

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ARAS
AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE, ON THE 27TH OF NOVEMBER 2017**

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Messers John Mulholland, Chief Executive, Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services Michael Rainey, Senior Executive Officer & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary.

162. VOTES OF SYMPATHY

- (i) On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Padraig Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed to extend a Vote of Sympathy to Ms. Triona Casey, Laois County Council on the recent death of her mother, Marie
- (ii) On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Padraig Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed to extend a Vote of Sympathy to Mr. Fintan Scully, Laois County Council on the recent death of his mother, Elizabeth.
- (iii) On the proposition of Councillors Mary Sweeney & William Aird, the Members unanimously agreed to extend a Vote of Sympathy to the Larkin family, Redhill, Ballyroan on the recent death of Mr. Sean Larkin
- (iv) On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Padraig Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed to extend a Vote of Sympathy to the McCormack family, Borris Court, Portlaoise on the recent death of her Mr. Joe McCormack, former Member of Portlaoise Town Commission
- (v) On the proposition of the Councillor Tom Mulhall, the Members unanimously agreed to extend a Vote of Sympathy to the Mulhall family, Stradbally Road, Portlaoise on the recent death of Mr. Alan Mulhall

**163. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF
LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 23RD OF OCTOBER 2017**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald, the Minutes of the October meeting held on the 23rd of October 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

**164. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING HELD
ON THE 13TH OF NOVEMBER 2017**

On the proposition of Councillor John Moran seconded by Councillor John King, the Minutes of the Budget meeting held on the 13th of November 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

165. REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 18TH OF OCTOBER 2017

On the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the report on the CPG meeting held on the 18th of October 2017 was confirmed as circulated.

**166. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN OCTOBER
2017**

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy, the reports on the Municipal District Meetings held in October 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

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

**(i) DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 11 STATION ROAD,
PORTARLINGTON**

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal freehold interest at 11 Station Road, Portarlington, Co. Laois in the townland of Cooltederry to Ms. Leona Gorry, Cushina, Portarlington, Co. Laois., for a consideration of €1.00

**(ii) DISPOSAL OF 0.3587 HECTARES OF LAND AT KYLECLONHOBERT, CO.
LAOIS IN THE TOWNLAND OF KYLECLONHOBERT TO J & M SONS EXPORTS
LIMITED, BALLYFORE LITTLE, EDENDERRY, CO. OFFALY, FOR A
CONSIDERATION OF €18,000**

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.3587 hectares of land at Kyleclonhobert, Co. Laois in the townland of Kyleclonhobert to J & M Sons Exports Limited, Ballyfore Little, Edenderry, Co. Offaly, for a consideration of €18,000

168. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Pdraig Fleming, it was unanimously agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to facilitate a discussion on the issue of Portlaoise General Hospital. The correspondence from Minister Harris dated the 26th of October 2017 was also discussed.

The Members had a lengthy discussion in relation to the issue and it was agreed to again write to Minister Harris, Minister for Health advising that the the conclusions and solutions outlined in Dr. Susan O' Reilly's report in relation to Portlaoise Hospital be totally rejected by the Minister as there are serious flaws in many of the conclusions. The Members again sought a deputation, as a matter of urgency comprising of the 3 Oireachtas members, the Cathaoirleach of Laois County Council and three Elected Members representing their groups with the Minister to discuss matters in relation to Portlaoise General Hospital.

**169. APPROVAL OF THE RAPID (REVITALISING AREAS PLANNING,
INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT) NATIONAL CAPITAL GRANTS
PROGRAMME 2017**

Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services briefed Members on the Rapid Scheme which Minister Ring has announced for the Country with funding of €2 million being divided equally between the local authorities with each receiving €64,500. The funding is primarily aimed at capital projects in urban areas of disadvantage. The proposed timelines are as follows: and the matter is recommended for approval at the November meeting of the Council as the funding will be fully paid out before the end of 2017:-

Call for Applications	Friday, 10 th November 2017
Deadline for Applications	5pm, Monday 20 th November
LCDC Evaluation	Friday 24 th November
MD Approval	Early December
Payment	End December

Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor John King, the Rapid Programme as presented was unanimously agreed for this district

Graigecullen/Portarlington Municipal District

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor John Moran, the Rapid Programme as presented was unanimously agreed for this district

Portlaoise Municipal District

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley, the Rapid Programme as presented was unanimously agreed for this district

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Rapid Programme as presented was unanimously agreed.

170. WINTER MAINTENANCE PLAN

The Members were circulated with the Winter Maintenance Plan 2017/2018. Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services briefed Members on the Plan and responded to the queries raised.

171. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2017

Mr. John Mulholland, Chief Executive briefed the meeting on this matter and the report for November was circulated. The report was unanimously agreed and noted. A number of queries were raised on the report and the Directors of Services responded to the various queries raised.

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services delivered a presentation on the recent 'Extreme Flooding' event in North Laois' which occurred on the 22nd of November 2017.

Mr. Kehoe advised the Members on the Severe Co-Ordination Centre & Crisis Management Team which were established in County Hall. Laois County Council Fire Services and Laois County Council Outdoor Roads Crews were mobilised from 6.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 22nd of November 2017 followed by the mobilization of Laois County Council Civil Defense crews.

The Director of Services expressed thanks to all staff from Laois County Council, An Garda Siochana, the Defence Forces and the Department of Social Protection who established a Humanitarian aid and support centre in Mountmellick.

The Members expressed thanks to all concerned and congratulated Laois County Council for their professional response to the extreme flooding event. The Members requested that the rivers in question be cleaned and drained.

172. CONSIDERATION OF CIVIC RECEPTION TO ST. ABBANS ATHLETIC CLUB LADIES (AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP ON THE 20TH OF NOVEMBER 2017)

Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services briefed the Members on a request for a reception which had been received from An Cathaoirleach, Mr. Pádraig Fleming from St. Abban's Athletic Club in recognition of the outstanding achievement of the women's team who claimed the National Premier Division title in August and it was noted that the team will now represent Ireland in the European Club Championships in Finland in May of 2018.

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously agreed to the according of a Civic Reception to St. Abban's Athletic Club Ladies as recommended by the Corporate Policy Group on the 20th of November 2017.

173. RATIFICATION OF CONFERENCES/ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING

It was noted that there were no conferences for ratification and Members were circulated with the list of forthcoming training and conferences for November 2017 which was agreed on the proposition of Councillor Noel Tuohy seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney.

174. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was circulated which had been received since the last meeting of Laois County Council:

- (i) Correspondence received from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform dated the 24th of October 2017 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 39/2017
- (ii) Correspondence received from the Office of Minister Simon Harris dated the 26th of October 2017 in relation to Portlaoise General Hospital
- (iii) Correspondence received from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government dated the 31st of October 2017 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 28/2017
- (iv) Correspondence received from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht dated the 3rd of November 2017 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 41/2017
- (v) Correspondence received from Fáilte Ireland dated the 8th of November 2017 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 42/2017

175. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 43/2017

Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council inform the meeting of how many inspections were carried out from 2016 and 2017 up to the present date on private rented units in the HAP Scheme and how many is left to be carried out”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Jerry Lodge. The Members were advised that HAP commenced in Laois on the 1st of December 2016 and to date 288 tenancies have been signed. 126 Inspections have been carried out.

Notice of Motion No: 44/2017

Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council ensure that houses provided under the part 5 planning Act for private Development are peppered throughout the Estate and not located all in the same area”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will ensure that houses provided under Part V are peppered throughout the estate.

The following two Notice of Motions were taken together and seconded by Councillor John King:-

Notice of Motion No: 45/2017

Councillor Mary Sweeney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council support my request to the Government, to amend the present anomalies in State Pensions with regard to the current inequalities towards women”

Notice of Motion No: 49/2017

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council contact the Department of Public Expenditure to express its dissatisfaction over recent changes regarding pension entitlements”

It was agreed that a letter issue to the Minister for Public Expenditure in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 46/2017

Councillor Mary Sweeney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council update members of progress to date with regard to provision of new Library for Portlaoise”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald. The Members were advised that site investigation works will proceed shortly and will comprise archaeological excavations and soil investigations on the site. The results of these investigations will inform the detailed design of the development that in turn will form the basis of the tender for

construction of the new library. Clarity on additional capital funding will be required before the project proceeds to final tender.

Laois County Council has sought additional funding from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government and continues to engage with the Department in this respect.

Notice of Motion No: 47/2017

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council address the very serious problem as to why people are not interested in recruiting to join the fire service in locations around the County and as a result some crews are being run on a skeleton staff”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Members were advised that Laois County Council continues to make every effort to fill the current vacancies in our Retained Fire Services personnel. Only on the 23rd of November 2017 further interviews were held to fill some vacancies.

Notice of Motion No: 48/2017

Councillor Noel Tuohy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council call on the Minister for Justice & Equality, Mr. Charles Flanagan, T.D., to bring forward legislation that adequately responds to the crime of burglary particularly against the old and the vulnerable and review the sentencing on those individuals who are committing these crimes especially using violence”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. It was agreed that a letter issue to Minister Flanagan in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 50/2017

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council seek clarification from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport re: commencement dates for NCT for cars that have been tested before their due dates”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 51/2017

Councillor Jerry Lodge proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council agree to enter into discussions with Carlow IT with a view to establishing a formal 3rd Level Outreach Centre in County Laois along with LOETB”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald. It was agreed that this matter be pursued.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
CORPORATE AFFAIRS