

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE
ON THE 27TH OF FEBRUARY 2012**

PRESENT: **Councillors** **John Bonham** **In the Chair**

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

APOLOGIES: Councillor Jerry Lodge

IN ATTENDANCE:

Messers Peter Carey, County Manager, John Daly, Director of Services, Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services, Ms. Irene Delaney, A/Senior Executive Officer & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary.

11. VOTE OF SYMPATHY

On the proposition of Councillor John Bonham and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Kavanagh family on the death of Mr. Sean Kavanagh, Main Street, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Brennan family on the death of Ms. Lila Brennan, Balladine, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the McHugh family on the death of Mr. John McHugh, Rathmoyle, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Maher family on the death of Mr. Peadar Maher, Main Street, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Dunne family on the death of Mr. Edward Dunne, Clonrooske, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillors Tom Mulhall and Ray Cribbin and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Sheeran family on the death of Mr. Cathal Sheeran, Morette, Emo, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Keane family on the death of Mr. Patrick Keane, Killenard, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Collins family on the death of Ms. Teresa Collins, Rath, Ballybrittas, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to Mrs. Kathleen Hughes on the death of Ms. Mary Kearney, Ballybrittas Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Brendan Phelan and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Dollard family on the death of Mr. Fran Dollard, Pike of Rushall, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Rotimi Adebari and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to Ms. Lynette Khumalo, on the recent death of her father.

On the proposition of Councillor Ray Cribbin and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Hoey family on the death of Mr. Thomas Hoey, Kilbride, Portarlinton, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor John Moran and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Hovenden family on the death of Mr. Harry Hovenden, Ballylinan, Co. Laois.

12. BEST WISHES

Councillor Mary Sweeny extended best wishes to Ms. Maureen Cusack, Ms. Terri Fahey and Ms. Marguerite Gibson, who recently retired from the Library Service of Laois County Council.

13. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paul Mitchell, the Minutes of the January meeting of Laois County Council held on the 30th of January 2012 were agreed as circulated.

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald enquired as to whether a reply had been received on Notice of Motion No: 01/2012 regarding the Household Charge. This matter was referred to the Minister and to date no reply has been received. Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance circulated correspondence on the Household Charge for the Members information.

A lengthy discussion ensued during which Members requested that a reminder issue to the Minister requesting that a facility be put in place whereby the €100 can be paid in instalments.

The County Manager, Mr. Peter Carey & Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance also responded to the Members on this issue and re-iterated that all owners of residential property in Ireland are liable for the household charge and that the charge can be paid by

four instalments of €25 by setting up a direct debit online at www.householdcharge.ie before the 1st of March 2012.

14. AMENDMENT TO MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON THE 11TH OF OCTOBER 2011

On the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney seconded by Councillor Rotimi Adebari it was agreed that the minutes of the special meeting of Laois County Council held on the 11th of October 2011 be amended to reflect that RPS 942 Maryborough National School be deleted from the Record of Protected Structures and not retained as outlined in the record of the meeting.

15.(i) DISPOSAL OF 0.863 HECTARES OF LAND AT CULLAHILL, IN THE TOWNLAND OF PARKNAHOWN, CULLAHILL, CO. LAOIS FOR A CONSIDERATION OF €25,550.00

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Martin Phelan, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.863 hectares of land at Cullahill, Co. Laois in the townland of Parknahown, Cullahill, Co. Laois for a consideration of €25,550.00.

(ii) DISPOSAL OF 0.144 HECTARES OF LAND AT KILNASEER, IN THE TOWNLAND OF CANNONSWOOD, CULLAHILL, CO. LAOIS FOR A CONSIDERATION OF €850.00

On the proposition of Councillor Brendan Phelan seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.144 hectares of land at Kilnaseer, in the townland of Cannonswood, Cullahill, Co. Laois for a consideration of €850.00

(iii) DISPOSAL OF 0.373 HECTARES OF LAND AT TRUMERA, IN THE TOWNLAND OF TRUMERA, MOUNTRATH, CO. LAOIS FOR A CONSIDERATION OF €1,000.00

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Martin Phelan, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.373 hectares of land at Trumera, in the townland of Trumera, Mountrath, Co. Laois for a consideration of €1,000.00

(iv) DISPOSAL OF 58 CLONROOSKE ABBEY, PORTLAOISE IN THE TOWNLAND OF CLONROOSK A CONSIDERATION OF €110,000.00

On the proposition of Councillor Alan Hand seconded by Councillor William Aird, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 58 Clonrooske Abbey, Portlaoise in the townland of Clonroosk for a consideration of €110,000.00

(v) DISPOSAL OF THE FREEHOLD OF 0.033 HECTARES AT NO. 10 KILKENNY ROAD, ATHY, CO. LAOIS IN THE TOWNLAND OF BALLYLINAN FOR A CONSIDERATION OF €125.00

On the proposition of Councillor James Daly seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of the freehold of 0.033 hectares at No. 10 Kilkenny Road, Athy, Co. Laois in the townland of for a consideration of €125.00

(vi) LEASE OF PROPERTY AT ÁRAS EOGHAIN, O' MOORE PLACE, PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS IN THE TOWNLAND OF MARYBOROUGH, FOR A PERIOD OF SEVEN YEARS TO LAOIS COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD., HEAD OFFICE, 2 PARK VILLAS, PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS FOR A CONSIDERATION OF €100.00 PER ANNUM

On the proposition of Councillor Alan Hand seconded by Councillor Rotimi Adebari, the Members unanimously agreed to the lease of property at Áras Eoghain, O' Moore Place, Portlaoise, Co. Laois in the townland of Maryborough, for a period of seven years to Laois Community & Enterprise Development Company Ltd., Head Office, 2 Park Villas, Portlaoise, Co. Laois for a consideration of €100.00 per annum.

(v) DISPOSAL OF 2.02 ACRES AT JOHNSTOWN ROAD, RATHDOWNEY IN THE TOWNLAND OF RATHDOWNEY TO JOHN GERARD ROONEY, MAIN STREET, RATHDOWNEY COMPRISING OF: LOT 1 – THE FACTORY UNIT AND YARD – AREA 1.15 ACRES, FOR A CONSIDERATION OF €91,110.00 & LOT 2 – LAND ADJACENT TO FACTORY UNIT – AREA 0.87 ACRES FOR A CONSIDERATION OF €13,001

Councillor Brendan Phelan asked that this item be deferred for one month. However, after discussion and on the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Martin Phelan, the Members agreed to the disposal of 2.02 acres at Johnstown Road, Rathdowney in the townland of Rathdowney, Main Street, Rathdowney comprising of Lot 1 – the Factory Unit and Yard – Area 1.15 acres, for a consideration of €91,110.00 & Lot 2 – Land adjacent to factory unit – area 0.87 acres for a consideration of €13,001.00

16. APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL ROADWORKS PROGRAMME 2012

On the proposition of Councillor James Deegan seconded by Councillor Martin Phelan, the Members unanimously approved the Annual Roadworks Programme for 2012 as circulated.

17. APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION ON DRAFT FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR IRELAND (AGREED BY PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE ON THE 13TH OF FEBRUARY 2012)

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Ray Cribbin, the Members unanimously approved the submission on the Draft Framework for

Sustainable Development for Ireland (as agreed by Planning, Development & Environment Strategic Policy Committee on the 13th of February 2012)

18. ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES TO THE STUDENT GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS 2012/2013

The Members were circulated with details of changes for new applicants for H.E.G.'s for 2012/2013. The Members were advised that the City of Dublin V.E.C. have been awarded the contract and a new online grant application system is to be introduced for the academic year 2012/2013.

The Members requested that the Council write to the Minister expressing their concern and opposition to the proposed changes.

Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services informed the Members that Laois County Council made a submission to the Department to process the grants for the region. Unfortunately, it was awarded to City of Dublin V.E.C. However, a letter will issue to the Minister outlining the Members concerns in this connection.

19. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence were circulated to the Members

- (i) Correspondence from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government dated the 21st of February 2012 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 05/2012
- (ii) Correspondence from the Department of Justice & Equality dated the 22nd of February 2012 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 07/2012
- (iii) Correspondence from
- (iv) Correspondence in relation to the Laois Water Conservation Project Stage; 3: Watermains Rehabilitation Contract – Contract 1

Councillor William Aird requested that the Portlaoise Area Members be briefed

Mr. John Daly, Director of Services responded to the various queries raised in this regard.

20 NOTICE OF MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION NO: 10/2012

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That this council request the Minister for Housing, Ms. Jan O’ Sullivan to change the ‘Mortgage to Rent’ Scheme where the property is handed over to a private housing association’.

The Members were advised that the current mortgage-to-rent scheme is a national government initiative to help homeowners who are at risk of losing their homes and who have been involved in the Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process (MARP) with their tender. Under this scheme the homeowner surrenders possession of their home to a mortgage lender who immediately sells it to a housing association who will then rent it to you

This motion was seconded by Councillor William Aird.

NOTICE OF MOTION NO: 11/2012

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion.

“That this Council make a submission to N.A.M.A. that all lands adjacent to sporting clubs and schools throughout the County that was purchased during the boom, with no planning permission granted at a cost of millions of Euro to the taxpayer be offered back to the Clubs and Schools at a reasonable price per acre so that our children may have some benefit in the future”

This motion was seconded by Councillor Alan Hand with the exclusion of ‘with no planning permission’.

Councillor James Deegan requested that the Minister for Finance be requested to put a mechanism in place that sub divisions be facilitated by local communities.

SIGNED: _____

CERTIFIED:

CATHAOIRLEACH

**DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
AFFAIRS**