

**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN  
ARAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE ON 25<sup>TH</sup> OF FEBRUARY 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

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor 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

**11. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

On the proposal of Councillor James Daly seconded by Councillor Ray Cribbin, it was unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the January meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2008, as circulated be adopted and signed.

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

**(a) Members were circulated with the Section 183 Notice in relation to the disposal of 0.10 acres at Tullyroe, Abbeyleix.**

On the proposal of Councillor Martin Phelan seconded by Councillor John Bonham, it was unanimously agreed that 0.10 acres at Tullyroe, Abbeyleix in the townland of Tullyroe, be disposed of, Tullyroe, Abbeyleix, for a consideration of €200

**(b) Members were circulated with the Section 183 Notice in relation to the disposal of 0.23 acres at Killeaney, Mountrath**

On the proposal of Councillor Michael Lalor seconded by Councillor Laurence Kavanagh, it was unanimously agreed that 0.23 acres at Killeaney, Mountrath in the townland of Killeaney be disposed of, Killeaney, Mountrath, for a consideration of €200.

**13. PART VIII OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS, 2001 – 2007**

**(a) Abbeyleix Inner Relief Road – Rathmoyle Section**

Members were circulated with the planning report on the Abbeyleix Inner Relief Road – Rathmoyle Section. The proposed development comprises of upgrading of existing roads, the improvement of existing junctions and the provision of a new road link and roundabout to provide a safe and efficient road network to cater for the vehicular and non-vehicular traffic demands of the area, now and in the future. The principal features of the proposed development works are:

- (a) Construction of a road commencing midway along the Rathmoyle Road and running in a southeasterly direction to a proposed roundabout on the R430 Carlow Road
- (b) Installation of road drainage systems along the road with intercepted runoff to existing watercourses
- (c) Provision of street lighting
- (d) Provision of facilities for services providers, Laois County Council, Eircom and ESB amongst others
- (e) Provision of road signage and road markings
- (f) Earthworks, paving, kerbing, footways, cycleways and fencing
- (g) Accommodation works

Councillor John Bonham proposed that this development proceed. However, Councillor John Joe Fennelly proposed that this Part VIII be adjourned and this proposal was seconded by Councillor Ray Cribbin.

A Roll Call Vote was taken on Councillor John Bonham's proposal to proceed with the development which resulted as follows:-

<b>COUNCILLOR</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
William Aird	√		
John Bonham	√		
Patrick Bracken		√	
Raymond Cribbin		√	
James Daly	√		
James Deegan	√		
Geraldine Delaney		√	
John Joe Fennelly		√	
Catherine Fitzgerald		√	
David Goodwin	√		
Thomas Jacob	√		
Laurence Kavanagh	√		
Michael Lalor	√		
Jeremiah Lodge		√	
Seamus McDonald		√	
Dick Miller		√	
Paul Mitchell			√
Michael Moloney			Abstain
John Moran	√		
Brendan Phelan		√	
Martin Phelan	√		
Michael Rice		√	
Brian Stanley	√		
Mary Sweeney	√		
John D Turley	√		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>

It was therefore, as a result of the Roll Call Vote, agreed to proceed with the proposed development.

## **(b) N80 Stradbally By-Pass – Phase 2**

Councillor James Deegan excused himself from the meeting for the duration of the discussion of this item under Part 15 of the Local Government Act, 2001. Members were circulated with the planning report on the N80 Stradbally By-Pass. The proposed scheme is part of the road network needed to:-

- (a) provide a safe and efficient road network to cater for the demands of vehicular and non-vehicular trips in the context of increasing development in the area
- (b) alleviate congestion in the town centre by removing through traffic and
- (c) allow zoned lands to develop between the by-pass and town centre.

The scheme represents an extension of the first phase of the Stradbally By-pass (extending from N80 Portlaoise Road to R427 Vicarstown Road) which has already been approved by Laois County Council under a previous Part VIII process.

On the proposal of Councillor Ray Cribbin seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed that this development proceed.

## **(c) Portarlinton Water Supply**

Members were circulated with the planning report on the Portarlinton Water Supply. It was noted that the site of the proposed storage reservoir is adjacent to the site of the existing storage reservoir in Carrick Woods, south of Portarlinton. The proposed development comprises the following elements:

- New 5000 m<sup>3</sup> reservoir
- Pump House
- Cascade Aerator
- Filters
- Welfare Facilities
- & Septic Tank and Percolation Area

The overall development will ensure a more robust water supply for the town of Portarlinton to meet the current and future water demands of the town. On the proposal of Councillor Ray Cribbin seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald, the Members unanimously agreed to proceed with the proposed development.

## **14. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL ROADWORKS PROGRAMME 2008**

Members were circulated with the Roadworks Programme for 2008. A discussion ensued regarding various aspects of the programme and in particular Members expressed concern in relation to the funding allocated for the rural areas of the County. Councillor Dick Miller proposed that the Minister receive a delegation in

relation to the Local Improvement Schemes. This proposal was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly. It was agreed that the delegation would comprise of 2 Members from each group.

On the proposal of Councillor Martin Phelan seconded by Councillor Ray Cribbin, the Members unanimously agreed that the 2008 Roadworks Programme be adopted.

**15. STATUTORY AUDIT REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2006**

Members were circulated with the Statutory Audit Report on the accounts of Laois County Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2006. The report was noted by the Members.

**16. ELECTORAL AREA BOUNDARY COMMITTEE – INVITATION FOR SUBMISSIONS – CLOSING DATE 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2008**

Members were circulated with the correspondence received from the Electoral Area boundary Committee seeking submissions before the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2008. Councillor James Daly urged for strong submission re: anomaly at Graiguecullen.

A discussion then ensued regarding the Register of Electors. The Members expressed concern in relation to the electors who have a postal vote and the necessity of the elector having to undergo a medical each year. Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services indicated that this matter would be looked at.

**17. COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD – SOCIAL COHESION UPDATE**

Members were circulated with a report on the activities of the Laois County Development Board.

The County Manager acknowledged the work of the County Development Board Section and also acknowledged the input of the Elected Members and the outside agencies.

A discussion ensued regarding childcare facilities and it was proposed by Councillor John Bonham that a survey be carried out in Laois County Council regarding the provision of childcare facilities.

**18. HEALTH & SAFETY BRIEFING – MR. JIM BOLGER, HEALTH & SAFETY**

Mr. Jim Bolger, Health & Safety Officer gave the Elected Members a presentation on the ongoing health and safety issues in the County and responded to the various queries raised.

Mr. Jim Bolger was complimented on his presentation.

## 19. CORRESPONDENCE

The Members noted the following items of correspondence

- (a) An acknowledgement from the Office of the Minister for Education and Science in relation to defibrillators in schools
- (b) An acknowledgement from the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in relation to broadband coverage in County Laois

## 20. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

### **Notice of Motion No: 03/08**

Councillor Brian Stanley proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That this Council calls on the Minister for Agriculture, Mary Coughlan and Local Government and the Environment, John Gormley, to take whatever steps are necessary to change the current regulations regarding the spreading of slurry according to unrealistic dates on the calendar”*

This motion was seconded by Councillor William Aird. It was agreed to write to the Minister in this regard.

### **Notice of Motion No : 04/08**

Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That Laois County Council calls on the Minister with responsibility for Housing to remove the anomaly which presently exists whereby those in receipt of social welfare must produce a tax compliant certificate when applying for Essential Repairs Grants or Disabled Persons Grants as these people already by nature of the fact that they are in receipt of social welfare payments area already tax compliant”*

This motion was seconded by Councillor Brian Stanley. It was agreed to write to the Minister in this regard.

### **Notice of Motion No : 05/08**

This motion was deferred to the March meeting due to the absence of Councillor Paul Mitchell.

**21. VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS**

The Elected Members formally passed a vote of congratulations to the I.T. Section of Laois County Council on receiving an award for the best overall website at the 2008 Irish eGovernment Awards recently.

The Elected Members also complimented Mr. Michael Ryan & Ms. Mary Kennedy from the Nationwide Team on their recent programme on Portlaoise and County Laois.

**22. PRESIDENTIAL VISIT**

Councillor John Joe Fennelly indicated that Ms. Mary McAleese, President of Ireland would be visiting Durrow as part of their tri-centenary celebrations on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2008 and enquired if the March Council meeting could be held in Durrow on that day. It was agreed that the matter would be considered.

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Cathaoirleach**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Director of Corporate Affairs**