

**MINUTES OF THE BORRIS IN OSSORY/ MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL  
DISTRICT HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE ON THE  
15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2018**

**PRESENT:** Councillor John King (Cathaoirleach)  
Councillor Brendan Phelan  
Councillor Paddy Bracken  
Councillor Seamus McDonald  
Councillor James Kelly  
**APOLOGIES:** Councillor David Goodwin

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr. Paul McLoughlin, Senior Executive Engineer, & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary, Corporate Affairs.

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING  
OF BORRIS-IN-OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD  
ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> OF JANUARY 2018**

On the proposition of Councillor Brendan Phelan seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald, the Minutes of the January meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2018 were confirmed as circulated.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor Kelly raised Notice of Motion No: 18/2018 in relation to the funding from Irish Public Bodies. Mr. Paul McLoughlin, Senior Executive Engineer confirmed that the item was tabled for discussion at the C.P.G. Meeting scheduled for the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2018

Councillor Kelly raised Notice of Motion No: 02/2018 in relation to the possible movement of the speed limit sign on the R435. Mr. Paul McLoughlin, Senior Executive Engineer confirmed that a meeting would be confirmed before the end of the week to have the matter discussed.

Councillor Bracken raised the issue of the allocation of €3.1 million for flood relief for Mountmellick and welcomed the allocation.

Mr. Paul McLoughlin, Senior Executive Engineer confirmed that in advance of the detailed design for the scheme that an examination of the flood event of the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November will have to be carried out with any discrepancies between it and the flood mapping clarified. It was also mentioned that there may be additional funding from the O.P.W. through the Minor Works and Channel Maintenance Schemes for other locations.

The matter of river maintenance was also discussed by the Members and concerns regarding same outlined.

### 3. FIX DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2018

### 4. Notice of Motions

#### **Notice of Motion No: 19/2018**

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council address the problem of dog fouling in all our towns & villages especially in Rathdowney from the square to the playground area at St. Fergals College. This is a national issue occurring systematically throughout all urban and suburban areas and measures must to be implemented to address the issue such as leaflet drops, dog licence checks and increased dog warden patrols on our streets in order to solve this problem”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council are re-launching the community based “Green dog walkers” scheme for 2018. The scheme is a positive and pro-active way to encourage and support responsible dog ownership. It aims to increase awareness of the problem of dog fouling which is among the most common and anti-social forms of littering. Communities across Laois including Rathdowney will be receiving information packs in the next 3 weeks. Additionally dog fouling signage has been erected in the problem areas in Rathdowney.

Correspondence received from the principal of St Fergals College was read out by Councillor John King which highlighted the extent and nuisance being experienced by dog fouling in the vicinity of the school.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 20/2018**

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council in light of the recent allocation of funding examine and increase the safety measures required on the golf links road in Rathdowney to reduce the risk of road traffic accidents, flooding and safety for all road users particularly where the road meets the Johnstown Harp Road junction”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. The Members were advised that Golf Links Road, Rathdowney is one of the approved RSRM Schemes

for this year. Laois County Council will be commencing a design for this Safety Scheme later in the year.

The Members indicated that this location had numerous minor accidents over the years.

**Notice of Motion No: 21/2018**

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That the environment section of this Council address the serious problem of Rubbish that has been dumped in Lismurragh and Ballagh bog Errill and I am calling on the Council to erect signs and place portable cameras to tackle this problem”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Deegan’s bog, Ballagh bog and Lismouragha bog in the environs of Errill have been subject to repeated large scale illegal dumping. In conjunction with the community and Coillte, Laois County Council is making an application for funding under the Anti illegal dumping initiative for 2018 for these bogs. The initiative will include clean up, enforcement action, CCTV, signage, gates and educational programmes such as “the leave no trace” to be run in the local primary and nearby secondary schools.

The Members were advised that a National allocation of €2 million was announced this morning for works of this nature.

**In the absence of Councillor Goodwin, the responses to Councillor Goodwin’s Motions were read into the minutes as follows:-**

**Notice of Motion No: 22/2018**

***“That this Council re-surface the road at Brittas, Clonaslee”***

**Reply** - Laois County Council will assess this road in the overall context of the development of a future roads programme

**Notice of Motion No: 23/2018**

***“That this Council provide disabled parking space at Mountmellick Post Office”***

**Reply** - Laois County Council currently have a disabled parking space available within 20 meters of the post office and this space is the closest legally designated car parking space to the Post office. There is a Taxi and Bus set down area immediately outside the post office and this can be examined as part of a future review of parking by-laws for the town.

**Notice of Motion No: 24/2018**

***“That this Council repair the road at Portnahinch Lane, Portarlington”***

**Reply** - Laois County Council will carry out repairs as required.

**Notice of Motion No: 25/2018**

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council provide an alternative entrance to Holy Trinity Graveyard at Erkindale Drive, Durrow”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is currently preparing a comprehensive report on the 27 local authority cemeteries in Laois. Included in this report will be a schedule of proposed works for the cemeteries. The provision of a new entrance to Durrow cemetery for machinery access has been costed and will be included on the schedule of proposed works for consideration.

Councillor Kelly enquired as to the Audit of trees in cemeteries. It was noted that Ms. Orla Barrett, Senior Executive Engineer was currently having a report compiled of all works required in Local Authority managed cemeteries across the county. It was suggested by members that in future no trees should be planted in cemeteries in the county and that this matter should be put to the SPC for approval.

**Notice of Motion No: 26/2018**

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council install the promised storage facility for the fire jeep at Mountrath Fire Station”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that this is part of the Capital Improvement Programme announced in 2015 announced by former Minister Alan Kelly and to date approval has not been received from the National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management.

It was agreed that a request issue to the NDFEM for an update regarding this matter.

**Notice of Motion No: 27/2018**

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council install pedestrian street bollards at the junction of Shannon Street and Wallis Street, Mountrath”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will examine the situation at this location and make provision for bollards as necessary.

**Notice of Motion No: 28/2018**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council address the flooding problem and re-instate the badly damaged road at Cloncannon Lower, Mountmellick”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will be making an application for funding to repair the damage to this road resulting from the flooding of the 22<sup>nd</sup> November last.

**Notice of Motion No: 29/2018**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council provide a gully to relieve the flooding at Upper Cloncannon, Mountmellick”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will survey the area in question and provide a gully as necessary.

**Notice of Motion No: 30/2018**

Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council replace the signage at the roundabout at the Super Valu, Mountmellick”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will repair/replace the signage at the roundabout.

**Notice of Motion No: 31/2018**

Councillor Brendan Phelan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council re-surface Raheen Phelan Glebe Road”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will assess this road in the overall context of the development of a future roads programme.

**Notice of Motion No: 32/2018**

Councillor Brendan Phelan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council clean outlet under bridge at Donaghmore”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will inspect the issue in question and carry out cleaning/maintenance as required.

**Notice of Motion No: 33/2018**

Councillor Brendan Phelan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council trim hedges at Ballagh, Erril”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will inspect the location in question and carry out maintenance as appropriate where necessary.

Mr. Paul McLoughlin, Senior Executive Engineer updated the Members on the situation with hedgecutting advising that landowners are responsible for hedges and trees that abound the public road and that the season for cutting same ends at the end of February. Mr McLoughlin requested that all landowners that had hedging or trees that required maintenance to have the works carried out during the remainder of the season.

**Notice of Motion No: 34/2018**

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council erect Children at Play sign at Cappanarrow Bridge”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will examine the situation at this location and make provision for Signage as appropriate.

**Notice of Motion No: 35/2018**

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council resolve the flooding problem opposite Parochial house at Rosenallis”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will examine the drainage issue and resolve where possible.

**Notice of Motion No: 36/2018**

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council resolve the flooding problem at Rosenallis Cemetery”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will examine the drainage issue and provide a resolution if possible.

This concluded the business of the meeting

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**CERTIFIED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
CORPORATE AFFAIRS**