

**MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ARAS AN
CHONTAE ON THE 25TH OF JULY 2011**

PRESENT: Councillors

John Bonham	In the Chair
William Aird	Pat Bowe
Patrick Bracken	Ben Brennan
Ray Cribbin	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

APOLOGIES: Councillors Rotimi Adebari James Daly

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

105. VOTE OF SYMPATHY

On the proposition of Councillor John Bonham and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to Mr. Francesco Domininio on the recent death of his father, Virgilio Domininio.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Peters family on the recent death of Mr. Richard Peters, Stradbally Road, Portlaoise. Mr. Peters was a former employee of Laois County Council.

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Scully & Luttrell families on the recent death of Winifred(Una) Scully, The Canal, Vicarstown, Co. Laois

On the proposition of Councillor Jerry Lodge and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to Mulhall family on the recent death of Mr. John Mulhall of Bawnree, Mountrath, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Donoghue family on the recent death of Ms. Mary Donoghue (nee Kilbride), Togher, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor John Moran and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the families of the Norweigan people who died tragically in a recent terrorist attack.

106. VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

On the proposal of Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed that a vote of congratulations be extended to Ms. Angela McEvoy, A/Senior Planner on her forthcoming wedding.

107. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

(a) In-Committee Meeting of Laois County Council held on the 20th of June 2011 – Draft County Development Plan 2012 – 2018 & 2nd Manager’s Report on the Draft County Development Plan 2012 – 2018

On the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Minutes of the In-Committee Meeting held on the 20th of June 2011 were confirmed as circulated.

(b) Statutory Meeting of Laois County Council held on the 23rd of June 2011 - Draft County Development Plan 2012 – 2018 & 2nd Manager’s Report on the Draft County Development Plan 2012 – 2018

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Minutes of the Statutory Meeting held on the 23rd of June 2011 were confirmed as circulated.

(c) June Meeting of Laois County Council held on the 27th of June 2011

On the proposition of Councillor James Deegan seconded by Councillor John King, the Minutes of the June Meeting of Laois County Council held on the 27th of June 2011 were confirmed as circulated

(d) Annual General Meeting of Laois County Council held on the 27th of June 2011

On the proposition of Councillor Seamus McDonald seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Laois County Council held on the 27th of June 2011 were confirmed as circulated.

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

- (i) **DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 – DISPOSAL OF 2.19 ACRES OF LAND AT THE DERRIES, BALLYBRITTAS IN THE TOWNLAND OF BALLYBRITTAS**

On the proposition of Councillor Ray Cribbin seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 2.19 acres of land at the Derries, Ballybrittas in the townland of Ballybrittas for a consideration of €9,000

- (ii) **DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 – DISPOSAL OF 0.4828 HECTARES AT SHANRAGH, WOLFHILL IN THE TOWNLAND OF SHANRAGH**

On the proposition of Councillor Pdraig Fleming seconded by Councillor John Moran, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.4828 hectares at Shanragh, Wolfhill in the townland of Shanragh, Farnans, Wolfhill for a consideration of €33,800

- (iii) **DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 – DISPOSAL OF 0.4084 HECTARES AT WOLFHILL IN THE TOWNLAND OF WOLFHILL**

On the proposition of Councillor Pdraig Fleming seconded by Councillor Ben Brenan, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.4084 hectares at Wolfhill in the townland of Wolfhill, Ballylehane, Wolfhill for a consideration of €35,250

109. PART VIII OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 IN RESPECT OF PROPOSED SCHEME AT ST. FERGAL'S COLLEGE, RATHDOWNEY FOR THE PROVISION OF A CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND, MULTI-USE GAMES AREA, WALKING TRACK AND ANCILLARY FACILITIES

The Members were circulated with the planning report on the proposed development of a playground and ancillary leisure related facilities on the grounds of St. Fergal's College, Rathdowney. In particular the proposed scheme provides for installation of

- A playground for children in the 1 – 12 year age bracket
- A 40 ms x 20 ms multi-use games area (mini-pitch)
- A walking track of c. 800 linear metres
- Safety surfacing
- Surround fencing
- Ball stop netting
- Flood lighting (250 lux) of the mini-pitch with 4 no. columns of 8 ms. Height

Various ancillary works including site preparation and drainage are also proposed as part of the scheme

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan the Members unanimously agreed to the proposed development.

110. FUNDING PROPOSAL FOR RATHDOWNEY PLAYGROUND PROJECT

The Members were circulated with the funding proposals for Rathdowney Playground Project. It was noted that the site is held by the Council under a Licence Agreement from Laois VEC and it will be sub-let by the Council to Rathdowney Playground Group in order to comply with the grant requirements of Laois Partnership Company. The estimated cost of the work is €250,000 which, subject to Council approval and successful grant application to the Laois Partnership Company is to be funded as follows:-

Grant from Laois Partnership	€187,500
Match Funding – Laois County Council	€31,250
Match Funding – Rathdowney Playground Group	€31,250

Rathdowney Playground Group will be the applicant for the Partnership Grant and it will also be the client for the tender process, the engagement of the Contractor, Contractor Payments etc.

The Council's approval is also sought to advance the necessary finance to the Playground Group so that the Group can pay the Contractor and claim the grant money from Laois Partnership which will in turn be reimbursed to the Council.

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan, the Members unanimously agreed to the proposed financing proposal for Rathdowney Playground.

The Members acknowledged the input of all the agencies and personnel involved in the provision and maintenance of playgrounds throughout the County.

111. TAKING IN CHARGE OF CLONKEEN GROUP WATER SCHEME

Mr. Gerry Gibson, Director of Services advised the Members that there are no outstanding issues with the above scheme and that it is in order for the Council to take the scheme over.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in Charge of Clonkeen Group Water Scheme.

112. TAKING IN CHARGE OF BELLINGHAM (PHASE 1), MOUNTRATH ROAD, PORTLAOISE

The Members expressed concern in relation to a number of issues which remain unresolved at Bellingham, e.g. ramps/traffic calming measures, boundary fence and road signage.

On the proposition of Councillor Kathleen O' Brien seconded by Councillor Alan Hand, it was unanimously agreed that the taking in charge of Bellingham be deferred to the September meeting of Laois County Council.

113. TAKING IN CHARGE OF DEREVALD, DURROW

The Members were advised that the immediate cost to Laois County Council is the operation and maintenance of Public Lighting which will cost approximately €480.00 per annum. A provisional sum of €1,000 should be allowed for the ongoing maintenance and repair of roads and services.

On the proposition of Councillor Martin Phelan seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of Derevald, Durrow.

114. NOMINATION OF MEMBER OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL TO LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Martin Phelan it was unanimously agreed that Councillor John Moran be nominated to the Laois County Council Audit Committee.

115. HIGHER EDUCATION GRANT SCHEME 2011/2012

The Members were circulated with the main changes to the 2011/2012 Student Maintenance Grant Scheme.

Councillor Mary Sweeney requested that a letter issue to the Department of Education seeking a re-examination of the qualifying distance criteria for the non-adjacent rate of grant. Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services indicated that this letter would issue to the Department as requested.

On the proposition of Councillor Jerry Lodge seconded by Councillor William Aird, the Members unanimously agreed to the Higher Education Grant Scheme 2011/2012.

116. SERVICE PRESENTATION BY MS. MARNA HATTON, CO-ORDINATOR OF LAOIS SUPPORT SERVICE AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

Ms. Marna Hatton was in attendance to give a service presentation to the Members of Laois County Council on the services provided by the Laois Support Service Against Domestic Abuse. Ms. Hatton outlined the structure of the organization, funding arrangements, statistics and contact details. The Members thanked Ms. Hatton for her very comprehensive presentation and complimented the service. Ms. Hatton expressed thanks to Laois County Council also for their ongoing support and in particular Mr. Michael Rainey, S.E.O., and staff in the Housing Department.

116. REVIEW OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2008-2011

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Litter Management Plan 2008 – 2011. Councillor John Joe Fennelly, Chairperson of the Planning & Development & Environment Strategic Policy Committee indicated that the revised plan was submitted to the Planning, Development & Environment SPC Meeting on Monday, July 13th 2011 and the Members of the SPC recommended that the plan be forwarded to the Council for adoption. The plan was also approved at the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on the 27th of June 2011.

The Members complimented Mr. John Daly, Director of Services and all the staff in the Environment Section on the report and work to date. The County Manager, Mr. Peter Carey acknowledged the support of the elected members and voluntary committee, in particular Councillor Kathleen O' Brien & Jerry Lodge. He also acknowledged the commitment of the schools.

117. CORRESPONDENCE

The Members were circulated with the following items of correspondence:-

- (i) Correspondence received from the Department of Health dated the 4th of July 2011 in relation to the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise
- (ii) Correspondence received from Deputy Sean Fleming dated the 6th of July 2011 in relation to the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise
- (iii) Correspondence received from the H.S.E. dated the 13th of July 2011 in relation to the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise
- (iv) Correspondence received from the H.S.E. dated the 19th of July 2011 in relation to the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor John Bonham indicated that Ms. Mary Davis, a potential candidate in the forthcoming presidential election will make her presentation to the Members at 3.00 p.m. in the afternoon and urged as many members as possible to be in attendance.

118. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 14/11 – Councillor William Aird

Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council call on the Minister Joan Burton to re-consider her decision to cut the fuel allowance allocations back to the 2007 levels”

This motion was seconded by Councillor Alan Hand. It was unanimously agreed that a letter would issue to Minister Burton in this regard

Notice of Motion No: 15/11 – Councillor William Aird

Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council set aside a portion of the levy collected on second homes for traffic calming measures in housing estates throughout the County”

This motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly. The Members were advised that NPPR income is used by Laois County Council in funding the revenue expenditure of this Council. Setting aside a portion of this income for traffic calming measure is something that would have to be considered when the budget is being prepared depending on the financial circumstances at that time. For the current year, there are no available funds.

However, it was agreed that the matter be considered as part of the budgetary preparations for 2012.

Notice of Motion No: 16/11 – Councillor William Aird

Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion;-

“That Laois County Council invite the Minister for Health, Dr. James O’ Reilly to address our monthly meeting about the status and future of the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise”

Correspondence was noted in this connection and it was agreed that further correspondence would issue to the Minister for Health in this regard.

SIGNED: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED:

**DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
AFFAIRS**

