

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT  
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2018 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. Pdraig Fleming, M.C.C.

**APOLOIGES:** Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance  
Mr. Philip McVeigh, A/Senior Engineer  
Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer

**1. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 21<sup>ST</sup> OF NOVEMBER 2018**

On the proposal of Councillor Aidan Mullins seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming the minutes of the November meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2018 were confirmed as circulated.

**2. PROGRESS REPORT**

The report was noted and the Members complimented Mr. Philip McVeigh, A/Senior Engineer on the works that had been completed since the last meeting. The Members also thanked Mr. John Ormond, A/S.E.E. for all his work across the district and extended best wishes to him on his appointment to Kilkenny County Council. This was endorsed by all present. It was agreed to formally write to Mr Ormond regarding same.

Councillor Mullins enquired if additional safety measures could be provided at Kilmullen at the T junction on the road from Monasterevin to Portarlington as there is very poor visibility at this location.

Councillor Mullins also enquired if additional lighting could be provided at Lea Road, Portarlington where you turn right for Killenard as it is very dark at this turn.

Councillor Aidan Mullins requested an update a) on the free parking period in Portarlington and b) from the Department of Education and Skills on the acquisition of land for a drop-off point at Sandy Lane National School, Portarlington.

It was agreed to request Eircom to relocate a pole on Bracklone Street, Portarlington which is in a dangerous location.

### 3. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

#### **Notice of Motion No: 139/2018**

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

**“That Laois County Council call on the developer to clean up and make safe the unfinished apartment block at the Glen, Kilnacourt, Portarlington”**

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that planning permission was granted in August for the houses either side of the apartment block to be completed. The developer has indicated that they will be commencing work on the properties /apartment block in the Spring 2019 at the earliest. In the meantime the Planning Authority will inspect the site and agree proposals to tidy the site with the developer. It will be monitored for action under derelict sites if they do not progress on the planning approvals.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 140/2018**

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

**“That Laois County Council liaise with the Church Body to carry out maintenance work on the Tower Cemetery in Timahoe”**

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that provision has been made in the 2019 budget for Council Cemeteries for the provision of a cemetery committee grant for the maintenance of the Tower Cemetery in Timahoe. This has been communicated to the Church Body. The Graigue-Portarlington Roads crew have agreed to trim the grass/complete a general tidy up of the cemetery in the next few weeks, weather permitting, to ensure an easier start for the committee in 2019.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 141/2018**

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

**“That Laois County Council carry out maintenance on the bridge at Clonanny crossing the Minister’s drain”**

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will clear the vegetation and overgrowth on the parapet walls of the bridge and around the bridge in the coming weeks, in order to carry out an inspection of the bridge structure.

### **Notice of Motion No: 142/2018**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council give an update on its efforts to deal with a number of derelict houses in Bruach an hAbhann, Killeen, Maganey”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Members were advised that a site inspection has been carried out on the said properties and a Section 3 notice is being served. The properties are being referred onto the Vacant Homes Officer for consideration.

### **Notice of Motion No: 143/2018**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council give an update on its efforts to deal with 2 derelict sites in Portarlinton namely the former AIB building on Main Street and the site of a demolished house at the top of Foxcroft Street”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that following discussions with the purchasers of the site in September 2018, Mr. Pat Martin, Drumgoan Developments advised that they have employed an architect to carry out a feasibility study on the site. The architect has carried out some preliminary study on the site and was in discussion (by phone) with Mr Eoghan Lynch, Executive Planner at the end of November 2018 to discuss possible options for the site to enable the completion of the feasibility study. It is expected that a meeting will be held in January 2019 to enable a possible planning application to be submitted.

The site of the top of Foxcroft Street is being reassessed and contact will be made with the owners to tidy up the site. Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance further indicated that he would follow up on both locations.

### **Notice of Motion No: 144/2018**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council recommend that a "No Poster" policy is adopted by all of the candidates in the next local election in the Portarlinton / Graiguecullen Municipal District”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that there is legislative provision in the Litter Management Act which allows the erection of election posters for certain timeframes before and after the election date. They were, also, advised that if a town / village wish to insist upon a no-

poster policy it should be requested by the relevant Tidy Towns Association. Adherence / compliance are at the discretion of the nominated candidates in each case. A lengthy discussion ensued and a Roll Call Vote was taken on the Notice of Motion which resulted as follows:-

	For	Against
Councillor John Moran		✓
Councillor Aidan Mullins	✓	
Councillor Tom Mulhall		✓
Councillor Pádraig Fleming		✓
Councillor Paschal McEvoy	✓	
Councillor Ben Brennan	Absent	

The result of the Roll Call was 2 votes in favour of the Notice of Motion, 3 votes against the Notice of Motion with one Councillor absent.

**Notice of Motion No: 145/2018**

*Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-*

***“That Laois County Council put road marking indicating to traffic to SLOW and also rumble strips on roads entering Timahoe village from Portlaoise and Carlow”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for road markings and rumble strips to be installed.

**Notice of Motion No: 146/2018**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council carry out pothole repairs at Cremorgan, Timahoe”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has completed these repairs in the last few days.

**Notice of Motion No: 147/2018**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council give an update on the timeframe for the Yellow Box on Main Street Stradbally to help free flow of traffic coming on to Main Street from Church Avenue”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that road marking will be carried out by the end of January subject to weather conditions.

**Notice of Motion No: 148/2018**

*Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-*

***“That Laois County Council resolve the flooding at the house near Barrowhouse with the view of linking the water into a nearby pipe”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has investigated the flooding issue at Barrowhouse. The required drainage gullies and pipework will be installed in the coming weeks.

**Notice of Motion No: 149/2018**

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council resolve the flooding into the yard/house at the location indicated down the Ballickmoyler Road”***

*This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Members were advised that this work had been carried out.*

**Notice of Motion No: 150/2018**

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council resolve the issue of water lodging outside of a house/wall on the N78 (house identified)”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has investigated this location and additional drainage works should resolve the problem. As this is located on the N78 National Secondary route, these works will be referred to TII for funding.

**Notice of Motion No: 151/2018**

In the absence of Councillor Brennan, the responses to Councillor Brennan's Motions were read into the minutes as follows:-

**Notice of Motion No: 151/2018**

***“That this Council make safe the bridge at Fairymount on the R430”***

**Reply** - Laois County Council will install chevrons on the approach to the bridge and will also investigate the feasibility of installing a crash barrier at the bend.

**Notice of Motion No: 152/2018**

***“That Laois County Council remove the grass verge at the end of the R431 as you go down to the N78”***

**Reply** - As the grassed area is privately owned, it is recommended that a meeting is held on site to review the scope of works required.

**Notice of Motion No: 153/2018**

***“That Laois County Council indicate when the security fence will be erected at the Vale”***

**Reply** - A meeting was held on site with the fencing contractor last week and it is expected that the fencing will be installed in the coming weeks.

**Notice of Motion No: 154/2018**

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:

***“That this Council resolve the issue of flooding outside house in Graiguecullen (house opposite Graiguecullen Primary School)”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will investigate and identify the works required to resolve the flooding with a view to carrying out works in 2019, subject to funding being available.

**Notice of Motion No: 155/2018**

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council investigate the STOP line at the Timahoe Tower”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that this road marking will be included in the next phase of road marking works to be carried out.

**Notice of Motion No: 156/2018**

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council resolve flooding at Ballickmoyler, i.e. Ballickmoyler to Killeen road, on the R429”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will investigate and identify the works required to resolve the flooding, with a view to carrying out works in 2019, subject to funding being available.

**4. Vote of Sympathy**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor John Moran proposed a vote of sympathy to Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C. on the recent death of his sister, Ms. Anne O’ Neill.

**5. Correspondence**

There was no correspondence since the last meeting

**6. Time and date of next meeting:**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on **20<sup>th</sup> of February 2019** at 2.00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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