

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE
ON THE 10TH DECEMBER 2012**

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Messers Peter Carey, County Manager, Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services, Ms. Josephine Kavanagh, Administrative Officer & Ms. Catherine Gorman, Clerical Officer, Corporate Affairs.

128. VOTE OF SYMPATHY

It was agreed to review the Bereavement Protocol for the January meeting of Laois County Council.

On the proposition of Councillor John Bonham and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to Michelle McCormack on the death of her father-in-law Mr. Paddy Confrey.

On the proposition of Councillors John Moran and Ben Brennan and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Kenna family on the death of Mr. Sean Kenna, Maidenhead, Ballickmoyler, Carlow.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Styles family on the death of Ms. Brigid Styles, New Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Maher family on the death of Mr. James Maher, Beech Avenue, Rathleague, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Finn family on the death of Ms. Margaret Finn, Borris Little, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Walsh family on the death of Ms. Eleanor Walsh, Capoley Lane, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillors William Aird and John Joe Fennelly and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Sergeant Tom Walton on the death of his brother Billy Walton.

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Wilkinson family on the death of Mr. Derek Wilkinson, Coolbanagher, Emo, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to Ms. May Doyle on the death of her husband Michael Doyle, Fairymount, Crettyard, Carlow.

On the proposition of Councillor John King and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Guilfoyle family on the death of Mr. Donie Guilfoyle, Knockiel Road, Rathdowney, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Moran family on the death of Ms. Annette Moran, Mountrath Road, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Paul Mitchell and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Finlay family on the death of Adam Finlay, Crowe Lane, Portarlinton, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Pdraig Fleming and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Foley family on the death of Mr. Evan Foley, Slatt Lower, Wolfhill, Co. Laois.

129. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

On the proposition of Councillor James Deegan seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the Minutes of the November Monthly Meeting of Laois County Council held on the 26th of November 2012 were agreed as circulated.

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

DISPOSAL OF 0.0262 HECTARES, INCLUDING DWELLING HOUSE AT 6 THE BEECHES, FOREST PARK, BORRIS ROAD IN THE TOWNLAND OF BORRIS GREAT, BROCKLEY PARK, STRADBALLY, CO. LAOIS, FOR A CONSIDERATION OF €92,000,

On the proposition of Councillor Alan Hand seconded by Councillor James Deegan, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.0262 hectares, including dwelling house at 6 The Beeches, Forest Park, Borris Road in the townland of Borris Great, Brockley Park, Stradbally, Co. Laois for a consideration of €92,000.

131. TAKING IN CHARGE OF:

(a) Royal Court, Borris-in-Ossory

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor John King, the members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of Royal Court, Borris-in-Ossory, Co. Laois.

(b) Rathevan, Portlaoise

On the proposition of Councillor Alan Hand seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of Rathevan, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

132. EPA DRINKING WATER REPORT 2011

The Members were circulated with a Report on the Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Laois. Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, briefed the Members on same and responded to the various queries raised.

133. APPROVAL OF EXTENSION OF DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS TO 30TH JUNE 2013

The Members were circulated with the current Development Contribution Scheme 2008 -2012. Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services, outlined that work would commence in early 2013 on review of the current Scheme.

On the proposition of Councillor John Bonham seconded by Councillor James Deegan, the Members unanimously approved the extension of the current Development Contribution Scheme for a period of six months to 30th June 2013.

134. THE NATIONAL DRIVING LICENCE SERVICE

The Members were circulated with details of changes in relation to the managing of driving licences in Ireland which will become the responsibility of the Road Safety Authority from the 19th January 2013. The new service will be called the National Driving Licence Service. From the 12th January 2013, Laois County Council will issue licences on behalf of the RSA and the service in full will transfer to the RSA in September 2013.

The Members complimented Ms. Rebecca Gillespie, Administrative Officer, and all her staff in the Motor Tax Section for the tremendous work carried out in relation to Driving Licences.

135. THE INTERNATIONAL AWARDS FOR LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES 2012 – ABBEYLEIX

Mr. Dominic Reddin, Tourism Officer made a brief presentation to the Members on The International Awards for Liveable Communities 2012 which was held from the 22nd to the 26th November, 2012, in Al Ain, :UAE. The Members congratulated Abbeyleix on winning 2nd Place in this prestigious International Competition. A delegation representative group from Abbeyleix were also in attendance.

A presentation on behalf of the Council was made by the Cathaoirleach, Mr. Paul Mitchell and County Manager, Mr. Peter Carey. The County Manager and Members acknowledged the role of the local community group and the staff of Community & Enterprise Section in this great achievement.

136. CORRESPONDENCE

The following item of correspondence was circulated:-

- (i) 'Putting People First' – Action Programme for Effective Local Government issued by the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government – October 2012
- (ii) Correspondence dated the 6th December 2012 from the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee – 'Invitation for Submissions'

The Members agreed that it was important to make submissions to the Boundary Commission as this was an issue that would have an impact on all Councillors.

It was agreed that all Oireachtas Members for Laois be invited to attend the Budget Meeting of Laois County Council on Monday 17th December 2012, in order to brief the Members on developments nationally that affect the role of the Councillors.

The Members requested that a letter issue to all Local Authorities requesting that they seek a similar meeting with their Oireachtas Members to discuss the proposed local government arrangements within Counties.

137. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 50/2012

Councillor Mary Sweeney proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council remind people to shop local this festive season and help and support local initiatives, and retain local jobs”

This motion was seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald.

Notice of Motion No: 51/2012

Councillor Alan Hand proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council calls on the Government to protect small local businesses that supply the educational sector who will suffer under the new rules on central procurement”

This motion was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED:

CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED:

**DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
AFFAIRS**