

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2018 in ÁRAS AN CHONTAE
AT 2.00 p.m.**

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. Ben Brennan, M.C.C.
Mr. Pádraig Fleming, M.C.C.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance
Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer

**1. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING OF
GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD
ON THE 13TH OF DECEMBER 2017**

On the proposal of Councillor Ben Brennan seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall, the minutes of the December meeting held on the 13th of December 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

2. PROGRESS REPORT

The report was noted and the Members complimented Mr John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer on the works that had been completed since the last meeting.

Councillor Mullins referred to the delay by the ESB in relation to the recently completed civil works in Portarlington and requested that the works be expedited as soon as possible. Mr John Ormond indicated that the ESB has informed him that it has sent a works order to its subcontractor for the installation of the new steel poles and that it is expected that these works will be completed in the coming weeks. Mr. John Ormond also indicated that the supply and installation of the new pedestrian lights at the Crowe Lane junction has been tendered and the contractor has ordered same.

In relation to the improvement works at Bracklone Street, Portarlington, it was noted that drawings have been prepared for the works.

3. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 01/2018

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council investigate the flooding at houses on the road from Ballinagar to Cullenagh Cross”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer would investigate this location to determine the cause of the flooding and identify remedial works necessary to alleviate the flooding.

Notice of Motion No: 02/2018

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council investigate flooding at No. 69 Oakley Park as the drain is blocked at this house”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised by Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer that the drain was now cleared.

Notice of Motion No: 03/2018

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council investigate and carry out repairs to the Bridge on the Killeen Maganey Road over the River Gilick “

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that an initial investigation has been completed at this location and a further inspection is required once the water levels drop. This location can be included on the list for minor masonry repairs in 2018.

Notice of Motion No: 04/2018

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council resolve the flooding at Rahin Road Ballylinan opposite houses 10 to 15. A lot of water stays on road which leads to cars using the wrong side of the road when driving”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer will arrange an

inspection at this location to determine the cause of the flooding and complete or arrange for any remedial works necessary to alleviate the flooding.

Notice of Motion No: 05/2018

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council take measures to stop the flooding into the House/Property at Clonbrock Crettyard on the N78”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer will arrange for water cuts to be opened at this location and for the patching unit to complete works which will divert surface water past the entrance.

Notice of Motion No: 06/2018

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“To ask Laois County Council to repair the railing taking into account the cement base at the pedestrian Crossing outside Spindlewood Estate, Graiguecullen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer will procure replacement sections of railing which will be installed once delivered.

Notice of Motion No: 07/2018

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council, in conjunction with the Gardaí, agree a common strategy and procedures to deal promptly with incidences as they arise, of temporary dwellings in Portarlinton and other areas”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that the parking of temporary dwellings will be dealt with on a case by case basis by Laois County Council in accordance with relevant legislation. Each case will have its own individual set of circumstances in relation to accommodation needs, location, road safety and possible environmental issues. A meeting with all relevant Council Sections and the Gardaí is being arranged. Councillors Mullins and Mulhall indicated that the issue of temporary dwellings was of major concern to residents in Portarlinton. They noted that a number of caravans had already been removed and welcomed the meeting to be attended by Council staff in the Housing, Planning & Environment Departments, the Municipal members and the Gardaí.

Notice of Motion No: 08/2018

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council increase the free parking period in Portarlington to 45 minutes”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised by Mr K Kehoe, Director of services that this request is currently being considered and a decision will issue in the next 2 weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 09/2018

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council’s Housing Department provide the following information”:-

- a) The number of applicants from the social housing waiting list who are in the HAP Scheme.
- b) The number of applicants remaining to be transferred from Rent Supplement to the HAP Scheme.
- c) The number of those in the HAP Scheme who are on the Transfer List to be considered for social housing.
- d) How many hours inspected under the HAP scheme have been deemed to be sub-standard

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised of the following:-

- 354 active HAP tenancies
- 574 clients on Rent Supplement in County Laois
- **351**
- There have been no serious issues identified by the inspections and Works Notices issued to the landlords as a result of the inspections are for minor issues.

Notice of Motion No: 10/2018

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair the dip in the road R419 Coolaghey to Kennells Cross”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that this road will be included for consideration as part of the 2018 road

programme. Roads to be completed under the 2018 roads programme will be prioritised based on the Pavement Survey Condition Index (PSCI) rating and will be subject to available funding and agreement with elected members.

Notice of Motion No: 11/2018

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council put in place traffic calming measures and also stop the water coming off the road into the school grounds at the Heath School”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer has previously met with the Principal of The Heath National School at this location to discuss surface water runoff. The major source of surface water has been identified as agricultural land adjacent to the school with some road surface water contributing to the problem.

Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer will arrange for the existing road gully to be jetted and also for a survey of the surrounding area to see if a suitable outfall for the surface water can be identified and will inform Councillor Mulhall of the finding of the survey and any proposed solution based on these findings.

Road Design will review existing signs and road markings and if required Road Design will recommend traffic calming measures to the Area Engineer.

Notice of Motion No: 12/2018

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council call on the TII to give an update on putting in place a roundabout on the N80 at the Rathmore Junction and the Abbeyleix Junction”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that this junction was discussed with TII for implementation of safety measures but there is not enough evidence which would support/justify that a roundabout would be required at this location.

It was agreed that a meeting be sought with TII.

Notice of Motion No: 13/2018

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council replace footpaths at The Drive housing estate Vicarstown”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Members were advised that this location will be included for consideration as part of the 2018 footpath programme. Footpaths will be prioritised based on the results of inspections and works will be subject to available funding and agreement with elected members.

Notice of Motion No: 14/2018

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council ask Irish Water to connect the New Houses in Killenard to the sewerage scheme that passes these 11 houses”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that this Council Housing Estate was constructed in 1982 before there was a public wastewater system in place for Killenard. In order to progress a proposal with IW to have this estate connected to the public wastewater network, it is essential that the following proceed:

- *a level and topographical survey be carried out to determine the extent of the scheme, to determine if it is possible to provide such a service by gravity connection (this is unlikely),*
- *a preliminary design for the network, pumping station if required and a budget estimate of the cost of the scheme.*

These works will be carried out by the Water Services Section.

Following this technical evaluation, if the unit cost for such scheme is not prohibitive by availing of the Grants available under the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme (MARWP), then the member should contact Ms Mary Donohue, A.O. RWLO in respect of submitting a proposal for creating a Group Sewerage Scheme for submission to the DHPLG for funding in 2019. I am informed that 6 of the eleven houses are social houses. If such proposal is funded, an application can be made to IW to have these houses connected.

Notice of Motion No: 15/2018

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council clean the Triogue river from Timahoe to Coolnacacca”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that the Council is only responsible for the section of the Timahoe River downstream of Coolnacacky. The maintenance upstream of Coolnacacky to Timahoe is the responsibility of the landowners along that section of the river.

Notice of Motion No: 16/2018

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the repair works on the blocked drain on the R431”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that investigation works have recently been completed at this location with the jetter. It is now necessary to complete additional works with an excavator to unblock the drainage pipe and it is expected that this additional work will be completed once a works crew becomes available.

Notice of Motion No: 17/2018

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council indicate when they are going to put in a drain at house on the R430”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that this works will be completed once weather conditions permit access to private agricultural land. This access is necessary to successfully carry out the works.

Notice of Motion No: 18/2018

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council salt the roads in Coolane, Killeshin and New Line, Rossmore during times of frosty weather as buses are unable to travel”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that in times of very severe weather, the Area Engineer can consider specific locations to be treated, through salt delivered to the area depot.

Under the current 2017/2018 Winter Service Maintenance Plan, the Council treats 468 km of road network in the County each time there is a call-out. The specific roads identified in this motion are not included in the Priority 1 or Priority 2 network routes as the routes to be treated depend on their designation (for example, motorway national, regional or local roads) and the associated traffic volumes on the routes. The routes to be treated will also be dependent on the capacity of the Council's Winter Maintenance fleet as well as the funding available for the provision of the Winter Maintenance Service.

Following further discuss Mr John Ormond agreed to review with the A/SEE in Roads.

5. Time and date of next meeting:

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on **21st of March 2018 at 2.00 p.m.**

6. Schedule of Municipal Works 2017

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the schedule of Roadworks Programme was unanimously agreed for 2018 as presented by Mr. John Ormond, Area Engineer.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
John Moran, Cathaoirleach