

**MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE,  
PORTLAOISE ON 26<sup>th</sup> OF JULY 2010**

**PRESENT: Councillors**

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

**APOLOGIES:** Padraig Fleming Paul Mitchell

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Messers Peter Carey, County Manager, Gerry Gibson, Director of Services, Ian McCormack, A/Director of Services, Kieran Kehoe, A/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.

**81. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

- (a) On the proposition of Councillor John Moran seconded by Councillor John Bonham, the Minutes of the June meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2010 were confirmed as circulated.
- (b) On the proposition of Councillor Michael Lalor seconded by Councillor William Aird, the Minutes of the Annual General meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2010 were confirmed as circulated.

**82. REPORTS ON AREA MEETINGS HELD IN JUNE 2010**

On the proposition of Councillor Patrick Bracken seconded by Councillor Jerry Lodge, the reports on the area meetings held in June 2010 were noted by the Members.

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

On the proposition of Councillor Michael Lalor seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the members unanimously agreed to the disposal of land at Old Borris, Castletown in the townland of Old Borris for a consideration of €2,500 in accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

**84. PART VIII OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 IN RESPECT OF 1 NO, RURAL DWELLING IN THE TOWLAND OF BOLEY UPPER, ABBEYLEIX, CO. LAOIS**

The Members were circulated with a copy of the planning report in relation to the above proposed development. The Members were advised that the proposed development involves the erection of a new 4-bed single storey dwelling house of 101 sq. ms floor area on a site of 0.65 hectares which is located in a rural area 3 kms south of Shanahoe and within a stronger rural area as designated in the County Development Plan, 2006 – 2012.

On the proposition of Councillor Martin Phelan seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan, the Members unanimously agreed to the proposed development in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001.

**85. PART VII OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 IN RESPECT OF GRAIGUECULLEN WATER SUPPLY SCHEME, DERRYMOYLE**

The Members were circulated with a copy of the planning report in relation to the above proposed development. The Members were advised that the objective of this scheme is to serve the needs of and provide an independent water supply to the Graiguecullen area, an area which has undergone large population and commercial expansion over the course of the last decade. The requirements of this new water supply scheme are to provide 1 – 1.5ml/day)1 ml/day = 1,000 cubic meter/day). The works associated with the proposed development include provision of a new reservoir and treatment buildings at Derrymoyle along with associated site works.

On the proposition of Councillor John Moran seconded by Councillor James Daly, the Members unanimously agreed to the proposed development in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations, 2001.

**86. ADOPTION OF DRAFT BROADBAND POLICY FOR COUNTY LAOIS FROM THE COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CULTURE, SPORT, HERITAGE & COUNTY PROMOTION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

The Members were circulated with a copy of the draft policy on Broadband for County Laois which was approved by the Strategic Policy Committee on Community, Economic Development, Heritage, Sport & County Promotion on Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup> 2010. This document when implemented will provide a co-ordinated framework which will align the activities of Laois County Council, commercial tele-communications carriers, government agencies and other stakeholders in the provision of broadband services throughout the County.

On the proposition of Councillor Michael Lalor seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously adopted the draft Broadband Policy for County Laois as circulated.

The Members expressed concern in relation to the service in the rural areas. Mr. Ian McCormack, A/Director of Services indicated that Laois County Council would write to the Department in relation to this. Councillor Jerry Lodge suggested that a networking event could be organized with the service providers in six months time and that we get a progress report at that time.

**87. ADOPTION OF DRAFT WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FROM THE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Wind Energy Development Strategy which was approved by the Planning & Environment Strategic Policy Committee on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2010.

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall, the Members unanimously adopted the draft Wind Energy Development Strategy as circulated.

**88. DRAFT SUSTAINABLE BUILDING POLICY FROM THE PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

The Members were circulated with a copy of the draft Sustainable Building Policy which was approved by the Planning, Development & Environment Strategic Policy Committee on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2010.

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, A/Director of Services briefed the Members on the policy and answered the various queries raised.

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Ray Cribbin, the Members unanimously adopted the draft Sustainable Building Policy as circulated

**89. PROGRESS REPORT ON MIDLANDS REGIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR 2009**

The Members were circulated with a copy of progress report on the implementation of Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan 2005-2010 which was noted by the Members.

**90. PRESENTATION BY MR. JIM BOLGER, HEALTH & SAFETY ADVISOR, LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mr. Jim Bolger, Health & Safety Advisor with Laois County Council gave an update to the Members on Health and Safety issues in Laois County Council.

The Members thanked Mr. Bolger for his presentation and the County Manager, Mr. Peter Carey also acknowledged the work of the Health & Safety Advisor and indicated that it is the intention to furnish the Members with an update on Health & Safety on an annual basis.

**92. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Members were circulated with one item of correspondence which was a letter received from the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government in relation to a recent Notice of Motion in respect of the process for the chargeability of rates dated the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2010. They indicated that a further letter would issue as soon as possible.

Councillor William Aird referred to the correspondence Members received in relation to the making of representations on behalf of housing applicants. Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services clarified the situation as outlined.

Councillor Michael Lalor requested clarification on housing applicants who refuse two offers of accommodation. It was agreed that this matter be referred back to the Housing & Social Strategic Policy Committee for clarification.

Councillor John Joe Fennelly raised the matter of litter fines and requested that Laois County Council write to the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government with a view to having the litter fines increased.

### **93. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

As the time had reached 1.00 p.m., the Members unanimously agreed that Standing Orders be suspended on the proposal of Councillor Ray Cribbin and seconded by Councillor William Aird.

### **94. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Councillor John Bonham raised the issue of the fire charges invoices which have recently issued. Mr. Kieran Kehoe, A/Director of Services indicated that Members should contact him if they require clarification on a particular case.

### **95. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

#### **Notice of Motion No: 16/10 – Councillor Brian Stanley**

Councillor Brian Stanley proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That this Council requests a reply from the Minister for the Environment and Finance to the following proposal that we sent to them in March – ‘That this Council calls on the Government to put in place a scheme to assist those who have purchased houses under the Affordable Housing Scheme and Shared Ownership Scheme and who now find it impossible to meet the full repayments’”*

This motion was seconded by Councillor Jerry Lodge.

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance indicated that a letter had issued to the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government in this regard followed by a series of phonecalls . The Department have indicated that Laois County Council would have a reply on this Motion before the end of the week.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 17/10 – Councillor Rotimi Adebari**

Councillor Rotimi Adebari proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That this Council calls on the Government to ensure that those receiving social welfare do not experience any further cuts to their payments”*

This motion was seconded by Councillor Brian Stanley.

It was agreed that a letter issue to the Department of Social, Community & Family Affairs in this regard

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**CERTIFIED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS**