

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2024 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN
CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT Mr. Aidan Mullins, M.C.C. (In the Chair)
Mr. Pádraig Fleming, M.C.C.
Mr. Paschal McEvoy, M.C.C.
Ms. Vivienne Phelan, M.C.C.
Ms. Aisling Moran, M.C.C.
Mr. Ben Brennan, 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 October Meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 9th of October 2024

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the October meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 9th of October 2024.

(2) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Budget Meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 9th of October 2024

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the budget meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 9th of October 2024.

(3) 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.

(4) Notice of Motions:-

Notice of Motion No: 121/2024

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council cut or prune back the trees within Rahin Woods Estate in Ballylinan as they are blocking light emitted from the street lights”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location and these works have now been completed.

Notice of Motion No: 122/2024

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair or replace the collapsed culvert at Aghoney (Stones Quarry) Timahoe”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for these works to be carried out as soon as possible.

Notice of Motion No: 123/2024

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council together with the Ballylinan Community group, liaise with Bishop Denis McNulty of the Kildare & Leighlin Diocese, with the view to purchasing the old Primary School which is now derelict for use as a community space”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that The Town Regeneration section of Laois County Council will work with Community groups in Ballylinan to prioritise actions for development of the settlement. In another location the council has been successful in their application for Town and Village grant from DRCD in a similar situation. As always, the Council will seek to maximise such grant opportunities across the County.

Notice of Motion No: 109/2024

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council erect fencing around the basketball court in The People’s Park in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pashcal McEvoy. The Members were advised that The People’s Park has recently been redesigned to open up recreational spaces within park and be more inclusive. There is no health and safety requirement to fence off the mini court and fencing will not improve the playing experience. It is planned to install some seating near the court to encourage socialisation and a fence would exclude this. If other factors need to be considered the Sport & Leisure Officer is happy to discuss with Councillor Mullins.

Notice of Motion No: 110/2024

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council provide traffic calming measures in Ballybrittas and install a pedestrian crossing in the village”

This Notice of Motion was considered by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that The Road Design Section have carried out traffic counts, speed surveys and observed pedestrian movements in Ballybrittas. The information was gathered to inform the assessment process and designs for a potential calming scheme and pedestrian crossing location. Designs will now be progressed and subjected to an independent Road Safety Audit, following which, an application for funding can be made.

Notice of Motion No: 111/2024

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council provide traffic calming measures on Lea Road in Portarlinton to slow traffic and also to indicate when the previously agreed traffic controls will be installed near the junction with Lea Road, Lough Gate and Canal Road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Vivienne Phelan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for a traffic survey and speed assessments to be undertaken on the Lea road in Portarlinton to inform assessments and potential future designs for traffic calming. With regard to the junction of Lea Road, Lough Gate and Canal Road, a topographical survey on this junction has been undertaken. The Active Travel Section have indicated that this location is on their proposed list for a Junction Tightening Scheme in 2025.

Notice of Motion No: 112/2024

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council take in charge the road up in Farmans where three Council houses are located”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to carry out an inspection of this road with regard to this request.

Notice of Motion No: 113/2024

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That County Council put in place safety measures on the R431 outside Mayo National School”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for special traffic calming roadmarkings to be installed along this stretch of the R431 outside the national school.

Notice of Motion No: 114/2024

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council make safe the junction at the bottom of the Cuts in Killeshin”

This Notion of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will carry out an inspection of this junction to identify possible safety improvements.

Notice of Motion No: 115/2024

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council take in charge Lacys Lane Belgrove Ballybrittas”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet with the Elected Member at this location to review this request.

Notice of Motion No: 116/2024

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council install bollards at Tracy’s, The Heath to stop parking”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will inspect this location and carry out a safety audit of this proposal.

Notice of Motion No: 117/2024

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council clear the Cattle Grid up from the Heath School”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for these works to be carried out as soon as possible

Notice of Motion No: 118/2024

Councillor Vivienne Phelan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council install a yellow box at the junction between Main Street, Stradbally N80 and the Vicarstown Road R427”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will forward the proposal to Transport Infrastructure Ireland's Signs and Lines section requesting its implementation.

Notice of Motion No: 119/2024

Councillor Vivienne Phelan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council complete re-surfacing works at Woodview Housing Estate, Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet with the Elected Member to review this request.

Notice of Motion No: 120/2024

Councillor Vivienne Phelan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council improve the road signage on the N80 approaching Stradbally to alert motorists of the new traffic lights and to allow safe stoppage time, particularly during busy periods at the cemetery and in poor weather conditions”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the section of road is included in Laois County Councils funding request from TII for resurfacing in 2025, as part of the scheme road signage and lines on the approach to the cemetery will be reviewed and included in the scheme for upgrade and improvement.

Notice of Motion No: 124/2024

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council cut back or prune back all the trees within Rochford Manor Estate, Graiguecullen which are causing road safety concerns”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Vivienne Phelan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for tree cutting/pruning works to be carried out as soon as possible.

Notice of Motion No: 125/2024

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council include in the 2025 Roads Programme Budget for upgrade of the road from Barrowhouse Cross Roads L3976-21 towards Tankardstown”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for an inspection of this road to be carried out in advance of preparing the next roads programme.

Notice of Motion No: 126/2024

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair the concrete road where there are pot holes going into the Estate at The Swan at the Medical Centre Side”

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

(5) Correspondence

It was noted that there was no correspondence for noting.

Following a query, Members were advised that the additional €25k allocated for a specific project can either be used to bring the total allocation for that project to €50k or be distributed among the Councillors. Cllr. Brennan opposed dividing the funds, while some other Councillors advocated for it. Since no consensus was reached, they decided to revisit the matter for further discussion at a later date.

(5) Fix Date for Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on the 11th of December at 2.00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Aidan Mullins, M.C.C. , Cathaoirleach

