

**MINUTES OF APRIL MONTHLY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT
ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE ON THE 28TH OF APRIL 2008**

PRESENT:	Councillors	John Moran	In the Chair
		Willie Aird	John Bonham
		Patrick Bracken	Ray Cribbin
		James Daly	James Deegan
		David Goodwin	Geraldine Delaney
		J.J. Fennelly	Catherine Fitzgerald
		Thomas Jacob	Laurence Kavanagh
		Michael Lalor	Jerry Lodge
		Dick Miller	Seamus McDonald
		Michael Moloney	Thomas Jacob
		Brendan Phelan	Martin Phelan
		Michael Rice	Brian Stanley
		Mary Sweeney	John D. Turley
		Paul Mitchell	

IN ATTENDANCE:

Messers Peter Carey, County Manager, Gerry Gibson, Director of Services, Declan Byrne, Director of Services, Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, John Daly, Director of Services, Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services, Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Senior Executive Officer & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary

43. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

On the proposal of Councillor Ray Cribbin seconded by Councillor John Bonham, it was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the March meeting held on the 31st of March 2008 as circulated be adopted and signed.

44. REPORT ON PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION SPC MEETING HELD ON THE 3RD OF MARCH 2008 FOR NOTING

The Members unanimously noted the report on the planning and transportation SPC meeting held on the 3rd of March 2008

45. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 – DISPOSAL OF COUNCIL’S EQUITY (SHARED OWNERSHIP SCHEME) – PROPERTY AT 7 CORRIG LODGE, PORTARLINGTON

On the proposition of Councillor Ray Cribbin seconded by Councillor John Bonham, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of the Council’s equity interest in 7 Corrig Lodge, Portarlington to for a consideration of €37,531.57.

46. VOLUNTARY HOUSING PROGRAMME – COMPLETION OF MORTGAGE AGREEMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 6 OF THE HOUSING (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1992

(a) Laois County Council and Cluid Housing Association

On the proposition of Councillor Ray Cribbin seconded by Councillor Paul Mitchell, the Members unanimously agreed to the completion of a mortgage agreement between Laois County Council and Cluid Housing Association, for an amount not exceeding €7,103,559 for the construction of 40 No. (34. No. 3 or more bedroomed houses and 6 No. 2 bedroomed houses) units at Clanmalire, Portarlington, Co. Laois under the Capital Loan and Subsidy Scheme

(b) Laois County Council and Cluid Housing Association

On the proposition of Councillor Brendan Phelan seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the completion of a mortgage agreement between Laois County Council and Cluid Housing Association for an amount not exceeding €2,082,301 for the purchase of 9 No. (3 or more bedroomed houses) units at Ossory Court, Borris-in-Ossory, Co. Laois under the Capital Loan and Subsidy Scheme

(c) Laois County Council and Owenass Housing Association for the Intellectually Disabled

On the proposition of Councillor Patrick Bracken seconded by Councillor David Goodwin, the Members unanimously agreed to the completion of a mortgage between Laois County Council and Owenass Housing Association for the Intellectually Disabled, for an amount not exceeding €970,000 for the construction of a 6 bed unit for intellectually disabled people at Irishtown, Mountmellick, Co. Laois under the Capital Assistance Scheme.

47. DRAFT POLICY ON THE PROVISION OF BRING BANKS – AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ENVIRONMENT & WATER SERVICES S.P.C. ON THE 3RD MARCH 2008

The Members were circulated with the draft policy on the provision of Bring Banks which has been approved by the Environmental and Water Services Strategic Policy Committee. The Members complimented Laois County Council on the Bring Banks around the County. However, concern was expressed in relation to the frequency of emptying the banks and when bring banks are full people are inclined to leave recyclable products beside the banks. It was also suggested that Bring Banks be provided in housing estates and that these be co-funded by the Council. It was also requested that extra litter bins be provided around the County and that camera surveillance be increased.

Compliments were paid to Mr. John Daly, Director of Services and his staff and Mr. Daly indicated that a tremendous amount of work is ongoing in this area. He thanked the Members for supporting the policy.

On the proposition of Councillor John Bonham seconded by Councillor Michael Moloney, the Members unanimously agreed the draft policy on the provision of Bring Banks.

48. 2007 UPDATE IN RELATION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN

The Members were circulated with the 2007 update in relation to the implementation of the Council's Corporate Plan 2004 – 2009. The County Manager indicated that this is based on the overall business plan and sets out our progress over various headings such as improvements in service delivery to our customers, P.M.D.S., and staff training and education. The Members paid compliment to staff in all sections in relation to service delivery.

49. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2007

The Members were circulated with the draft Annual Report 2007 and on the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney seconded by Councillor James Deegan, the Members unanimously agreed same.

50. CORRESPONDENCE

The Members were circulated with the following items of correspondence:-

- (i) Acknowledgement from the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, in relation to Notice of Motion No: 30/07
- (ii) Response from the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, in relation to the delivery of various sewerage schemes in County Laois which was discussed at the September 2007 meeting

- (iii) Acknowledgement from the Office of the Minister for Education and Science, in relation to the special needs sector in County Laois which was discussed at the March 2008 meeting
- (iv) Response from the Electoral Boundary Committee in relation to Laois County Council's submission regarding the boundaries of Carlow town for the purposes of elections. Councillor James Daly expressed his disappointment with the response and requested that we write directly to the Minister to investigate if this anomaly can be addressed.

51. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 08/08

Councillor Brian Stanley proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council notes the increasing use of agency workers and that many workers from home and abroad are being re-directed to agencies before they can find employment. These agencies offer less money and fewer entitlements than workers would receive if they were directly employed. We understand from Trade Unions have raised concerns about agency workers being exploited by employers to undercut current wage and entitlement agreements. We acknowledge that 30 years of workers’ rights legislation is long overdue in this area and we call on the Houses of the Oireachtas to introduce legislation based on the principle of equal treatment, as a matter of urgency. In addition, we call on the Government to support the introduction of the long promised EU Directive on Temporary Agency Workers”

This motion was seconded by Councillor Laurence Kavanagh. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Government in this regard.

Notice of Motion No : 09/08

Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council inform the Members of the position regarding the attendance of the Laois Fire Brigade Services at the scene of road traffic accidents”

This motion was seconded by Councillor Brian Stanley. The Members were informed that the HSE Midland Region, i.e. Counties Laois, Offaly, Westmeath & Longford operates a central call-out for it's ambulances from a centre in Tullamore. In recent years the practice has developed whereby every time a request for an ambulance is received from the scene of a road traffic accident at the centre, the centre calls the nearest fire brigade automatically. This practice has resulted in fire brigades attending road traffic accidents where their services are not requested from the scene and where they are not needed at all. Discussions have taken place between

the Chief Fire Officers and the Chief Ambulance Officer to see if calls can be 'filtered' at the ambulance call-out centre so that fire brigades are not mobilised except when needed. Laois County Council have emphasised that where there is any uncertainty about whether the fire brigade is needed the Ambulance Service should always 'default' to calling the brigade.

52. The Lisbon Treaty

The Members were circulated with an explanatory document on the Lisbon Treaty, for their information which was discussed briefly.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Director of Corporate Affairs