

**Minutes of the Portlaoise Municipal District Meeting held in Áras and Chontae
on the 15th February, 2017 at 11.00 a.m.**

Present: John Joe Fennelly, M.C.C. Chairperson

Catherine Fitzgerald, M.C.C., Caroline Dwane Stanley,
M.C.C. Willie Aird, A.C.C., Mary Sweeney, M.C.C., Noel
Tuohy, M.C.C., Gerry Lodge, M.C.C.

In attendance: Kieran Kehoe, D.O.S., Wes Wilkinson, A.S.E., Kim Kinsella,
A.O.,

**1) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PORTLAOISE
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 15TH OF FEBRUARY, 2017.**

On the proposal of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley, seconded by Councillor
Catherine Fitzgerald, the minutes of the meeting held on the 18 January, 2017 were
confirmed and circulated.

2) MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald was delighted to see that Hawthorn Drive was in the
Roads Programme.

3) NOTICES OF MOTION

**19/2017 – Councillor Mary Sweeney
Seconded by Cllr. Fennelly**

*“That Laois County Council repair road surface at Ballypickas/Derryfore Road on the
Carlow Road Abbeyleix, as discussed previously and also put extra safety signage at this
location”*

Response – Mr. Wes Wilkinson

*This section of road on the R430 in the townlands of Derryfore, Lisnagomman/Boleybeg
has been included on the draft Roads Programme for 2017.*

Cllr. Sweeney welcomed the response

20/2017 – Councillor Mary Sweeney
Seconded Cllr. Dwane Stanley

“That Laois County Council update members re the provision of the proposed 10 houses at the former affordable sites at Gleann na Glaise, Ballyroan”

Response - Mr. Ian McCormack, SEO Housing.

The Department are presently considering the Council’s proposal for 10 semi detached houses at Gleann Na Glaise. A response is awaited.

Cllr. Sweeney concerned that the Department were considering this for some time and concerned that there were safety issues and that the area is fenced off.

Cllr. Dwane Stanley welcomed the application for semi-detached and not detached.

Cllr. Fennelly suggested that another letter issue to the Department

21/2017 – Councillor Mary Sweeney
Seconded Cllr. Fennelly

“That Laois County Council repair entrance to Irwin house at Newtown Ballyroan”

Reponse – Mr. Wes Wilkinson
This work will be carried out in the coming weeks.

Cllr. Mary Sweeney was happy that it was going to be addressed sooner rather than later

22/2017 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly
Seconded Cllr. Fitzgerald

“That this Council install additional drainage in front of the cottages at Ralish, Abbeyleix as residents yards have been flooded on a number of occasions”

Response – Mr. Wes Wilkinson
I have met Cllr Fennelly on site at this location and the issue will be addressed in the coming weeks.

23/2017 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly
Seconded Cllr. Dwane Stanley

“That this Council upgrade the road from Oldtown/Blackhill, Abbeyleix at the small bridge as this road is subsiding on both sides”

Response – Mr. Wes Wilkinson

I have met Cllr Fennelly on site at this location and repairs will be carried at this location shortly.

Cllr. Fennelly was happy with the response.

24/2017 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly

Seconded Cllr. Dwane Stanley

“That this Council install extra road markings on the Rathmoyle/Abbeyleix Road outside Murphy’s/Whelan’s house as this has become a very dangerous junction”

Response – Mr. Wes Wilkinson

I have met Cllr Fennelly on site at this location and line marking will be installed/refreshed at this location when other line marking works are being carried out in the area. –

Cllr. Fennelly thanked Mr. Wilkinson

25/2017 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley

Seconded Cllr. Fitzgerald

“That this Municipal District roll out a footpath programme in The Municipal Area “

Response - Kieran Kehoe

The adopted Laois County Council Budget for 2017 does not include a dedicated fund for establishing a footpath programme. Each Cllr. has a discretionary budget that has proved successful over the last few years when dedicated footpath upgrades. Proposals are being examined which could maximise the return from this allocation.

Kieran explained is a Cllr. dedicated €10,000 to the upgrade of existing footpaths that matching funding uup to €20,000 would be available.

Cllr. Dwane Stanley asked how much footpath could be done for €30k.

Kieran Kehoe said it depended on the finish but estimated 200-300 meters. He suggested that Cllrs. group together to maximise funds.

The funding was welcomed by all

Cllr Dwane Stanley said however there still should be request to the Department for more funding in Urban areas.

Cllr. Lodge said service providers should be made re-instate the footpaths after the works to a high standard. Kieran said that LCC was working on this and that this had improved now with SIRO and that the standards were now very good.

It was agreed that by the next meeting the Cllrs would give their allocations.

26/2017 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley

Seconded Cllr. Fitzgerald

“That this Council give an update on the completion of works and the taking in charge of Woodgrove and Woodgrove Lawns Estate, Ballyfin Road .

Response – Mr. Pat Delaney, A.O. Planning

A tender document has been prepared by Water Services to upgrade the Pumping Station. This must now been advertised on E-Tenders. Pending responses, works will be carried out to enable the taking in charge process. There is also an issue with a Foul Sewer pipe which may need a wayleave. This is currently being investigated.

27/2017 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley

Seconded Cllr. Lodge

“That this Council install a pedestrian Crossing at the Main Street, Ballyroan near the junction of Chapel Street”

Response – Farhan Nasiem

Road Design will investigate further for installation of a pedestrian crossing at Main Street Ballyroan. Road Design will proceed with a traffic count in this location to ascertain the necessity for a pedestrian crossing. Installation of Pedestrian crossing will be subject to funding being available

Cllr. Dwane welcomed this and stated that this was especially important for the elderly

28/2017 – Councillor Jerry Lodge Seconded Cllr. Fitzgerald

“That this meeting be presented with an update on progress with the roundabout at Rockview”

Response – Farhan Nasiem

We will procure consultants to undertake the design and progress to construction subject to funding being available.

Kieran Kehoe said that there was commitment of funding from Cllrs. in the annual budget.

29/2017 – Councillor Jerry Lodge Seconded Cllr. Tuohy

*“That this meeting calls on Laois County Council to increase it's efforts to reduce the level of dog fouling on public footpaths as the problem is becoming more acute”
Refer to Environment*

Response – Martina Bracken, A.O. Environment

The Green dog Walker programme was launched to promote responsible dog ownership. This is a key project which was roller out amongst Tidy Towns Committees and the PPN.

Packs are still available to promote amongst community groups. Litter Wardens will remain vigilant in pursuing all offenders.

It was agreed by all that this was a major problem. More monitoring and fining required. Also more bins provided for dog fouling.

30/2017 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald Seconded Cllr. Lodge

“That this Council carry out works to repair the walkway to the green area in Newpark”

Response Mr. Wes Wilkinson

Repairs will be carried out to the walk way this week.

Cllr. Fitzgerald thanked Wes.

31/2017 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald Seconded Cllr. Dwane Stanley

“That this Council give an update on Hepburn Court”

Response – Mr. Ian McCormack, S.E.O. Housing

LCC have acquired 5 properties to date. Offers have been accepted for a further 3 properties and there are in conveyance. LCC has a bid on 1 property. Kingdom Hall is in conveyancing. An offer has been accepted for the squash club. A concerted effort is being made to acquire the remaining 3 properties.

32/2017 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald Seconded Cllr. Aird

“That this Council form a special committee from the Portlaoise Area to lobby their concerns in relation to the National Planning Framework”

Response Kieran Kehoe

The National Planning Framework 1st stage public consultation was launched on Thursday 2nd February 2017. The deadline for initial submissions is March 16th 2017. LCC have started the process of preparing a submission and it is our intension to consult with the Elected Members in advance of finalising the submission.

Kieran Kehoe will arrange a date for early March to discuss with the Members the draft submission

The Cllrs agreed to form a group with all Member of Portlaoise MD and submit a submission also as this was extremely important for Portlaoise.

33/2017 – Councillor Noel Tuohy Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley

That this Council repair the Pedestrian Crossing close to the Burial Ridge and used on a daily basis by the children coming from the schools

Response – Wes Wilkinson

It is intended that this crossing will be replaced when carrying out similar work in the Portlaoise Area at a later stage in 2017, subject to funding being available.

Cllr. Tuohy asked that this be done as soon as possible and this was seconded by Cllr. Aird

34/2017 – Councillor William Aird Seconded by Cllr. Sweeney

“That the roadway from Broomfield Cross to the Dublin Road be included in the footpath programme”

Response Wes Wilkinson

There is currently no funding for a new footpath at this location.

There should have been a footpath at the time of the works. It was asked if Kieran Kehoe could raise this with the TII.

35/2017 – Councillor William Aird Seconded Cllr. Tuohy

“That Portlaoise Municipal Authority calls on Laois County Council to employ or redeploy staff to deal with the growing problem of illegal dumping”

Response Martina Bracken, AO Environment

This matter is being investigated by the Environment Section and a response will issue in the near future.

36/2017 – Councillor William Aird Seconded Cllr. Fitzgerald

“That Portlaoise Municipal Authority calls on Laois County Council to pipe the roadside drain at Pallas which is extremely dangerous.”

Response Wes Wilkinson

I will arrange to meet Cllr Aird on site this week and establish the works that are required at this location

Cllr. Aird agreed.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Roads Programme draft circulated. It was proposed by Cllr. Dwane Stanley and seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald. Kieran Kehoe thanked the Members

Cllr. Aird is seeking a letter from the Minister about pot hole filing under the LIS Scheme.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Circulated

Darwin Tree Specialist report of Poplar trees at Craydon Court

Letter from Minister Simon Harris regarding future provision of services for the Midland regional Hospital.

6. FIX TIME, DATE & VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting is to be held on the 15th March 2017 @ 11.00 a.m. in the Council Chamber of Áras an Chontae.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

Certified: _____

DIRECTOR OF SERVICE.

