

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT  
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019 IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE,  
PORTLAOISE**

**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. Pádraig Fleming, M.C.C.  
Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance  
Mr. Darren Coss, 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 20<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH 2019**

On the proposal of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the minutes of the March meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2019 were confirmed as circulated.

**2. PROGRESS REPORT**

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

**3. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

The following two Notice of Motions were taken together

**Notice of Motion No: 37/2019**

Councillor Pádraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council put 2 additional Stop Signs at Ballyhide Cross, Killeshin as the visibility at this crossroads is limited leading to accidents and also to apply for a safety improvement scheme as an additional measure”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 47/2019**

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council remove the hedge at Ballyhide Cross, Killeshin and replace with a post and rail fence as there was an accident at this location some time ago”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming.

The Members were advised that the Area office has issued numerous requests to the land owner to maintain the hedgerow. Until such a time that funding becomes available under an RSRM scheme, the area office has changed the layout of this junction to an “ALL STOP” junction and trimmed the hedge row to reduce the risk of high speed collisions as a result of poor visibility.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 38/2019**

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council examine the possibility of providing a multi-use sports ground in the Graiguecullen area to cater for a growing young population”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that the Council has identified a site for a multi-use sports ground in Graiguecullen. The next stage in the advancement of this project is consultation with interested sporting groups on an optimal design.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 39/2019**

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council replace the damaged bollards on the traffic islands at Newtown Cross, Crettyard”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that this item has been referred to the TII who have indicated that they will carry out a survey of the junction and replace any signage as necessary. The Members indicated that the signage needs to be replaced as soon as possible.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 40/2019**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council request Carlow County Council to reduce their maximum rents for tenants in Fruithill Manor in Graiguecullen and bring them in to line with those of Laois County Council in the same estate”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that a letter will issue to Carlow County Council on this matter.

The members were advised that applicants from Carlow and Laois County Council’s housing list live in the estate and some homes are privately rented also. The maximum rent for Laois County Council tenants is €93.00 and Carlow’s maximum rent is €180. Co-Operative Housing Ireland Ltd is charging €850.00 rent per month. It was agreed by the members that a letter issue Carlow Co Co requesting a reduction in their maximum from €180 to €93 for the tenants in Fruithill Manor. It was also agreed to write to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for the introduction of uniform rents across the Country.

Councillor McEvoy also requested that a letter issue to Co-Operative Housing Ireland Ltd in relation to same.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 41/2019**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council resurface / repair two sections of the car park at the front of Portarlinton Community Centre which floods during heavy rainfall”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that the area office will carry out an investigation of the area and will carry out remedial works if necessary.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 42/2019**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council install 2 new sections of footpath - 1 section between the GAA ground and the new Primary School on Canal Road and the other section on the Edenderry Road leading out to Sli na Mona estate”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that there is currently no funding allocated to these locations. Laois County Council have recently upgraded the footway on the opposite side of the road and conditioned the new school to install two pedestrian crossings in order to provide

safe access to the new school. There is currently a planning submission for a housing development on the Edenderry road at this location. Laois County Council will work alongside the developer to ensure that this section of footway is linked to provide safe access.

Following a discussion it was agreed that the footpath section between the GAA grounds and the school would be carried out.

**Notice of Motion No: 43/2019**

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council provide a ‘Stop Sign’ at Loughglass Housing Estate, Ballylinan”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the Area Office installed this sign on the 23/04/2019.

**Notice of Motion No: 44/2019**

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council carry out repairs to alleviate drainage problems on the road at Ballinakill, Ballickmoyler”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the area office will carry out an investigation of the area and carry out remedial works as necessary.

**Notice of Motion No: 45/2019**

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council carry out repairs to alleviate surface water resulting from blocked drains on the Quarry Lane, The Swan”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that *the area in question is not a public road and therefore is the responsibility of the land owner. The area office will contact the owner with a view to resolving the issue.*

#### **Notice of Motion No: 46/2019**

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council give an update on the taking in charge ‘Cill an Oir’, Graiguecullen”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that a CCVTV survey needs to be carried out in order for “As-Constructed” drawings to be prepared. An onsite survey also needs to be carried out by the Council’s Building Control Officer. It is expected that these will be carried out in May 2019. This estate is in the early stages of being considered for taking in charge.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 48/2019**

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council consider extending the footpath out towards Ballyhide from Graiguecullen as a number of pedestrians walk in and out of town on a daily basis”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the area office will carry out a design and cost estimate to establish potential costs of this request. Works could be considered in the future subject to suitable funding became available.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 49/2019**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council give an update on the taking in charge of Cill Beag Manor Housing Estate, Stradbally”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is liaising with the developer to complete the estate prior to taking in charge. These discussions are ongoing. The Building Control Officer is liaising with the developer on landscaping and boundary treatment issues. A wayleave agreement for services traversing private property has not been submitted. There is currently a cash bond in place for this development.

Councillor McEvoy indicated that this matter has been ongoing and noted that he would like to see progress on this before the end of 2019.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 50/2019**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council start the process of a CPO on the derelict house at Main Street, Stradbally”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that the property at Main Street, Stradbally has been referred to the Vacant Homes Officer to examine if the property is suitable for acquisition for housing purposes. A report from the Vacant Homes Officer will follow in due course.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 51/2019**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council put reflector poles on the paths outside Timahoe School”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that these signs are now in stock and will be installed in the coming week

#### **Notice of Motion No: 52/2019**

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council put in place traffic calming on the road beside Lough Gate Housing Estate in Portarlinton off the Lea Road”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will install a traffic counter at this location to monitor traffic speeds. If speeds are in excess of the current speed regulations the area office will examine options to remediate the problem.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 53/2019**

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council give an update on the plan of works for Barrow Drainage and what funds are available in 2019”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the Area Office is currently waiting on tender prices from Ecologist consultants to

carry out an appropriate assessment prior to works commencing. The Appropriate assessment will govern the extent of the works to be completed. The available budget is €112,000.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 54/2019**

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:

***“That Laois County Council give an update on the taking in charge of Rathmiles Housing Estate in Killenard”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Rathmiles Housing Estate was granted permission under Planning Ref 02/543. As part of this permission the water supply for the development is by means of a well which also serves the hotel. Irish Water will not take in charge estates with Developer Provided Infrastructure as they are specifically excluded from the Memorandum of Understanding and Irish Water have no responsibility for the water services infrastructure in these estates. WSTO/DECLG/EPA/IW are currently working on developing a strategy for these estates. The residents have been advised of same. To overcome this issue, the estate would have to be connected to the mains water supply for Killenard which would require the owner of the site to apply to Irish Water for a connection.

Midabey Construction has been advised of same. The Building Control Officer is considering the option of taking in charge the roads, footpaths and public lights solely for this estate. However we are awaiting “As-Constructed Drawings” to enable progress to be made.

The Members requested the Director of Services for Planning, the Senior Planner & the Building Control Officer to meet with the Residents of Rathmiles prior to meeting with the Developer on the issue. It was also requested that a representative from Irish Water attend the meeting.

#### **4. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence for noting.

#### **5. Best Wishes**

The Members extended very best wishes to Councillor John Moran who would not be running in the forthcoming Local Elections and wished him good health and happiness in his future and thanked him for his very significant input into the Portarlinton/Graiguecullen Municipal District.

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance on behalf of the Management and Staff of Laois County Council also wished Councillor Moran the very best.

**6. Time & Date for Next Meeting**

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on **19<sup>th</sup> of June 2019** at 2.00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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