

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> OF FEBRAURY 2020 IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE**

**PRESENT** Mr. Paschal McEvoy, Cathaoirleach (In the Chair)  
Mr. Aidan Mullins M.C.C.  
Ms. Aisling Moran, M.C.C.  
Mr. Tom Mulhall, M.C.C.  
Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C.  
Mr. Pdraig Fleming, 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 DECEMBER MEETING OF GRAIGUECULLEN / PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 11<sup>TH</sup> OF DECEMBER 2019**

On the proposal of Councillor Ben Brennan seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins, the minutes of the December meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2019 were confirmed as circulated.

**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. Councillor Mullins made enquiries regarding the ESB connections in Portarlington and Mr. Gerry Murphy advised that he would follow up the matter with the ESB.

Councillor Moran referred to the flooding on roads causing their disintegration and also raised the issue of the quality of the tarmacadam being used on the roads.

**3. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**Notice of Motion No: 01/2020**

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That Laois County Council give an update on the planned car park at the Rock of Dunamaise"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the Council is currently examining options for the provision of a car park and appropriate interpretive signage at the Rock of Dunamaise. A geophysical study was carried out in January 2020 in two locations at the Rock on the recommendation of the National Monuments Service to identify the likely extent of subsurface archaeological remains there. The views of the National Monuments Service have been requested following the results of the survey before proceeding further.

**Notice of Motion No: 02/2020**

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That Laois County Council put in place measures to alleviate flooding and improve the road surface on the bend at Garryduff, the Heath"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the Council has inspected this location and has met with the Contractor on site to measure up the works. It is expected to receive the Contractor's tender for these works shortly and should then be in a position to proceed with the works.

**Notice of Motion No: 03/2020**

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That Laois County Council call on the OPW to repair the post and rail fence on their land at the Heath"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the OPW has confirmed that fence repairs will be carried out.

**Notice of Motion No: 04/2020**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That Laois County Council confirm when the footpath replacement works will commence on Main Street, Portarlinton"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has obtained a tender price for the footpath replacement works including all underground ducting. The objective is to install the overhead ESB cables that run along the Main Street, in this underground ducting. Laois County Council is currently waiting on the ESB to confirm the cost of their works in order to finalise the project cost.

Councillor Mullins indicated concerns in relation to the imprinted concrete to be used and its potential to crack during periods of extreme weather. Mr. Philip McVeigh confirmed that there is no issue with the use of this material for the works. In relation to Foxcroft Street, Portarlinton, Councillor Mullins indicated that there is an issue with water ponding and flowing the wrong way during periods of rainfall. Mr. Philip McVeigh agreed to investigate the matter.

**Notice of Motion No: 05/2020**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:

***"That Laois County Council carry out road safety measures at the dangerous bend at Corrig, Portarlinton"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this bend at Corrig which has been the location of some road traffic incidents. Laois County Council is currently arranging to install a speed radar type SLOW sign on the town side approach to the bend.

Councillor Mullins requested that these works be included under the Road Safety Remedial Measures for 2020. Mr. Philip McVeigh, Senior Executive Engineer indicated that he would consider for 2021 if not possible in 2020.

**Notice of Motion No: 06/2020**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:

***"That Laois County Council put measures in place at Rosecourt Estate in Portarlinton to prevent vehicles parking on the green area"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is aware of the ongoing challenge of vehicles parking along this area. We are currently reviewing options to prevent vehicles parking along this area.

**Notice of Motion No: 07/2020**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That Laois County Council inspect the hedge growth from Timogue Cross to Old Mills Stradbally. This hedge has grown out onto road and is very dangerous"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected the hedge growth along this road and has discussed the matter with the landowner who has agreed to cut the hedge back from the roadway.

**Notice of Motion No: 08/2020**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That this Council line mark the road from Timahoe to Stradbally"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that this will be included in Road Marking Programme which will be carried out in May/June 2020 .

**Notice of Motion No: 09/2020**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That this Council put a speed ramp on the Portlaoise road Timahoe before the new pedestrian crossing"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is currently completing the new pedestrian crossing at the junction in Timahoe. When finished, this will have flashing belisha beacons and there will be improved sight lines at the junction. The existing flashing speed radar on the Portlaoise Road will also be repaired. These measures should reduce the speed approaching the new pedestrian crossing. If further traffic calming measures are required, a speed ramp could be considered within the 50kph zone.

### Notice of Motion No: 10/2020

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That Laois County Council erect two extra stop signs at Castletown Bridge/Crossroads, Ballylinan and to engage with local landowner for the removal of one of the ditches as this is causing danger to motorists and is a very dangerous junction"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has recently installed one extra stop sign at this crossroads. Laois County Council has also contacted the landowner with a view to removing the boundary hedge and installing a fence line to improve the visibility at the junction. Laois County Council will continue to engage with the landowner on this matter and, if necessary, will install a second stop sign at the junction to make it an all-stop crossroads.

### Notice of Motion No: 11/2020

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That this Council review the whole flooding issue at Coolnanowle, Ballylinan as during extreme rainfall two to three houses are under threat of flooding"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has recently surveyed the network of drains at this location. Flooding occurs during intense rainfall when the water in the drains, downstream of the bridge, backs up. The water is unable to get away and overflows on farmland upstream of the bridge. Maintenance works are required on the drains in the fields downstream of the bridge in order to allow the water to get away.

### Notice of Motion No: 12/2020

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That Laois County Council reinstate the entrance to the National School at Arles on the N80 as it is causing a hazard"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has arranged for these works to be carried out in the next fortnight.

### Notice of Motion No: 13/2020

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That Laois County Council erect signage that the road narrows at Grange, Killeen at the side of Farrell's Pub and also signage for Knockbeg College directing Knockbeg traffic to Maganey as the Grange road is too narrow"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has now installed the road narrows signs on this road and are also arranging to install directional signage for Knockbeg College in Killeen and at Ballyfoyle Cross in Maganey.

**Notice of Motion No: 14/2020**

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That Laois County Council erect sign at Spindlewood to show ramps ahead and also to put permanent markings on the ramps***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The members were advised that Laois County Council will erect these signs on the approaches to the ramps in Spindlewood. We will also include the permanent ramp markings on the works schedule for the line markings contractor.

**Notice of Motion No: 15/2020**

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That Laois County Council carry out drainage works at the Cul de Sac in Dunbrin as it is causing flooding to the houses there and also drainage works at Sleaty Road cemetery to put in gullies and soak way to solve the flooding problem in the graveyard car park in Sleaty and at Tankardstown before the bridge as it is prone to flooding in periods of rainfall"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected these locations and met with our drainage works contractor on site. We expect to receive the Contractor's tender for these works shortly and we should then be in a position to proceed with the works.

**Notice of Motion No: 16/2020**

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That Laois County Council take measures to alleviate the flooding in Monure, Killeshin"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has carried out some works at this location. Further drainage works will be carried out to resolve the water ponding on the hard shoulder.

**Notice of Motion No: 17/2020**

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That Laois County Council take measures to provide a solution to the drainage on the Gaffney's Road, Killeshin"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will inspect the road at this location in Killeshin and carry out drainage works required.

### **Notice of Motion No: 18/2020**

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That Laois County Council give an update on the removal of the grass verge on the R431 at Crettyard"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will remove the grass verge along the R431 at this location in order to provide a hard standing area suitable for pedestrians between the houses and the junction with the N78. These works will be carried out under the 2020 Councillor discretionary works programme.

### **5. Any Other Business**

Councillor Aidan Mullins raised the following matters:-

- (1) Reporting of Anti-Social Behaviour/Drug Dealing – Councillor Mullins referred to the form which is made available from the Council's Tenant Liaison Section in relation to the reporting of anti-social behaviour wherein the identity of the complainant must be included. The Council is unable to take action unless the nature of the complaint and the name of the complainant are disclosed. Councillor Mullins indicated that the complainant should be protected at all times and that people will not proceed with complaints due to this. It was agreed to refer same to the Housing Department.
- (2) 94/2019 – Councillor Mullins raised a Notice of Motion at the October 2019 meeting of the Municipal District meeting in relation to the settlement of outstanding claims by Formac, the contractor responsible for works at Kilmullen, Portarlinton. Councillor Mullins enquired as to whether or not the Company had responded to requests to deal with outstanding claims and also if they have been appointed by the Council for other works. It was agreed to follow up the matter with the Roads Department
- (3) Councillor Mullins raised the issue of the draft plan., commissioned for Portarlinton Town Park – 'Delivering for People & Nature' and requested that the Sport & Leisure Officer attend the next meeting of the Municipal District on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2020

### **6. Time & Date/ for Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on **18<sup>th</sup> of March 2020** at **2.00 p.m.** This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

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Paschal McEvoy, Cathaoirleach