

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19th APRIL 2017 in ÁRAS AN CHONTAE AT
2.00 p.m.**

PRESENT Mr. Paschal McEvoy M.C.C., Cathaoirleach
Mr. Aidan Mullins M.C.C,
Mr. John Moran M.C.C,
Mr. Tom Mulhall, M.C.C.
Mr. Pdraig Fleming, M.C.C.
Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C.

IN ATTENDANCE Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance
Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the March Meeting held on the 22nd of March 2017

On the proposal of Councillor John Moran seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall, the minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd of March 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

2. Roads Progress Report

The report was noted and the members complimented the Council on the works that had been completed since the last meeting.

3. Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion No: 37/2017

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council re-locate the post and rail fence on the R445 between the Wheel Inn pub and Treacy’s and widen the hard shoulder so that people can walk safely”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is not in ownership of the land located behind the post and rail. Laois County Council will liaise with the property owner(s) to determine what works can be completed at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 38/2017

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council clean up all the rubbish in the field at the back of the group housing estate in Portarlinton and put in place a secure fence around the same field”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that currently there is no funding available within Laois County Council's resources to erect fencing to the rear of the Group Housing Scheme on the Ballymorris Road, Portarlinton. An application will be made for funding for boundary treatment to the Traveller Accommodation Unit in the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government. Laois County Council, in conjunction with the residents of the Group Housing Scheme, will endeavour to carry out a clean-up of the field to the rear of the scheme in the near future.

The Members requested that the area be cleaned up and that new fencing be provided at this location and also that local landowners are requesting that the area be fenced off. It was noted that there are horses tied up and the Members requested that Laois County Council liaise with the Gardaí and the Annual Welfare Agencies

The issue of illegal parking in Portarlinton was also discussed.

Notice of Motion No: 39/2017

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council extend the lease to Stradbally Allotments for another 6 years”

This Notice of Motions were seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Members were advised that the Stradbally Community Allotment Association Committee was advised on the 23/03/2017 that the 6 year lease signed on the 9/5/2012 would not be renewed after the 8th May 2018. A further 6 year lease would restrict this Council in the future use of these lands for housing purposes.

A lengthy discussion ensued during which Councillor Tom Mulhall requested that a lease for 6 years be extended with a 2 year review. However the Head of Finance, Mr. Gerry Murphy indicated that an application had been submitted to the Department for funding for the construction of 36 houses. The lease to Stradbally Allotments does not expire until the 8th of May 2018 and Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance indicated that he would review the situation prior to that date.

Notice of Motion No: 40/2017

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council put in place a "Stop Sign " at Charter Road Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that the Eastern Area office will arrange for a stop sign to be erected at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 41/2017

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council request the ESB to move the electricity pole at Kerr’s corner Timahoe as it is causing a visual obstruction”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Members were advised that the Eastern Area Office will notify the ESB of the obstruction caused by the ESB pole and request that it be moved to a more suitable location.

Notice of Motion No: 42/2017

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council replace the footpath outside the Fire Station in Stradbally as it is in a dangerous state”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that this work will be completed as part of the footpath programme. It is expected that these works will commence in late May or early June.

Notice of Motion No: 43/2017

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on progress on the promised traffic counts; surveys and assessments of suitable traffic control measures in Portarlinton on Bracklone Street and at the 3 main junctions at Crowe Street / Upper Main Street; French Church Street / Link Road and Spa Street / The Square”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that the Square is linked to the wider consideration of the whole Square enhancement in Portarlinton starting with the project to underground the overhead ESB cables which it is intended will progress very soon.

It is the intention to start design works on the installation of traffic lights on Crowe Street Junction. Subject to funding being available construction works would be carried out after the design work is completed (2 months)

Mr. Farhan Nasiem indicated that the design and tender for the undergrounding of cables and the installation of new street lights is being progressed at present and that construction work could commence in a number of weeks time.

It was noted that funding of €33,000 was being provided for car parking at the rear of the Leisure Centre (20 car parking spaces) and this was welcomed. Mr. John Ormond, A/S.E.E. Ormond would advise of a start date for these works.

A discussion ensued regarding the volume and speed of traffic at Bracklone Street, Portarlinton and the provision of pedestrian crossings and raised tables were discussed. The Members requested that the speed radar sign be moved closer to the town. Mr. Farhan Nasiem indicated that he would have these matters considered.

Notice of Motion No: 44/2017

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council indicate when work will commence on footpath repairs and replacement as identified in the Footpath Upgrade Programme 2017 for Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that footway works will commence on completion of preparatory works necessary for the strengthening and surface dressing programme. It is anticipated that footway works will commence in mid June. The extent of the works will be determined by the discretionary funding made available by Councillors in the Portarlinton area.

Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/Senior Executive Engineer indicated that Portarlinton is not included on a national/secondary route and therefore, funding cannot be applied for from the T.I.I. Councillor Mullins referred to the footpath survey and advised that 2.7 k of footpath require strengthening in Portarlinton. Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance advised that he would check the possibility of some of these works being carried out in 2017 and revert to the Members.

Notice of Motion No: 45/2017

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council extend the footpath from Ashtrees, Stradbally along the Rathmore Road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy . The Members were advised that the 2017 discretionary funding for footways will be spent repairing existing footways.

At this time it is not anticipated that any funding will be allocated to the provision of new footways as there are numerous existing footways in need of substantial repairs.

It was agreed that Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance would liaise with Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer in relation to funding these works from the Members discretionary allocations.

Notice of Motion No: 46/2017

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council give an update on the bridges in Killeen, Crettyard & Mayo”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that in relation to Killeen Bridge that an Engineering consultant is currently working on the design of remedial works required and that Laois County Council is in discussions with adjacent landowners regarding the extent of works required.

In relation to Mayo, the Eastern Area office is currently preparing tender documents for minor repairs to the bridge parapet wall as a result of damage caused by a car hitting it. In relation to the second bridge in Mayo an inspection of the scouring of the floor under the bridge was completed. There is currently no funding allocated to bridge repairs at this location for 2017. Funding will requested for this location for 2018. This Bridge will be monitored by the area staff until the works can be completed.

Notice of Motion No: 47/2017

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council provide road markings at the Swan Village at the turn for Clogh and also carry out road repairs at the Clogh Road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the Area Engineer will inspect these locations with Councillor Brennan to determine the works required.

Notice of Motion No: 48/2017

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council indicate when the fence will be installed at Bridie Maher’s lane on the Ballickmoyler Road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the A/Senior Executive Engineer will arrange to meet Councillor Brennan at this location to determine what works are required.

Notice of Motion No: 49/2017

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“To ask Laois County Council to contact the HSE urgently regarding their plans to discontinue physiotherapy treatment at the health centre in Graiguecullen (Laois) and the difficulties that this will cause to the people in the surrounding areas who need this facility in South Laois”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that a letter would issue to the HSE as a matter of urgency outlining the difficulties that will cause.

Notice of Motion No: 50/2017

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“To ask Laois County Council to open the water cuts and clean road gullies at Derrymoyle, Graiguecullen off the N 80”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Members were advised that the Eastern Area office will arrange for these works to be completed the next time the gully jetting machine is in the general area. It is anticipated that this will be within the next two weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 51/2017

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“To ask Laois County Council to repair the directional signs on the N 80 at Sleaty Road Roundabout Graiguecullen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Members were advised that TII has responded saying that this work will be completed within 2 – 3 weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 52/2017

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“To ask Laois County Council to repair the advanced warning sign at Cullenagh Cross Roads”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will procure a replacement sign for this location and arrange for this sign and pole to be re-erected.

Notice of Motion No: 53/2017

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“To ask Laois County Council to complete drainage works and repair the road surface on the L-3978 at Castletown, Co Laois”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will investigate the drainage issue at this location to determine the extent of the works required. The road surface will be repaired.

Notice of Motion No: 54/2017

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council sweep the roads at Killeen and Ballylinan”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy . The Members were advised that Ballylinan and Killeen are scheduled to be swept twice per year. The Eastern Area office will arrange for these locations to be included in the next schedule of street sweeping at the end of April.

4. Correspondence

Members were circulated with the details of CLÁR funding which had been received from the Department of the Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. The closing date of May 5th 2017 was noted by the Members and it was also noted that Ms. Pamela Tynan, Public Participation Network had informed community groups of the scheme.

5. Time & Date for next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on the 17th of May 2017 at 2.00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Paschal McEvoy M.C.C. Cathaoirleach