

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2019 IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance
Mr. Philip McVeigh, 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 25TH OF SEPTEMBER 2019

On the proposal of Councillor Ben Brennan seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall, the minutes of the September meeting held on the 25th of September 2019 were confirmed as circulated.

Mr. Gerry Murphy gave the following update received from Mr. Gerry Ryan, Vacant Homes Officer (dated 9/10/2019) as follows in relation to Notice of Motion No: 87/2019 which was discussed at the September meeting of the MD.

Notice of Motion No: 87/2019

“That Laois County Council give an update on the derelict house in Bruach na hAbhainn, Killeen with a view to providing funds to remove this derelict two storey house and also an update on the other vacant houses in the same estate”

E-mail correspondence has been received from Ernst & Young who have been appointed as Agents for the properties. The correspondence from Ernst & Young states that it is their strategy to sell the properties and it is the intention of the Receivers to sell the properties in early course.

Mr. Michael Rainey, Director of Services, has instructed the Vacant Homes Officer to make an offer to purchase the properties in their current condition. In this regard, a valuation of the properties in their current condition has been requested and an offer will be made once the valuation is received.

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.

3. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 91/2019

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council raise the hard shoulder on the R445 outside the Gandon Inn to prevent flooding and vehicles being damaged due to the sudden rise from the road to the Gandon Car Park”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will carry out a level survey of the hardshoulder and carriageway in

relation to surface water drainage. Laois County Council would then propose to meet with the adjacent property owner to agree the scope of works.

Notice of Motion No: 92/2019

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council or the TII erect signs at Junction 16 for vehicles going to Stradbally to be directed to Broomfield Cross and on to the N80 and not by Ballydavis and the Rock of Dunamaise because these are local roads”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that all signage on Motorways and National Roads is managed by TII as per TII standards. TII does not install additional sign on request.

Councillor Tom Mulhall requested that Mr. Philip McVeigh, Senior Executive Engineer liaise with the Road Design Section to take up the matter again with the T.I.I.

Notice of Motion No: 93/2019

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council put in place safety measures on the R420 Kilmullen at the Junction L71763”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that this junction will be reviewed for safety improvement. Subject to funding approval works will be carried out at this location.

Councillor Mulhall requested that funding be applied for under the Road Safety Remedial Scheme for 2020.

Notice of Motion No: 94/2019

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the settlement of outstanding claims by motorists for damage to their vehicles at roadworks at Kilmullen outside Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the works at this location were undertaken by a contractor appointed by the Council. Any claims are the responsibility of the Contractor and their insurers and should be pursued through the contractors and their insurers.

Notice of Motion No: 95/2019

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the taking in charge of Clarmallagh Estate in The Swan”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has not received CCTV Survey or As-Constructed Drawings. A CCTV

Survey will be carried out prior to end of October. Depending on the results of this the taking in charge process will progress from there.

Notice of Motion No: 96/2019

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council arrange to have additional public lights and traffic calming measures at the dangerous turn off for Killenard on the Lea Road outside Portarlinton”

This Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that the Public Lighting section will review this location for additional lights and traffic calming measures.

It was noted that road markings are necessary at this location also and there is a similar situation at Inchacooley. Mr. Philip McVeigh, S.E.E. indicated that he would meet Councillor Mullins on both sites.

Notice of Motion No: 97/2019

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council erect Stop Signs at the T Junction at the Ballyharmon / Leagh Junction off the N80 Ballickmoyler / Sleaty Area as those motorists turning right on to the Leagh road have no visibility of cars coming from the Ballyharmon direction in the interest of safety”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that a stop sign and roadmarkings (stop lines and text) will be installed at the junction to improve safety.

Notice of Motion No: 98/2019

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on Cil an Oir Estate , Graiguecullen re: when the cappings on the boundary wall will be completed and also an update on the current flooding/ drainage issues in light of the recent flooding”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that the surface water gullies will be jetted out within the next 2 weeks. The estate was built under Planning Reference 03/534 by Lalor Builders Ltd. It has not been taken in charge. The Planning Department will try to make contract with the Developers to progress the repairs to the boundary wall and to commence the taking in charge process.

Notice of Motion No: 99/2019

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council resolve the issues at Oldleigh Bridge, Oldleigh, Ballickmoyler in particular the rough part of the road at the bridge as the underneath of cars are being scraped and also the 50 meters at the bridge which requires resolving”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to have the section of this road where the bridge crossing was installed resurfaced in the coming weeks. The remaining section can be included for surface dressing as part of the 2020 roads programme.

Notice of Motion No: 100/2019

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out a risk assessment on a dangerous tree on the N80 at Grange Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that the Roads section will review and if the tree needs to be removed a funding application will be made under the TII. Subject to funding approval works will be carried out at this location.

Councillor McEvoy requested that an update on this matter be available at the November MD Meeting.

Notice of Motion No: 101/2019

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council put a raised pedestrian crossing at Kerr’s Corner Timahoe”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is currently constructing a new boundary wall at this corner to improve the sightlines along the R426. A pedestrian crossing with flashing beacons is, also, proposed for this junction.

Notice of Motion No: 102/2019

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council erect a ‘No Parking sign at the wide stretch of road at Inch Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location and proposes to install hi-vis flexible bollards in this area to separate the side road exit lane from the main road. This will prevent vehicles parking in the exit lane and blocking the sightlines for traffic exiting from the side road.

Notice of Motion No: 103/2019

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council repair the fence around the perimeter of Sli na Mona Estate in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will carry out repairs to the perimeter fence by replacing the timber panels that have been removed or badly damaged.

Notice of Motion No: 104/2019

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council repair potholes between Killeen and Killabban and between Killabban and Ballyfoyle, Maganey”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange for these repairs to be carried out with the patching unit.

Notice of Motion No: 105/2019

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council cut back the trees and hedges at either side of the entrance to Rochfort Manor, Graiguecullen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to cut back the overgrowth on both sides of the entrance, to ensure that both footpaths are kept clear.

Notice of Motion No: 106/2019

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council make safe the junction in Arles as you head up to Ashfield”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that this junction will be included for a Safety Improvement work funding application 2020. Subject to funding approval remedial works will be carried out at this location.

Mr. Philip McVeigh, S.E.E. indicated that he would liaise with the Road Design Section to contact the T.I.I. in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 107/2019

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council make safe the junction at Molloy’s Cross, Tolerton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that this junction will be reviewed for safety improvement works. Subject to funding approval remedial works will be carried out at this location.

Mr. Philip McVeigh, S.E.E. indicated that he would liaise with the Road Design Section to meet the Councillor at this location.

Notice of Motion No: 108/2019

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council cut back the ditch at Ballyhide to make the junction safe for oncoming traffic as you turn up to Lower Rossmore”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council can arrange to have hedgecutting carried out at this location. A meeting to be arranged on site to agree the extent of hedgecutting required.

5. Time & Date/ for Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on **20th of November 2019** at **2.00 p.m.** This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Paschal McEvoy, Cathaoirleach