

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 15TH OF MAY 2024 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN
CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C. (In the Chair)
Mr. Pádraig Fleming, M.C.C.
Mr. Paschal McEvoy, M.C.C.
Mr. P.J. Kelly, M.C.C.
Ms. Aisling Moran, M.C.C.
Mr. Aidan Mullins, M.C.C.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Julie Bergin, A/Head of Finance
Mr. Philip McVeigh, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer

(1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the April meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 17th of April 2024

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins, the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the April meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 17th of April 2024.

(2) Progress Report

The report was noted, and the Members complimented Mr. Philip McVeigh, Senior Executive Engineer and all the team on the works that had been completed since the last meeting.

(3) Notice of Motions:-

Notice of Motion No: 55/2024

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council investigate and explain the long delays in repairing/energising the public lighting along Ballymorris Road and in Lansdowne Estate, Portarlington”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that the Road Design Section have liaised with our PL Maintenance contractor and these lights will be attended to in the coming days and be fixed.

Notice of Motion No: 56/2024

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out a survey on the pedestrian crossing at the entrance to St. Brigid’s Square in Portarlinton as there has been a number of reported near misses at the crossing”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Road Design Section will carry out a review of the pedestrian crossing.

Notice of Motion No: 57/2024

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council consider the request from the residents of Marian Hill in Portarlinton to make it one way traffic in their estate”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Road Design Section will meet with Councillor Mullins and the Area Engineer, Mr. Philip McVeigh to review the possibility of a one way system in Marian Hill.

Notice of Motion No: 58/2024

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install two speed ramps in Brotherton Housing Estate in Graiguecullen as the estate is not safe due to speeding vehicles”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet with the Elected Member at this location to assess the works required.

Notice of Motion No: 59/2024

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair the culvert at Dan Moore’s Cross on the R431 in Tolerton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will assess the works required at this location and arrange for remedial works to be carried out.

Notice of Motion No: 60/2024

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council upgrade the sewage line from the two houses in Killeshin as raw sewage is coming out on the front lawns”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will meet with Cllr Brennan on site to inspect the issue.

Notice of Motion No: 61/2024

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council request the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly, T.D., to restore the GP services to Ballylinan Health Centre”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Minister for Health in this regard.

Notice of Motion: 62/2024

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council consider Stradbally for a bus shelter under current funding”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will consider Stradbally for a bus shelter and preliminary work has commenced on a design. Delivery will be subject to agreement of design with the NTA.

Notice of Motion No: 63/2024

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council drop the kerb on both sides of the entrance to Cill Beag Manor Housing estate on the Carlow Road, Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet with the Elected Member on site to assess the works required.

Notice of Motion No: 64/2024

Councillor P.J. Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council consider installing a pedestrian crossing on Park Lane Road leading into Portarlinton Pharmacy”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Road Design Office will carry out a review to consider the installation of a pedestrian crossing on Park Lane.

Notice of Motion No: 65/2024

Councillor P.J. Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council consider the purchase of 4.75 acres of land in the townland of Cooltedery for the purpose of supplying car parking as this is within close proximity of the Town Square & Market House”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that the landowner has been contacted regarding the purchase of this piece of land and we are still awaiting a reply.

Notice of Motion No: 66/2024

Councillor P.J. Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install a sign including ‘concealed entrance’ on the old Dublin Road opposite the Christmas Tree Depot in Ballybrittas as vehicles are still dangerously overtaking on the white line at this location”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for a new sign to be installed at this location on the R445 Old Dublin Road.

Notice of Motion No: 67/2024

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council resurface the road from the handball alley to the booster station in Wolfhill”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will consider this road for inclusion in the next road surfacing programme.

Notice of Motion No: 68/2024

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council level the verge on the road pointed out at Vicarstown with topsoil and replace the bulbs in 2 of the streetlights”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for this verge work to be carried out as soon as possible and will refer the defective street lights to the Public Lighting Section.

Notice of Motion No: 69/2024

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council resurface the 800m of public road on Melbourne Lane, Luggacurran and give an update on the drainage works to be done on the road opposite the old school”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will consider this road for surfacing under the next road surfacing programme and will arrange for these drainage works to be carried out in the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 70/2024

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council meet with Roadstone Management with the view to them funding the widening of the roads in designated areas to and from Ballyadams Quarry. These areas to be agreed in conjunction with local people in the interest of Health and Safety for all”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council can liaise with Roadstone regarding funding and installation of passing bays in designated areas following the receipt and approval of the designated locations.

Notice of Motion No: 71/2024

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council pipe the collapsed drain at Ballyrahin Ballickmoyler”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for these drainage works to be carried out in the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 72/2024

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council cut the hedge opposite the entrance to Fruithill Court Estate, on the Numbers Road, Graiguecullen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will assess this location with a view to the issuing of a hedgecutting notice as required.

(4) Correspondence

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

A discussion ensued regarding the funding of €25,000 for projects that is allocated annually to the Municipal District. Members had been contacted by Knockbeg College in relation to the widening of the road at the College from Sleaty to Knockbeg to Maganey. Members requested if flashing lights or speed radar signs could be used for the reduction of speed. It was proposed that the €25k be used to widen the road by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming.

Councillor Moran advised that widening the road by just one foot would not solve the issues at this location.

A roll call vote was taken on Councillor Paschal McEvoy’s proposal to use the €25k towards widening the road at Knockbeg college which resulted as follows: -

| | For the Proposal | Against the Proposal |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Councillor McEvoy | ✓ | |
| Councillor Moran | | ✓ |
| Councillor Fleming | ✓ | |
| Councillor Mullins | Absent | |
| Councillor Kelly | ✓ | |
| Councillor Brennan | | ✓ |

The result of the roll call was 3 votes in favour of Councillor McEvoy's proposal, Two votes against and 1 Member absent.

(5) Fix Date for Next Meeting

It was agreed that the Annual General Meeting of the Municipal District would take place on Wednesday, June 26th 2024 at 2.00 p.m. A date for the June monthly meeting of the Municipal District will be fixed at this time.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Ben Brennan, M.C.C. , Cathaoirleach

