

**MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ARAS  
AN CHONTAE ON THE 27<sup>th</sup> OF JUNE 2011**

**PRESENT:**

<b>Councillors</b>	James Deegan	In the Chair
	Rotimi Adebari	William Aird
	John Bonham	Pat Bowe
	Patrick Bracken	Ben Brennan
	Ray Cribbin	James Daly
	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, Gerry Gibson, Director of Services, Declan Byrne, Director of Services, John Daly, 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

**89. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING HELD ON THE 30<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY 2011**

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall, the Minutes of the May meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2011 were confirmed as circulated.

**90. VOTE OF SYMPATHY**

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Moore family on the death of Una Moore, Sugarloaf Cross, Morette, Emo, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor John Bonham and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Fennelly family, Abbeyleix on the death of James (Shay) Fennelly, Rathmoyle Road, Abbeyleix.

On the proposition of Councillor Michael Lalor and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to Councillor David Goodwin on the death of his sister, Frances Allen, Coolbanagher, Emo. Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Jerry Lodge and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Fitzgerald family on the death of former Taoiseach, Dr. Garret Fitzgerald.

On the proposition of Councillor Jerry Lodge and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Lenihan family on the death of Mr. Brian Lenihan, T.D.

On the proposition of Councillor Seamus McDonald and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Gorman family on the death of Tom Gorman, Skerry, Rosenallis, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ray Cribbin and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Keogh family on the death of Garry Keogh, Patrick Street, Portarlinton.

## **91. VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS**

On the proposal of Councillor Pdraig Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed that a vote of congratulations be extended to Mr. Robbie Lyons, The Swan, Co. Laois, a kidney recipient who recently competed at the 18<sup>th</sup> World Transplant Games in Gothenburg, Sweden. Robbie won a gold medal in the long jump after reaching an impressive 5.36 meters and also won two silver medals for the 100 metres and the ball throw.

## **92. NOMINATIONS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor James Deegan advised Members that candidates going forward for the forthcoming presidential election can make their presentation to the Members of Laois County Council on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2011.

## **93. REPORTS ON AREA MEETINGS HELD IN JUNE 2011**

On the proposal of Councillor Jerry Lodge seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the reports on area meetings held in June 2011 were noted.

## **94. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 - LEASE OF 2 ACRES OF LAND ADJACENT TO OAKGLEN, STRADBALLY**

On the proposition of Councillor Ray Cribbin seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall, the Members unanimously agreed to the lease of 2 acres of land adjacent to Oakglen, Stradbally in the townland of Stradbally for a period of three years for a consideration of €500 per annum.

**95. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 – DISPOSAL OF 287 m<sup>2</sup> OF LAND AT THE FAIRWAYS, ABBEYLEIX**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor John Bonham, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 287 m<sup>2</sup> of land at the Fairways, Abbeyleix in the townland of Rathmoyle for a consideration of €900

**96. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 – LEASE OF 1.23 ACRES OF LAND AT BAY ROAD, MOUNTMELICK**

On the proposition of Councillor David Goodwin seconded by Councillor Patrick Bracken, the Members unanimously agreed to the lease of 1.23 acres of land at Bay Road, Mountmellick in the townland of Townsparks for a period of three years for a consideration of €500 per annum.

**97. PART VIII OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 IN RESPECT OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT CANAL ROAD, COOLTEDERRY, PORTARLINGTON FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A GROUP HOUSING SCHEME INCLUDING ASSOCIATED SITE DEVELOPMENT WORKS AND DEMOLITION OF EXISTING 10 BAY HALTING SITE. GROUP HOUSING SCHEME TO CONSIST OF 5 NO. 3 BED SINGLE STOREY HOUSES & 1 NO. 4 BED SINGLE STOREY HOUSE**

The Members were circulated with the planning report on the proposed development of a 6 house group housing scheme on the site of the former traveller halting site at 'Woodlands', Canal Road, Cooltederry, Portarlington. The main features of the proposed scheme are as follows:-

- Demolition of 10 No. existing halting bays
- Construction of 5 No. 3 Bed detached Single-Storey Dwellings
- Construction of 1 No. 4 Bed detached Single-Storey dwellings
- Associated site development work

A discussion ensued regarding the proposed scheme and concern was expressed in relation to boundary treatment. Mr. Donal Kiely, Senior Executive Planner indicated that a two metre wall will be built to the rear of the housing scheme with wire fencing around the remainder of the site

The County Manager, Mr. Peter Carey & Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services acknowledged the support of the Members and also the Members of the Traveller Accommodation Committee and Laois County Council Housing Staff in preparing the proposal. This project is contained in the Traveller Accommodation

Programme and if approved by the Members, the next stage is to obtain pre-tender approval from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government.

On the proposition of Councillor Paul Mitchell seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to the proposed development.

## **98. ADOPTION OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2010**

The Members were circulated with a CD copy of the Annual Report for 2010. On the proposition of Councillor John Moran seconded by Councillor Jerry Lodge, the Members unanimously agreed to the adoption of the Laois County Council Annual Report 2010.

## **99. CORRESPONDENCE**

Members were circulated with the following item of correspondence:-

- (i) Acknowledgement from the Department of Health in relation to a Notice of Motion passed at the May Meeting in relation to funding for services to victims of domestic abuse in County Laois

The Members expressed concern about future plans for the Midland Regional Hospital.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird and seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed that a representative from the Health Services Executive be invited to a meeting of Laois County Council as a matter of urgency to discuss the issue. It was also requested that Dr. James Reilly, Minister for Health be invited to attend. The Members requested that support of the Oireachtas Members also be sought.

It was also requested that Ms. Marna Hatton, Co-Ordinator of the Laois Support Service Against Domestic Abuse be requested to provide a presentation at the next meeting on the services provided by the Laois Support Service Against Domestic Abuse.

## **100. PRESENTATION ON THE RURAL BROADBAND SCHEME BY MS. AOIFE MOORE, RPG PLANNER, MIDLAND REGIONAL AUTHORITY**

Ms. Aoife Moore, RPG Planner with the Midland Regional Authority attended the meeting to deliver a presentation on the Rural Broadband Scheme. The purpose of the presentation is to promote and raise awareness of the Rural Broadband Scheme and explain how the scheme will operate

The Members expressed concern regarding certain areas with little or no service. Ms. Moore advised that the Department of Communications should be informed as to where the problem areas are and she encouraged customers experiencing problems with their broadband scheme to contact their service provider in this regard.

**101. NOTICE OF MOTION NO: 13/11 – COUNCILLOR ALAN HAND**

Councillor Alan Hand proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That this Council vigorously resists any plans to install water meters to homes in County Laois. This is a form of double taxation which will impact people on low incomes”*

This motion was seconded by Councillor Rotimi Adebari.

The matter was discussed. However, it was noted that this is Government policy and therefore would not be a matter for Laois County Council.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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