

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18TH OF MAY 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.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance
Mr. Philip McVeigh, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer

APOLOGIES: Ms. Aisling Moran, M.C.C.

**(1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the April meeting of the Graiguecullen
Portarlington Municipal District held on the 20th of April 2022**

On the proposition of Councillor Aidan Mullins seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the April meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 20th of April 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 requested that the derelict sites notice in relation to the old AIB Bank building in Portarlington be enforced.

Councillor Pdraig Fleming requested an update on the taking in charge of Clarmallagh Estate for the June meeting of the Municipal District.

(3) Notice of Motions

Notice of Motion No: 55/2022

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council replace the unsafe and uneven section of footpath outside Mitchell’s shop on Upper Main Street in Portarlington”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to obtain a quotation for these works. Some

repair works were carried out at this location last year and depending on the cost we may be able to carry out further works.

Notice of Motion No: 56/2022

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council arrange to cut a number of high trees at the rear of Station Court Estate in Portarlinton which are posing a serious risk to adjacent houses if they fall”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the trees at the rear of the houses in Station Court are located on private property. This is a matter between the houseowners and the property owner to the rear of the houses.

Philip Mc Veigh was requested to check the ownership of all the land in question.

Notice of Motion No: 57/2022

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following:-

“That Laois County Council repair sections of footpath in Crann Nua Estate, Portarlinton, which have subsided or have been damaged by tree roots”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet with the Elected Member on site to identify the sections of footpath to be repaired and carry out the works as soon as possible.

Notice of Motion No: 58/2022

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council stop the water flowing into the houses in Killeshin on the R430”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will commence works shortly.

Notice of Motion No: 59/2022

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council drop the kerb on the Doonane Road to allow access for a wheelchair”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will obtain a quotation for these works. The footpath was recently surfaced and a dropped kerb with tactile paving would improve wheelchair access at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 60/2022

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the taking in charge of Meadows Way Housing Estate in Graiguecullen. This housing estate is very unsafe to live in with broken manholes and unfinished footpaths”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that a list of works has been agreed with the developer on the 4/05/22, namely, sealing of infiltration into foul sewer, repairs to footpaths, reinstatement of damaged base course, raising of ironwork, provision of wearing course, repairs to cycle lane and completion of same and minor landscaping works. The developer has indicated that work will start on the above on 30/05/22 and will take approximately 3 weeks to complete. Once these works are completed, we should be able to recommend for taking in charge.

Notice of Motion No: 61/2022

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out safety improvement works at Killyganard Cross, Ballylinan on the N78 as there is a serious safety hazard with articulated lorries and farm machinery crossing this road with two junctions very close to each other on one side and another junction almost opposite these two junctions which makes crossing the N78 very hazardous and where a serious accident occurred in the past”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Road Design will engage with TII safety engineer to review this junction and develop safety improvement design options.

It was agreed that Road Design be requested to follow up the matter with T.I.I.

Notice of Motion No: 62/2022

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out improvements works at the entrance including line marking to The Heather Hill Estate, Graiguecullen following a meeting with the Residents Committee”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that the road markings were completed, and that Laois County Council is

currently arranging for surfacing works to be carried out at the entrance into the Heather Hill Estate.

Notice of Motion No: 63/2022

Councillor Pádraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion

“That Laois County Council repair the damage to the road surface on the N80 at Coolrain, Ballickmoyler”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that this section of the road has been included in road surface repair works and will be repaired in the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 64/2022

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council repair and resurface footpath from the pedestrian crossing on the Athy Road, Stradbally to the Kylebeg Housing estate”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will obtain a quotation for these works with a view to carrying out the works later this year depending on funding.

Notice of Motion No: 65/2022

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council remove the small number of trees that are overgrown and causing damage to the paths at the front of Church Avenue, Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location and will arrange to carry out these works following the bird nesting season.

Notice of Motion No: 66/2022

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council give an update on when The Orchard and Cill Beag Manor Housing Estates will be taken in charge”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised as follows: The Orchard: - Water Services have prepared the relevant documentation required by Irish Water for the taking in charge process. These and other documents / drawings when finalised will be submitted to Irish Water for their

consideration. On confirmation from Irish Water that there is no objection, the Council will then proceed to advertise the taking in charge process

Cill Beg Manor: -Repairs have been carried out to the footpaths and the public lighting. The plastering of a boundary wall remains to be finished. It is anticipated that this work will be completed within the next 4-6 weeks. On completion of the boundary wall and submission of “as constructed drawings” by the developer, the Council will then be in a position to proceed with the request to have the estate taken in charge.

Notice of Motion No: 67/2022

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

“That Laois County Council power hose and repair the footpath outside Vicarstown Church grounds as the crow droppings are making the paths very slippery and dangerous especially after rain”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for these works to be carried out.

Notice of Motion No: 68/2022

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

“That Laois County Council make safer the pedestrian crossing at the library in Stradbally as the view for traffic from the Timahoe side is obscured by the railings and a sign inside the railings”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Road Design will review issues on this pedestrian crossing and rectify it.

Notice of Motion No: 69/2022

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

“That Laois County Council carry out repairs on the crossroads junction turning for Shaen Hospital off the Portarlinton Road at The Heath”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that the Council will install additional stop signage and junction bollards at this crossroads. The Council is currently obtaining quotations for surfacing works on both sides of the crossroads and will carry out surfacing subject to the available funding. A request for a non-slip aspect to the finish was requested.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- (i) The following Notice of Motion was raised which was previously proposed and seconded by the Municipal District: -

Notice of Motion No: 27/2020

“That Laois County Council indicate when the Northern Relief Road will be named after Fr. John Fingleton”

The Members were advised that the matter was considered at a meeting of the Naming and Memorials Committee held on the 14th of April 2022 and that the committee recommended that the name be forwarded to the Municipal District for approval.

It was agreed that the Northern Relief Road be named after Fr. John Fingleton on the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan, seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming.

During a discussion on the above the Members requested that there be consultation with:

- the Elected Members on the design of the ‘plaque’ and with
- the elected members / local community as to where the ‘plaque’ is to be erected and when.

(ii) The following Notice of Motion was raised which was previously proposed and seconded by the Municipal District: -

Notice of Motion No: 74/2020

“That Laois County Council outline and commence the process of naming the access road around the Leisure Centre in Portarlinton after the late Mr. Niall McElwaine”

The Members were advised that the matter was considered at a meeting of the Naming and Memorials Committee held on the 14th of April 2022 and that the committee recommended that the name be forwarded to the Municipal District for approval.

It was agreed that the Access Road around the Leisure Centre in Portarlinton be named after the late Mr. Niall McElwaine on the proposition of Councillor Aidan Mullins seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming.

During a discussion on the above the Members requested that there be consultation with:

- the Elected Members on the design of the ‘plaque’ and with
- the elected members / local community as to where the ‘plaque’ is to be erected and when.

Councillor Paschal McEvoy sought an update on the opening of Doonane Playground. It was agreed Mr G Murphy would provide such an update to members at the earliest time possible time.

5. FIX DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlinton Municipal District would take place on the **15th of June 2022 at 2.00 p.m.**

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Padraig Fleming, Cathaoirleach

