

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 18TH OF OCTOBER 2023 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN
CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT Mr. Ben Brennan (In the Chair)
Mr. Aidan Mullins M.C.C.
Mr. Pdraig Fleming, M.C.C.
Mr. Paschal McEvoy, M.C.C.
Mr. P.J. Kelly, M.C.C.
Ms. Aisling Moran, 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 the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 13th of September 2023

On the proposition of Councillor Aidan Mullins seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the September meeting of the Graiguecullen / Portarlington Municipal District held on the 13th of September 2023.

(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: 103/2023

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council commence the CPO process on the hedge at the junction at Castletown to make it safe”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council intend to re-engage with the landowner concerned with a view to reaching an agreement on the portion of land required to deliver safety improvements at this junction. Should agreement not be reached consideration will be given to alternative options including CPO.

The following Notice of Motions were taken together:-

Notice of Motion No: 104/2023 – Councillor Aisling Moran

“That Laois County Council engage with the TII and with a view to straightening the N80 in Ballickmoyler and installing speed tables to reduce the speed of traffic going through the village”

Notice of Motion No: 115/2023 – Councillor Padraig Fleming

“That Laois County Council / Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) be requested to carry out road realignment works of 240 metres in Ballickmoyler Village on the N80 coming from the Carlow side of the village and to take out and remove two dangerous bends entering the village. This will ensure that all traffic coming from the Strand Road will have a clear view of all traffic coming from the Carlow direction and will enable them to turn right on the N80 or cross the junction in a safe manner in the interest of all road users at this very busy junction”.

These Notice of Motions were seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will engage with TII to review the potential for improvements on the approach road to the village and at the junction itself. In advance of this engagement data will be gathered and surveys undertaken to allow a feasibility and options report be prepared to inform TII’s safety improvement scheme application process.

Notice of Motion No: 105/2023

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council consider re-surfacing the road from Cullenagh to Ballylinan as it is in very bad repair”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will consider this road for inclusion in the next road surfacing programme.

Notice of Motion No: 106/2023

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council pipe gullies to an existing drain in Loughglass, Ballylinan”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location and will arrange to carry out these drainage works within a month.

Notice of Motion No: 107/2023

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install more passing bays in Crossard, Wolfhill and fill in the drain beside the chapel”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will arrange to meet with the Elected Member on site to review the scope of works required.

Notice of Motion No: 108/2023

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council tar and chip outside the house in Ballinakill, Ballickmoyler as promised”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location and will arrange to carry out these works as soon as possible.

Notice of Motion No: 109/2023

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council review traffic controls i.e., road markings, signage etc, at Skeagh Cross outside Portarlinton to determine if additional steps are required to make the junction safer”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that the Road Design Section in conjunction with the MD Office will review the current provision and assess what additional measures are required at this junction.

Notice of Motion No: 110/2023

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council erect signage in suitable locations in Portarlinton to indicate that electric scooters are not permitted on footpaths”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that the use of scooters is not yet legal on any part of a public road under Irish law. However, the Road Traffic (Electric Scooter) Regulations 2023 is awaited following its referral to the EU for review. The regulations are expected to be introduced during Q4 2023.

The Regulators will define the technical specification and particulars for the use of e scooters. Following the introduction of the regulations along with the related proposed amendments to The Traffic (Signs) Regulations 1997, appropriate signage can be installed.

Notice of Motion No: 111/2023

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion: -

“That Laois County Council give a list of designated derelict sites from the Register in Portarlinton and show the level of enforcement action taken by the Council for each site”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that there are two derelict sites located at Main Street (Post Office & Old AIB), 2 at Bracklone Street and 1 at No. 5 Foxcroft Street. All sites have been levied. 4 of the sites are under consideration for compulsory purchase.

Notice of Motion No: 112/2023

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install a yellow box at Main Street, Stradbally at the entrance to Supervalu”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Road Design Office will liaise with the TII Signs & Lines section to investigate the possibility of installing a yellow box outside Supervalu.

Notice of Motion No: 113/2023

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update as to when the footpath / cycle lane from Timahoe Village to the GAA Grounds is due to commence”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that The NTA are targeting schemes in highly populated areas where maximum benefit can be achieved from investment funding. This scheme also does not meet the criteria for an Active Travel scheme due to the current speed limit of 80km/h and the low level of daily usage.

Councillor P Mc Evoy indicated that €200,000 had been approved for this Scheme in 2021 and that it was due to commence last October. He subsequently advised the GAA Club that the works would commence in 2023. Mr G Murphy advised that he would get a reply for the members in relation to this issue.

Notice of Motion No: 114/2023

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council replace the fence at the Grove at the junction of Rathmore Road onto the Main Street in Stradbally”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location and the property is privately owned. The landowner would be responsible for repair and replacement of the boundary fence at this property.

Councillor P Mc Evoy indicated that the Council had removed the wall and put up a fence. It was agreed to check this further.

Notice of Motion No: 116/2023

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council arrange to maximise extra car parking spaces in Rahin Wood Estate, Ballylinan as with the growth in the number of people with cars in the estate there is very limited spaces for parking which often results in people having to park their cars on the public road”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location and will obtain quotations for the provision of additional carparking spaces in Rahin Wood estate.

Mr P Mc Veigh further advised that he expected to have quotations next week and that the works may have to be carried out on a phased basis.

Notice of Motion No: 117/2023

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council arrange to cut back / reduce the height of the laurel hedge on the footpath between Heather Hill Estate and Heather Hill Square in the interest of Health and Safety”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location and will arrange for these works to be carried out.

Notice of Motion No: 118/2023

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

“That Laois County Council give an update on the potential footpath cycle lane that was proposed and seconded in September 2022 from Killenard National School to O’ Dempsey’s GAA grounds”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that the NTA is targeting schemes in highly populated areas where maximum benefit can be achieved from investment funding. This scheme does not meet the criteria for an Active Travel Scheme due to the current speed limit of 80km/h and low level of daily usage.

Councillor P J Kelly stated that the low level of usage was due to there not being a footpath in place.

Mr G Murphy indicated that he would review the list of Schemes in the MD that were not deemed eligible for Active Travel funding. Corrig Wood to Portarlinton and Ballybrittas village to Rathdare would be included on the list.

Notice of Motion No: 119/2023

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

“That Laois County Council investigate the possibility of creating a double lane exit from the National school in Emo onto the public road”.

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

Notice of Motion No: 120/2023

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

“That Laois County Council give an update on progress if any on the sewage facilities that are badly needed for Ballybrittas village”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Uisce Eireann do not have plans to provide sewerage infrastructure in Ballybrittas.

Councillor P J Kelly advised that there was a lack of a proper sewerage system in Ballybrittas. A general discussion was held with a number of the members contributing. Mr G Murphy advised that Councillor Kelly should contact the Director of Services, Mr S Walton in relation to the issue.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

It was noted that no correspondence had been received since the last meeting of the Municipal District.

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 November 2023 at 2.00 p.m.**

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Ben Brennan, M.C.C. , Cathaoirleach
