

**MINUTES OF THE JULY MONTHLY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE ON THE 28TH OF JULY 2014**

PRESENT:	Councillors John Joe Fennelly	In the Chair
	Councillors William Aird	Paddy Bracken
	Catherine Fitzgerald	Padraig Fleming
	David Goodwin	James Kelly
	John King	Jerry Lodge
	Seamus McDonald	Paschal McEvoy
	John Moran	Tom Mulhall
	Aidan Mullins	Brendan Phelan
	Mary Sweeney	Noel Tuohy
APOLOGIES:	Ben Brennan	Caroline Dwane Stanley

IN ATTENDANCE:

Messers Peter Carey, Chief Executive, 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.

**102. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING OF LAOIS
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 30TH OF JUNE 2014**

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor Jerry Lodge, the minutes of the June meeting of Laois County Council held on the 30th of June 2014 were confirmed as circulated.

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

**(i) DISPOSAL OF 0.4885 HECTARES OF LAND AT BAY ROAD,
MOUNTMELLICK**

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor David Goodwin, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.4885 hectares of land at Bay Road, Mountmellick, Co. Laois in the townland of Townspark for a consideration of €6,500

**(ii) DISPOSAL OF 0.0159 HECTARES OF LAND AT 366 MARKET
MEWS, MARYBOROUGH VILLAGE, PORTLAOISE**

On the proposition of Councillor Jerry Lodge seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.0159 hectares of land at 366 Market Mews, Maryborough Village, Portlaoise in the townland of Clonroosk Little for a consideration of €65,000

104. ADOPTION OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Laois County Council Standing Orders and Item No. 18 & 19 were discussed. It was agreed that the necessary amendments would be made and that the Standing Orders would be re-circulated to the Members.

105. DRAFT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE SCHEME

The Members were advised that following the recent Local Elections and having regard to the provisions of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, it is necessary for each Local Authority to establish new SPC's in line with the revised guidelines published by the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government.

The Members were circulated with a copy of the draft Strategic Policy Scheme and the scheme was unanimously agreed on the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken.

106. REGIONAL STRUCTURES RE-ORGANISATION – OVERSIGHT GROUPS (CIRCULAR LETTER LG 19/2014)

The Members were circulated with a copy of Circular Letter LG 19/2014 in relation to the changes to the regional structures. It was noted that County Laois would now be part of the Midlands & Eastern Regional Assembly.

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald indicated her opposition to this and requested that a letter issue to the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government in this regard. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken.

107. DRAFT TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR 2014

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Draft Training & Development Programme for 2014. The Members were advised that the Programme has been amended to take account of the provisions of Circular LG 12/14.

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the draft Training & Development Programme for 2014 was adopted.

108. RATIFICATION OF CONFERENCES/TRAINING

On the proposition of Councillor Patrick Bracken seconded by Councillor Jerry Lodge, the conferences/training were ratified.

109. UPDATE ON ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LAOIS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services delivered a presentation to the Members on the establishment of the Laois Public Participation Network. Ms. Delaney outlined the background, role and structure of the Public Participation Network and also outlined the role of the Local Authority for same.

The Chief Executive acknowledged the work done so far on the establishment of the Laois PPN and the Members thanked Ms. Delaney for her presentation.

110. CONFIRMATION OF NOMINEES TO LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Members were advised that Laois County Council is proposing to establish a Local Community Development Committee for the County under the terms of the Local Government Reform Act (Part 6) and the Local Community Development Committee (Section 128E) Regulations, 2014. The purpose of the Local Community Development Committee is to develop, co-ordinate and implement a coherent and integrated approach to Local and Community Development.

The Members were advised that the LCDC will consist of 17 Members (8 Statutory and 9 Non Statutory Members). On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously agreed to the following Statutory Representatives from Laois County Council:

- Councillor Jerry Lodge
- Councillor Paschal McEvoy
- Councillor John King

111. APPOINT 3 MEMBERS TO BOARD OF LAOIS PARTNERSHIP COMPANY LTD

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor John Moran, Councillor William Aird was appointed to the Board of Laois Partnership Company Ltd.

On the proposition of Councillor Jerry Lodge seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald, Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald was appointed to the Board of Laois Partnership Company Ltd.

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy, Councillor Aidan Mullins was appointed to the Board of Laois Partnership Company Ltd.

112. APPOINTMENT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2014 ON RECOMMENDATION OF CPG & CHIEF EXECUTIVE

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor John Moran, the following Members were appointed to the Audit Committee:

- Mr. Ray Carroll
- Mr. Brian Bonham
- Mr. John Brennan

113. UPDATE ON MY PAY (SHARED PAYROLL/SUPERANNUATION SERVICES CENTRE)

Mr. John Forde, Director of My Pay delivered a presentation to the Members on the Local Government Shared Payroll/Superannuation Services Centre. Mr. Forde briefed the Members on the Facilities Setup on the third floor of Áras an Chontae, the background to the Centre, the Roll Out Plan, benefits to date of the Centre milestones and project statistics. Mr. Peter Carey, Chief Executive thanked Mr. John Forde, Director and Mr. Dermot O' Loughlin, Operations Manager and all staff for their work to date in getting the Centre operational. Mr. Carey also thanked the Elected Members for their support of the Centre. The Members thanked Mr. Forde for his very informative presentation.

114. PRESENTATION BY MS. EVELYN REDDIN, HEAD OF LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

Ms. Evelyn Reddin, Head of the Local Enterprise Office delivered a presentation on the Laois LEO and the support services provided by them and their objectives and promotional activities.

The Members thanked Ms. Reddin for her presentation.

Mr. Seamus Delaney from Internal Results was also present in the Council Chamber to introduce his company and announced their recent IDA funding. Internal Results already employs 30 staff and announced another 20 full time jobs over the next three years. The Chief Executive, Mr. Peter Carey congratulated Mr. Delaney and his company on their success to date and wished them every success into the future.

115. SPEED LIMIT REVIEW

It was noted that the following Notice of Motion was tabled on the agenda:

Notice of Motion No: 28/2014 – Councillor Jerry Lodge

“That this Council agrees to fix a date for an urgent meeting of the speed limit review committee with a view to including in the bye-laws a speed limit of 25kmh for all housing estates in the County in the interest of public safety”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney

The Members were advised that Laois County Council have commenced the formal process of carrying out a Speed Limit Review for the County. Part of this process will include setting the speed limits within housing estates in the County. It must be noted that the lowest allowable speed limit which can be applied to a public road is 30 km/hour.

116. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 29/2014 – Councillors Pdraig Fleming, Catherine Fitzgerald, Paschal McEvoy, Mary Sweeney, John Moran & Noel Tuohy

“That Laois County Council request the County Manager to commence the process of a variation of the County Development Plan 2012/2018 in respect of the Wind Strategy for the purpose of removing the areas designated as suitable for wind energy development”

This motion was seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald. Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services advised that the new guidelines from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government are imminent in relation to wind energy and that the Laois County Development Plan could be re-visited at that stage and if required could be amended by varying it to fit in with the guidelines.

Ms. Delaney indicated that the Motion was not in compliance with Government Policy and advised the Members that what they were proposing with this Motion is a blanket ban on wind energy in the County. There was no dissent from any of the Members on the motion.

116. BEST WISHES

The Cathaoirleach and Members of Laois County Council wished Mr. Peter Carey all the best on his departure from Laois to take up his new position as Chief Executive of Kildare County Council. The Members individually and collectively wished Mr. Carey well also.

Mr. Peter Carey, Chief Executive thanked all the Elected Members & the Management Team for their support during his time in Laois and also

expressed thanks to the media. Mr. Carey also remembered Councillors Michael Turley, Larry Kavanagh, Bill Delaney & Pat Bowe who passed away during his term of office as Chief Executive with Laois County Council

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
**DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
AFFAIRS**