

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT  
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> OF DECEMBER 2022 HELD IN THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

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

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

**(1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the November meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2022**

On the proposition of Councillor Aisling Moran seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the November meeting of the Graiguecullen / Portarlington Municipal District held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2022.

**(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) Approval of Business Incentive Scheme for Ballylinan**

The Members were circulated with a copy of the proposed Business Incentive Scheme for Ballylinan and Ms. Sheila Cahill, S.O., in the Business Support Unit briefed the Members on the scheme. The Members unanimously approved the Business Incentive Scheme for Ballylinan.

(4) **Notice of Motions:-**

**Notice of Motion No: 139/2022**

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 as it is very dangerous especially during school time”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that the Road Design office will arrange to meet with Councillor Brennan on site to assess the problem and identify a solution.

**Notice of Motion No: 140/2022**

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council put in place safety measures on the road into Killeshin as the control on the speed of the traffic going through the village is limited”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that the Road Design office will arrange to meet with Councillor Brennan on site to assess the problem and identify a solution.

**Notice of Motion No: 141/2022**

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council give an update on the salting routes in Killeshin, Crettyard areas and if any additional routes are included as requested by me”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the following roads are salted in the locations identified by Councillor Brennan: the N78, the R430 and the R431. There are salt bins located in the Killeshin Church car park and adjacent to the waterworks in Rossmore / Killeshin. The Council’s winter salting operation consists of 7 routes that treat 479.5km of public roadway in the County. The capacity of the salting vehicles is utilised fully i.e. there is no salt remaining when a route is salted. The inclusion of any additional lengths of road for salting would be subject to the removal of an existing salted road.

The members requested a breakdown of how much is spent on salting / gritting for national and local roads in each Municipal District.

**Notice of Motion No: 142/2022**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council CPO the vacant house at 17 Ballymorris Manor, Portarlinton”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council’s Vacant Homes Office will attempt to contact the registered owner of this property. If such attempt is unsuccessful, the option of C.P.O. will be examined.

**Notice of Motion No: 143/2022**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council provide waste bins beside all dog waste bag / mutt mitt dispensers throughout the County”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that, to date, Laois County Council has provided approximately 75 Mutt Mitt dispensers along popular walking routes in the County. Such provision is to enable responsible dog owners to manage their waste in a manner that does not adversely impact on others. Laois County Council does not have available capacity such that it provides and manages litter bins at each and every site where mutt mitt dispensers are provided. Responsible dog owners will use the bags provided and dispose of them in available litter bins and / or in their place of residence.

**Notice of Motion No: 144/2022**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council give an update on the proposed traffic calming measures on Lea Road in Portarlinton”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that the Roads Design Section has prepared a design for traffic calming at Lea Road in Portarlinton. Prices are being obtained from contractors for the delivery of the works. These works will be delivered in early 2023.

**Notice of Motion No: 145/2022**

Councillor Pádraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council extend the footpath outside Arles National School for 30 metres and include drainage works as part of this area becomes flooded with the result that children have to walk out on the N80 to get into their cars. These works are required in the interest of Health and Safety for all”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that the Road Design section will meet with Cllr Fleming and representatives from the Board of Management of Arles National School on site to review the issues raised and to identify the appropriate solution. A funding application will be prepared and submitted to Transport Infrastructure Ireland to secure the necessary funds to allow the solution to be delivered in 2023.

**Notice of Motion No: 146/2022**

Councillor Pádraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council inspect the Bridge at Mullaghmore, Wolfhill and carry out repairs to the arches on both sides of the bridge”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange an inspection of this bridge to scope the works required. Laois County Council will arrange to carry out repair works as soon as possible.

**Notice of Motion No: 147/2022**

Councillor Pádraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council carry out repairs to the wall at Castletown Bridge, Ballylinan, at the Coolanowle side of Ballylinan”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this bridge and will arrange to carry out repair works early in the New Year.

**Notice of Motion No: 148/2022**

Councillor PJ Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council make contact with the ESB to rectify constant power outages in the Killenard area”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that the Council will contact the ESB on this issue.

**Notice of Motion No: 149/2022**

Councillor PJ Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council consider the addition of the ten premises (including businesses and dwellings that are close by the Graigavern estate Ballybrittas) to the sewerage system. In doing this it might encourage the connection of the whole village in the near future as the capacity is there to carry all the village”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Irish Water has confirmed that they are not in a position to fund private connection schemes outside of their normal Connection Developer Services process. Irish Water and Laois County Council would recommend that those ten premises who wish to connect should meet and discuss forming a Group Sewerage Scheme. At present this is the only funding source available.

A further update is to be provided for the February Meeting.

**Notice of Motion No: 150/2022**

Councillor PJ Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council carry out a safety assessment of two junctions. A. Killenure junction and B. Jamestown Cross as both junctions have stop signs on poles and on the road. In both cases the signs are almost entirely ignored while turning left for Monasterevin”***

The Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the Road Design office will arrange to meet with Councillor Kelly on site to assess the problem and identify a solution.

### **Notice of Motion No: 151/2022**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council install a pedestrian crossing at a location at Timahoe village to support safe crossing for children crossing the road while going and returning to school”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that The Road Design office will arrange to meet with Councillor McEvoy on site to assess the problem and identify a solution.

### **Notice of Motion No: 152/2022**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council carry out an inspection of a manhole at Timogue Cross, Stradbally as it is causing damage to motorists’ tyres.***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that The Water Services Crew has investigated this complaint and confirmed that the problem will be rectified and repaired tomorrow.

### **Notice of Motion No: 153/2022**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council give an update as to when the Orchard Housing estate in Stradbally will be taken in charge”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that the taking in charge of this estate was advertised in the local newspapers on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022. A map, showing the section of road to be taken in charge, may be inspected at the offices of Laois County Council or on [www.laois.ie](http://www.laois.ie) The latest date for receipt of any objections or representations is 4.00 p.m. on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 154/2022**

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council investigate why there is so much flooding happening around Ratheniska since the Ploughing Championships were held. There has never been flooding in these areas before then”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location. This flooding is being caused by a damaged surface water drain in the verge. The drain was damaged when temporary fencing posts were installed in the verge.

Councillor Moran enquired as to the costs for resolving this problem and if the NPA could be billed. The SEE was to revert at the next meeting.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 155/2022**

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council repair the damaged wall in Rossmore View”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this and has obtained a quotation for the repair works. Laois County Council will arrange to carry out these works as soon as possible.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 156/2022**

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council carry out the required drainage works on the Timogue to Guileen Road”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has completed works at this location with the clearance of c.60m of blocked drainage channel in the verge alongside the road. Water cuts were also carried out along this stretch of road to improve the drainage.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

It was noted that no correspondence had been received since the last meeting of the Municipal District.

Councillor Paschal McEvoy paid tribute to the Portlaoise Hospital Committee, the Oireachtas Members and the elected members of Laois County Council for their contribution in the retention and enhancement of the status of Portlaoise Hospital.

5. **FIX DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlinton Municipal District would take place on the **15<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 at 2.00 p.m.**

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

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Paschal McEvoy, Cathaoirleach





