

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, 29TH OF MARCH 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.
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 February meeting of the Graiguecullen Portarlington Municipal District held on the 16th of February 2022

On the proposition of Councillor Aidan Mullins seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the February meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 16th of February 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 raised the following: -

- (1) The possibility of the installation of a second speed ramp near the entrance to Lough Gate Estate beside the Solas Garden Centre in Portarlington due to heavy volumes of traffic.
- (2) Flood prevention works on the Ballymorris Road, Portarlington.
- (3) The issue of notice regarding works to be carried out under the Derelict Sites Act regarding the former AIB building on Main Street in Portarlington
- (4) Update on traffic controls on the Lea Road

(3) Notice of Motions

Notice of Motion No: 19/2022

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That this Council take in charge Rathmore Road, Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will investigate the feasibility of making this a public road in terms of the road's general public use and the financial implications of it being a public road. Subject to a positive conclusion this would then be advertised for public consultation to consider any objections or representations.

Notice of Motion No: 20/2022

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council provide a lay-by at Grange Upper to allow vehicles pass on this narrow road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet on site with the Elected Member to agree the location for this lay-by.

Notice of Motion No: 21/2022

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council carry out necessary repairs to the Fossey Upper Road, Timahoe. This road is in a very dangerous state”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this road and are arranging for repair works involving the piping of the open drain and widening the roadway to be carried out shortly.

Notice of Motion No: 22/2022

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair the box shore at Moore’s Cross, Tolerton on the R431”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location and will carry out a CCTV survey of this box shore to determine the scope of works needed. It is proposed to carry out the repair works in the coming month.

Notice of Motion No: 23/2022

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council put in place charging points for electric cars in Crettyard, Ballylinan, Arles, Killeshin and Graiguecullen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the Roads Section is engaging with a partnership of Easygo / EIR regarding a pilot project that would result in the provision of EV charging points in the County (specifically in towns outside Portlaoise). Nothing is confirmed or signed yet but there is an opportunity there for progress in 2022.

Notice of Motion No: 24/2022

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair the sides of the road in Tolerton and Bilboa as they have collapsed”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the Council has inspected these locations. Drainage and verge reinstatement works will be carried out at both locations in April/May.

Notice of Motion No: 25/022

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out a traffic survey at Emo on the New Inn Cross side of the village”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has recently carried out a traffic survey on the R422 on the New Inn Cross side of Emo. The speed table is being done this week.

Notice of Motion No: 26/2022

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council advise when the works to underground the overhead electricity cables and to install the new lights along Main Street will commence in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that the ESB have advised that they will be carrying out underground

cabling works at the end of April / early May. They will then transfer the power through the mini pillars to each of the buildings in the following weeks before removing the overhead lines and the old lighting columns. They are planning to have the works completed and ready for taking down the overhead lines on a weekend at the end of June. Killaree Lighting will then install and power up the new streetlights on the following Monday / Tuesday.

Councillor Mullins expressed concerns regarding the delay in these works being completed and the number of times that the deadlines have been extended. It was noted that the ESB has been paid to underground the cables and install new lights. Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance advised that he would contact the ESB in this matter.

Notice of Motion No: 27/2022

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council review the location of the public lights on Canal Road at Clanmalire Estate in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Road Design will contact the elected member to identify the exact location and issue with lighting in Clanmalire Estate in Portarlinton.

Notice of Motion No: 28/022

Councillor PJ Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out repairs at Carn on the Mountmellick Road from Emo as parts of the road are subsiding and nearby at the junction to Woodbrook down as far as Deegan’s Air Strip”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected the R422 Emo to Mountmellick Road and has arranged for surfacing works to be carried out along this road this week. Laois County Council will also inspect the road from the junction at Woodbrook to determine the works required.

Notice of Motion No: 29/2022

Councillor PJ Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council erect signage and road markings at the entrance into Emo Court House as this entrance is located on a dangerous bend”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet on site with the Elected Member to agree the location for these works.

Notice of Motion No: 30/2022

Councillor PJ Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council make Jamestown Cross junction safer by putting in a right and left box in the middle of the N7 similar to Kennel’s Cross on the Emo/Mountmellick Road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to inspect this location to determine if there is sufficient road-width available for these new boxes.

Notice of Motion No: 31/022

Councillor Pdraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on repairs to Sally’s Bridge, Drumagh, Newtown, on the R430 re the wall and arch”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has received a grant allocation from the Department for repair works to this bridge. It is proposed to carry out these works in the coming months.

Notice of Motion No: 32/2022

Councillor Pdraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council resolve the blocked gullies on the road between the N 80 and Castletown Church, Ballylinan”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has now cleared the blocked road gullies on this road between the N80 and Castletown Church. These gullies are now working well.

Notice of Motion No: 33/2022

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on what plans are in place to resolve the severe flooding at Coolanowle Bridge, Arles, as when this happens the road is flooded, and it leads to flooding in the houses and peoples water wells. This is an issue that is going on a long time”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has investigated the flooding at this location and has prepared a funding submission to the Department for this project. Laois County Council are seeking Department funding to appoint a Consultant to prepare tender documents for the construction of a new culvert structure to replace the existing Coolanowle Bridge, consent application to the OPW and the new culvert construction works.

Notice of Motion No: 34/022

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council carry out drainage works outside house in Tinnesragh as previously pointed out”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the Council has investigated this location. Drainage works have now been completed to prevent flooding of the property. The works consist of new manholes / gulleys and a piped outfall to the adjacent stream.

Notice of Motion No: 35/2022

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council carry out drainage works at Dunbrin, Barrowhouse as previously pointed out”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that the Council has inspected this location. Drainage works consisting of gulleys piped to a new soakaway have now been installed at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 36/2022

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council carry out water cuts on the N80 from Graiguecullen to Simmons mill as the water is pooling on both sides of the road after rainfall”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will identify the number of locations where water cuts are needed along this stretch of the N80. Arrangements will then be made for these works to be carried out in the coming weeks.

4. Schedule of Municipal District Works 2022

On the proposition of Councillor Aisling Moran seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously agreed the Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2022 as presented.

5. Correspondence

There was no correspondence for noting.

Councillor Aisling Moran raised the following: -

- (1) Recent accident on the Stradbally to Vicarstown Road and the possibility of new road markings and a reduced speed limit given the number of houses on the road.
- (2) Recent accidents at a residence in Ballickmoyler
- (3) Public lighting at Killyganard Cross and the location of ESB poles near the road edge.

Mr. Philip McVeigh, S.E.E. agreed to meet Councillor Moran on site.

Mr. Philip McVeigh, S.E.E. agreed to meet Councillor Pdraig Fleming at Simmons Mill Cross to examine issues of concern.

Councillor Ben Brennan expressed concern regarding the 80 kph speed limit at Joe's Road and requested the installation of road markings for the safety of the elderly and young children.

6. Fix Date for Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place at 2.00 p.m. on the 20th of April 2022.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

**Director of Corporate
Affairs**

