

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 17TH OF APRIL 2024 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN
CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C. (In the Chair)
Mr. Pdraig 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: Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance
Mr. Tom Drennan, Executive Engineer
Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer

Apology: Mr Philip Mc Veigh, Area Engineer

(1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the March meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 20th March 2024

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly, the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the March meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 20th of March 2024.

(2) Progress Report

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

(3) Presentation by SETU Carlow – Town Centre Health Check in Stradbally

Dr. Sharon Harris Byrne along with six International Business students from SETU Carlow were in attendance and delivered a presentation on the Town Centre Health Check in Stradbally. The presentation included details of the tourist potential of Stradbally.

(4) Notice of Motions:-

Notice of Motion No: 37/2024

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out a Safety Assessment at Kerrs Corner, Timahoe”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council's Road Design Department will meet Councillor McEvoy on site and carry out a safety inspection.

Notice of Motion No: 38/2024

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out works outside a residence at Vicarstown to alleviate the flooding”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange a site inspection with a view to resolving any potential flooding at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 39/2024

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council investigate the flooding of a house at Corrig, Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange a site inspection with a view to resolving any potential flooding at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 40/2024

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the programme for the upgrade of the People's Park in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that the detailed design in respect of the central plaza and edible garden are currently being finalised by the appointed landscape architects. The area office has undertaken to complete these works. A timeframe on completion can be provided at the end of April.

The tender has been advertised in respect of the upgrade of the playground equipment and once a supplier is appointed in mid-May, a definite timeframe for completion can be provided. Quotations are currently being sought for park furniture and every effort will be made to have this in place for the summer months.

Councillor Mullins raised concerns in relation to vandalism of the equipment and suggested that a meeting of the Management Committee be arranged as soon as possible with Council officials including Mr. John Griffiin.

Notice of Motion No: 41/2024

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council arrange for a bus shelter/s to be installed in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is liaising with the NTA regarding the upgrade of bus stops across the county. There are a number of bus stop locations in Portarlinton, and the Council will work with the NTA to agree the appropriate treatment at each one.

Notice of Motion No: 42/2024

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council commence the taking in charge of Lansdowne Estate in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that to date we have not received a formal request from Kingscroft Developers to have this estate taken in charge as there are remaining phases to be constructed under Planning application 18 / 422. Once we have a request from either the developer or a plebiscite of owners within the estate relating to a completed phase of development, we can then initiate proceedings to commence the process.

Councillor Mullins indicated that he would arrange for a plebiscite to be submitted.

Notice of Motion No: 43/2024

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

‘That Laois County Council install 2 ramps in Meadows Way, Graiguecullen’

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet with the Elected Member on site to review and identify the area and will arrange for a technical assessment to be carried.

Notice of Motion No: 44/2024

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council cut back the rest of the trees on the Northern Relief Road”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council's Road Design Department will meet Councillor Brennan on site to discuss cutting back the remainder of the trees along the N80 Northern Relief Road.

Notice of Motion No: 45/2024

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council make contact with the ESB to clarify what is the delay in the repair of street lighting on the R430 Newtown, Crettyard”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that a letter will issue to ESB in this regard.

Councillor Aisling Moran enquired about the amount of money paid to ESB at this stage for works yet to be carried out.

Notice of Motion No: 46/2024

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council consider the use of hot macadam in pothole repairs rather than cold tar and chip as the hot macadam will have a longer lifespan in view of the weather conditions over the last six months”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council currently utilise hot liquid bitumen in combination with chippings and cold delayed set material to carry out pothole repairs. These repair methods, in general, seal the opening and preserve the road surface. The continuous wet weather over the last 8 months aligned with the combination of frosty weather over the winter has created the perfect conditions for the formation of potholes on the road network which has placed pressure on maintenance operations throughout the country.

Laois County Council will review the request for the use of this material in the context of capacity, efficiency, and cost. A general discussion took place.

Notice of Motion No: 47/2024

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair a part of Shanragh Bridge, Wolfhill in the interest of health and safety”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council have inspected this bridge and will initiate the remedial works required.

Notice of Motion No: 48/2024

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion: _

“That Laois County Council jet wash the gullies/drains from the Applegreen Station, Killeshin towards Graiguecullen School, Graiguecullen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has scheduled a programme of gully cleaning which includes these areas. This programme has just commenced.

Notice of Motion No: 49/2024

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

“That Laois County Council in conjunction with An Taisce create a school safe zone in front of the primary school in Killenard”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has scheduled a programme of gully cleaning which includes these areas. This programme has just commenced.

Notice of Motion No: 50/2024

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

“That Laois County Council investigate the possibility of installing safety measures at Jamestown Cross as another car accident there recently emphasised the fact that it is a dangerous junction”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council’s Road Design Department will meet the Councillor on site to discuss potential safety improvements to Jamestown Cross.

Notice of Motion No: 51/2024

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

“That Laois County Council install the speed table on the road outside Emo National School and the sports field now that the streetlights are in operation”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is currently arranging a contractor to commence the installation of the traffic calming ramp at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 52/2024

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out drainage works on the N80 and to include the cleaning of the concrete drainage channel between Maidenhead and a farmyard and the removal of blockages from bridges at Castletown/Maidenhead culvert & Milltown Road junction”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council’s Road Design Department will liaise with the area office to carry out maintenance works along the N80.

Notice of Motion No: 53/2024

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install traffic bollards in Imleach Estate, The Swan to prevent vehicles from parking/driving on the green area”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will review the location and subject to this assessment will identify appropriate preventative measures on the matters raised.

Notice of Motion No: 54/2024

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council ask Uisce Eireann why they have turned the water pressure down in Stradbally and to please increase the pressure”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that The Council will contact Uisce Eireann regarding this notice of motion and revert to the members with an update when a response is received.

(5) Correspondence

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

(5) Fix Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for the 15th May 2024 at 2.00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

