

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16th MAY 2018 in ÁRAS AN CHONTAE AT 2.00
p.m.**

PRESENT Mr. John Moran, Cathaoirleach (In the Chair)
Mr. Aidan Mullins M.C.C.
Mr. Paschal McEvoy, M.C.C.
Mr. Tom Mulhall, M.C.C.
Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C.
Mr. Pádraig Fleming, M.C.C.

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

**1. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING OF
GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD ON
THE 18th OF APRIL 2018**

On the proposal of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan , the minutes of the April meeting held on the 18th of April 2018 were confirmed as circulated.

2. PROGRESS REPORT

The report was noted and the Members complimented Mr John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer on the works that had been completed since the last meeting, and, in particular the work carried out in relation to the severe weather.

Councillor Aidan Mullins sought an update on the ESB connections for Portarlington.

The installation of lights at the Leisure Centre were very much welcomed

Councillor Mulhall requested the installation of a ‘Chevron Sign’ at the Montague/Gandon Roundabout at Emo be investigated as this sign has been damaged on a number of occasions in the recent past. Mr. John Ormond, A/S.E.E. indicated that he would investigate this to see what could be done to improve the situation

Councillor Brennan requested that jetting works be carried out at house in Crettyard – Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer indicated that he would meet with Councillor Brennan on site and investigate this matter.

Mr. John Moran, Cathaoirleach congratulated Laois County Council on their recent score in the National Integrity Index for Local Authorities.

3. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 58/2018

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council in the interest of Health & Safety make safe the open drain on the side of the road at Barrowhouse where there is no bank ”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer has inspected this location and identified a section of the open drain approximately 30m long which will be piped and backfilled once materials are ordered and delivered and a work crew is available.

Notice of Motion No: 59/2018

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council develop a plan for the large open space at Leylandi Drive, Ballylinan, Including taking away some debris and filling part of it with clay”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer will arrange for this area to be surveyed to determine the extent of the works required and investigate the type of materials which have been deposited at this location over a number of years. Once a cost estimate has been determined the extent of the works to be carried out during 2018 will be subject to available funding.

Notice of Motion No: 60/2018

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council indicate the timescale for the taking in charge of Meadows Way in Graiguecullen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that the Planning Department is liaising with the developer to progress the estate for taking in charge. A wayleave needs to be provided. The timescale for taking in charge is dependent on the developer progressing the outstanding items such as CCTV survey and the as constructed drawings.

Notice of Motion No: 55/2018

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council initiate a process to secure a small piece of land opposite Sandy Lane NS in Portarlinton to accommodate school buses and parents in the interest of children’s safety and road safety”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that a new dropping-off lay-by opposite the primary school on Sandy Lane was included in planning permission which was previously granted for a development on the private land opposite the school. This planning application has expired now. Installation of a lay-by opposite to the primary school could be considered for any future planning applications for this site.

Councillor Aidan Mullins requested that contact be made with the Department of Education in this regard and the owner of the site to have the matter progressed – Councillor Mullins indicated that a drop off /set down area would suffice.

Notice of Motion No: 56/2018

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on efforts to deal with the contamination and remediation of the former Avon site in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that the Environment Section have indicated that the Environmental Protection Agency is the regulating and enforcing authority on this site based on the activity that was carried out there.

Notice of Motion No: 57/2018

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That the Planning Department indicate when Railway Mews estate in Portarlinton will be taken in charge”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that the process of taking in charge of an estate includes a range of infrastructural services reviews. Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services advised that

he did not have a fixed timeline for the completion of the required infrastructural reviews for this estate. Councillor Mullins sought an update on this from the Planning Department.

Notice of Motion No: 61/2018

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council investigate the water coming out on the R429 Ballickmoyler to Rossena road for approximately 250 metres”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming . The Members were advised that A meeting with Councillor Moran will be arranged at this location to determine the source of the surface water and identify possible solution.

Notice of Motion No: 62/2018

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out works in Killeen Village where the grass is growing on the road between the road edge and the kerbs”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/S.E.E. will arrange to have this location treated with a herbicide and the vegetation removed once treatment is complete. This location will also be swept with a mechanical sweeper on completion of the above works.

Notice of Motion No: 63/2018

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council carry out maintenance to the junction in Killeen Village as cars can’t see to the left when stopped at the white line due to an overgrown hedge”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/S.E.E. will arrange for the hedge to be cut and the grass verge trimmed to improve sightlines at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 64/2018

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council call on Eir Brodband to extend high speed broadband to all areas of Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall . The Members were advised that At present Eir Broadband covers a limited area of Stradbally town including the main street. There are no plans for an extension under the 300k rollout and therefore the wider area falls under the NBP which will not commence until later this year with 90% of all premises in the country promised Fibre to the home by 2020.

In the meantime outside of the current Eir supply Broadband is available from commercial operators mainly by mast supply.

In addition to the 300k rollout of which Laois will have over 5k connections Laois County Council made a request for additions to be made to that proposal within Laois. Eir as a commercial entity are not obliged to supply any more than they have already proposed in the 300k rollout and therefore may not supply any further connections requested by us.

The 300k process started in 2017 and is continuing at present with all areas to be live by Dec 2018. We can and will certainly request Eir to extend the Blue area in Stradbally . Areas in the Heath and Timahoe are part of the 300k rollout.

Notice of Motion No: 65/2018

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council re-surface the entrance to Ratheniska Cemetery”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Ratheniska Cemetery is not one of the 27 cemeteries under the care of Laois County Council. The entrance to the cemetery and the cemetery itself is owned, operated and maintained by the parish / diocese. Mr. John Ormond indicated that he would meet Councillor Paschal McEvoy on site in relation to this matter.

Notice of Motion No: 66/2018

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out an inspection to the Bridge at Orchard Timahoe as it is in a dangerous condition”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that a preliminary inspection was completed at this location on Friday the 11th of May. Further excavation works are required in the verge adjacent to the structure to determine the condition of the structure and any remedial works required. The investigation works will be completed in the next week or two.

Notice of Motion No: 67/2018

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the taking in charge of the pumping station in Graigueaverne Ballybrittas”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Planning and Water Services Sections, in consultation with IW, are having continuing discussions with the developers of this infrastructure in order to progress this matter.

Notice of Motion No: 68/2018

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council put in place CCTV in all black spot areas in the Graiguecullan/ Portarlinton district and call on Coillte to do same to curb the scourge of illegal dumping”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council currently deploys a number of mobile CCTV cameras to litter black spots throughout the county on rotation. We are working with Coillte on a number of sites throughout the County, including the Graiguecullan/Portarlinton MD in the deployment of both drones and CCTV. Additional locations can be included on the rota or you can check to see if the sites are on the current rota by contacting the Environment Section.

Notice of Motion No: 69/2018

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council improve the surface outside the Church Gate Vicarstown”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the public footpath at this location will be included in the 2018 footpath programme. These works will be undertaken in quarter 3 of 2018.

Notice of Motion No: 70/2018

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council make safe the junction at SB Steel on the Ballickmoyler Road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that this site was visited on Friday 11th of May. There are good sightlines at the junction, however, the advance junction warning sign on the N80 (heading towards Carlow) for L7998 is located on the junction and should be set back 150m to 200m from the junction. This is a safety issue and we will forward this to TII's Safety Section in order to rectify this issue. It was agreed that Mr. John Ormond, A/S.E.E. would refer the matter to Mr. Farhan Nasiem, A/S.E.E., Road Design with a view to investigating if a dedicated right turn lane could be provided.

Notice of Motion No: 71/2018

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council to allievate the continuous flooding at Lamberts Hygiene at the Numbers Road in Killeshin”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/S.E.E. will arrange to meet with Councillor Brennan and a representative from Lambert Hygiene to investigate this issue and discuss any remedial action required

Notice of Motion No: 72/2018

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council erect a dangerous junction sign at Behan’s Pub in Tolerton on the R430”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer will arrange for a sign to be erected at this location.

5. Any Other Business

Councillor Aidan Mullins sought an update on the 45 minute free parking for Portarlinton.

Councillor Tom Mulhall raised the matter of horses trespassing at various locations in Portarlinton, i.e. Corrig Glen, Sandy Lane/Ballymorris Road, Canal Road (at the Enterprise Centre). It was also noted that there is an issue with horse excrement around the town of Portarlinton. Mr. John Ormond, A/S.E.E. agreed to have this location inspected and swept if required.

The issue of broken glass at Church Lane, Stradbally was also raised.

Councillor Ben Brennan raised the matter of the bridge in Mayo, Crettyard and Mr. John Ormond, A/S.E.E. indicated that he would check the matter with the Contractor for an update.

6. Correspondence

The Members were circulated with a copy of correspondence which was received from Transport Infrastructure Ireland dated the 1st of May 2018 in relation to the deployment of CCTV at Junction 15 on the M7.

7. Time and date of next meeting:

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on 20th of June 2018 at 2.00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
John Moran, Cathaoirleach