

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8th DECEMBER 2021 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 November meeting of the Graiguecullen Portarlington Municipal District held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2021**

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins, the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the November meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2021 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.

**(3) NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**Notice of Motion No: 136/2021**

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council give an update on the Health Centre in Newtown – it is now classed as a dangerous structure”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that staff from the Planning Section (Derelict Sites) met with representatives from the HSE to review and inspect the property. Recommendations were made to the HSE to carry out some remedial works to the building. These were agreed.

Councillor Brennan requested a copy of the works that are required to be carried out.

**Notice of Motion No: 137/2021**

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council put in place safety measures in the 50-kilometre zone in Killeshin as there is a shop, school and a housing estate at this location”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Road Design will arrange a site meeting with the elected member to discuss issues at this location and a proposal will be prepared.

**Notice of Motion No: 138/2021**

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council give a date as to when the radar lights will be installed on the R430 Tolerton to Newtown”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the first of the new speed radars for the R430 should be installed in the next week. Laois County Council have one in stock and is waiting on the second one to be delivered.

**Notice of Motion No: 139/2021**

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council resolve the flooding from the road in Barrowhouse (as identified) that is flowing into the front yard of a home. This is creating difficulties for the family”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council had carried out work at the location.

**Notice of Motion No: 140/2021**

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council resolve the issues of the 5 manholes in Ballylinan Village outside / near homes as when traffic drive over them it is creating a lot of noise at all times of day and night and is a big disturbance to residents living beside and near them”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that this will be investigated, and Laois County Council will arrange to rectify the issue with manholes in Ballylinan.

**Notice of Motion No: 141/2021**

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council repair the parapet wall beside the bridge on the Clogh Road, The Swan and raise the 3 gullies on the same road”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location and the gully raising works have now been completed. Laois County Council will arrange for the wall to be repaired in the New Year.

**Notice of Motion No: 142/2021**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council install a fence to secure the vacant site beside the Maisonettes at the end of Congress Terrace in Portarlinton to prevent illegal dumping”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that following on from site meeting on 6/12/21 with Councillor Mullins, it was agreed that a quote will be obtained to install a fence to the front boundary of this site. Subject to funds being available the fence will be erected in Qr1 2022.

**Notice of Motion No: 143/2021**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council install a disabled parking space on Bracklone Street in Portarlinton”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the Council will arrange to meet with the Elected Member at this location to agree the scope of works required.

**Notice of Motion No: 144/2021**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council liaise with Offaly County Council to install public lights on the Bog Road in Portarlinton to connect the entrance to Derryounce Walk with Botley Lane”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will contact Offaly County Council and request them to install lights at this location.

### **Notice of Motion No: 145/2021**

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council look at putting cycle network signage on the roads from Maganey to Ballyfoyle cross, left on to Killabban then left to Killeen, right to Coolnaugh cross, left to Sleaty, then left down by Knockbeg and on to Maganey and then left again and back to Killeen. This will provide a safer figure of eight network for cycling to school until such times as we can provide cycle lanes”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will investigate this route with a view to installing a safe overtaking width for cyclist signs in the new year. We have submitted a funding application to the Department for regional and local road cycle signage and plan to use some of this funding for this scheme.

### **Notice of Motion No: 146/2021**

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council do a speed limit review on the road coming from Barrowhouse into Maganey, and to erect Gateway signage coming into Killeen from Maganey, to help slow traffic coming into the village. And to place a pedestrian crossing before the school to facilitate and make it safer for children crossing into the school, community hall and playground”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that this road (L-3976) from Barrowhouse to Maganey is a local primary route and will be referred for inclusion in the next speed limit review.

In order to help reduce speed, the Council will arrange for Gateway signage to be installed on the R429 approach to Killeen (Maganey side).

The Council will arrange for a new pedestrian crossing with traffic lights to be installed near the bridge in Killeen, in the New Year.

### **Notice of Motion No: 147/2021**

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council change the five existing orange streetlights to LED, to match the new streetlights that are being installed on the Rahin Road, Ballylinan”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for these five existing lights to be changed to LED's to match the new lighting that is to be installed on the Rahin Road.

### **Notice of Motion No: 148/2021**

Councillor P.J. Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council consider measures to slow traffic down on the approach road to Portarlinton from Monasterevin at Portarlinton Tyres – possibly traffic islands with signage as the road is wide at this point”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Road Design will arrange a site meeting with the elected member to discuss issues at this location and a proposal will be prepared to rectify the problem

Councillor Kelly requested a timeline for the proposal.

### **Notice of Motion No: 149/2021**

Councillor P.J. Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council carry out repairs on the old N7 at the Heath Crossroads at Treacy’s Restaurant. A stretch of 150 m either side of the junction is breaking up and the junction itself requires levelling”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that this section of the R445 either side of the junction is in need of resurfacing. This section of road can be considered for inclusion in the next roads programme.

### **Notice of Motion No: 150/2021**

Councillor P.J. Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council make funds available to carry out repair works on the Graigavern Lodge sewage pumping station, Ballybrittas to facilitate the taking in charge of the asset by Irish Water”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the pump station is currently operated and maintained by this Council. That arrangement will continue until the pump station is transferred to Irish Water. It is one of a number of pump stations that the Water Services Department is engaged with Irish Water on. Funding of upgrades to existing pump stations, as required by Irish Water, forms part of the ongoing engagement between Laois County Council and Irish Water.

All members supported the motion. Mr G Murphy agreed to check the cost of finalising this issue with Mr T Hennessy, A/SE Water Services.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 151/2021**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council make contact with the owners of the old convent in Stradbally with a view to purchasing the building and turning it into an enterprise hub and a facility to allow hot desks”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that the site is on the Derelict sites register and is also a protected structure. The Planning Authority has served notice on the owner of this building requesting works to be carried out and is trying to engage with the owner in this regard. Consideration of its potential for economic development opportunities will be undertaken by the Business Support Unit.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 152/2021**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council consider providing a cycle lane from Timahoe Village to the GAA grounds on the Portlaoise Road”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has investigated this route. The R426 is a Regional Road mostly with an 80kph speed limit and is just over 1km in length. We will arrange for a funding application to be submitted for these works at the next opportunity. In the meantime, safe overtaking widths for cyclist signage could be installed along this route in the New Year.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 153/2021**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council remove the overgrown verge on the R445 from the Montague Hotel to Ballybrittas”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has investigated this section of the R445. The verge, where it has overgrown onto and is restricting the use of the hard shoulder, will be cut back early in the New Year.

#### **4. CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence received since the last meeting.

Councillor Aidan Mullins raised the following Notice of Motion: -

***“That Laois County Council outline and commence the process of naming the access road around the Leisure Centre in Portarlinton after the late Mr. Niall Mc Elwaine”***

It was agreed that an update be sought from the Senior Engineer Roads on the matter.

#### **5. Schedule of Meetings**

The schedule of meetings was circulated to the Members and same was noted.

#### **6. TIME & DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 at **2.00 p.m.**

It was noted that T.I.I. will meet the members online in January 2022.

The Members requested an update on the inspection report which is due to issue to the R.T.S. Group in relation to the development being carried out at Ratheniska and in relation to compliance with planning conditions.

The meeting was advised that the report is due to issue today in relation to this matter.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Padraig Fleming, Cathaoirleach**