

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, 20th APRIL 2022 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT Mr. Pdraig Fleming, Cathaoirleach (In the Chair)
Mr. Aidan Mullins M.C.C.
Mr. Paschal McEvoy, M.C.C.
Ms. Aisling Moran, M.C.C.
Mr. P.J. Kelly, M.C.C.
Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance
Mr. Philip McVeigh, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer

(1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the March meeting of the Graiguecullen Portarlington Municipal District held on the 29th of March 2022

On the proposition of Councillor Aidan Mullins seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the March meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 29th of March 2022 as circulated.

(2) Progress Report

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

Councillor Ben Brennan raised the following items: -

- (i) Drainage works at Tolerton – 30 metres of works still to be carried out
- (ii) Broken public light at The Vale Estate and
- (iii) Road markings to be carried out at Aughaterry Crossroads.

Councillor Paschal McEvoy asked if Court View Estate, Stradbally could be included on the street cleaning programme

(3) Notice of Motions

Notice of Motion No: 37/2022

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install a ramp in the village of Ballickmoyler on the slip road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will meet Councillor Brennan on site to determine the most appropriate form of traffic calming for this slip road.

Notice of Motion No: 38/2022

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the safety measures being put in place on the Knockbeg Road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the safety improvement measures on the Knockbeg road are to include hedge removal and passively safe fence instillation to improve sightlines at the junction. This will be considered for the 2023 low cost Safety Improvement Schemes.

The Members expressed concern in relation to safety at this location and it was agreed to seek an update from Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E. for the next meeting.

Notice of Motion No: 39/2022

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council make safe Molloy’s Cross on the R430 as it is a death trap”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the safety measures at Molloy’s Cross are to include a new build out to prevent vehicles swinging out onto the R431 from the R430 without stopping. This will be considered for the 2023 low cost safety improvement schemes.

It was requested that Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E. would meet Councillor Brennan in relation to this location.

Notice of Motion No: 40/2022

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install a footpath along the Link Road in Portarlinton from the Market Square to join up with the existing path approx. 75 metres away”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is currently obtaining quotations for the construction of this footpath with a view to carrying out these works this year.

Notice of Motion No: 41/2022

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install public lighting at Mayo Primary School, Crettyard”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Road Design will arrange site meeting with elected member to identify location and prepare lighting design. Installation of any new lights will be subject to funding being available.

Notice of Motion No: 42/2022

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install dropped kerbs and a gully at Rose Court Estate in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that the Council will arrange to carry out the works as soon as possible.

Notice of Motion No: 43/2022

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council consider building a creche as part of the social housing development at Carraig Glas, Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Part VIII planning approval was granted in September 2021 for construction of 26 units in Carraig Glas, Stradbally. Inclusion of a crèche was not part of this Part VIII approval. A needs assessment in relation to Childcare provision in Stradbally would have been carried out in advance of any decision in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 44/2022

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council install 2 speed ramps/ raised beds on Main Street, Stradbally to reduce the speed at which traffic is travelling through the town”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Road Design will arrange site meeting with elected member to identify the issues and prepare traffic calming proposal with TII.

Notice of Motion No: 45/2022

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council inspect Mullin’s Cross, Vicarstown with a view to making it safe for all road users”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to inspect this junction to determine the scope of works required.

Notice of Motion No: 46/2022

Councillor PJ Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council consider putting in a footpath from the car park area of the Final Furlong, Ballybrittas down to the entrance of the Derries Woods at Rathdaire Church”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has obtained a quotation for these works at €63k incl. VAT and an application was submitted to the NTA in 2021 for funding to construct this footpath (c.650 m in length). These works would be subject to the funding being available.

Notice of Motion No: 47/2022

Councillor PJ Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council cut back the ditch opposite Rathdaire Church, Ballybrittas as a road safety concern”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. Mr P Mc Veigh agreed to discuss the matter with Councillor Kelly after the meeting.

Notice of Motion No: 48/2022

Councillor PJ Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install measures to slow traffic down at Oakvale Cemetery to allow residents living on the byroad to access the N80 more safely until the new layout there is put in place”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the Road Design office will arrange a site meeting with the elected member to discuss possible measures at this location.

The Members requested details from the recent TII meeting held in January and requested that a follow up meeting be sought with the T.I.I. Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance agreed to refer this issue to Mr. Simon Walton, Director of Services.

Notice of Motion No: 49/2022

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council provide an update for the installation of a pedestrian crossing, including Stop/ Go lights close to Barrowhouse National School / Public Car Park, in particular to facilitate the safe crossing of school children, parents, teachers and all other users 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 has met with local representatives at this location and a suitable location for the pedestrian crossing has been agreed. A detailed design will now be carried out by the Road Design Office with a view to the appointment of a Contractor to carry out these works before the end of September 2022..

Notice of Motion No: 50/2022

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council and Transport Infrastructure Ireland install a roundabout outside the Heather Hill Estate, Graiguecullen, on the N80. The estate caters for about 200 houses and a crèche. The official speed limit is 80 Kms per hour and this is creating a major traffic danger to residents, etc and school students, who have to cross the N80 to get the school bus, with cars doing 80 Kms per hour on this road. Also, to request Transport Infrastructure Ireland to immediately reduce the speed limit to 60 kms per hour from the current 80 kms per hour from the Sleaty Road Roundabout, Graiguecullen to the Killeshin / Castlecomer Roundabout in the interest of everybody’s safety”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that the Road Design section will engage with TII for roundabout proposals and reduction of speed limit at this location.

It was agreed to refer same to Mr. Simon Walton, Director of Services for inclusion in list for TII.

Notice of Motion No: 51/2022

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council reinstate the cappings on the wall at the entrance to the

Village Estate, Ballylinan and to level the dip in the main green area 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 has now completed the works on the wall at the entrance to the estate and will topsoil and grass-seed the dip in the green area as soon as possible.

Notice of Motion No: 52/2022

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council clean the drain on the Monument Road in Arles where hedge cutting debris has fallen into it”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has now completed the works on the drain on The Monument Road. The works involved the removal of approx. 7 tonnes of material that was blocking the drain with the potential to cause flooding.

Notice of Motion No: 53/2022

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council clear vegetation on the bridge in Killeen and carry out re-pointing works to the bridge masonry”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to carry out an inspection of this bridge with a view to carrying out any necessary works in the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 54/2022

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out pothole repairs at Barrowhouse, Aghanure (Ballylinan) and Milltown (Ballylinan)”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected these roads and has completed the repairs at these locations in the last week.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence received since the last meeting.

- (i) Councillor Aidan Mullins raised concerns in relation to hedge cutting carried

