

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ARAS AN  
CHONTAE ON THE 18<sup>TH</sup> OF APRIL 2011**

**PRESENT:**    **Councillors**    James Deegan            In the Chair  
   Rotimi Adebari        William Aird  
   John Bonham            Pat Bowe  
   Paddy Bracken        Ben Brennan  
   James Daly             John Joe Fennelly  
   Catherine Fitzgerald    Pdraig Fleming  
   David Goodwin        Alan Hand  
   John King                Michael Lalor  
   Seamus McDonald     Paul Mitchell  
   John Moran              Tom Mulhall  
   Brendan Phelan        Martin Phelan  
   Mary Sweeney         Kathleen O' Brien  
   Jerry Lodge

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor    Ray Cribbin

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**53.      CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THE 28<sup>th</sup> OF MARCH 2011**

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Minutes of the March Meeting of Laois County Council held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2011 were confirmed as circulated.

**54.      VOTE OF SYMPAHTY**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Michael Lalor and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Burroughs family on the tragic death of Diane.

**55.      WELCOME TO STUDENTS**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the New Directions group to the Council Meeting.

## **56. ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2010 INCLUDING APPROVAL OF OVER-EXPENDITURE AND TRANSFERS TO CAPITAL**

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance briefed the Members on the Annual Financial Statement for 2010. Mr. Murphy advised that the Council's capital position had improved significantly from a debit balance of €4,951,565 at the end of 2009 to a reduced debit balance of €1,788,317 at the end of 2010. On the revenue side, a surplus of €2,104 was achieved by 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2010. He advised that this is a very positive outcome for the Council particularly having regard to the various budgetary difficulties during 2010. The Head of Finance also informed Members of any over-expenditure which had occurred to which approval was required and outlined details of same.

The Head of Finance extended thanks to Ms. Julie Bergin, Financial Accountant & all the staff in the Finance Department for the significant work carried out in the preparation of the A.F.S.

On the proposition of Councillor John Moran seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously adopted the Annual Financial Statement 2010 including approval of over-expenditure and transfers to capital.

The Members welcomed the report and complimented the Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance and all staff in the Finance Section under the leadership of Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance.

## **57. REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 48 OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000**

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance briefed the Members on the Development Contributions in accordance with Section 48 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000. He explained the contents of the report and how funds were expended during the year. The report also outlines proposals for expenditure in 2011.

## **58. DRAFT LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2010**

Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services indicated to the Members that the Local Government Act, 2011 requires that a draft report be presented to the Members by the 30<sup>th</sup> of April. The Members were circulated with a copy of the draft report. On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor James Daly, the Members unanimously agreed to adopt the draft Laois County Council Annual Report for 2010.

Councillor Jerry Lodge requested that on Page 29 that L.A.B.E.L. be amended to the Laois Third Level Initiative.

**59. UPDATE ON ARTHOUSE DEVELOPMENT AT STRADBALLY, COUNTY LAOIS**

Mr. Declan Byrne, Director of Services gave a presentation on the Arthouse Development at Stradbally, County Laois and it's facilities. The official opening is on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2011. The Cathaoirleach acknowledged the work of Mr. Declan Byrne, Director of Services and all involved in the completion of this project.

The County Manager, Mr. Peter Carey welcomed the completion of the project and also complimented the Members on their positive leadership and also to Mr. Declan Byrne, Director of Services and his staff.

**60. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

On the proposition of Councillor James Deegan, Cathaoirleach and seconded by Councillor William Aird, Standing Orders were suspended as the time had reached 1.00 p.m.

**61. ADDRESS BY SENATOR DAVID NORRIS**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor James Deegan welcomed Senator David Norris to the Council Meeting. Mr. Norris addressed the Members of Laois County Council with regard to his presidential campaign and seeking the support of Laois County Council in the nomination process.

**62. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence had been circulated to the Members:

- (i) Correspondence from the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government dated the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2011 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 06/11 regarding delivery of services by local authorities
- (ii) Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food dated the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2011 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 10/11 regarding the closure of the District Veterinary Office in Portlaoise

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**SIGNED:**

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**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**CERTIFIED:**

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**DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE  
AFFAIRS**