

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 21ST OF FEBRUARY 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: Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance
Mr. Tom Drennan, Executive Engineer
Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer

(1) Vote of Sympathy

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously extended a vote of sympathy to the McCormack Family, Dereen Cloneygowan, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on the recent death of Mrs. Mary McCormack, mother of Ms. Michelle McCormack, Corporate Affairs Department

(2) Confirmation of the Minutes of the December meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 6th of December 2023

On the proposition of Councillor P.J. Kelly seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the December meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 6th of December 2023.

(3) Progress Report

The report was noted, and the Members complimented Mr. Tom Drennan, Area Engineer, 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: 01/2024

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council erect signage outside houses in Court Square, Stradbally indicating Resident Parking only”

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 at this location to identify the parking spaces that require this signage.

Notice of Motion No: 02/2024

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council continue the footpath from the top of the town of Stradbally out the Rathmore Road past the houses”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Active travel funding is not available for the provision of this footpath. An active travel scheme must ensure that the infrastructure delivered provides for a high population and links them to a key trip attractor. It was agreed that Mr. Philip McVeigh, S.E.E. will arrange to meet with the Elected Member on site to review.

Notice of Moton No: 03/2024

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council implement traffic calming measure on the slip road from the Rathmore Road onto Main Street 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 identify suitable traffic calming measures for this slip road

Notice of Motion No: 04/2024

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council, following a meeting on site, install 3 passing bays in the interest of road users from the N80 up to St. Joseph’s GAA club grounds at Milltown as this road is very narrow and two-way traffic is very limited”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this road and will arrange for the passing bays to be installed along this road between the N80 and the GAA Grounds.

Notice of Motion No: 05/2024

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council, following a meeting on site, modify the entrance at Leylandi Estate Drive, Ballylinan in order to improve the traffic flow in/out of the estate”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected the entrance into the estate and, subject to the approval of the Resident’s Association, could install a lay-by area on the left-hand side of the approach road into the estate.

Notice of Motion No: 06/2024

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council consider installing passing bays at strategic locations from Pedigree Corner to Shanragh Cross, Wolfhill as there is a lot of traffic on this road including Heavy Goods Vehicles which make it difficult to pass”

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 on site to identify the locations for possible passing bays on this road.

Notice of Motion No: 07/2024

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council investigate how additional parking can be provided for school buses and cars at Sandy Lane N.S. in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that the Laois County Council Road Design Department will investigate the opportunities available to provide additional parking for school traffic on Sandy Lane.

Notice of Motion No: 08/2024

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the Taking in Charge of The Glen estate in Kilnacourt in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that although the required repairs have been carried out to footpaths

and sections of road surface over the past 12 months, we are still awaiting the submission of “As Built Drawings” and updated CCTV survey of the Foul and Storm Water Networks. In the event that these are not forthcoming by Mid-March, the Council will prepare the as constructed drawings and update the CCTV survey and advance the Taking in Charge of the estate.

Notice of Motion No: 09/2024

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council see what measures can be taken to alleviate congestion to minimise traffic delays at Spa Street in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that in advance of the preparation of the new Portarlinton Joint Local Area Plan (LAP), the Roads Department has engaged consultants to prepare a Local Transport Plan for the town. Traffic issues on Spa Street will be considered as part of the plan and objectives will be identified which will seek to improve traffic congestion in the area. The final transport plan will support the preparation of the LAP with key transport objectives highlighted.

The members were advised that an allocation of €100,000 was received from the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport for the Portarlinton Relief Scheme.

Notice of Motion No: 10/2024

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

“That Laois County Council call on Uisce Eireann officials to attend a meeting between representatives of Ballybritas Village Sewerage Action Group, County Council officials and local County Councillors to discuss the very serious sewage situation that has existed there for over the last 45 years”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that correspondence would issue to Uisce Eireann in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 11/2024

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

“That Laois County Council take measures to rectify the consistent flooding at Sallyford Cross, Ballybrittas”

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

Notice of Motion No: 12/2024

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

“That Laois County Council open water cuts and clear a roadside drain that has been blocked between Grange Upper and Raheenduff heading towards Ratheniska”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for the water cuts and drain clearance works to be carried out as soon as possible.

Notice of Motion No: 13/2024

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council resurface the road from Castletown to Cullenagh Cross”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that a 1 km section of the L3978 is included for consideration in the draft Portarlinton Graiguecullen roadworks programme for 2024.

Notice of Motion No: 14/2024

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council resurface the road from Ballyfoyle Cross to Killabban”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will consider the road for inclusion in the roads programme subject to confirmation of the 2024 grant allocations for the Municipal District.

Notice of Motion No: 15/2024

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council explain why the Graiguecullen area which has the third largest town in Laois received zero funding from Active Travel”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is allocating approximately €150k of active travel funding in 2024 to carry out further junction improvement works for

vulnerable road users in Graiguecullen. Going forward, the adoption of the Joint Local Area Plan and supporting Local Transport Plan for Carlow-Graiguecullen will inform the council's selection of active travel schemes in Graiguecullen.

Notice of Motion No: 16/2024

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council remove the trees from the Council boundary fence at the Cross on the R430 as they are causing dampness to the house next door”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that the Housing Department will carry out a site investigation and subject to funding being made available a quote for the removal of these trees will be obtained.

Notice of Motion No: 17/2024

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council take in charge the roadway around the graveyard to Killeshin”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will establish the status and ownership of the roadway. Following this the taking in charge process or the declaration of the road as public as appropriate will commence.

Notice of Motion No: 18/2024

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council remove the fence on the left-hand side at Byrne's Cross Road in Ballyadams”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will consult with the landowner and Transport Infrastructure Ireland regarding a proposal to improve sightlines at this junction.

Correspondence

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

(5) Fix Date for Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting is scheduled for the 20th of March 2024 at 2.00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Ben Brennan, M.C.C. , Cathaoirleach

