

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL
DISTRICT MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18th OCTOBER 2017 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. Pádraig Fleming, M.C.C.
Mr. Tom Mulhall, M.C.C.
Mr. Ben Brennan, M.C.C.

APOLGOIES:

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance
Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff officer

**1. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF
GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT HELD
ON THE 20TH OF SEPTEMBER 2017**

On the proposal of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the minutes of the September meeting held on the 20th of September 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

3. 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.

A discussion ensued regarding progress on the old AIB site in Portarlington, the derelict property at Bracklone Street. Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance indicated that a further update would be given on derelict sites at the November meeting of the Municipal District.

The members complimented the Council, the Garda Síochána and all agencies on the response to Ex-Hurricane Ophelia and complimented the Council on the regular weather updates.

4. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 109/2017

Councillor Pádraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council remove the overgrown hedge and replace it with a suitable alternative at Heather Hill Square, Sleaty Road, Graiguecullen as vermin, etc., is leading to a Health & Safety issue for families who's front doors are less than 20 feet from the hedge”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Mr. Ian McCormack, S.E.O., will arrange to meet Councillor Fleming at this location to examine this issue. It was noted that there are 6 houses at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 110 & 113/2017 were taken together

Notice of Motion No: 110/2017

Councillor Pádraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give a detailed and up to date report on the issues for the taking in charge of the Rathmiles/Mount Henry/Windmill, etc., Estate at Killenard”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall.

Notice of Motion No: 113/2017

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council liaise with the relevant developers in relation to the taking in charge of Rathmoyles Grove/Rathmoyles Avenue, Windmill Terrace, Mounthenry Close and Mounthenry Drive, Killenard”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming.

The Members were advised that an application was received from the residents to take in charge these areas. This development was built under planning reference 02/543. Water is provided from a private bored well which services the Hotel in Killenard. As a result this estate is excluded under Section 8.0 of the Memorandum of Understanding for taking in charge residential estates connected to Irish Water owned or controlled water and wastewater network;

“Residential estates that are served by stand alone infrastructure such as wells, water treatment plants and wastewater treatment plants and associated pumping stations that were

provided by developers as part of housing developments and where such infrastructure cannot be connected to the water and wastewater networks for which Irish Water is responsible.”

The Developer could apply to IW to connect to the mains at Killenard. As constructed drawings need to be provided. All conditions of the Planning permission would need to be satisfied prior to taking in charge. Recent correspondence received will be forwarded to the Developer”.

The Members requested Laois County Council to liaise with the Developer with a view to having the public water supply connected to the estates. Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance agreed to have the matter checked.

Notice of Motion No: 111/2017

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“To ask Laois County Council to cut the hedges at the footpaths at Newtown down by the Credit Union towards Newtown Cross and on towards Crettyard GAA pitch where appropriate in the interest of Health & Safety for walkers and wheelchair users”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that hedge cutting has commenced at this location and will be completed within the next week.

Notice of Motion No: 112/2017

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council put in place traffic calming measures in Vicarstown Village to slow down the traffic driving through the village”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the site will be examined early next year and a report and drawings will be prepared subject to funding allocated for this.

Notice of Motion No: 114/2017

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council remove hedge and erect post and rail fence at the Alley Cross on the R419 similar to what was done on the opposite side of the cross in 2016”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that these works have been submitted to Road Design for inclusion on the list of Road Safety Remedial Measures Works for 2018. 2018 work locations will be prioritised and submitted to the Department for funding within the next two week. Mr Ormond agreed to complete the survey of the land required.

Notice of Motion No: 115/2017

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out drainage work at Rathcrea Cross, Vicarstown”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that it is expected that these works will be completed within the next two to three weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 116/2017

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the taking in charge of Cill Beg Manor housing estate Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that a meeting was held on site on Monday 9th October 2017 between the Developer, Droughill Builders and Laois County Council’s Building Control Officer. A CCTV survey of the estate has been completed and is to be provided to Laois County Council to examine. The Developer has advised that it is hoped to have the estate completed prior to the end of 2017. Subject to satisfactory CCTV survey and the remaining works being completed the taking in charge process can commence.

Members expressed concern in relation to open space/play area not being in place and boundary fences being wide open.

Notice of Motion No: 117/2017

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council remove the ditch from the new houses on the Stradbally Road Timahoe down past the school and replace it with a post and rail fence”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that these works have been submitted to Road Design for inclusion on the list of Road Safety Remedial Measures Works for 2018. 2018 work locations will be prioritised and submitted to the Department for funding within the next two week. In the interim a hedge cutting notice will be issued to the property owner.

Notice of Motion No: 118/2017

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the Taking in Charge of Springhill Court estate in Graiguecullen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council’s Building Control Officer is currently liaising with Carlow County Council to commence the taking in charge process. Members expressed concern regarding the delay and it was agreed that the matter be taken up with the Planning Department and that an update be available for the next meeting.

Notice of Motion No: 119/2017

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install additional public lights around the Leisure Centre and Community Centre in Portarlinton, in particular around the new car park area beside the Community Creche”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, A/S.E.E. has met with the ESB on site to determine its requirements for a public lighting connection. A cost estimate is currently being prepared and funding will be sought once costings have been determined. The Members expressed concern with regard to signage and road markings which needs to be installed in relation to the one way system at the Leisure & Community Centre. There is also a requirement for lights in the car park.

Notice of Motion No: 120/2017

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council indicate when footpath repairs will commence in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that pending the finalisation of funds from IPBMI, these repairs will be considered when preparing the 2018 budgets over the coming weeks.

It was noted that Jacobs Engineering, on behalf of Virgin Media Ireland, has made a submission to the Road Management office (RMO) regarding the use of Carriageway Narrow Trenching techniques which were proposed for use in Portarlinton amongst other urban locations . This document is currently being reviewed by the RMO. Members requested that Laois County Council co-ordinate this work when Virgin Media is carrying out its underground cabling works. It was noted that the works may commence in April 2018 subject to the outcome of discussions with the RMO.

Notice of Motion No: 121/2017

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council investigate blind patch at crossroads at Coolnaugh Cross, Kileen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that a stop bar and associated line markings have recently been completed at this location to ensure the priority road has been identified.

This location will continue to be reviewed over the next number of weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 122/2017

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council carry out repairs to the road in front of houses on Rahan Road, Ballylinan”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that this location can be included for consideration when determining the 2018 roads programme. 2018 works will be determined based on funding available and will also be subject to agreement with elected representatives.

Notice of Motion No: 123/2017

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council consider the danger of the River Douglas bursting its banks”

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 have this location inspected within the next week. It should be noted however that in-river works are not permitted after the 30th of September each year. Mr. Ormond also indicated that he would have the matter checked with Inland Fisheries Ireland.

Notice of Motion No: 124/2017

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the barriers on the Ballickmoyler Road, Portlaoise”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the barrier has been procured and will be installed within the next 3 to 4 weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 125/2017

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the Garendenny Lane, in Mayo as it is impassable at present”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that drainage works have commenced at this location and will be completed within the next two weeks. Mr Ormond agreed to meet Cllr Brennan on site to discuss a number of issues

Notice of Motion No: 126/2017

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the 80 km sign in the 50 km zone on the R431 outside Mayo School”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the 80kph signs are currently not within the 50kph zone. The 50 kph zone is expected to be extended as part of the speed limit review currently underway.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Members conveyed thanks to Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance and Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer in relation to the recent successful applications under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme.

Councillor Tom Mulhall raised the matter of the Local Improvement Scheme works and Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer indicated that tenders are currently being prepared for the works.

6. Time and date of next meeting:

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on **15th of November, 2017 at 2.00 p.m.**

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
John Moran, Cathaoirleach