

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL  
DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2017 in ÁRAS  
AN CHONTAE AT 2.00 p.m.**

**PRESENT** Mr. John Moran, Cathaoirleach (In the Chair)  
Mr. Aidan Mullins M.C.C.  
Mr. Paschal McEvoy, M.C.C.  
Mr. Pádraig Fleming, M.C.C.  
Mr. Tom Mulhall, M.C.C.  
Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance  
Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer  
Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff officer

**1. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF  
GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD  
ON THE 18<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER 2017**

On the proposal of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the minutes of the October meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

**2. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE STATUTORY BUDGET  
MEETING OF GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL  
DISTRICT HELD ON THE 18<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER 2017**

On the proposal of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the minutes of the Statutory Budget meeting October meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

**3. PROGRESS REPORT**

The report was noted and the Members complimented Mr John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer on the works that had been completed since the last meeting.

Councillor Brennan referred to the completed drainage works at Ardateggle Lane and requested that a further 20 metres of work be carried out at this location.

Councillor Mullins requested that 3 trees on the Bog Road at Marian Hill be removed. Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer indicated these trees are on private property but he would have the matter checked.

In response to Councillor Moran Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer indicated that the Local Improvement Scheme has commenced at Barrowhouse.

Councillor Tom Mulhall referred to the taking in charge of the estates in Killenard and enquired if the Residents Committee could make application to have the estates taken in charge and Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer clarified the position.

In response to Councillor Tom Mulhall, Mr John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer confirmed that all of knotweed locations have been treated twice and may require further treatment for up to three years.

#### 4. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

##### Notice of Motion No: 127/2017

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council give an update on the bridge in Mayo on the R431 near Mayo school and an update on the construction of a wall on the Killeen Bridge in Crettyard”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised of the following:-

Mayo Bridge – Works to Mayo bridge will be prioritised for inclusion in the 2018 bridge programme. Killeen Bridge – works have commenced on wing wall stabilisation at this location and will be completed in 2017. Embankment and parapet wall reconstruction will be completed under the 2018 bridge programme. All 2018 Bridge works will be completed subject to funding being available

##### Notice of Motion No: 128/2017

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council provide a light in the playground at Ballylinan as there is unsavoury behaviour going on and people have been attacked and hurt”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that The Sport & Leisure Office were recently notified of anti-social behaviour, but did not receive any reports of assaults. We will discuss the issue further with the Gardai.

Councillor Ben Brennan emphasised the importance of lighting at the location. It was agreed to review the lighting on the road adjoining the playground.

### **Notice of Motion No: 129/2017**

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council erect a fence around the Green at the private housing estate at Barrowvale Graiguecullen as there is unsavoury behaviour going on here”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer will arrange to meet Councillor Brennan on site to investigate this issue.

### **Notice of Motion No: 130/2017**

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council give an update on the amount of salt they have in stock for this winter and what regional and local roads will be treated in snowy and frosty weather”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has a salt storage capacity of 750 tonnes. The amount in storage is monitored daily during the winter maintenance season and the Council provides a weekly update on salt usage/ stocks to TII (formerly NRA).

For the purposes of the salting programme, the road network in the County is divided into Priority 1, Priority 2 and Priority 3 routes. On a typical night when there is a callout, both Priority 1 and Priority 2 routes are treated. These routes include the Motorways (M7/M8) and the National routes as well as key Regional routes along with key routes in urban areas.

A map showing the network routes included in the salting programme is available to view on the Council’s website (laois.ie).

Councillor Tom Mulhall requested that additional roads be treated in particular junctions and bridges. Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance advised that the Winter Maintenance Plan 2017/2018 is tabled for discussion at the November monthly meeting of Laois County Council.

### **Notice of Motion No: 131/2017**

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council liaise with landowners and Coillte in relation to unsecure trees on the sides of regional and local roads in the Graiguecullen/Portarlinton area”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that any locations indentified as hazardous during routine inspections will be brought to the attention of the relevant landowner. If Councillor Mulhall has identified any particular locations he can forward these locations to Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer for action.

Councillor Mulhall referred to unsecure trees at Clonanny, Portarlinton and Mr. John Ormond; A/Senior Executive Engineer indicated that he would visit this location. Any other locations of concern should be notified to Mr. Ormond and a hedge-cutting notice can be issued to the landowner.

### **Notice of Motion No: 132/2017**

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council carry out hedge cutting at Kennels Cross, Emo to improve visibility onto the regional roads”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer will arrange for verge maintenance works to be completed at this location in the coming weeks.

### **Notice of Motion No: 133/2017**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council review their plans for the proposed relief road in Portarlinton”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the proposed relief road is included in the roads objectives for the local area plan. Construction of the relief road is subject to future development of area and capital investment. At present there are no plans for its construction. Councillor Mullins made reference to the drawings prepared in 2009 and to the housing development along the route since then. He suggested that an alternative route would

have to be considered. Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance indicated that he would refer the issue to Mr Farhan Nasiem, Road Design.

**Notice of Motion No: 134/2017**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council investigate an old Sewage Treatment unit in the field opposite Sandy Lane Primary School and St. Michael’s Park in Portarlinton to determine its purpose and to have it decommissioned and removed if necessary”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that on foot of complaints from residents of St. Michael’s Park, Portarlinton and representations from Cllr. Mullins, of foul odours emanating from an area of land opposite this housing estate in private lands, the Council’s Water Services carried out an investigation of the matter. It was found that the problem is caused by a discharge/overflow of sewage from an old Wastewater Pumping Station in lands owned/being developed for the Landsdowne Estate by Kingscroft. The developer has been notified that he is to remedy the situation. The HSE has been consulted for advice in relation to risk to public health. It is a private estate and it is up to the owner/developer to have the matter sorted.

Councillor Mullins requested a copy of the report when received from the H.S.E.

**Notice of Motion No: 135/2017**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council install CCTV cameras at the children’s playground in Portarlinton and public lighting at the adjacent car park”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that the Sport and Leisure Officer will explore options with PCDA (Portarlinton Community Development Association) and Portarlinton Leisure Centre in consultation with Mr. Farhan Nasiem, Roads Department. In addition, Laois County Council will consult with the Garda Crime Prevention Officer.

Councillor Mullins indicated that the Rapid scheme may be a method of funding this and that he was meeting Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Road Design to discuss.

**Notice of Motion No: 136/2017**

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council give an update on works to be completed and the timescale for taking in charge of Spindlewood, Graiguecullen”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that a Pricing Document has been prepared and sent to the contractor for pricing. The closing date for return of same is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

**Notice of Motion No: 137/2017**

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council take measures to resolve the flooding at the farm entrance in Ballyadams”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer met with Councillor Fleming at this location and agreed to have necessary remedial works carried out in the coming weeks.

**Notice of Motion No: 138/2017**

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council put road markings at Crosskeys Cross , Newtown on the 2 roads leading on to the R426 in the interest of safety”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that the installation of road markings at this location will be included in the next bundle of works to be completed in the Graiguecullen Area.

It may be early 2018 before these works are completed as the installation of road markings is very weather dependent in relation to road temperatures and wet road surfaces.

**Notice of Motion No: 139/2017**

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council carry out repairs on the footpath outside of the second house on the right at Oakley Park, Graiguecullen”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that works have recently been completed at this location by a utility contractor and the repair is required within the reinstatement works. I will arrange for the contractor to complete these remedial works as soon as possible.

**Notice of Motion No: 140/2017**

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:

***“That Laois County Council carry out further repairs on the Upper Strand Road, Ballickmoyler – some work has been carried out on this road but a section of it has been left in bad condition”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that this road will be included for consideration as part of the 2018 road programme. Roads to be completed under the 2018 roads programme will be prioritised based on the Pavement Survey Condition Index (PSCI) rating and will be subject to available funding and agreement with elected members.

**Notice of Motion No: 141/2017**

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council install yellow lines or a box on either side of Killeen School as parents are parking cars on either side of the road and causing traffic problems for other road users”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer will arrange to meet Cllr Moran on site to investigate this issue and determine the most appropriate solution to the parking issues.

### **Notice of Motion No: 142/2017**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council carry out work at Kyle, Timahoe to prevent water flowing into his yard”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer will arrange for water cuts to be opened at this location and for the patching unit to complete works which will divert surface water past Mr O’Connor’s entrance.

### **Notice of Motion No: 143/2017**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council carry out hedge cutting around the road signs in the Vicarstown area and the approach roads”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer will arrange to have these works completed within the next 3 to 4 weeks.

### **Notice of Motion No: 144/2017**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council trim back trees on the Cork Road, Stradbally. These trees are blocking the light from the street lights”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the trees are located on private property. A hedge cutting notice will be issued to the registered landowner in the coming days.

### **Correspondence**

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance indicated that correspondence had been received from Coillte in relation to Notice of Motion. It was agreed that Councillor Ben Brennan would outline the locations in question.



**6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor Ben Brennan raised the matter of naming the road at the Northern Relief Road after Fr. John Fingleton, parish priest in Graiguecullen. It was agreed that this would be referred to the Placenames Committee.

A discussion ensued regarding speed limits at Ballylinan and it was agreed that clarification be sought on the 50kph/60kph at this location.

Councillor Tom Mulhall enquired regarding the installation of solar speed signs in Kilmullen and Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer advised that they were to be installed next week

**6. Time and date of next meeting:**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on **15<sup>th</sup> of November, 2017 at the later time of 3.00 p.m.**

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
**John Moran, Cathaoirleach**