

**MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ÁRAS AN  
CHONTAE ON THE 27<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY 2015**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Messers Gerry Murphy, Chief Executive, Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services, Ms. Irene Delaney, Administrative Officer & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary.

**89. VOTE OF SYMPATHY**

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the Members unanimously agreed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the following families on the recent death of their loved ones tragically killed in a road traffic accident in Rathdowney:-

- The Curry family, Carrig Cross, Rathdowney, Co. Laois on the death of Orla.
- The Kelly family, The Showgrounds, Rathdowney, Co. Laois on the death of Angela.
- The Brophy family, Erkina Court, Rathdowney, Co. Laois on the death of Martin.

**90. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING OF LAOIS  
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 29<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE 2015**

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Minutes of the June meeting of Laois County Council held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2015 were confirmed as circulated.

**91. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE A.G.M. OF LAOIS COUNTY  
COUNCIL HELD ON THE 29<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE 2015**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Minutes of the A.G.M. of Laois County Council held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2015 were confirmed as circulated

**92. REPORTS ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN JUNE 2015**

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor John Moran, the reports on Municipal District Meetings held in June 2015 were noted and agreed as circulated.

**93. REPORTS ON S.P.C. MEETINGS HELD IN JUNE 2015**

On the proposition of Councillor John Moran seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the reports on S.P.C. meetings held in June 2015 were noted and agreed as circulated.

**94. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL**

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Appointment of Chief Executive) Regulations, 2014, on the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously resolved the appointment of Mr. John Mulholland as Chief Executive of Laois County Council.

**94. MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR JUNE 2015 (IN ACCORDANCE WITH CIRCULAR LETTER LG 18/2014)**

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Chief Executive briefed the meeting on this matter and the report for June was circulated. The report for June 2015 was unanimously agreed and noted. A number of queries were raised on the report and the Directors of Services responded to the queries raised.

**95. TAKING IN CHARGE OF 'ASHTON MANOR', PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.**

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of 'Ashton Manor', Portlaoise

**96. DRAFT FIRE & EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN**

Mr. Declan Power, Chief Fire Officer delivered a presentation to the Members on the draft Fire & Emergency Operations Plan (Section 26), a copy of which had been circulated to the Members. The Members were advised that the draft plan had been agreed with the SPC and it was noted that no changes are proposed in relation to the organizational structures in the Fire Service. The Members thanked Mr. Declan Power, Chief Fire Officer and all the crew for the service which they provide around the County. On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor William Aird, the Members unanimously adopted the Draft Fire & Emergency Operations Plan.

**97. DRAFT LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2015 - 2017**

Ms. Anne Marie Kelly, Environment Awareness Officer delivered a presentation to the Members on the Draft Litter Management Plan 2015-2017, a copy of which had been circulated to the Members. The draft plan contains details of the Council's proposals in relation to litter management, how to report a complaint, the staff in the Litter Management section, education and awareness campaigns and the structure in the Laois Local Authorities Waste Facilities. It also sets out the performance indicators for 2015-2017. The plan has been agreed by the Strategic Policy Committee.

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Members unanimously adopted the draft Litter Management Plan 2015-2017 as presented.

**98. FIX DATE IN SEPTEMBER FOR LOCAL PROPERTY TAX MEETING – NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF SETTING A LOCAL ADJUSTMENT FACTOR**

It was unanimously agreed that the meeting to discuss the Local Property Tax would be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2015 at 2.30 p.m.

**99. LAOIS LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2014 FOR NOTING**

Mr. Ian McCormack briefed the Members on the Annual Report for the Laois Local Community Development Committee which was circulated. It was noted that the Annual Report was completed in accordance with the requirements of Section 128 (B) (1)(i) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014. The report sets out the functions of the LCDC, the membership of the LCDC and the main achievements of the LCDC during 2014.

**100. UPDATE ON THE 1916 COMMEMORATIONS BY MS. CATHERINE CASEY, HERITAGE OFFICER**

Ms. Catherine Casey, Heritage Officer presented the 1916 Centenary Commemorations Laois Draft Plan to the Members for their consideration. The Members were advised that the Laois draft Plan follows the seven National Programme Strands. The various proposed events/projects were also outlined in the presentation. Members were advised that it is proposed that the Laois Plan would be finalised by August 28<sup>th</sup> 2015 for submission to the Department in early September and thereafter for publication in October 2016.

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor John Moran, the Members unanimously adopted the 1916 Centenary Commemorations Laois Draft Plan.

**101. SISTER CITIES SUMMIT 2016**

Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services briefed the Members on this item. It was noted that Dublin and the City of San Jose, California will be twinned for 30 years in 2016. To mark the occasion and the Centenary of the 1916 Rising, Dublin City Council are holding a gathering event in Ireland comprising of USA and Irish twin/sister cities. The gathering will consist of a two day summit in Dublin following by each USA Sister City visiting it's respective Irish Town/Sister City/County.

As Laois County Council is twinned with Franklin, Tennessee, the Cathaoirleach has issued an invitation to Mayor Rogers Anderson.

**102. PRESENTATION BY MICHELLE DE FORGE, DIRECTOR, DUNAMAISE ARTS CENTRE**

It was noted that this presentation was deferred to the September meeting of Laois County Council.

### 103. RATIFICATION OF CONFERENCES & ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the ratification of conferences/attendance at training as circulated.

### 82. CORRESPONDENCE

The Members were circulated with the following correspondence which had been received since the last meeting:-

- (i) Correspondence received on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2015 from Eircode in relation to the new postcode system for Ireland
- (ii) Correspondence received on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2015 received from the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport in relation to a recent Notice of Motion regarding speed limit reductions in residential areas
- (iii) Correspondence dated the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2015 received from the Department of Health in relation to the services at the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise
- (iv) Correspondence dated the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2015 received from the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government in relation to the new Incremental Purchase Scheme
- (v) Correspondence dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2015 received from the Department of Justice and Equality in relation to combating rural and urban crime
- (vi) Correspondence dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2015 received from the Department of Justice and Equality in relation to assaults on Prison Officers and Gardaí
- (vii) Details of the Community Grant Scheme Projects for 2015

### 83. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

#### Notice of Motion No: 53/2015

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council calls on the I.D.A. and Enterprise Ireland to facilitate this Council with a meeting as soon as possible in light of the recent announcement of the Midland’s Action Plan for Jobs in which there was scant reference to the creation of a high number of jobs in Laois and the fact that Portlaoise has been designated a lower tier town”***

#### Notice of Motion No: 58/2015

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council invite a representative from the I.D.A. and Enterprise Ireland to give a presentation at our monthly meeting as to how we can bring further industry and employment to the County”***

The above two Notice of Motions were seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan and discussed. It was agreed that a letter issue to the I.D.A. & Enterprise Ireland requesting them to attend a future meeting of Laois County Council.

### **Notice of Motion No: 54/2015**

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council calls on the Minister for Social Protection to implement another alternative to JobBridge as this scheme leaves thousands of jobseekers vulnerable to exploitation”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Minister for Social Protection in this regard.

### **Notice of Motion No: 55/2015**

Councillor Noel Tuohy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“In order to exploit the record levels of tourism and visitors to our Country and the many who bypass our County’s wonderful amenities and attractions I request that Laois County Council draw up a strategic five year Tourism Sector plan with a view to boosting the local economy and employment potential”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. The Members were advised that Laois Tourism, the body established to promote and market Co. Laois as a Tourist Destination at home and abroad completed a new Tourism Strategy in 2014 which covers the period 2014 – 2016. Laois County Council is one of a number of agencies that support the Board and was involved in the consultation process which developed the strategy. The Board of Laois Tourism is currently having an operational review, which will include reviewing the current strategy with all the appropriate stakeholders. It is proposed to produce a short (1 year), medium (3 year) and long term (5 year) strategy document.

### **Notice of Motion No: 56/2015**

Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council call on Minister Alan Kelly not to introduce pay by weight charges at our recycling plant in Kyletelisha”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney. This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. The Members were advised that in relation to the introduction of pay-by-weight charges at our Civic Amenity Site at Kyletelisha, Laois County Council has received confirmation from the Waste Policy & Resource Efficiency section of the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government that the derogation for CA sites is in place until at least July 2016 and that a working group has been set up to determine the optimum process for the implementation of pay-by-weight at civic amenity facilities and to address possible challenges including the practical implications of pay-by-weight at civic amenity sites and the scope of application and timing of the introduction of pay-by-weight. The group is chaired by Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government with local authority representatives nominated by the chair of the Environment Sub-Committee of the CCMA.

It was agreed that a letter issue to Minister Alan Kelly in this regard.

**Notice of Motion No: 57/2015**

Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council call on the Taoiseach, Enda Kenny to instruct Minister Brendan Howlin not to proceed with increased pensions for public representatives”***

It was agreed that a letter issue to the Taoiseach, Mr. Enda Kenny in this regard.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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