

**MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON THE 29TH
NOVEMBER 2004 IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE AT 11.00 A.M.**

PRESENT:	Councillor	William Aird	In the Chair
ALSO PRESENT:	Councillors	John Bonham Ray Cribbin James Deegan John Joe Fennelly David Goodwin Jerry Lodge Dick Miller Michael Moloney Brendan Phelan Brian Stanley Michael Turley	Paddy Bracken James Daly Bill Delaney Catherine Fitzgerald Thomas Jacob Seamus McDonald Paul Mitchell Councillor John Moran Michael Rice Mary Sweeney

Apologies: Councillor Larry Kavanagh
Councillor Michael Lalor
Councillor Martin Phelan

IN ATTENDANCE:

Messrs Gerry Gibson County Manager, Martin Daly, A/Director of Services, John Daly, Director of Services, Louis Brennan, Director of Services, Gerry Murphy, A/Head of Finance, Gerry Gillen, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Affairs, Ms. Marie O'Hora, A/Assistant Staff Officer.

1048. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18TH OCTOBER 2004

The Minutes of Meeting held on 18th October were discussed. The following was agreed:-

- (a) Members raised the issue in relation to the second percolation test and it was noted that an explanation would issue in relation to the charges.
- (b) The issue regarding the taking in charge of Cullenagh Lane was raised and it was agreed that this matter would again be included on the Agenda for the December Meeting.

(c) It was agreed that the Minutes would be amended to reflect the approval of the members to the appointment of members from the sectoral groups to the Strategic Policy Committees

The Minutes were confirmed.

1049. ROAD IN KEEOLOGUE, KILLESKIN

The members were advised that it was proposed to discuss this particular issue in conjunction with Item 8 on the Agenda.

1050. SIGNAGE ON HEATH MAYFIELD BY PASS

The County Manager advised the members that this issue has been referred to the National Roads Authority and officials from Laois County Council will meet with officials from the NRA in the coming days to discuss same.

A further report will be available to the members at the December Meeting.

1051. APPOINT ONE ADDITIONAL MEMBER TO THE BOARD OF MOUNTMELICK DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

The members were advised that Laois County Council nominate two members to the Board of Mountmellick Development Association Social Inclusion Ltd. who remain on the Board for the life of the Council.

At the monthly meeting held on 26th July 2004 Councillor David Goodwin was elected to the position and a further vacancy was yet to be filled.

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed that Councillor Michael Moloney be appointed to the Board of Mountmellick Development Association Social Inclusion Ltd.

This was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken and agreed.

1050. CONFIRMATION OF REPORT OF SEPTEMBER PORTLAOISE AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney the Report of the September Portlaoise Area Committee Meeting of Laois County Council was noted.

1051. FIX DATE FOR BUDGET MEETING

- (a) BUDGET MEETING (IN COMMITTEE)**
- (b) STATUTORY BUDGET MEETING**

The members agreed the following dates:-

Budget Meeting (In Committee) - 17th December 2004

Statutory Budget Meeting - 20th December 2004.

1052. ACTION PLAN FOR SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING 2004-2008

Mr. D. Byrne, Director of Services advised the members that this action plan which was previously discussed at the Council Meeting held on 31st May 2004, had been submitted to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government for consideration.

A meeting had subsequently taken place with Department Officials at which they had indicated broad support for the plan.

Mr. Byrne, Director of Services, gave a brief synopsis of the plan and advised that the members that it was based on current needs and may be subject to review over the next four years.

The members welcomed the plan and a lengthy discussion ensued.

On the proposition of Councillor Brian Stanley, seconded by Councillor James Daly the members unanimously noted and agreed The Action Plan for Social and Affordable Housing 2004 -2008.

1053. TAKING IN CHARGE OF UPPER CRUBBIN GROUP WATER SCHEME

On the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney, seconded by Councillor Dick Miller the members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of Upper Crubbin Group Water Scheme.

1054. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 IN RESPECT OF:-

- (a) DISPOSAL OF .278 ACRES AT RATHSARAN EGLISH, RATHDOWNEY TO THE REPRESENTATIVE CHURCH BODY FOR THE SUM OF €100.00**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly, seconded by Councillor Michael Rice the members unanimously agreed to the disposal of .278 acres

at Rathsaran Eglish, Rathdowney to the Representative Church Body for the sum of €100.00 plus legal costs.

(b) DISPOSAL OF THE FREEHOLD PROPERTY AT 65 O'MOORE PLACE, PORTLAOISE, FOR THE SUM OF €127.00

On the proposition of Councillor Brian Stanley, seconded by Councillor Tom Jacob the members unanimously agreed to the disposal of the freehold interest in property at 65 O'Moore Place, Portlaoise, for the sum of €127.00.

1055. REVIEW OF THE MULTI-ANNUAL ROADWORKS PROGRAMME 2005

The members were advised that the existing Multi-Annual Roadworks Programme expires at the end of 2005. The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government have requested Local Authorities to review their current programme and in this regard, additional roads have been included in the programme for 2005. The programme for 2006-2008 will be produced in 2005.

This matter was discussed in detail by the members. The issue of roads which were damaged during the construction of the Heath Mayfield and the provision of funding by the NRA for the repair of same was raised.

Mr. Martin Daly, A/Director of Services advised the members that the draft report had been submitted to the Department and it is expected that an allocation would be advised to the Council in February 2005.

The members agreed that this issue be referred to the Area Meetings for further consideration and a further report would be brought back to a future meeting of the Council.

1056. PROVISION OF TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES ON THE WELL ROAD, PORTLAOISE.

The members were circulated with a report outlining the proposed traffic calming measures for the Well Road, Portlaoise. The members were advised that it is intended to carry out the works involved before the end of the current year.

The members agreed to proceed with the works as outlined.

1057. ROAD TRAFFIC (SPEED LIMITS)(COUNTY OF LAOIS) BYE-LAWS 2004

The members were circulated with the Speed Limit Bye Laws which were originally presented to Council in March 2004. A number of suggestions had been raised by the members, some of which required the approval of the NRA. However, approval had not been received from the NRA for the changes requested.

A number of issues were raised by the members and replied to by Mr. Michael O'Hora, Senior Executive Engineer, Road Design.

On the proposal of Councillor Jerry Lodge, seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney the Bye Laws were adopted.

1058. NOTICES OF MOTION

NOTICE OF MOTION 341/04

Councillor Paul Mitchell proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That a local area plan be drawn up for Killenard as a matter of urgency"

The motion was seconded by Councillor Ray Cribbin.

The members were advised that a settlement plan for the village of Killenard was currently being considered by the Forward Planning Section in the context of the overall County Development Plan. There would be an opportunity for submissions to be made in relation to settlement plans during the statutory Development Plan Period.

The settlement plan would identify a development boundary for the adequate development of the village and would couple with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

NOTICE OF MOTION 343/04

Councillor James Deegan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That Laois County Council call on the Office of Public Works to proceed with the conservation works at the Rock of Dunamaise as an allocation of some two million Euro was made in June 2003 for this project under the National Development Plan. No works outlined for this project has commenced at Dunamaise".

The motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran.

It was agreed that a letter issue to Minister Tom Parlon of Office of Public Works in this regard.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DIRECTOR
CORPORATE AFFAIRS

