

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2019 IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE,
PORTLAOISE**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance
Mr. Philip McVeigh, A/Senior Engineer
Mr. Darren Coss, 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 12TH OF DECEMBER 2018**

On the proposal of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins, the minutes of the December meeting held on the 12th of December 2018 were confirmed as circulated.

2. PROGRESS REPORT

The report was noted and the Members in welcoming Mr. Darren Coss, A/Senior Executive Engineer to the area complimented the works that had been completed since the last meeting.

Councillor Mullins enquired if consideration could be given to footpath installation around the corner at Odlums Site from LIDL across the Road from the GAA Pitch.

Mr. Coss indicated that the re-surfacing works on the Barrow Bridge would be commencing on the 21st of February 2019 and that new lighting would be installed at the bridge also.

Councillor Ben Brennan indicated that on the Northern Relief Road signposts for Portlaoise are not visible due to overgrown hedges. Councillor Brennan also enquired if maintenance works could be completed on the Mayo Bridge in Crettyard.

Councillor Tom Mulhall enquired if the dip on the road at Skeagh Cross could be investigated.

Councillor Padraig Fleming enquired if the issue of speed near the school in Graiguecullen could be investigated. Mr. Coss indicated that a traffic counter and assessment of speed would be carried out and the matter of interim measures could then be considered.

In relation to hedgecutting Mr. Coss indicated that 20 notices have been issued in the Municipal District for hedges to be cut before the 1st of March 2019.

3. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 01/2019

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the taking in charge of Highfield Manor”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Highfield Manor was recently advertised for taking in charge. Closing date for submissions is Friday 22nd March 2019.

Notice of Motion No: 02/2019

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council put a continuous white line on the N80 at the Junction of the L 3960-o Loughglas, Ballyadams as traffic on the N80 are passing each other and creating difficulties for traffic coming off the Junction at Loughlas”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that this centreline marking is needed on both sides of the junction to prevent overtaking vehicles on the N80 meeting with vehicles exiting from the side road out onto the N80. Laois County Council has requested TII’s line marking contractor to install this continuous white centreline.

Notice of Motion No: 03/2019

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council resolve the issue of the derelict house on the main Street, Ballylinan which is opposite the Post Office in Ballylinan”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that correspondence was received from the Receivers on 8th February 2019 requesting a list of works to be carried out in order to eliminate dereliction. This will be prepared on Friday 22nd February 2019.

Notice of Motion No: 04/2019

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update as to when the road in Portarlington from Ballymorris Road to the Portlaoise Road through Lansdowne will be open”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Kingscroft Developments have indicated that they intend to have works completed on this section of road by the end of March 2019.

Notice of Motion No: 05/2019

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council put in place measures to make safe the dangerous bend going to Killenard between O’ Dempsey’s GAA Ground and the Steep hill”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that an assessment of this junction will be undertaken to determine if remedial works are required. A further progress report will be given once the assessment is completed. *Mr. Darren Coss, A/S.E.E. also indicated that a RSRM could be carried out at this location.*

Notice of Motion No: 06/2019

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council give an update on progress on the Local Authority Housing Development at Ballymorris, Portarlington”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Stage 3 Departmental approval has been received for this project. We advertised on E-tenders on the 11th Jan 2019 and tenders were received on the 14th Feb 2019. Stage 4 application will be made to the Department by 31/03/2019.

Councillor Aidan Mullins indicated that there would be a requirement for a footpath at this development on the Ballymorris Road.

Notice of Motion No: 07/2019

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council surface and line the new car park beside the Community Creche in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the carpark surfacing works were included in Laois County Council’s recent Rural Regeneration and Development Fund application to the Department of Rural & Community Development. The application was not included in the list of successful projects announced by the Minister last week. The works may be considered by Laois County Council in 2019 subject to funding being available.

Notice of Motion No: 08/2019

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council indicate when the promised traffic calming measures on Bracklone Street in Portarlinton will commence”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that Road Design is procuring a contractor to carry out these works. It is envisaged that works will commence on Monday 11th March 2019. *Mr. Philip McVeigh, A/S.E. indicated that the works would take approximately one month to complete.*

Notice of Motion No: 09/2019

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council indicate when the new public lights in the Square in Portarlinton will be connected and when work will commence on improvement works at the Peoples Park as announced through the Town and Village Renewal Scheme”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has contacted the ESB on numerous occasions since the underground ducting was completed. Mr. Philip McVeigh, A/S.E. indicated that he has been advised that work will commence within the next 3 weeks. Improvement works under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme will commence in March 2019. *It was also noted that there are four lights in Stradbally waiting to be switched on.*

Notice of Motion No: 10/2019

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the bridge wall in Bilboa”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that tender documents are currently being generated to assess costs for these works. Works will be carried out as soon as additional funding becomes available for bridge works.

Notice of Motion No: 11/2019

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council investigate the flooding at house at Monure”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the Area Office will install gully pots and associated drainage at this location subject to available funding.

Notice of Motion No: 12/2019

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council resolve the flooding issue at house at the R431”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the Area Office will assess the flooding issue at this location and carry out remedial works subject to available funding.

Notice of Motion No: 13/2019

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council replace street lights in Stradbally with LED Lights”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will be replacing 55W Sox Lamp in phases in 2019 and 2020. 55W Sox lamps in Stradbally will be replaced by LED under the public lighting replacement programme.

Notice of Motion No: 14/2019

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out work at house at Coolnabacca, Timahoe to stop flooding”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the Area office will carry out investigation works and take levels to determine the cause of the problem. Remedial works will be carried out subject to available funding.

Notice of Motion No: 15/2019

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council connect the houses of residents on the Vicarstown Road, Stradbally to the main sewerage scheme”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that This issue has been referred to Irish Water and a response is awaited

Notice of Motion No: 16/2019

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council investigate flooding on the R429 at Ballickmoyler”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the Area office will carry out investigation and remedial works as necessary subject to available funding. *Councillor Moran also indicated that a surface water drainage pipe at this location is blocked. Mr. Darren Coss, A/S.E.E. advised that he would investigate.*

Notice of Motion No: 17/2019

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council provide a stop sign at house at Kilabban”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that a stop sign has been installed at this location, additional line markings will be added to enhance safety features.

Notice of Motion No: 18/2019

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council investigate the possibility of the road sign at Apple Green Service Station on the R4320 to be changed because it does not show the new Link Road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brennan. The Members were advised that updated sign writing has been purchased for this sign and will be installed in the coming weeks.

4. Correspondence

There was no correspondence since the last meeting. Councillor Mullins was advised that there was no response from the Department of Education & Skills in relation to securing a piece of land opposite Sandy Lane NS in Portarlinton for parking. He was also advised that there was no response from Eir in relation to the re-location of a pole at Bracklone Street, Portarlinton. It was agreed to issue reminders in both cases.

Councillor Mullins asked about the possibility of the provision of additional lighting on the Lea Road, Portarlinton at the turnoff for Killenard and about the possibility of the removal of the corner at Kilmullen to improve visibility and safety.

5. ROADS PROGRAMME 2019

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor John Moran, the Members unanimously agreed to the Roads Programme for 2019.

6. TIME & DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on **20th of March 2019** at 2.00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
John Moran, Cathaoirleach