

MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18th APRIL 2018 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. Tom Mulhall, M.C.C.
Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C.
Mr. Pádraig Fleming, 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 MARCH MEETING OF GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 21ST OF MARCH 2018

On the proposal of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan , the minutes of the March meeting held on the 21st of March 2018 were confirmed as circulated.

2. 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, and, in particular the work carried out in relation to the severe weather.

Councillor Aidan Mullins sought an update on free parking in Portarlington. Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance indicated that he would get an update from Roads on this.

Councillor Ben Brennan requested that additional bags be provided for Clean up Laois Week.

3. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 37/2018

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council put in place measures to stop flooding on the road at Killrory, Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that this location was inspected and the main source of surface water runoff appears to flow from adjacent agricultural fields during spells of heavy rain. A site meeting with landowners will be required to try to eliminate the source of the water flowing onto the public road.

Mr. Ormond, A/S.E.E. will also arrange for water cuts to be cleaned along this stretch of road. A road gully and associated road crossing may need to be installed if the ponding continues after works have been completed by landowners and water cuts opened. It was agreed that a meeting with the landowner be arranged as soon as possible

Notice of Motion No: 38/2018

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council call on Coillte to cut over-hanging trees at the Derries, Ballybrittas and also on the R419 at Coolaghey between Kennell’s Cross and Kilbride”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/S.E.E. has recently contacted Coillte again in relation to this matter. Coillte has indicated that these works are currently being priced by a number of tree surgeons and it will provide an update on progress in the coming weeks.

Mr. John Ormond, A/S.E.E. was requested to investigate a tree at Lidl on Station Road, Portarlinton also.

Notice of Motion No: 39/2018

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council improve the road surface on the road down to the Water Treatment Plant at Ballymorris, Portarlinton off the R419”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that this road is not in the charge of Laois County Council. Maintenance is the responsibility of landowners / property owners using this access road. The Water Services Department currently has no plan to improve this road. This old water treatment plant is now obsolete and decommissioned and is no longer used by Laois County Council or Irish Water. The road may be eligible for LIS funding.

Mr. John Ormond undertook to liaise with the Water Services Department with a view to finding out the long term plan for the plant.

Notice of Motion No: 40/2018

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out urgent repairs to the footpath in Foxcroft Street, Portarlington which is impassable during heavy rain”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/S.E.E. will arrange to have this location inspected and a topographic survey completed to determine the most suitable solution required to resolve the surface water ponding. Mr. Ormond will meet with Councillor Mullins on site once a suitable solution has been determined. If footway works are required the works will be carried out on completion of the installation of the broadband fibre infrastructure on Foxcroft Street in Portarlington.

Notice of Motion No: 41/2018

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council contact the owner(s) of the old AIB building on Main Street in Portarlington, which is in a derelict state, to secure and clean up the site”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that it is Laois County Council’s understanding that this building has recently been sold and it is our intention to carry out an up-to-date site inspection this week and make contact with the new owners.

Councillor Mullins requested a further update for the next meeting.

Notice of Motion No: 42/2018

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council implement suitable traffic controls at the junction of French Church Street and the Link Road by Supervalu in Portarlington”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padriag Fleming . The Members were advised that Road Design has commenced the design proposal for French Church Street Junction which will be ready by the end of May 2018

Notice of Motion No: 43/2018

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council investigate flooding resulting from a blocked drain at house at Cullenagh, Ballylinan”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that the Council has completed some investigation works at this location following Councillor Moran’s notice of motion on this in February. Access to private property is required to complete the works and this will be carried out once the land is dry enough to travel with the machinery necessary to complete the work.

Notice of Motion No: 44/2018

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council investigate the drain at Cullenagh Cross where lorries are turning and pushing the bank into the drain and is very dangerous”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond will inspect this location to see if the drain and verge can be extended within the curtilage of the public road and if so he will arrange for the works to be carried out. If works are required on private property it will be necessary to get approval from the landowner prior to commencing any work.

Notice of Motion No: 45/2018

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That this Council investigate flooding at Sheffield Cross”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond will arrange an inspection at this location to determine the cause of the flooding and arrange for any minor remedial works necessary to alleviate the flooding.

Notice of Motion No: 46/2018

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council consider making available toilet facilities at the Rock of Dunamaise”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has been liaising with Failte Ireland in relation to the potential for development of tourist facilities at Dunamaise. It is not envisaged that toilet facilities would be provided in the initial stages of any development at this location. It is envisaged that the initial stages would involve a new car park development followed by interpretive materials.

The members requested that the provision of toilet facilities take place in tandem with the provision of car-parking.

Notice of Motion No: 47/2018

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council apply for funding for a new Fire Station for Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that in the early 2000's Laois County Council identified the old Eastern Area office site in Stradbally, adjacent to the Civil Defence base as a suitable location for a new fire station in Stradbally. In early 2009, site layout drawings were produced. The Planning and Road Sections of Laois County Council produced reports on the project, giving approval in principle to the project.

In May 2009, in accordance the then Department of Environment & Local Government's procedures for fire station projects, a preliminary appraisal of this project was sent to the DELG & approval to proceed to the next stage of the process was sought, i.e. approval in principle and the appointment of a design team. The DELG acknowledged the submission and noted that it would be considered under future Capital Programmes. However, the recession then struck the Irish economy and the Fire Service Capital Programme was severely curtailed. In 2015 the NDFEM requested an update on all fire stations in Co. Laois with proposals for both new fire stations and upgrading of existing stations.

Mr. Declan Power, Chief Fire Officer submitted a request, including costings, for 2 new fire stations, in Rathdowney and Stradbally, along with upgrade and improvement works for Mountmellick and Mountrath fire stations. Rathdowney had previously

received approval to proceed to detailed design. A full design, including detailed costing had been carried out and in 2009 approval to proceed to tender stage was sought. On 1st February 2016, the then Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Mr. Alan Kelly, T.D., announced a Fire Service Capital programme to cover the years 2016 – 2020.

Neither the new Rathdowney Fire Station project, which had been waiting for approval to go to tender, or the new fire station for Stradbally were on the list. However the upgrades for both Mountmellick and Mountrath fire stations were included.

It was agreed that a letter issue to the Minister Charles Flanagan, T.D., in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 48/2018

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out a safety audit on the perimeter wall at Timahoe cemetery”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is currently preparing a comprehensive report on all its cemeteries. An important part of this report will be a schedule of required works at each cemetery to not only ensure health and safety but also the timely development of each cemetery to meet the needs of the local community. Works to the perimeter wall at Timahoe Cemetery have been investigated as part of this report and will be included in the prioritised works schedule to be presented to the members on completion of the report. It is anticipated that the report will be completed in July/August 2018.

Notice of Motion No: 49/2018

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the opening of Killeen Road, Crettyard”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Enginner has arranged to meet the contractor on site early next week. Weather conditions have not been suitable to allow the completion of the civil works and the reinstatement of the road

paving. There are approximately 5 weeks required to complete the contract works and it is envisaged that works will recommence within the next two weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 50/2018

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council be requested to erect a boundary fence outside house at the Vale in Graiguecullen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/S.E.E. will arrange to meet with Councillor Brennan at this location to discuss this request. It will also be necessary to contact the developer of the adjacent property as this is a shared boundary. They were, also, advised that he will arrange for the planning file of the adjacent development to be checked by the Area Office to determine what boundary, if any, is proposed for this location.

Notice of Motion No: 51/2018

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on when the repairs will be carried out on Garrendenny Lane, Crettyard”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that due to the extensive works required at this location recycled road materials will be used for repairs at this location. The works where the recycled material will be sourced are to commence in mid May. Once the materials and a work crew are available repairs will be carried out on Garrendenny Lane. It is expected that works will be done during the month of June.

Notice of Motion No: 52/2018

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council surface dress/tarmac the bridge at Oldleigh, Ballickmoyler as the road surface is hitting-low level cars”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/S.E.E. will arrange for a temporary repair to be completed at this location and fill any surface depressions which may have occurred as

a result of settlement at the structure. A permanent repair will be completed during the roads programme works subject to funding being available.

Notice of Motion No: 53/2018

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council re-fit the ‘ No Turn Right ‘ sign leaving the Heather Hill Estate Graiguecullen on to the N80”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that the “No Right Turn” sign and pole has been removed from this location and that TII had been contacted in relation to the provision of a replacement sign as this sign is part of the N80 signage and is maintained by TII.

Notice of Motion No: 54/2018

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council examine the major subsidence including around the 3/4 Manholes (Re Health & Safety) in the top green in the Village Estate , Ballylinan and can it be filled up to make it level with the rest of the Green to allow for a safe green /play area for all”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer *will arrange for this location to be inspected over the coming days to determine the cause of the subsidence and that he will contact Councillor Fleming in relation to any proposed remedial works.*

5. Time and date of next meeting:

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on **16th of May 2018 at 2.00 p.m.**

6. Vote of Sympathy

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the Members unanimously passed a Vote of Sympathy to the Lodge family on the recent death of our colleague, Councillor Jerry Lodge.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
John Moran, Cathaoirleach