

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2022 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**PRESENT** Mr. Pdraig Fleming, Cathaoirleach (In the Chair)  
Mr. Aidan Mullins M.C.C.  
Mr. Paschal McEvoy, M.C.C.  
Ms. Aisling Moran, M.C.C.  
Mr. P.J. Kelly, M.C.C.

**APOLOGIES:** Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance  
Mr. Philip McVeigh, Senior Executive Officer  
Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer

**(1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the December meeting of the Graiguecullen Portarlington Municipal District held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2021**

On the proposition of Councillor Aidan Mullins seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly, the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the December meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2021 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.

A discussion took place on river maintenance works and the removal of silt and vegetation at Clonterry. The members noted the €13.5m allocation for roads.

**(3) Notice of Motions**

**Notice of Motions:**

**Notice of Motion No: 01/2022**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council carry out a traffic survey at the entrance to Graigue na hAbhann Estate on the Ballickmoyler Road in Graiguecullen with a view to installing appropriate traffic controls”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for this traffic

survey to be carried out. Speeds and traffic counts will be surveyed at this location in the next few weeks.

**Notice of Motion No: 02/2022**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council enforce the Derelict Sites Act with regard to the former AIB building on Main Street in Portarlinton”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that a cross department team between Housing and Planning / Derelict Sites has been set up to review this property and its potential use. A list of works will be prepared under the Derelict sites Act and sent to the developer to render it non derelict.

It should be noted that under planning application PI Ref 19/319, Laois County Council has granted planning permission to applicants Drumgoan Developments Limited for a comprehensive redevelopment of this site which contains two Protected Structures, RPS 128A and RPS 128B. The permission is valid up to 17<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

**Notice of Motion No: 03/2022**

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council advise when appropriate traffic controls will be installed on the Lea Road in Portarlinton at the edge of town”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Road Design is preparing a traffic calming proposal for the Lea Road in Portarlinton. A draft proposal will be ready the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March.

**Notice of Motion No: 04/2022**

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council consider the resurfacing of The N78 from Killyganard Cross, Ballylinan to the Kildare boundary as this section of road has required significant repair and pothole repair every year for the last couple of years”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that the Council has submitted a funding application for this section of Road to be resurfaced. If funding is approved by TII this section of road will be resurfaced in 2022.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 05/2022**

Councillor Pádraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council give an update on the embankment that collapsed on the edge of the N 430 which resulted in a very significant drop down and posed a significant road safety issue”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has now completed embankment repair works at this location. Following the very heavy rainfall on Christmas day the embankment at the edge of the road subsided. This has now been re-constructed and made safe.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 06/2022**

Councillor Pádraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council provide a detailed update for the Taking in Charge of Clarmallagh Estate, The Swan”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that the Developer’s agent submitted “as built drawings” recently. CCTV footage for part of the estate was received on the 15/2/22. The Planning Department is currently assessing this. It is noted that defects have been identified in the foul and surface water networks which will have to be rectified before any consideration can be given to the taking in charge.

The Council will engage with the Developer’s Agent with a view to having the necessary works completed within 3 months of the date of issue of a comprehensive snag list. Once all the items have been completed to the satisfaction of the Council it will progress the taking in charge.

#### **Notice of Motion No:07/2022**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council install a streetlight at Treacy’s Cross, the Heath”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that The Roads Section will review this junction for lights. If lights are required a design will be prepared for them. Installation of lights will be subject to funding being available.

### **Notice of Motion No: 08/2022**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

***“That this Council call on Irish Water to replace all the pipes that are connected to the reservoir at Oakvale, Stradbally as these pipes are causing serious problems for the local residents due to continuously bursts/leaks”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council’s Water Services Department has identified all vulnerable water mains in this area as a priority for replacement. The Council made a detailed submission to Irish Water in December 2021 for funding to be provided for the replacement of these vulnerable mains. Irish Water is currently progressing this submission through their funding approval process.

### **Notice of Motion No: 09/2022**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council prune the trees from Poole’s Bridge to the entrance at Woodview, Stradbally”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that the Council has inspected the trees at this location and will arrange to have them cut back so that they don’t interfere with passing high-sided vehicles.

As Councillor Ben Brennan was absent from the meeting it was agreed that his Notice of Motions be read into the Minutes as follows: -

### **Notice of Motion No: 10/22 in the name of Councillor Ben Brennan: -**

***“That Laois County Council install six or seven passing bays on the road from Luggacurran to the ball alley in Wolfhill and fill in the drain on the way up to Wolfhill Chapel”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the Council will investigate to determine the feasibility of installing passing bays on this road and to backfill this open drain in Wolfhill.

### **Notice of Motion No: 11/22 in the name of Councillor Ben Brennan**

***“That Laois County Council repair the two sides of the Cutt’s Road, Number Road as they are in a bad state since the heavy rain in late December”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location on the Cutt's road and has carried out some localised repairs. We will also carry out the works needed on The Numbers Road. We will arrange for further works to the sides of the Cutt's Road also in advance of the surfacing of the road under the Roads Programme.

**Notice of Motion No: 12/2021 in the name of Councillor Ben Brennan**

***“That Laois County Council repair the hard shoulder outside a dwelling house in Killeslin as it is causing flooding issues”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will carry out the remedial works required at this location in order to resolve the flooding.

**Notice of Motion No: 13/2022**

Councillor P.J. Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council amend the speed limit to 50 kph on the main public road through Emo Court from the main entrance through to Lough Cross on the Portarlinton Road”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that this section of road is 50km/h. Road design will arrange site meeting with elected member to identify exact location and any other issue.

**Notice of Motion No: 14/2022**

Councillor P.J. Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council freshen up the road markings at the Gandon Inn”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for the road markings to be freshened at this location on the R445.

### **Notice of Motion No: 15/2021**

Councillor P.J. Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council provide two additional rubbish bins at the Rock of Dunamaise”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that the Council will arrange to install an additional litter bin at this location and monitor the usage/demand. This can then be supplemented as required.

### **Notice of Motion No: 16/2022**

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council repair the road surface at the junction of the Knockbeg and Shrule/Hollymount Road”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the Council has obtained a quotation for the road surfacing works required at this junction. It is aimed to carry out these works once the 2022 Area Road’s budget allocations have been confirmed.

### **Notice of Motion No: 17/2022**

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

***“That Laois County Council investigate the footpaths and trees in the Rochfort Manor Estate, Graiguecullen following reports that some tree roots are damaging the road and footpaths”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the Council has investigated the footpaths in the Rochfort Manor estate and will arrange for repair works to be carried out.

### **Notice of Motion No: 18/2022**

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council re-surface the R429 Road between Ballyfoyle and Killeen. It is in poor condition along the Ballyfoyle stretch”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the Council has inspected this stretch of the R429

between Ballyfoyle and Killeen. We aim to surface dress this road this year under the annual roads programme.

#### **(4) Nominees for the Naming and Memorials Committee**

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance referred to the policy recommended by the Transportation, Environment & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee and approved by the Council at the January meeting held on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2022. The Council agreed that three Members from each Municipal District be nominated to the committee. It was noted that this new committee would replace the existing Place Names Committee. The following Members were nominated to the Committee-

- Proposed Pádraig Fleming
- Proposed Ben Brennan
- Proposed PJ Kelly

Councillor Aidan Mullins asked if his request in relation to the naming of the access road around the Leisure Centre in Portarlinton after the late Mr. Niall McElwaine be considered at the first meeting of the committee.

#### **(5) Correspondence**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy requested that a speed radar sign be installed in the short term at the top of the hill (N80 down by Grange) like the one at Kilbride to deal with the dangerous road issue. There have been three accidents there over the last few weeks. It was noted that TII purchased the land on the left hand side of the road a number of years ago.

#### **(6) Fix Date for Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

**CERTIFIED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**HEAD OF FINANCE**

