

**MINUTES OF DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF LAOIS  
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ARAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE  
ON 17<sup>TH</sup> OF DECEMBER 2007**

**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  
Paul Mitchell      Michael Moloney  
Brendan Phelan      Martin Phelan  
Michael Rice      Brian Stanley  
Mary Sweeney

**APOLOGIES:**Councillors      John D. Turley

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Messers Peter Carey, County Manager, Gerry Gibson, Director of Services, Declan Byrne, 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

**147. VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS**

It was agreed that a vote of congratulations be extended to Ms. Muireann Ní Chonail, Arts Officer and the staff of the Arts Office involved in the unveiling of the James Fintan Lalor Sculptor outside Áras an Chontae. Councillor Michael Lalor, on behalf of the Lalor family, also expressed his gratitude to everyone involved.

#### **148. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Ray Cribbin, it was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the November meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2007, as circulated be adopted and signed.

#### **149. REPORTS ON AREA MEETINGS & SPC MEETINGS HELD IN DECEMBER 2007**

On the proposal of Councillor Patrick Bracken seconded by Councillor Ray Cribbin, it was unanimously agreed that the reports on area meetings and SPC meetings held in December 2007, as circulated be noted and agreed.

#### **150. MIDLANDS ENERGY AGENCY**

Mr. Mark Macaulay, Manager of the Midlands Energy Agency gave a presentation on the Midlands Energy Agency. The Midlands Energy Agency was set up and funded by Laois, Offaly, Westmeath & Longford County Councils with Laois County Council being the lead authority. The aim of the Agency is to promote and develop energy conservation and renewable energy for the region. The Regional Committee to consist of the Environment Director in each local authority and a nominated elected member from each local authority.

The Members welcomed the establishment of the Agency and requested that they be given an update on activities every six months.

Councillor Mary Sweeney proposed that Councillor John Bonham be nominated to the Midlands Energy Agency. This proposal was seconded by Councillor James Daly.

#### **151. IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO BURIAL GROUNDS**

The Members were circulated with a programme of improvement works to Burial Grounds in need of capital works including costings.

On the proposal of Councillor James Daly seconded by Councillor Jerry Lodge, the Members unanimously agreed to the raising of a loan of €430,000 to fund the programme.

## **152. ADOPTION OF SOCIAL INCLUSION INTERNAL STRATEGY**

The Members were circulated with the Internal Social Inclusion Strategy and on the proposal of Councillor Jerry Lodge, seconded by Councillor John Bonham, the Members unanimously agreed that this strategy be adopted.

## **153. PART VIII OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS, 2001-2007**

### **(a) Graiguecullen Area Office**

The Members were circulated with the Part VIII report on this item. It was noted that the proposed development comprises of the change of use of premises from domestic dwelling to civic offices including site works to provide staff/customer parking facilities, universal access, depot and fencing and ancillary services at Sleaty Road, Graiguecullen, Co. Laois. 12 car parking spaces are being provided on site.

On the proposal of Councillor Dick Miller seconded by Councillor James Daly, the Members unanimously agreed that the proposed development proceed.

### **(b) Southern Circular Road, Portlaoise – N80 Stradbally Road – Abbeyleix Road**

Under Part 15 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Councillor William Aird removed himself from the meeting for the discussion of this item.

The Members were circulated with the Part VIII report on this item. It was noted that the proposed development comprises of :

- The Portlaoise Southern Circular Road between the R922 – Abbeyleix Road and the N80 Stradbally Road
- The Kylekiproe Connector Road linking the Portlaoise Southern Circular Road and Kylekiproe Road

- Improvement works on the R426 – Timahoe Road between it's junction with the Portlaoise Southern Circular and it's junction with Kylekiproe Road
- Improvement works on the Kylekiproe Road between it's junction with the Kylekiproe Connector and it's junction with the R426 – Timahoe Road

Mr. Gerry Gibson, Director of Services responded to the various queries and concerns raised by the Members in relation to this development.

On the proposition of Councillor John Bonham seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to proceed with the propose development.

#### **154. APPROVAL OF OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION TO 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2008 IN THE AMOUNT OF €6 MILLION**

On the proposal of Councillor James Deegan seconded by Councillor John Bonham, the Members unanimously approved overdraft accommodation to the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2008 in the amount of €6 million.

#### **155. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

##### **Notice of Motion No: 44/07**

Councillor Michael Moloney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*“In light of the N.R.A. decision re: the rejection of Route C as an option for the proposed inner relief road for Mountmellick that Laois County Council revisit Option A with a view to kick starting the whole process before there is a fatality in the town”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Martin Phelan. The Members were informed that Laois County Council and the National Roads Authority brought Route Option A through the Statutory C.P.O. process. However, an Bord Pleanala refused this

scheme on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2006. Subsequently, Laois County Council passed the Part VIII for route Option C.

Mr. Gerry Gibson, Director of Services re-iterated the situation

**Notice of Motion No: 45/07**

Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That Laois County Council calls on the Minister for Education & Science, Ms. Mary Hanafin to provide a defibrillator in all primary and post primary schools throughout the Country”*

This motion was seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Department of Education in this regard.

**Notice of Motion No: 46/07**

Councillor James Deegan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That Laois County Council introduce bye-laws to prohibit the use of off road vehicles at the Great Heath, Maryborough, Portlaoise”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Raymond Cribbin. The Members were informed that this matter is currently with the Office of Public Works who have stated that they are agreeable in principle to the bye-laws but are awaiting legal advice from the Chief State Solicitors Office. It is hoped to have an answer early in the New Year to enable us to progress this matter further.

It was agreed to send a reminder to the Office of Public Works if no response has been received by the end of January 2008.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: \_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTOR CORPORATE AFFAIRS



