next meeting is to be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at 11.00 a.m. in the Council Chamber of Áras an Chontae followed by the Budget meeting.*

*This concluded the business of the meeting.*

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

**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**Certified:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTOR OF SERVICE.**