

MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE ON 25th OF MAY 2009

PRESENT: Councillors **Tom Jacob** In the Chair

William Aird	John Bonham
Paddy Bracken	Ray Cribbin
James Deegan	Geraldine Delaney
John Joe Fennelly	Catherine Fitzgerald
David Goodwin	Laurence Kavanagh
Michael Lalor	Jerry Lodge
Seamus McDonald	Michael Moloney
Dick Miller	Paul Mitchell
John Moran	Brendan Phelan
Martin Phelan	Michael Rice
Brian Stanley	Mary Sweeney
John D. Turley	

APOLOGIES: Councillors James Daly

IN ATTENDANCE:

Messers Peter Carey, County Manager, Gerry Gibson, Director of Services, Declan Byrne, Director of Services, Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, John Daly, Director of Services, Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services, Ms. Carmel McNicholl, Senior Executive Officer & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary

55. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

On the proposition of Councillor John Bonham seconded by Councillor Ray Cribbin, it was agreed that the Minutes of the April meeting held on the 11th of May 2009 as circulated be adopted and signed.

56. CONFIRM DATE FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL – 19TH JUNE 2009

The Members agreed that the Annual General Meeting of Laois County Council would take place on the 19th of June 2009 at 2.00 p.m.

57. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 IN RESPECT OF 1.41 ACRES APPROXIMATELY AT PORTLOAISE ROAD, ABBEYLEIX

On the proposition of Councillor John Bonham seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 1.41 acres approximately at Portlaoise Road, Abbeyleix for the sum of €1,656,000 and subject to certain conditions

58. APPROVAL OF OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION IN THE SUM OF €9,000,000 FOR THE HALF-YEAR ENDING 31/12/2009

On the proposition of Councillor Michael Lalor seconded by Councillor John Bonham, the members unanimously agreed to the approval of overdraft accommodation in the sum of €9,000,000 for the half-year ending 31/12/2009.

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance indicated that that the overdraft facility has been increased from €6,000,000 to €9,000,000. Members expressed concern regarding the finances and the situation by the end of the current year, and in particular the areas of road maintenance and housing maintenance. Mr. Peter Carey, County Manager indicated that Laois County Council are operating in a very difficult economic environment and emphasised the importance of managing our budget prudently and that the priority will be to maintain frontline services. He stated that expenditure cutbacks were being implemented in the current year in an effort to stay within budget. He also said that income streams were under pressure and that the situation would be kept under review.

59. ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2008 – APPROVAL OF OVER-EXPENDITURE AND TRANSFER TO CAPITAL

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Annual Financial Statement for 2008 containing an Income and Expenditure Account Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Accounting Policies, Notes to the Accounts and Appendices. Details of additional expenditure incurred in 2008 under the various services and details of transfers from revenue to capital were also outlined in this document.

On the proposition of Councillor Paul Mitchell seconded by Councillor John D. Turley, the members unanimously agreed to the Annual Financial Statement 2008 and the approval of over-expenditure and transfer to capital.

60. TAKING IN CHARGE OF ‘CLOGHANE ESTATE’ ERRILL, PORTLOAISE, CO. LAOIS.

On the proposition of Councillor Brendan Phelan seconded by Councillor Martin Phelan, the members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of ‘Cloghane Estate’, Errill, Portlaoise

61. DRAFT WASTE MANAGEMENT (STORAGE, PRESENTATION, SEGREGATION AND COLLECTION OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE) BYE-LAWS, 2009

The Members were circulated with a copy of the report on the proposed draft Waste Management (Storage, Presentation, Segregation and Collection of Household Waste) Bye-Laws, 2009. On the proposition of Councillor John Bonham seconded by Councillor John Moran, the members unanimously adopted the proposed bye-laws.

62. CORRESPONDENCE

The Members were circulated with the following correspondence :

- (i) Correspondence from Tánaiste and Office of the Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment dated the 28th of April 2009 in response to Notice of Motion No: 05/09
- (ii) Correspondence from Enterprise Ireland dated the 14th of May 2009 in response to Notice of Motion No: 20/09
- (iii) Correspondence from the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources dated the 14th of May 2009 in response to Notice of Motion No: 17/09
- (iv) Correspondence from the Health Services Executive dated the 14th of May 2009 in response to Notice of Motion No: 15/09
- (v) Correspondence from the Health Services Executive dated the 15th of May 2009 in response to Notice of Motion No: 13/09
- (vi) Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and food dated the 18th of May 2009 in response to Notice of Motion No: 09/09
- (vii) Correspondence from the Health Services Executive dated the 19th of May 2009 in response to Notice of Motion No: 08/09
- (viii) Correspondence from the Taxi Regulator dated the 19th of May 2009 in relation to the increase in the issue of SPSV licence numbers
- (ix) Correspondence from the Department of Health & Children dated the 19th of May 2009 in response to Notice of Motion No: 15/09
- (x) Correspondence from the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources dated the 21st of May 2009 in response to Notice of Motion No: 17/09
- (xi) Correspondence from the Tanaiste and Office of the Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment dated the 21st of May 2009 in relation to the importation of railway sleepers by Irish Rail from Germany
- (xii) Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food dated the 22nd of May 2009 in response to Notice of Motion: 09/09

Councillor Tom Jacob expressed concern in relation to the response from the Office of the Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment on Notice of Motion No: 05/09 indicating that they are not in a position to carry out remedial work to the rivers. The Members requested that a further letter issue to the Department in this regard and emphasised the importance of river maintenance.

Councillor Brian Stanley expressed concern in relation to the response from the Health Services Executive on Notice of Motion No: 08/09. Mr. Peter Carey, County Manager indicated that early contact with the Council is of utmost importance from tenants who are experiencing difficulty meeting payments.

63. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 21/09

Councillor Michael Moloney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That we, the Members of Laois County Council call on the Minister for Justice to accede to the call of The Prison Officers Association to intervene to stop dissident republican groups carrying out military parades in Portlaoise Prison”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Laurence Kavanagh. Councillor Moloney acknowledged the member’s support and requested that contact be made with the Minister in this regard.

64. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The outgoing Councillors, Laurence Kavanagh, Geraldine Delaney, John D.. Turley & Michael Rice thanked the County Manager and all staff at Áras an Chontae for their assistance during their period as Members of Laois County Council and wished the candidates well in the forthcoming local elections.

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Tom Jacob thanked the outgoing Members for their contribution to Laois County Council. All Councillors wished the outgoing Members well.

The County Manager joined with the Members sentiments and extended best wishes to the outgoing Councillors and election candidates.

Mr. Tom Jacob, Cathaoirleach raised the issue of the naming of the roundabout ‘The New Bellingham Roundabout’ at Boughlone. It was agreed that the Placenames Committee would examine this issue.

65. CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

On the proposition of Councillor John Bonham seconded by Councillor Michael Lalor, the members unanimously agreed to the ratification of conferences attended as circulated.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

Director of Corporate Affairs