

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 21ST OF JUNE 2023 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT Mr. Paschal McEvoy (In the Chair)
Mr. Aidan Mullins M.C.C.
Mr. Padraig Fleming, M.C.C.
Mr. Ben Brennan, 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 May meeting of the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District held on the 17th of May 2023

On the proposition of Councillor Padraig Fleming seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the May meeting of the Graiguecullen / Portarlington Municipal District held on the 17th of May 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: 67/2023

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an explanation as to why shrubbery was not planted between Barrow Vale and Graigue na hAbhainn as it was part of the planning conditions”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that under planning permission 18/318, consent was granted to modify previously granted Planning Application Reg. Ref. 08/1277 & 14/396. 18/318 included permission for a wall around the perimeter of the site. Boundary planting was not included in this permission nor required as a condition of the grant.

Notice of Motion No: 68/2023

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the hedge that is falling down on the road between Pedigree Corner and the N80”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that the Council has written to the Ballylehane Group Water Scheme requesting them to engage with a consultant to investigate this issue and to provide a report to the Council. No report has been received from the Group Water Scheme to date. It was agreed that Councillor B Brennan would meet Mr A Barrett on site.

Notice of Motion No: 69/2023

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update as to when work will commence on the Sleaty Roundabout into a private property”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that the land transfer required to facilitate the proposed works is ongoing. Once this process is completed, the relevant parties will be provided with an update regarding the scheduling of the works.

Notice of Motion No: 70/2023

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council contact the HSE Property Department to determine their plans for the former Health Clinic on French Church Street in Portarlinton as it has been vacant for many years”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has contacted the Property Section of the HSE in relation to its plans for this building. A response is awaited on same.

Notice of Motion No: 71/2023

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council review its decision to remove the parking spaces, including a Disabled Parking Space, from the Market Square in Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that under Planning permission 20/346 consent was granted for a residential development with access through the north-western corner of Market Square with the consequent loss of 11 car parking spaces. The developer has provided 12 car parking spaces immediately inside the entrance to Vignoles Gardens. The loss of the car parking spaces within the square was required to provide safe access/egress to the housing development and to avoid conflict with cars parking in this area. The provision of car parking immediately adjacent to the square is considered satisfactory. The remainder of the square (outside the access roadway) will be utilised for public realm improvement works.

Notice of Motion No: 72/2023

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council raise the pedestrian crossing beside Murphy’s shop at the Market Square in Portarlinton in the interests of safety”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will survey the pedestrian crossing to see if it is within specification. The Council is also carrying out a county wide review of the standard of pedestrian crossings and this crossing is included in the review.

It was also agreed to review the pedestrian crossing on Frenchchurch Street.

Notice of Motion No: 73/2023

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council address the flooding on the Portlaoise Road, Timahoe outside Old Mill”

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

Notice of Motion No: 74/2023

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council meet the residents at The Orchard Housing Estate, Stradbally to discuss necessary works as a result of the recent taking in charge”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council would be pleased to meet with the residents of the estate to discuss these works.

Notice of Motion No: 75/2023

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council resurface the back lane at Church Avenue, Stradbally. This lane was partially resurfaced recently”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that the recent surfacing works were carried out by the Housing Developer who is currently constructing the new housing estate on the other side of the back lane. The Housing Developer installed a new ESB cable duct in a trench along a section of the lane (for power supply to the new housing estate) and they reinstated their trench excavation for the width of the lane and for the extent of their trench. P Mc Veigh agreed to meet the residents.

Notice of Motion No: 76/2023

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair sections of the footpaths in Mount Clare Court, Graiguecullen”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will inspect the footpaths in the estate to determine the extent of repair works required.

Notice of Motion No: 77/2023

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out verge repairs as identified near the Luggacurren Area”

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 before the end of June.

Notice of Motion No: 78/2023

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council resolve the flooding on the road near Luggacurren Community Hall”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. 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: 79/2023

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out footpath repairs on the R429 in Killeen village adjacent to Farrell’s pub”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this footpath adjacent to the R429 in Killeen. New kerbing, incorporating a drainage channel, has now been completed along the front of this property, in preparation for the road surfacing works that are commencing this week.

Notice of Motion No: 80/2023

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council install additional road markings in Ballickmoyler on the hard shoulder/slip lane as you join the N80 from The Strand Road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this junction and is currently arranging to have double yellow lines installed along the kerb line in the slip lane to prevent parking vehicles blocking the safe exit of traffic out on to the N80 from The Strand roadside.

Notice of Motion No: 81/2023

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out footpath repairs in Ballylinan adjacent to Leylandii Drive where water is ponding”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has inspected this location and will arrange to carry out these works in the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 82/023

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

“That Laois County Council consider installing permanent traffic lights on the N80 at Oakvale cemetery and the road off the N80 catering for the residents there”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council Road Design will investigate the possibility of traffic lights at N80 Oakvale Cemetery with TII. TII have overall responsibility for the national road and any development or improvements will require TII approval.

The Members requested that a letter issue to the TII in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 83/2023

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

“That Laois County Council consider installing extra safety railings around some of the more dangerous areas on the Rock of Dunamase”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that The Rock of Dunamase is owned by the Office of Public Works. Laois County Council will advise them of the Member’s concerns.

Notice of Motion No: 84/2023

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

“That Laois County Council ensure that the speed table due for installing on the Mountmellick side of the primary school in Emo is put in place before the new school year starts in September”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is currently engaging with our public lighting contractor to arrange the installation of the cable ducting and the new lighting columns that are required for this speed table location.

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/Portarlington Municipal District would take place on the **13th of September 2023 at 2.00 p.m.**

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Paschal McEvoy, Cathaoirleach

