

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD
IN ARAS AN CHONTAE ON THE 13TH OF DECEMBER 2010**

PRESENT:

Councillors	James Deegan	In the Chair
Councillors	Rotimi Adebari	William Aird
	John Bonham	Pat Bowe
	Patrick Bracken	Ben Brennan
	Ray Cribbin	James Daly
	John Joe Fennelly	Catherine Fitzgerald
	Padraig Fleming	David Goodwin
	John King	Michael Lalor
	Jerry Lodge	Seamus McDonald
	Paul Mitchell	John Moran
	Tom Mulhall	Kathleen O' Brien
	Brendan Phelan	Martin Phelan
	Brian Stanley	

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mary Sweeney

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

131. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

On the proposition of Councillor Jerry Lodge seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Minutes of the November meeting held on the 29th of November 2010 were confirmed as circulated.

132. VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor James Deegan, it was unanimously agreed that a vote of congratulations be extended to the Under 23 Cross Country Team who recently won a European Gold Medal at the 2010 European Cross Country Championships in Portugal and in particular to Portlaoise man, Mr. Michael Mulhare. It is proposed to accord the team the appropriate recognition at a future meeting. It is the first time a medal has been won at European level. The Members congratulated Dan & Mary Mulhare and also Ms. Anne Keenan Buckley who managed the team. Congratulations was also extended to Ms. Eileen Hayes.

Councillor Martin Phelan extended a vote of congratulations to Mr. Dermot Dunne of Laois County Council on his recent success in winning the All-Ireland Sheep Judging Competition in Arklow.

133. VOTE OF SYMPATHY

Councillor Martin Phelan proposed a vote of sympathy to Mr. John O' Donohue, Senior Engineer on the recent death of his father, John.

Councillor Seamus McDonald proposed a vote of sympathy to Rev. Jim O' Connell on the death of his mother, Christina.

Councillor Michael Lalor proposed a vote of sympathy to the Sheeran family, Coolrain on the death of Ray Sheeran.

Councillor John Bonham proposed a vote of sympathy to Councillor David Goodwin on the death of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Evelyn Cantwell.

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed a vote of sympathy to the Buggy family, Shaen on the death of Mrs. Buggy.

Councillor William Aird proposed a vote of sympathy to the O' Neill family on the death of Mrs. Elizabeth O' Neill, Ballyfin and also to the Lawlor family on the death of Mrs. Winnie Lawlor in Mountmellick Hospital.

134. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL TO THE VOCATIONAL EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

The Members were advised that Laois County Council had received notification of the resignation of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald from the Laois Vocational Education Committee. Section 14 (4) of the composition of Vocational Educational Committee Regulations, 2004 specifies the composition of the committee and sets out the basis for the calculation of the gender balance for same. With regard to Laois County Council, the requirement is for two female representatives.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird, seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, it was unanimously agreed that Councillor Kathleen O' Brien be appointed to the Laois Vocational Educational Committee.

135. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan, the Members agreed to the disposal of freehold at Timahoe Road, Stradbally, Co. Laois in the townland of Stradbally for a consideration of €100.00.

136. PROGRESS REPORT ON DERELICT SITES

The Members were circulated with a progress report on derelict sites. Mr. John Daly, Director of Services briefed the members on the contents of the report.

The Members expressed concern in relation to buildings in disrepair. A discussion ensued in relation to unfinished estates. The County Manager, Mr. Peter Carey indicated that a Task Force was established at national level and would be issuing a report in the near future. It was agreed to await the national report.

137. TAKING IN CHARGE OF 'MASSLOUGH MEADOWS', BALLINAKILL

On the proposal of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor John Bonham, the members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of 'Masslough Meadows', Ballinakill.

138. ST. ABBAN'S ATHLETIC CLUB – RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENTS

This matter was deferred to the January 2011 meeting.

139. CORRESPONDENCE

The Members were circulated with the following items of correspondence:

- (i) Correspondence received on the 8th of December 2010 from the Office of Public Works in relation to Emo Court, Emo

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____ CERTIFIED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
AFFAIRS