

**MINUTES OF THE GRAIGUECULLEN/PORTARLINGTON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2017 in ÁRAS AN
CHONTAE AT 2.00 p.m.**

PRESENT Mr. Paschal McEvoy M.C.C., Cathaoirleach
Mr. Aidan Mullins M.C.C,
Mr. Pdraig Fleming M.C.C,
Mr. John Moran M.C.C,
Mr. Ben Brennan M.C.C.
Mr. Tom Mulhall, M.C.C.

IN ATTENDANCE Ms. Julie Bergin, Financial Management Accountant
Mr. John Ormond, A/Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Michelle McCormack, Staff Officer

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the December Meeting held on the 14th of December 2016

On the proposal of Councillor John Moran seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming, the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th of December 2016 were confirmed as circulated.

2. Road Progress Report

The report was noted and the members complimented the Council on the works that had been completed since the last meeting.

A discussion ensued regarding Notice of Motion No: 152/2016 in relation to derelict sites in Portarlington. It was noted that an assessment of the properties in Portarlington commenced in January 2017. An update was sought by Councillor Aidan Mullins on same.

3. Consideration of Cathaoirleach's Reception – Ms. Nicole Turner

A discussion took place in relation to the proposal by Councillor Aidan Mullins for a Cathaoirleach's Reception for Ms. Nicole Turner who represented Ireland in the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio. It was noted that the matter was referred to the Municipal District from the Corporate Policy Group. On the proposition of Councillor Aidan Mullins seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members agreed that the matter be referred back to the Corporate Policy Group to consider a Laois County Council Civic Reception for her in recognition of her achievements.

4. Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion No: 01/2017

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out repairs to the bridge on Killeen Road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that works have commenced at this location and will be completed over the coming weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 02/2017

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council investigate the drainage issue at Maganey Road”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that Mr. John Ormond, Area Engineer will investigate to determine the cause of the drainage issue.

Notice of Motion No: 03/2017

Councillor John Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council investigate the flooding issue on the R430 – between Graiguecullen school and the roundabout where water flows”

This Notice of motion was seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council propose to raise the kerbing locally at the driveway to prevent water flowing into the driveway.

Notice of Motion No: 04/2017

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council put up signs at Pools Bridge Stradbally warning of road narrowing”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that new signs for this location will be procured and will be installed once available.

Notice of Motion No: 05/2017

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out an investigation regarding flooding outside a house at Park Lower, Stradbally and address the problem”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will carry out a CCTV survey on the existing drainage pipe at this location to determine the cause of the flooding.

Notice of Motion No: 06/2017

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out a public lighting audit at Doonane Terrace housing estate at Donnane, Crettyard and if necessary add extra lighting”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Members were advised that Road design will review this location. Installation of new lights at this location will be subject to funding being available.

Notice of Motion No: 07/2017

Councillor Pdraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the taking in charge of Gracefield Manor Ballylinan, the issues remaining and the timescale involved”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has tried to make contact with Mr Damien Chivers, Belfast office of Capita Assests, who is now responsible for this estate. A response is awaited. Further attempts to contact Mr Chivers will be made this week and failing that, it is intended to request that the bond be paid to Laois County Council so it can tender for the remaining works.

Mr. Aidan Mullins referred to the following reply from the April 2016 Municipal District meeting:-

The bond is with the Receiver (Capital Assets) who tendered for the outstanding works to be completed. The successful company was not appointed as the bond was purchased by another bank. We are awaiting a decision on whether the tender appointment will proceed or whether the bond will be released to Laois County Council. The person dealing with this matter has since left Capital Assets and this has delayed the process. Contact is ongoing with the company.

Councillor Mullins requested that Laois County Council ask for the bond to be paid to the Council as a matter of urgency in order for the estate to be taken in charge.

Notice of Motion No: 08/2017

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council re- erect the sign for Luggacurren on the N 80-462 at the junction of L 3839-47 because for people who are driving from the Stradbally direction there is no sign for Luggacurren and its leading to confusion”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that this item has been referred to TII for inclusion on its maintenance schedule.

Notice of Motion No: 09/2017

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give a timescale for putting 2 Lay-Byes on the road up the hill from Luggacurren Village on the L7853-0”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that 2 lay-byes will be created at the previously agreed locations. These works will be completed within the next 8 to 10 weeks.

Notice of Motion No: 10/2017

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the plans to re-design the entrance to the Oakvale Road off the N80 near Oakvale Cemetery in Stradbally”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that meetings were held on site with Councillors together with the Senior Engineer and Road Design representatives. The initial proposal for a complete realignment of the side road was rejected by residents and other options are being explored. It is not a simple problem to address and will cost a significant amount of money due to level differences and the need to achieve adequate sightlines. Improved pedestrian access to the cemetery also needs to be provided as part of any the scheme. Design issues under consideration ongoing. Further discussions also to be had with TII.

Councillor Tom Mulhall requested that this be re-visited. Councillor Paschal McEvoy indicated that there is a major problem at this location with the pedestrian crossing with people being unable to access the cemetery.

Notice of Motion No: 11/2017

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council improve the surface on the road from the Rock of Dunamaise to Eamon Whelan’s junction”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that this road can be included for consideration in the 2017 roads programme subject to available funding and agreement with elected members.

Notice of Motion No: 12/2017

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council liaise with Inland Fisheries and National Park and Wildlife to ensure that the Council can carry out maintenance work on the River Barrow this year”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is currently liaising with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Inland Fisheries Ireland regarding maintenance works on the River Barrow for 2017.

The Members were also advised that this has now been referred to Inland Fisheries.

Notice of Motion No: 13/2017

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council change the bottle banks at Graiguecullen, Kileshin, Newtown, and Arles immediately to proper recycling bring banks. People are breaking the locks and throwing bags of rubbish into them. Cameras need to be installed to catch the people dumping”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming. The Members were advised that Laois County Council plans to change the type of bottle bank used at all of its 45 bring bank sites on a phased basis over the next 3-5 years as funding becomes available. The average cost of replacement is €2,500 per site which can vary depending on a number of site factors including the current location, bin types, existing hard standing and existing signage. Funding to replace 20 bring sites has been allocated for 2017 which will ensure a strong start to the proposed replacement programme.

The new bottle banks proposed are that of a traditional multibank unit. They have a larger capacity than our existing bottle banks and as such do not lend themselves to misuse by unscrupulous individuals. The replacement of existing sites is being prioritised

based on usage with the sites having the largest turnover of recyclable materials being replaced soonest.

Graiguecullen, Newtown and Killeshin will be replaced in 2017, whilst Arles will be replaced in the coming years as and when funding becomes available in accordance with its ranking on the priority list.

Laois County Council has purchased a number of mobile cameras which are being used at illegal waste hot spots. These cameras are moved on a continuous basis to deter illegal dumping. The cameras will also be used at bring bank locations to increase awareness and prevent illegal dumping.

A lengthy discussion ensued during which Members expressed concern in relation to illegal dumping. Name and Shame was discussed as was an increase in fines. The Members complimented all the staff and in particular the Litter Wardens for their ongoing work in this area.

Notice of Motion No: 14/2017

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council carry out safety measures including the removal of an existing wall and replacement with an open post and rail fence at the junction of the Strand Road L7894 with the R430. The junction is blind and people have to come out on the R430 a fair distance before they can see oncoming traffic because of the wall”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Members were advised that a meeting on site will be arranged with Cllr Brennan to investigate this issue. Agreement on a scope of works will be required with the landowner before any works can be considered. On agreement this site can then be included as a candidate for Low Cost Safety Improvement Works.

Notice of Motion No: 15/2017

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council repair potholes within Barrowvale and the Vale housing schemes which are a danger to cyclists and motorists. The light broken some years ago in the scheme needs urgent repair. Also the grass verge outside the Barrowvale housing scheme on the main Portlaoise road should be cut by the Local Authority”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that pothole repairs will be completed as part of routine maintenance works.

The public lighting issue has been referred to Road Design and the public lighting maintenance contractor for repair. The grass margin will be included in the grass cutting programme.

Notice of Motion No: 16/2017

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council prepare a scheduled programme of works for a footpath upgrade in Portarlinton, based on the recent survey they carried out”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that a cost estimate has been prepared for each section of footway identified as requiring repair or replacement. A programme of works, based on a priority basis, will be prepared and implemented subject to the necessary funding being available.

The work of Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance was acknowledged in this programme of works. Councillor Aidan Mullins requested that a timeline be given for the works and that areas be prioritised.

Notice of Motion No: 17/2017

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council commence the implementation of the Report by Consultant, Dr. Christy Boylan, on the proposed landscape improvements for the upgrade of Portarlinton”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that work continues on finalising the draft report for landscape improvements in Portarlinton. A programme of works will be drawn up for discussion with the Tidy Towns Committee in due course.

Councillor Aidan Mullins commended Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance for initiating this report and requested that the report, when completed, be made available to the public.

Notice of Motion No: 18/2017

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on the taking in charge of Whitethorn Grove estate in Ballylinan”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. The Members were advised that a costing report is required from Water Services regarding the upgrade/repairs required to the Pumping station at Whitethorn Grove.

This has been requested and a reply is required prior to commencing the process for taking the estate in charge.

4. Correspondence

No correspondence was received.

5. Schedule of Roadworks Programme 2017

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall, the schedule of Roadworks Programme was unanimously agreed for 2017 as presented by Mr. John Ormond, Area Engineer.

5. Time & Date for next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on the 22nd of March 2017 at 2.00 p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Paschal McEvoy M.C.C. Cathaoirleach