

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE ON THE 4th OF FEBRUARY 2013

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

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. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary.

2(a) CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 10TH OF DECEMBER 2012

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Michael Lalor, the Minutes of the December Meeting of Laois County Council held on the 10th of December 2012 were confirmed as circulated.

2(b) CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 17TH OF DECEMBER 2012

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Ray Cribbin, the Minutes of the Budget Meeting of Laois County Council held on the 17th of December 2012 were confirmed as circulated.

3. REPORT ON AREA & STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD IN DECEMBER 2012 FOR NOTING

Members were circulated with a copies of the reports on Area & Strategic Policy Committee Meetings held in December 2012 and same were noted.

4. VOTES OF SYMPATHY

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Foyle family on the death of Mr. Paddy Foyle, Cullenagh, Portlaoise.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Connolly family on the death of Mr. Frank Connolly, Mountmellick Road, Portlaoise

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Holohan family on the death of Mr. Edward Holohan, Green Mill Lane, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to Ms. Eveyln Brownrigg and her family on the death of Mr. Thomas Brownrigg, Craiguemore, Bunclody, Co. Wexford.

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

On the proposition of Councillors William Aird & John Bonham and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Gardaí Siochana on the recent death of Garda Detective Adrian Donohue.

On the proposition of Councillors Tom Mulhall & Ray Cribbin and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Strong family on the death of Ms. Mary Strong, Morette, Emo, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Carroll family on the death of Mrs. Bridget Carroll, Morette, Emo, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the O' Connell family on the death of Mr. Tim O' Connell, Ballybrittas, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ray Cribbin and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Murphy family on the death of Mrs. Esther Murphy, Station Road, Portarlinton, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ray Cribbin and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Maloney family on the death of Mr. Liam Maloney, 37 St. Brigid's Square, Portarlinton, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ray Cribbin and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Boland family on the death of Mr. Eugene Boland, Main Street, Portarlinton, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ray Cribbin and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Condron family on the death of Mr. Joe Condron, Trenchfield, Ballybrittas, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ray Cribbin and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Connolly family on the death of Mrs. Ann Connolly, Spa Street, Portarlington, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ray Cribbin and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the O' Donnell family on the death of Mr. John o' Donnell, 11 St. Brigid's Square, Portarlington, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ray Cribbin and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Webster family on the death of Mr. Michael Webster, French Church Street, Portarlington, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ray Cribbin and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Doyle family on the death of Mr. Michael Doyle, Tierhogar, Portarlington, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ray Cribbin and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Harris family on the death of Mr. Tony Harris, the Square Portarlington and Stradbally Cottages, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ray Cribbin and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Ryan family on the death of Mrs. Kay Ryan, Market Square, Portarlington, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ray Cribbin and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Hoey family on the death of Mrs. Shirley Hoey, 6 Botley Court, Portarlington, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ray Cribbin and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Finlay family on the death of Mr. Adam Finlay, Crowe Lane, Portarlington, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ray Cribbin and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Keane family on the death of Mrs. Betty Keane, Station Road, Portarlington, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ray Cribbin and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the McMahon family on the death of Mr. Robert McMahon, Spencil Hill, Ennis, Co. Clare.

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Mr. Joseph Holohan, Rathmoyle Road, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois on the death of Mr. Patrick Hill, a former employee of Laois County Council.

On the proposition of Councillor John Moran and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Byrne family on the death of Mrs. Mary Kate Byrne, Grange, Maganey, Co. Laois, the oldest Irish Citizen in Ireland.

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

On the proposition of Councillors Padraig Fleming & Ben Brennan and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the McMahon family on the death of Mr. Keith McMahon, Newtown, Crettyard, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillors Padraig Fleming & Ben Brennan and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the O' Neill family on the death of Mrs. Mary O' Neill, Damerstown, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny.

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Harkin family on the death of Ms. Josie Harkin, Strand House, Ballickmoyler, Carlow.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to Mr. Teddy Fennelly, Park Villas, Portlaoise on the death of his sister, Ms. Ita Dornan.

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

DISPOSAL OF A RESIDENTIAL SITE COMPRISING OF 2.0559 ACRES (INCLUDING WAYLEAVE AREA OF 0.583 ACRES) AT THE POUND FIELD, MOUNTRATH ROAD, PORTLAOISE IN THE TOWNLAND OF CLONROOSK LITTLE FOR A CONSIDERATION OF €60,000

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of a residential site comprising of 2.0559 acres (including wayleave area of 0.583 acres) at The Pound Field, Mountrath Road, Portlaoise in the townland of Clonroosk Little for a consideration of €60,000

DISPOSAL OF 0.0805 ACRES OF LAND AT GLASHA BENDS, RATHDOWNEY, CO. LAOIS IN THE TOWNLAND OF CREELAGH IN EXCHANGE FOR 0.0835 ACRES TO LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.0805 acres of land at Glasha Bends, Rathdowney, Co. Laois in the townland of Creelagh to Laois County Council

DISPOSAL OF EQUITY INTEREST IN DWELLING HOUSE AT 3 NEW LINE CLOSE, MOUNTRATH, CO. LAOIS FOR A CONSIDERATION OF €40,116.68

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Martin Phelan, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of equity interest in dwelling house at 3 New Line Close, Mountrath, Co. Laois for a consideration of €40,116.68

DISPOSAL OF 0.0126 HECTARES OF LAND INCLUDING DWELLING HOUSE AT 44 HIGGINS PARK, THE FAIRGREEN, PORTLAOISE IN THE TOWNLAND OF CLONREHER FOR A CONSIDERATION OF €62,500

On the proposition of Councillor Alan Hand seconded by Councillor William Aird, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.0126 hectares of land including dwelling house at 44 Higgins Park, The Fairgreen, Portlaoise in the townland of Clonreher for a consideration of €62,500

DISPOSAL OF 75 M2 AT 63 ST. BRIGID'S SQUARE, PORTARLINGTON, CO. LAOIS IN THE TOWNLAND OF COOLTEDERRY FOR A CONSIDERATION OF €100.00

On the proposition of Councillor Ray Cribbin seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 75 m2 at 63 St. Brigid's Square, Portarlington, Co. Laois in the townland of Cooltederry for a consideration of €100.00

DISPOSAL OF 0.0257 HECTARES OF LAND INCLUDING DWELLING HOUSE AT 7 CILL BEG MANOR, STRADBALLY IN THE TOWNLAND OF KYLEBEG FOR A CONSIDERATION OF €84,000

On the proposal of Councillor James Deegan seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.0257 hectares of land including dwelling house at 7 Cill Beg Manor, Stradbally in the townland of Kylebeg for a consideration of €84,000

LEASE OF 1.214 HECTARES OF LAND AT CLONMINAM INDUSTRIAL ESTATE IN THE TOWNLAND OF CLONMINAM FOR A PERIOD OF 4 YEARS AND 11 MONTHS FOR A CONSIDERATION OF €26,000 PER ANNUM FOR THE FIRST 2 YEARS & €28,000 PER ANNUM IN EACH OF THE REMAINING YEARS OR PERIOD THEREOF

Councillor William Aird proposed that this Section 183 be deferred pending further consultation with the Portlaoise Electoral Members. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney.

LEASE OF 82M2 AT THE GREEN, STRADBALLY, CO. LAOIS IN THE TOWNLAND OF STRADBALLY FOR A PERIOD OF 35 YEARS FOR A CONSIDERATION OF €1.00 PER ANNUM

On the proposition of Councillor Ray Cribbin seconded by Councillor James Deegan, the Members unanimously agreed to the lease of 82 m2 at the Green, Stradbally, Co. Laois in the townland of Stradbally for a period of 35 years for a consideration of €1.00 per annum.

6. PART VIII OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 IN RESPECT OF THE CARRYING OUT OF VARIOUS

LANDSCAPING, AMENITY, TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND CALMING WORKS AT THE SQUARE AND PART OF THE CORK ROAD(FORMERLY THE N8), DURROW

The Members were circulated with the planning report on the proposed Part VIII of the Local Government Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 in respect of the carrying out of various landscaping, amenity, traffic management and calming works at The Square and part of the Cork Road (formerly the N8), Durrow in association with Durrow Development Forum.

The main specific works involved in the project relate to paving, public lighting, formal parking (including parking for the disabled), bus-shelter, bus-parking, signage, footpaths, limestone kerbing, re-alignment of access thoroughfare and ancillary works and drainage. The bulk of the works comprise ground works.

On the proposition of Councillor John Bonham seconded by Councillor Martin Phelan, the Members unanimously agreed to proceed with the proposed development.

Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services responded to the various queries raised. The proposal was welcomed by the Members and congratulations was extended to the Durrow Development Forum and in particular Ms. Evelyn Clancy, for their input in the project.

Mr. Peter Carey, County Manager congratulated all involved and in particular Ms. Clancy together with the Members of the Durrow Development Forum. Mr. Carey also thanked the Elected Members for their support.

7. TAKING IN CHARGE OF SPRINGHILL GROUP WATER SCHEME

The Members were advised that the Springhill Group Water Scheme was constructed in 2001 under the Council's supervision. The scheme consists of a connection to the public mains at Carlow and the distribution to 26 houses, 2 farms, 1 orchard and 1 factory.

The Trustees of the Scheme have requested that Laois County Council take the scheme in charge and all the Members have consented to same. The Water Services Section have confirmed that there are no outstanding issues with the scheme and that it is order for the Council to take the scheme over.

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan seconded by Councillor James Daly and in pursuant to the provisions of Section 95 of the Water Services Act, 1997, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of Springhill Group Water Scheme.

8. UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CORPORATE PLAN 2009 – 2014

The Members were circulated with an update on the Corporate Plan 2009 – 2014 and a general discussion took place in relation to same. The County Manager, Mr. Peter Carey advised the Members that the Council can be justifiably satisfied with the progress achieved in the implementation of the Corporate Plan 2009-2014. Laois County Council is constantly striving to achieve excellence in all areas. Given the commitment and dedication of it's employees and the Elected Members and the co-operation of the Sectoral Partners, the Council will continue to be

viewed as a model of excellence in Local Government, notwithstanding the difficult economic climate and the unprecedented challenges facing the Council.

9. PRESENTATION BY DR. PHILIP BYRNE, SENIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT SPECIALIST, INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION ON 'PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST' – ACTION PROGRAMME FOR EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Dr. Philip Byrne, Senior Local Government Specialist, Institute of Public Administration delivered a presentation on 'Putting People First' – Action Programme For Effective Local Government.

The Members complimented Dr. Byrne on the comprehensive presentation and thanked him for his presentation. Dr. Byrne responded to the various queries raised. Mr. Peter Carey, County Manager also thanked Dr. Byrne for his attendance and presentation.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

The following item of correspondence was circulated to the Members:-

Correspondence dated the 5th of January 2013 from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government in relation to the local electoral areas.

11. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 01/2013

Councillor Pdraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council calls on the Minister for Education, Mr. Ruairi Quinn, T.D., to introduce an independent Appeals for Students who have been affected by the delays and errors caused by the new Third Level Grant Administration System (SUSI) resulting in Financial hardship for students and their families and in some cases forcing students to give up their education courses”

This motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly. A discussion ensued and Members requested that the Minister ensure that grants be paid out before the end of February.

Notice of Motion No: 2/2013

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council write to the Minister for Agriculture in light of the recent sheep attacks by dogs and request the Minister to consider introducing an awareness campaign to highlight the dangers to dog owners and to encourage awareness so as to reduce the threat of future occurrences”

This motion was seconded by Councillor William Aird. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Minister for Agriculture in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 03/2013

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council write to the Minister for Justice, Mr. Alan Shatter, T.D., with regard to the following:-

- (i) The reduction of garda numbers to ensure that numbers do not go below 13,200
- (ii) That the Minister re-instate the training programme at Templemore and
- (iii) That the Minister acknowledge the genuine concern of people as a result of the high incidences of rural crime in particular burglaries and how he proposes to tackle these issues

This motion was seconded by Councillor William Aird. It was agreed that a letter would issue to the Minister in this regard.

SIGNED:

CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED:

DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
AFFAIRS