

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22nd MARCH 2017 in ÁRAS AN 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.

IN ATTENDANCE Ms. Julie Bergin, Financial Management Accountant
Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer

APOLOGIES: Mr. Pdraig Fleming, M.C.C.
Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the February Meeting held on the 15th of February 2017

On the proposal of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor John Moran, the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th of February 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

2. Roads Progress Report

The report was noted and the members complimented the Council on the works that had been completed since the last meeting. A discussion ensued regarding footpaths in the Portarlington Area and Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer indicated that he would have the matter investigated further.

3. Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion No: 19/2017

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council widen the hard shoulder on the N80 at the entrance to the Rock Lane and carry out measures to make this entrance to The Rock of Dunamaise safe”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Members were advised that Road Design will be in contact with TII to improve safety at this junction.

Notice of Motion No: 20/2017

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council put in place a post and rail fence on the eastern side of the Alley Cross (R419) as they did on the western side in 2016 to make this junction safe”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that a meeting on site will be arranged with Councillor Mulhall to investigate this issue. Agreement on a scope of works will be required with the landowner before any works can be considered. On agreement, works at this site can then be included for consideration during 2017 subject to available funding.

Notice of Motion No: 21/2017 & Notice of Motion No: 29/2017 were taken together

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed Notice of Motion No: 21/2017 as follows:-

“That Laois County Council consider putting in place extra car parking spaces where possible at the Leisure Centre in Portarlinton”

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed Notice of Motion No: 29/2017 as follows:-

“That Laois County Council provide additional car park spaces and extra public lighting at the Community Centre and Leisure Centre in Portarlinton”

These Notice of Motions were seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Members were advised that The Area Office has completed a survey of available lands at this location and approximately 20 additional temporary car parking spaces can be provided. The estimated cost of the works is €33,000. Works will be carried out subject to the necessary funding being provided.

The Members expressed concern in relation to the lack of public lighting at this location and also requested the installation of an additional ramp.

Notice of Motion No: 22/2017

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council open water cuts along the verges on the L-3976 between Dunbrin and the Ballyfoyle Cross to alleviate local road flooding”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that works have commenced at this location and will be completed over the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 23/2017

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out pothole repairs to the local roads in the Whitebog area”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that the patching unit has recently completed works in this area.

Notice of Motion No: 24/2017

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council re-erect the damaged road sign approaching Killyganard Cross on the N78”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that this sign has recently been re-erected.

It was agreed in the absence of Councillor Fleming that the replies to his Notices of Motion be read out and noted in the Minutes.

Notice of Motion No: 25/2017

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council resolve the issue regarding open drain at the bend on Monument Road, Arles in the interest of Health & Safety and to clear the drains where appropriate”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will procure 12m of drainage pipe and fittings and install the drainage pipes at this location once delivered.

Notice of Motion No: 26/2017

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council consider temporary repair of the brick paving in Heather Hill Estate at the relevant areas in the interest of Health & Safety”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will sand the joints in the brick paving to prevent further deterioration at the locations agreed with Councillor Fleming on site.

Notice of Motion No: 27/2017

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council develop a plan with the lightning company to repair the light in Heather Hill Estate as this light has been inaccessible to the lightning Company due to extra trees/ scrubs at this location”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Members were advised that due to the location of existing pole it cannot be repaired. Instructions have been issued to the contractor to relocate the public lighting pole which will resolve the maintenance issue.

Notice of Motion No: 28/2017

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on progress on the Taking in Charge of Spindlewood Estate in Graiguecullen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that a bill of quantities is being prepared by the Building Control Officer to complete some minor outstanding works. It is hoped that the works will be completed circa May/June 2017 with a view to advertising for taking in charge thereafter. Works include:

- the restoration of cracked and broken footpaths,
- the restoration / replacement of defective, broken and / or damaged kerbing,
- the repair of existing manhole covers and the replacement of missing locking devices,
- new indicator plates and marker posts at various locations,
- the replacement of capping missing from boundary wall abutting /overlooking public open space.
- Repair damaged boundary wall abutting/overlooking open space

The Members expressed concern in relation to this estate and requested also if speed ramps could be included in the overall works. It was also noted that Light No. 33 outside House No. 96 is in need of repair.

Notice of Motion No: 30/2017

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update and progress on the taking in charge of Crossneen Manor in Graiguecullen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the Developer has not complied with all the conditions of the Planning permission. There are still some outstanding works. There is a bond currently in place until 7th September 2017. It is hoped that progress will be made prior to expiry of the bond. Should this not be the case, Laois County Council will look at calling in the bond closer to expiry date.

The Members requested the possibility of calling in this bond to have the necessary works carried out as a matter of urgency

Notice of Motion No: 31/2017

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council take in charge the Watery Lane at Garrons Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer will arrange to meet Councillor McEvoy on site to consider this request. A formal request letter outlining the reasons for taking the road in charge is required and shall be accompanied by a signed petition from all the residents and property owners (where applicable) on the lane and a map identifying the extent of the road to be taken in charge.

Notice of Motion No: 32/2017

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council put a stop ahead warning sign on the road approaching the cross onto the R445 at the old Portarlinton Road at the Heath”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that a site inspection will be carried out at this junction. The provision of a ‘Stop Ahead’ warning sign will be considered pending the outcome of the site inspection.

Notice of Motion No: 33/2017

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council clean road signs on the old Dublin road between Ballybrittas and Portlaoise”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that signs on the R445 were cleaned in October / November 2016. The signs will be re-inspected and cleaned as necessary.

It was agreed in the absence of Councillor Brennan that the replies to his Notices of Motion be read out and noted in the Minutes.

Notice of Motion No: 34/2017

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update as to when the bridges on the R431 in the Mayo and Killeen areas of Crettyard will be repaired as they are in a very bad state of repair”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for bridges inspections to be completed at the locations identified by Councillor Brennan.

Remedial works will then be programmed on a priority basis with funding sought under the Bridge Rehabilitation Works grant. There is currently no funding allocated to bridge repairs at this location for 2017 other than discretionary funding for minor parapet wall repairs.

Notice of Motion No: 35/2017

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council advise when the works on the Garrendenny Lane will be completed”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer will arrange to meet with Councillor Brennan on site to determine the scope of the works required at this location.

Any works agreed for Garrendenny Lane will take place after preparation works for the Annual Roads Programme are completed in approximately 8 to 10 weeks time.

Notice of Motion No: 36/2017

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council advise as to when the hedges will be cut and made safe at the waterworks in Killeshin (these are on Council property) as they are a health and safety hazard”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer will arrange to meet with Councillor Brennan on site to determine the extent and location of works required.

It will be necessary to inspect hedging at this location in advance of any hedge cutting as it is currently the nesting season and outside the permitted hedgerow cutting season.

4. Correspondence

No correspondence was received.

5. Schedule of Municipal Works 2017

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins, the schedule of Roadworks Programme was unanimously agreed for 2017 as presented by Mr. John Ormond, Area Engineer.

5. Time & Date for next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on the **19th of April 2017 at 2.00 p.m.**

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Paschal McEvoy M.C.C. Cathaoirleach