

**Minutes of the Portlaoise Municipal District Meeting held in Áras and Chontae  
on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018 at 11:00 am**

**Present:** Mary Sweeny, M.C.C. Chairperson

Catherine Fitzgerald, M.C.C., Caroline Dwane Stanley, M.C.C.  
Willie Aird, A.C.C., John Joe Fennelly, M.C.C., Gerry Lodge, M.C.C.,  
Noel Tuohy, M.C.C.

**In attendance:** Angela McEvoy, A/Director of Services, Farhan Nasiem,  
A/Senior Executive Engineer, Kim Kinsella, A.O. Pat  
Delaney, A.O. Planning

**1) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PORTLAOISE  
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON THE 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2018.**

On the proposal of Councillor Lodge seconded by Councillor Fitzgerald, the minutes of the meeting held on the 21<sup>th</sup> February 2018 were confirmed and circulated.

**2) MATTERS ARISING.**

Cllr. Aird thanks Mr. Wilkinson for the re-lining at the Timahoe Road Discussion arose about the Prison Officers building. It was suggested that a clean up could be applied as a charge on the building. Angela McEvoy to check under derelict site legislation.

**3) TAKING IN CHARGE OF ESTATES**

Pat Delaney reported to the Members on the current position with Taking Estates in Charge. He explained that the CCTV process had held up applications.

- Cllr. Fitzgerald asked that Summerhill would be Taking in Charge as soon as possible
- Cllr. Lodge queried the green areas in these Estates which were not Taking in Charge. Angela McEvoy said that the TIC policy may need to be re-visited for Green Areas.
- Cllr. Dwane Stanley asked about the timeframe for Woodgrove. Pat Delaney will revert back with this information.

4) NOTICE OF MOTIONS

<p><b>40/2018 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</b></p>	<p><b>Ms. Kim Kinsella, A.O., Roads</b></p>
<p>“That this Council contact the Superintendent requesting a greater Garda presence in O’ Moore Place and the Mountmellick Road area to deal with the criminality, intimidation and vandalism that is taking place”</p>	<p>A letter will issue from the Roads Section to the Gardai</p> <p><b>Seconded: Cllr. Aird and all Members condemned this behaviour</b></p> <p><b>Cllr. Dwane Stanley requested multi agency regeneration programme for O’Moore Place</b></p>
<p><b>41/2018 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Michael Rainey, S.E.O., Housing</b></p>
<p>“That this Council replace the road side fence at Mountain View Estate, Ballyfin Road”</p>	<p>The Housing Section is currently seeking tenders for the repair of this fence. It is expected the work will commence shortly.</p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald Farhan Nasiem to contact the Housing Section</b></p>
<p><b>42/2018 – Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, A/S.E.E.</b></p>
<p>“That this Council give a timeline as to when works would be carried out where ponding is taking place in a section of Aghnaharna and install extra gullies in the Estate”</p>	<p>The installation of an additional surface water gully is now complete</p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr. Tuohy</b></p>
<p><b>43/2018 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.</b></p>
<p>“That this Council seek funding to upgrade Cashel Junction at Balyroan”</p>	<p>“Road Design will review junction around this road for a safety scheme and will propose solution as appropriate”</p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr.Aird</b></p>
<p><b>44/2018 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</b></p>	<p><b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, A/S.E.E.</b></p>
<p>“That this Council replace the boundary fencing around Spink Community Field at Boleybeg Crossroads”</p>	<p>I will arrange to meet Cllr Fennelly on site to investigate the issue.</p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr.Aird</b></p>

<b>45/2018 – Councillor John Joe Fennelly</b>	<b>Ms. Kim Kinsella, A.O., Roads</b>
<i>“That this Council give an update on Clár Programme for Laois as Raheen National School is awaiting funding to improve safety”</i>	<i>A new Clár Scheme has just been announced and Laois County Council will be formulating applications and a funding application will be submitted to improve safety at Raheen National School</i>
	<b>Seconded by Cllr.Sweeney</b>
<b>46/2018 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</b>	<b>Ms. Kim Kinsella, A.O., Roads</b>
<i>“That this Council call on the Department of Education and Skills to demolish the old St. Pauls School on Borris Road as soon as possible”</i>	<i>A letter will issue to the Department with regard to this issue.</i>
	<b>Seconded by Cllr.Lodge</b> <b>It should be recognised that this was a prime site.</b>
<b>47/2018 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</b>	<b>Mr. Edmond Kenny, Winter Maintenance Manager</b>
<i>“That this Council include the road on Portlaoise side of Heath School (after exiting from roundabout on Motorway) on salting programme”</i>	<i>A winter maintenance plan has been prepared for the salting of roads in County Laois in the event of frost or snow. This plan determines how the Council reacts to the weather forecasts that have been issued.</i> <i>In general, this plan prioritises the routes that will be treated. The gritting operation is normally carried out between 3.00am and 7.30am in the morning. The salting routes have been selected to ensure the refilling of trucks midway through the salting operation is not required and to ensure that all routes are completed within 4.5 hours.</i> <i>The salting units are running at full capacity to cater for the existing routes. There is currently no spare capacity to cater for this extra distance or to add any additional routes to the plan.</i>
	<b>Seconded by Cllr.Lodge</b> <b>Angela McEvoy to speak with Kieran Kehoe on his return</b>
<b>48/2018 – Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald</b>	<b>Ms. Orla Barrett, Senior Executive Engineer</b>
<i>“That this Council review bottle bank collections”</i>	<i>The bottle banks at Parkside, Portlaoise are emptied on a weekly basis (day of collection is usually Mondays), collections across the county were delayed due to the severe weather recently which unfortunately created a back log. LCC will monitor the bottle banks at Parkside in the forth coming weeks to ensure the frequency of collection is appropriate to the demands of the site. This monitoring will</i>

	<p>include the assessment of the site for future use of CCTV cameras where an incidence of misuse including the dumping of bottles, cans &amp; boxes is noted.</p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr.Lodge</b>  <b>Request that they be monitored the times they are emptied and the frequency.</b></p>
<b>49/2018 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b>	<b>Ms. Orla Barrett, Senior Executive Engineer</b>
<p>“That Laois County Council ensures that St. Patricks graveyard is included in works, e.g. paths and disability access in the current year”</p>	<p>Laois County Council is currently preparing a comprehensive report on all it’s cemeteries. An important part of this report will be a schedule of required works at each cemetery to not only ensure health and safety but also the timely development of each cemetery to meet the needs of the local community. On completion of the report it will be possible for Laois County Council to prioritise works on an informed basis as funds become available. It is anticipated that the report will be completed in May/June 2018.</p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr.Fennelly</b>  <b>Cllr. Fennelly requested that drainage at the bottom right hand corner would be included.</b></p>
<b>50/2018 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b>	<b>Ms. Angela McEvoy, Senior Planner (TBC)</b>
<p>“That Laois County Council includes provision for country market outlet in its overall vision statement for Portlaoise”</p>	<p>There is provision for a Country market style venue in the proposed regeneration of the Town Centre of Portlaoise as set out in the Vision Statement for Portlaoise . A site has not been selected for this however it will be considered in the context of the overall proposed public realm works.</p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr.Fitzgerald</b></p>
<b>51/2018 – Councillor Mary Sweeney</b>	<b>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.</b>
<p>“That Laois County Council repair the light at Newtown, Ballyroan as previously discussed”</p>	<p>LCC has looked these lights and find that the lights out side Sue Rider are not working due to ESB supply issue. New connection is required to energies these lights These lights will be made operational in next 2 weeks subject to ESB connection.</p> <p><b>Seconded by Cllr. Fennelly</b>  <b>Farhan Nasiem will replace with LED</b></p>

<b>52/2018 – Councillor Noel Tuohy</b>	<b>Ms. Kim Kinsella, A.O., Roads</b>
<i>“That this Council write to the Department of Education and Skills and ask them to fast track any tendering or other issues which may hold up construction of the new St. Francis School on the site of the old St. Pauls School”</i>	<i>A letter will issue to the Department of Education with regard to this</i>  <b>Seconded by Cllr. Tuohy</b> <b>Tendering Process has started.</b>
<b>53/2018 – Councillor Noel Tuohy</b>	<b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, SEE Roads</b>
<i>“That this Council mark out the double yellow lines which have become difficult to see at the entrance at Glenside”</i>	<i>Works at this location will be carried out as part of upcoming line marking works in the Portlaoise Area.</i>  <b>Seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald</b>  <b>Timeframe end of Apri/May</b>
<b>54/2018 – Councillor Noel Tuohy</b>	<b>Ms. Angela McEvoy, Senior Planner</b>
<i>“That this Council address fully the concerns of the residents of Beechfield in relation to the proposed new traffic entrance/exit”</i>	<i>This is a matter that will be dealt with through the assessment of the planning application relating to same. No decision has been made in this regard as of yet.</i> <b>Angela McEvoy reported that this was a live planning application and that no discussion could take place.</b> <b>Submissions can be made and matters will be considered in the Planning evaluation process</b>
<b>55/2018 – Councillor Jerry Lodge</b>	<b>Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E.</b>
<i>“That this meeting again requests Laois County Council to install traffic calming measures at Green Mill Lane/ Ridge Road in the interest primarily of pedestrians”</i>	<i>“Road Design has considered measures to improve the safety of pedestrians on Green Mill Lane for quite some time. Any solutions we have come up with would inconvenience at least some road users. One relatively simple measure would be to construct a footway along Green Mill Lane between its junction with Ridge Road and the entrance to Triogue Manor housing estate, while permanently restricting vehicle movements on that segment to one direction only. That solution would affect the flow of traffic within the town, and those effects have yet to be evaluated in depth. We would also be required to design an acceptable crossing at Ridge Road, given that the footway is found on only one side of that road.”</i> <b>Seconded by Cllr. Dwane Stanley</b> <b>Farhan Nasiem will arrange meeting</b>

	<i>on site. Cllr. Lodge suggested additional lighting on ramp to warn children around.</i>
<b>56/2018 – Councillor Jerry Lodge</b>	<b>Mr. Wes Wilkinson, A/S.E.E.</b>
<i>“That this meeting calls on Laois County Council to repair potholes along Cullenagh Lane, Portlaoise”</i>	<i>Repairs will be carried out at this location next week. Seconded by Cllr. Sweeney</i>

**5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- *Cllr. Fennely asked could funding be made available for small maintenance works other than the Cllrs. discretionary.*
- *Cllr. Fenelly raised the infrequency of sweeping in Abbeyleix and requested that this was looked at before the Roads Programme was brought before full Council.*
- *Discussion about Public Lighting – Angela McEvoy to discuss individual light with Cllr. Fitzgerald.*
- *Cllr. Tuohy asked about Lighting up County Hall in blue on April 2<sup>nd</sup> for Autism day.*

**6. FIX TIME, DATE & VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING.**

*The next meeting is to be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 11.00 a.m. in the Council Chamber of Áras an Chontae.*

**7. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2018**

- *Schedule of Meetings 2018 circulated. Municipal Schedule proposed by Cllr. Fennelly and Seconded by Cllr. Sweeney.*

*This concluded the business of the meeting.*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**CATHAOIRLEACH**

Certified: \_\_\_\_\_

**DIRECTOR OF SERVICE.**