

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21st June, 2017 in ÁRAS AND CHONTAE AT
2.00 p.m.**

PRESENT Mr. Paschal McEvoy M.C.C., Cathaoirleach
Mr. Aidan Mullins M.C.C.
Mr. John Moran, M.C.C.
Mr. Tom Mulhall, M.C.C.
Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C.

APOLGOIES: Mr. Pdraig Fleming, M.C.C.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Julie Bergin, A/Head of Finance
Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer
Mr Dermot Leonard Assistant Engineer
Mr Nigel Sweeney, Technician
Ms. Róisín Hennessy, Staff Officer.

1. Confirmation of minutes of the May Meeting held on the 17th May, 2017

On the proposal of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor John Moran, the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th May, 2017 were confirmed and circulated.

2. Speed limit review.

Proposals for speed limit review on national, regional and local roads in the district was presented to the Elected Members by Dermot Leonard, Assistant Engineer, Road Design and Nigel Sweeney, Technician, Roads Department. Mr. Leonard briefed the members and responded to any queries raised.

3. Progress Report on the Roads Programme

Mr. John Ormond outlined the progress made on the Roads Programme to date and answered all queries which were raised.

4. Notices of Motion.

Notice of Motion No.: 73/2017

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council investigate the road diamond at Ballintubbert House as the stop sign is not very clear to pedestrians and the road needs to be marked”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. Mr. John Ormond advised that arrangements will be made to have the vegetation cut around the stop signs. The road markings will be included on the road marking schedule of works and will be completed subject to available funds. He hoped that all works would be completed within four weeks.

Notice of Motion No.: 74/2017

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council investigate the footpath between the school and the football pitch at Newtown, Crettyard as they are in need of repair in places and are currently very dangerous”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised by Mr. John Ormond that this footpath was inspected on the 16/06/2017. One minor repair was identified and this has been scheduled for repair in the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 75/2017

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council investigate the road at the sewerage plant at Ballylinan as there is a bump on the road following pipe laying”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised by Mr. John Ormond that this location was inspected on the 16/06/2017 and will be included on the routine maintenance schedule of works for repair.

Notice of Motion No: 76/2017

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council immediately commence the process of placing the old AIB site on Main Street and the site of a demolished house on Foxcroft Street in Portarlinton on the Derelict Sites Register. Also to give an update on progress on the Derelict Sites Survey in the county and when it will be completed”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The members were advised that in relation to the AIB site, a letter has issued to the owner of the property requesting proposals to address the dereliction. Regarding Foxcroft Street A Section 8 (2) Notice has issued to the registered owners. The Derelict Site survey for Portarlinton has commenced and is being worked through at present. Julie Bergin advised that she will follow up on this matter with Angela McEvoy, Senior Planner.

Notice of Motion No: 77/2017

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council outline the total number of cases logged and waiting for repairs to be carried out in their social housing stock”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The members were advised that there are 300 minor repairs and 714 routine repairs on the housing repairs list. This would be in keeping with the norm for the last 2 years. In excess of 959 repairs have been carried out to date in 2017. Surveys have been carried out on items of planned maintenance that could be procured by contract. Tenders have been approved for the relevant trades for the following: Replacement of doors, Replacement of kitchens, Fascia and soffit repairs and Fencing. Chimney and roof surveys will be carried out within the next month. Other items of repair requests are also being examined. This matter was discussed by the Members and Ms. Julie Bergin advised that she would follow up with Mr. Ian McCormack, SEO Housing Department.

Notice of Motion No: 78/2017

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council advise when the tenant liaison services will be fully re-instated for Council tenants”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The members were advised that this matter is currently receiving attention.

Notice of Motion No: 79/2017

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council put in place a 60 km speed limit on the R420 Road Kimullen, Portarlinton as there have been a number of accidents on this road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. This matter is to be dealt with by way of making a submission to the Speed Limit Review Committee.

Notice of Motion No: 80/2017

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council request an update from the T.I.I. on the request for a roundabout on the N80 in Stradbally at the junction of the Rathmore Road and Abbeyleix Road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that this has been discussed with the T.I.I.; initial indications are that a roundabout is not justified at this location. We are awaiting an update and final confirmation from the TII on this.

Notice of Motion No: 81/2017

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council secure a suitable site for a Bring Bank Centre in Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. Members were advised that the Environment Section has secured new bins for bring banks in County Laois, including Stradbally. A suitable location in Stradbally is being actively pursued. Councillor McEvoy advised that if anybody knew of a site for this, to contact the Council.

Notice of Motion No: 82/2017

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council explain why they are using outside contractors to cut hedges when we have our own in the County”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that hedge cutting works for the County were tendered in accordance with the procurement procedures for public sector bodies. The works were subsequently awarded to the most economically advantageous tenderer. John Ormond advised that he would contact the Contractor in question and explain the procurement procedure to him.

Notice of Motion No: 83/2017

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council give an update on when Mullin’s Lane, Ballyhide, will be free from flooding”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. Mr. John Ormond advised that there are insufficient funds available in the 2017 discretionary allocations to carry out these significant drainage works. Tender documents will be prepared and the works tendered to determine the exact funds required. The Council will seek alternative funding mechanisms for this project. Mr. John Ormond also advised that he would visit the site to see if any temporary remedial works can be carried out which may help alleviate flooding at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 84/2017

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council give an update as to when the road and grass verge cutting will take place from the Castlecomer Road Roundabout to Graiguecullen Church”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. Mr. John Ormond advised that this work commenced week ending 16/06/2017 and will be completed week ending 23/06/2017.

Notice of Motion No: 85/2017

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council put a yellow box road marking at the junction at the pedestrian lights at the church on Main Street Stradbally so that traffic coming from the school on Church Avenue can get out on to Main Street. This measure would alleviate traffic congestion at school opening and closing times”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that Road Design will look at the provision of a yellow box at the pedestrian lights at the church on Main Street so that traffic coming from the school on Church Avenue can get on to the Main Street.

Notice of Motion No: 86/2017

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council ask TII to resurface parts of the N80 from Stradbally to Portlaoise as this road is in very poor condition”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Members were advised that the locations where the surface is poor on the N80 around the town land of Dunamaise are the subject of a PARR (Pavement Asset Repair & Renewal) surfacing scheme proposed to be done later in the year.

Notice of Motion No: 87/2017

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:

That Laois County Council carry out work on the footpaths in Stradbally so that wheelchair users can move freely on and off the paths at specific areas”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. Mr. John Ormond advised that he will arrange to meet Councillor McEvoy in Stradbally to identify the locations in question. He advised that the works will be included for completion with other footpath works identified in Stradbally subject to sufficient funds being available to complete all works identified.

Notice of Motion No: 88/2017

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council give a timescale and the remaining issues in relation to the taking in charge of The Village Estate, Ballylinan”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that *Water Services were to carry out an inspection and prepare a Schedule 2 for submission to Irish Water for approval. It is hoped that the estate will be taken in charge at the July or September meeting of the Council.*

Notice of Motion No: 89/2017

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council give a timescale for the installation of a 30 KPH speed limit at Wolfhill National School and also to install footpaths outside the wall of the school in the interest of Health & Safety for the Children”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has recently applied for funding, under the Clár Scheme 2017, to install 30kph flashing school warning signs on the approaches to Wolfhill National School in order to reduce the speed limit in the vicinity of the school at drop off and collection times. Mr. John Ormond advised that he will arrange to meet with Councillor Fleming and members of the board of management to discuss the installation of a footpath outside the school.

Notice of Motion No: 90/2017

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:

That Laois County Council install new directional signs at Sleaty, Graiguecullen following the recent damage to same”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. Mr. John Ormond advised that this item has been referred to TII for inclusion on its maintenance schedule. Similar works have previously been completed by TII in a 2 – 3 week timeframe.

5. Correspondence

Councillor Paschal McEvoy read out a letter received from a resident from Tommy Murphy Park, Graiguecullen. The contents of the letter were discussed by the Members.

6. Time and date of next meeting:

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 20th September, 2017 at 2.00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Councillor Paschal McEvoy thanked everyone for their help during the past year. All of the members congratulated Councillor McEvoy on his time as Cathaoirleach.

Signed: _____

Paschal McEvoy, M.C.C., Cathaoirleach.

