

**MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ÁRAS AN  
CHONTAE ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE 2012**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors</b>	John Bonham	In the Chair
		Rotimi Adebari	William Aird
		Pat Bowe	Patrick Bracken
		Ben Brennan	Ray Cribbin
		James Daly	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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Messers Peter Carey, County Manager, Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services, Mr. Michael O' Hora, A/Director of Services, Ms. Irene Delaney, Administrative Officer & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary.

**56. VOTE OF SYMPATHY**

On the proposition of Councillors Martin Phelan & John Bonham and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Rohan family on the death of Mr. Liam Rohan, Shanahoe, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillors John Joe Fennelly & John Bonham and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Lawlor family on the death of Mr. John Lawlor, Rathmoyle, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Mooney family on the death of Mr. Christy Mooney, Kilbride, Portarlinton, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillors William Aird, Tom Mulhall & Ray Cribbin and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Corcoran family on the death of Mr. John Corcoran, Ballykeane, Geashill, Co. Offaly.

On the proposition of Councillors William Aird, Catherine Fitzgerald & Mary Sweeney and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Grace family on the death of Mr. Frankie Grace, Cullenagh, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Breen family on the death of Mrs. Margaret Breen, Fountain Side, Main Street, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Bennett family on the death of Mr. Patrick Bennett, Coolnamona, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor James Daly and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Lacey family on the death of Ms. Kathleen Lacey, Clopook Cross, Luggacurren, Stradbally, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Hendy family on the death of Mrs. Hendy, Fisherstown, Ballybrittas, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird, James Deegan, Tom Mulhall & Ray Cribbin and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the O' Reilly family on the death of Ms. Frances O' Reilly, Ballybrittas, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillors Tom Mulhall & James Deegan and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Dillon family on the death of Mr. Paddy Dillon, Charter Road, Stradbally, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Finn family on the death of Mr. James Finn, Kyle, Ridge Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ray Cribbin and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Quinn family on the death of Ms. Eileen Quinn, Orchard Drive, Portarlinton, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor James Daly and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Moore family on the death of Mr. Patrick Moore, Kellystown, Wolfhill, Co. Laois.

## **57. VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS**

On the proposition of Councillors Kathleen O' Brien & Catherine Fitzgerald, it was unanimously agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to all involved with the 2012 Fèile Peil na nÓg which was recently hosted by Laois & Offaly G.A.A. which was a huge success for the town of Portlaoise and the County of Laois. The County Manager also thanked all involved with this event.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird, it was unanimously agreed that a letter of best wishes be sent to Mr. Denis Donoghue who has been selected as an execution judge at the 2012 Olympics Games in London from the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2012 to the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2012. It was noted that Mr. Donoghue was the first ever Irish person to be selected.

Mr. Peter Carey, County Manager informed the Members that on June 20<sup>th</sup> 2012, Laois County Council hosted a visit from the Deputy Minister of the Water Resource in China and her colleagues. The purpose of the visit was to see the newly constructed Integrated Constructed Wetland (ICW) in operation.

The County Manager advised that a tour of the project would be arranged for the Members of Laois County Council.

**58. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 28<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY 2012**

On the proposition of Councillor James Deegan seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Minutes of the May meeting of Laois County Council held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2012 were agreed as circulated.

Councillor James Daly referred to the following Notice of Motion No: 22/12 that was discussed at the May Meeting of Laois County Council

*“That this Council request a meeting with the County Manager, Mr. Peter Carey with representatives from the R.T.S. Ratheniska, Timahoe, Spink) Sub-Station Group”*

Councillor Daly enquired as to whether further information or a planning application had been submitted in this regard. The County Manager, Mr. Peter Carey again confirmed that he will meet with representatives from the R.T.S. (Ratheniska, Timahoe, Spink) & Councillors upon receipt of additional information that is relevant to the development in Ratheniska or when a planning application is lodged before An Bord Pleanala as agreed at the May Meeting of Laois County Council.

**59. REPORTS ON AREA & SPC MEETINGS HELD IN JUNE 2012**

The Members were circulated with a copy of the reports on Area & SPC Meetings held in June 2012 which were noted.

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

**(i) DISPOSAL OF THE FREEHOLD INTEREST OF PROPERTY AT NO. 26 LOWER BELADD, PORTLAOISE FOR A CONSIDERATION OF €127.00**

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor Rotimi Aebari, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of the freehold interest of property at No. 26 Lower Beladd, Portlaoise for a consideration of €127.00

**(ii) DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT 89 BUTTERCUP AVENUE, ESKER HILLS, PORTLAOISE FOR A CONSIDERATION OF €85,000**

On the proposition of Councillor Rotimi Adebari seconded by Councillor Kathleen O' Brien, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of property at 89 Buttercup Avenue, Esker Hills, Portlaoise for a consideration of €85,000

**(iii) DISPOSAL OF 0.60 ACRES (0.24 H) OF LAND AT ACRAGAR, MOUNTMELICK IN THE TOWNLAND OF ACRAGAR FOR A CONSIDERATION OF €3,500**

On the proposition of Councillor David Goodwin seconded by Councillor Patrick Bracken, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.60 acres (0.24h) of land at Acragar, Mountmellick in the townland of Acragar for a consideration of €3,500

**61. ADOPTION OF BYE-LAWS MADE UNDER THE CONTROL OF HORSES ACT, 1996 (AGREED BY HOUSING & SOCIAL STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE ON 14<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY 2012)**

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Bye-Laws made under the Control of Horses Act, 1996 (agreed by Housing & Social Strategic Policy Committee on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2012).

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Alan Hand, the Members agreed to adopt the Bye-Laws made under the Control of Horses Act, 1996.

Councillor Pdraig Fleming proposed that Part (iv) of Section 10 be omitted – “That Laois County Council shall dispose of a horse if it is detained twice in a twelve month period”. However, following a show of hands it was agreed to adopt the bye-laws as presented.

**62. ADOPTION OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2011**

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Laois County Council Annual Report for 2011. On the proposition of Councillor Brendan Phelan seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to the adoption of the Laois County Council Annual Report 2011 as circulated.

**63. UPDATE ON PUBLIC SERVICE (CROKE PARK) AGREEMENT 2010 – 2014**

The Members were circulated with a progress report on the Croke Park Agreement. Mr. Peter Carey, County Manager informed Members that Laois County Council submitted its second progress report for the period April 2011 – March 2012 for collation into the Sectoral Progress Report for the Local Government Section. The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Progress Report showed savings achieved of €3 million for the period 2010 – March 2011 and a further €1.8 million in savings achieved in the period April 2011 – March 2012. For the period of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Progress Report, this includes non-pay savings of €709,000 costs avoided of €800,000 and overtime and pay savings of €151,000. The County Manager indicated that a major contributory factor in achieving these savings has been the significant reduction in staff numbers and many other initiatives which have allowed Laois County Council to achieve savings of over €4.8 million over the 2 year reporting period to the end of March 2012.

The County Manager also outlined issues currently under consideration and acknowledged the co-operation and flexibility of both the staff and Elected Members of Laois County Council.

The Members complimented the Management and Staff of Laois County Council on the achievements in the savings.

#### **64. REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS**

The Members were circulated with a report on development contributions. There is a requirement under Section 48 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 to prepare a report which contains details of monies received in respect of development contributions and which indicates how such monies have been expended. The report sets out details of

- (i) Contributions available and amounts allocated in 2011
- (ii) Special levies available and amounts allocated in 2011
- (iii) Contributions available and amounts allocated in 2011 under the 1963 Planning and Development Act
- (iv) Proposals in relation to the disbursement of contributions

The Members noted the report and its contents and complemented Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance for the update.

#### **65. PRESENTATION BY MS. CAROLINE MYERS, CO-ORDINATOR, LAOIS SPORTS PARTNERSHIP ON 'OUR ROLE IN SPORT & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN LAOIS**

Ms. Caroline Myers, Co-Ordinator, Laois Sports Partnership gave a presentation to the Members and outlined the Laois Sports Partnership Strategic Plan for 2012 – 2015, their key activities and the grant schemes available.

#### **66. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT TO MS. MARY TERRITT, FIREFIGHTER, PORTLAOISE FIRE BRIGADE & MR. JOE HARDING, SUB-OFFICER, RATHDOWNEY FIRE STATION IN RECOGNITION OF WINNING THE NATIONAL TRAUMA CHALLENGE IN ASHBOURNE ON TH 25<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH 2012**

Ms. Mary Territt, Fire-Fighter, Portlaoise Fire Brigade & Mr. Joe Harding, Sub-Officer, Rathdowney Fire Station were in attendance to receive a Certificate of Achievement on recently winning the National Trauma Challenge in Ashbourne on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2012.

It was noted that Ms. Territt and Mr. Harding, as national champions have now been invited to attend the World Rescue Challenge in London in October and that this will give Laois County Fire & Rescue Service a very high profile on a world stage. The Members congratulated Ms. Territt & Mr. Harding on their success and wished them well in the World Trauma Challenge in October in London.

#### **67. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following items of correspondence were circulated to the Members:

- (i) Correspondence dated the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2012 from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government in relation to Notice of Motion No: 20/02
- (ii) Correspondence dated the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2012 from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government in relation to the provision of Water Services
- (iii) Correspondence dated the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2012 from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government in relation to Notice of Motion No: 30/2012
- (iv) Correspondence dated the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 2012 from the Department of Health in relation to Notice of Motion No: 24/2012
- (v) Correspondence dated the 6<sup>th</sup> of June from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government in relation to Notice of Motion No: 29/2012
- (vi) Correspondence dated the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2012 from the Office of the Minister for Housing & Planning in relation to Notice of Motion No: 28/2012
- (vii) Correspondence dated the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2012 from the Office of the Minister for Housing & Planning in relation to Notice of Motion No: 31/2012
- (viii) Correspondence dated the 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2012 from the Office of the Minister for Health in relation to Notice of Motion No: 24/2012
- (ix) Correspondence dated the 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2012 from the Office of Public Works in relation to Notice of Motion No: 12/2012
- (x) Correspondence dated the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2012 from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills in relation to the Student Grant Application Process 2012/2013
- (xi) Correspondence dated the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2012 from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality in relation to Notice of Motion No: 17/2012
- (xii) Correspondence dated the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2012 from the Office of the Minister for Health in relation to Notice of Motion No: 26/2012
- (xiii) Correspondence dated the 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2012 from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government in relation to Notice of Motion No: 29/2012

## 68. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

As the time had reached 1.30 p.m. it was agreed to defer the discussion on the Notice of Motions to the next meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED:

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CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED:

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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE  
AFFAIRS

