

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 15TH OF JUNE 2022 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Julie Bergin, Financial Management Accountant
Mr. Philip McVeigh, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer

**(1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the May meeting of the Graiguecullen
Portarlington Municipal District held on the 18th of May 2022**

On the proposition of Councillor Aidan Mullins seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the May meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 18th of May 2022 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 Aidan Mullins was given an update on the on the re-surfacing works on the Main street in Portarlington. Mr. Philip McVeigh agreed to liaise with Councillor Mullins on the provision of a litter bin at Portarlington G.A.A. Grounds.

(3) Notice of Motions

Notice of Motion No: 70/2022

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council install extra car parking spaces at Marian Hill, Portarlington”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will inspect this location and identify the extent of the works required, in consultation with the Elected Member. Laois County Council can then obtain a quotation for the agreed scope of works.

Notice of Motion No: 71/2022

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council place 3 houses on Bracklone Street in Portarlinton on the Derelict Sites Register and request the owners to address their derelict state”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that in relation to the two single storey properties, Laois County Council have been notified of a change of ownership. On receipt of the details, the matter will be pursued. In relation to the two-storey derelict site a Notice of Intention to enter the property on the Derelict Site Register was served on the owner of the property on the 9th of June 2022. If no action/response is received within 14 days, the Council will proceed with entering the property onto the Derelict Sites Register.

Councillor Mullins indicated that these properties are in this state of dereliction for a number of years. Neither of the two properties are currently on the Derelict Sites Register. He indicated that the Derelict Sites Register is not up to date and does not reflect the state of dereliction in the County.

Notice of Motion No: 72/2022

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the Taking in Charge of the Glen Estate in Kilnacourt, Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that worksoare currently underway regarding upgrade / remedial works to the Sewage Pumping Station. To date, the additional ring has been installed on the pump sump to bring it to finished ground level and the cabinet for control gear and associated ducting has been installed. The valve chamber and modifications to the pipework within the sump have yet to be completed. This will be done by the mechanical / electrical contractor (Hydro International). I have been advised that the contractor will be back on site this week to complete the works on the pumping station. This will take approximately two weeks. The reason for the delay is that they were waiting on an ESB connection. Work on the other items will then begin.

Notice of Motion No: 73/2022

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the stones outside a house in Coolnariska, Killeshin”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council issued a notice by registered post to the property owners registered address to remove the roadside hazard. The notice was returned indicating that the property owners had gone away. A notice will now be hand delivered and if no action is taken then legal proceedings may follow.

Notice of Motion No: 74/2022

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council and the TII shape or cut down the trees on the Northern Relief Road as they are blocking the light onto the footpaths”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that the trimming of trees at this location has been included in maintenance works and will be completed in the next 4 weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 75/2022

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the taking in charge of the Tommy Murphy housing estate Graiguecullen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Tommy Murphy Park is to be advertised to be taken in charge by the Roads Department prior to the end of June 2022.

Notice of Motion No: 76/2022

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install a pedestrian crossing with lights close to Arles National School and Radharc Alainn Estate in the interest of road safety and in particular for parents and children and all users crossing The N80 in the village”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that after consulting with the TII Safety Engineer, Road Design is carrying out traffic counts, speed survey and pedestrian counts. This survey will be completed by the end of June. Road Design will prepare a feasibility report to provide Pedestrian crossing and any other measures required at this location and submit it to TII for funding approval.

Notice of Motion No: 77/2022

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out road safety improvement works at Simmons / Mill Cross near Ballylinan at the intersection of the N78 /N80 in the interests of road safety for all users”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that the Road Design Section has assessed the road safety measures at Simmons / Mill Cross / N78 /N80. A feasibility report will be submitted to the TII for approval. The following works will be considered subject to TII approval:

- Barrier (red/white) boards on opposite side of road facing the two T-junctions

- Advance Stop signs on the two approach roads to the T-junctions
- Additional ‘Slow’ road markings on the N80 and N78 approaches
- ‘Yield’ road marking on the merging lane approach to the Carlow Road

Councillor Fleming indicated that a roundabout is required at Simmons Cross/Mill Cross and requested that Road Design include a roundabout in its submission to the TII for approval.

The Members requested that a representative from the TII address the MD to update them on progress on issues which were brought to their attention earlier this year.

Notice of Motion No: 78/2022

Councillor Pdraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council open the drains in the grass verge along the N78 at Farnans, Wolfhill, as the edge of the road is being cut away and creating a traffic hazard”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that water cuts / drainage clearance works on this section of road will be completed by the end of June.

Notice of Motion No: 79/2022

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council provide an invalid car parking space outside Stradbally Pharmacy”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that the works have been carried out.

Notice of Motion No: 80/2022

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council repair the warning sign on the Stradbally Road, Timahoe and the speed indicator on the Portlaoise Road Timahoe”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Killaree Lighting will carry the repairs in the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 81/2022

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council give an update on the footpath from Timahoe Village to the GAA pitch Timahoe. €100,000 was granted for this project this year”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that options are currently being developed. Following on from this an options assessment

report will be prepared and submitted to the NTA to allow this scheme progress to tender stage. Construction is currently estimated to commence in Q4 2022.

Notice of Motion No: 82/2022

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

“That Laois County Council cut back the grass verge on the Stradbally Road to Timahoe Road on a dangerous bend where the crash barrier signs are”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will have a hedge cutter working in this area shortly, cutting back verges at junctions and will arrange for this verge to be included on the schedule.

Notice of Motion No: 83/2022

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

“That Laois County Council re-examine the local roads around Stradbally and Ratheniska for any minor repairs that might need to be done leading up to the Electric Picnic and the World and National Ploughing Championships”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will be carrying out additional inspections from early August and will carry out minor repairs if required in advance of these events.

Notice of Motion No: 84/2022

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

“That Laois County Council make wider some places along the Ballycarroll Road directly behind the Rock of Dunamaise so that vehicles can meet and get by safely”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will review this section of road and improve lay-by areas where space allows at the Dunamaise end of the Ballycarroll Road where passing is difficult. This road will also be surface dressed in the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 85/2022

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council carry out road surfacing on the L3991 Killabban to Killeen road, the R429 road from Killeen to Coolanagh Crossroads and the L3976 road from Ballyfoyle to Maganey and carry out road repairs at the Ballyfoyle Crossroads where the edge of the road has subsided”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that as part of the multi-annual roads programme, Laois County Council will

include the Killabban to Killeen road and the road from Killeen to Coolanagh Crossroads in next year's strengthening programme and the Ballyfoyle to Maganey road in the 2024 programme. The road repairs at Ballyfoyle Cross will be carried out in the coming weeks in advance of the surface-dressing works on the Ballyfoyle to Killeen Road.

Notice of Motion No: 86/2022

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council carry out river maintenance works on the Crompaun River”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will carry out a walkover survey of the Crompaun River with a view to identifying the section of river that is the priority for maintenance works. An ecological report (Appropriate Assessment Screening Report) will be prepared this year for this section of river with a view to the works being carried out in next year's season.

Councillor Aidan Mullins requested a meeting with Mr. Philip McVeigh, S.E.E. in relation to river maintenance works on the Barrow River upstream of Portarlinton to facilitate anglers walking on the riverbank.

Notice of Motion No: 87/2022

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council bring the water and sewage treatment system in Bruach Na hAbhainn Killeen up to standard, so that Irish Water will then take over the estate”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that “Bruach na hAbhainn estate in Killeen is one of a number of estates taken in charge by Laois County Council but not formally taken in charge by Irish Water.

Significant capital works are required to the wastewater infrastructure in this estate to bring this infrastructure up to Irish Water's standards for taking in charge.

There is currently no funding in the 2022 Water Services budget for these capital works. However, Laois County Council's Water Service's Section will continue to operate and maintain the water and wastewater infrastructure in this estate.”

Councillor Moran requested further information on the works carried out to date and the cost of same and a list of the remaining works to be done and the cost of same.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Annual Discretionary Fund of €25,000.00/Approved Projects

On the proposition of Councillor Aidan Mullins seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the Members unanimously agreed that the above amount for this year be allocated to the G.A.A. Club in Portarlinton for a mural project.

There was no correspondence for noting. Councillor Padraig Fleming, Cathaoirleach paid tribute to Mr. Philip McVeigh, S.E.E., Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Ms. Julie Bergin, Financial Management Accountant & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer for their help during the year. Thanks was extended to the members of the press for their coverage of the meetings during his term as Cathaoirleach of the MD.

5. FIX DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlinton Municipal District would take place on the 14th of September 2022

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Padraig Fleming, Cathaoirleach