

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN  
ARAS AN CHONTAE ON THE 24<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER 2011**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors</b>	John Bonham	In the Chair
		Rotimi Adebari	William Aird
		Pat Bowe	Mary Sweeney
		Paddy 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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Messers Peter Carey, County Manager, Gerry Gibson, Director of Services, Ian McCormack, A/Director of Services, John Daly, Director of Services, Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services, Ms. Irene Delaney, A/Senior Executive Officer & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary

**135. VOTE OF SYMPATHY**

On the proposition of Councillor John Bonham, Cathaoirleach and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to Ms. Karyn Cuddy, Laois County Council and her extended family on the recent death of her mother, Mrs. Christine Spillane, Boley, Shanahoe, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor John Bonham, Cathaoirleach and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to Mr. Michael Corrigan, Laois County Council and his extended family on the recent death of his mother, Mrs. Julia Corrigan, Ballacolla, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor John Bonham, Cathaoirleach and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to Ms. Dolores Murphy, Laois County Council and her extended family on the recent death of her father, Mr. Jim Beere, Marian Avenue, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor John Bonham, Cathaoirleach and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to Mr. Declan Power, Laois County Council and his extended family on the recent death of his father, Mr. Declan Power, Tramore, Co. Waterford.

On the proposition of Councillor John Bonham, Cathaoirleach and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to Ms. Mairead Greene and her extended family on the recent death of her father, Mr. Michael Keenan, 4 New Row, Green Road, Portlaoise.

On the proposition of Councillor John Bonham, Cathaoirleach and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Fogarty family on the recent death of Mr. Michael Fogarty, Newtown, Cullohill, Co. Laois, a former employee of Laois County Council.

On the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Ms. Mary Delaney & The Browne Family on the recent death of Mr. Don Browne, Carrigeen, Stradbally, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Bennett Family on the recent death of Ms. Mary Bennett, Vicarstown, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor James Deegan and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Fitzpatrick Family on the recent death of Ms. Moyra Fitzpatrick, Killone, The Heath, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor James Deegan and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Bolger Family on the recent death of Mr. John Bolger, The Green, Kilminchy, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Fox Family on the recent death of Ms. Julia Fox, Newtown, Crettyard, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Kehoe Family on the recent death of Mr. Johnny Kehoe, Lower Springhill, Killeshin, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Mullins Family on the recent death of Mr. Patrick Mullins, Coolnariska, Killeshin, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Connolly Family on the recent death of Mr. Damien Connolly, Springfield, Ballyfin, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ray Cribbin and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Lovern Family on the recent death of Mr. John Lovern, Glenard Crescent, Salthill, Galway, formerly from Portarlington.

### **136. VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly and unanimously agreed, a vote of congratulations was extended to the Harps Camogie Team on winning the Leinster Club Championship Final.

On the proposition of Councillor John Moran and unanimously agreed, a vote of best wishes was extended to the Killeshin team on their forthcoming final in the Celebrity Bainisteoir Competition.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird and unanimously agreed, a vote of congratulations was extended to the Portlaoise Hurling Team on winning the County Final five years in a row.

On the proposition of Councillor Michael Lalor and unanimously agreed, a vote of congratulations was extended to Mr. Denis Bastick, a native of Camross who recently received an All-Ireland Football Medal for Dublin in the All-Ireland Final.

### **137. CONTRIBUTION FROM IRISH PUBLIC BODIES MUTUAL INSURANCES**

Councillor James Daly advised that IPB Mutual Insurances Ltd had agreed at their AGM on the 21<sup>ST</sup> September 2011 to issue a dividend to all members on foot of the financial results for 2010.

### **138. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON THE 26<sup>TH</sup> OF SEPTEMBER 2011**

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Michael Lalor, the Minutes of the September Monthly Meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2011 were confirmed as circulated.

### **139. PART VIII OF THE LOCAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2011 IN RESPECT OF PROPOSED ALL WEATHER PITCHES WITH FLOODLIGHTING AT PORTARLINGTON LEISURE CENTRE**

The Members were circulated with the planning report on the proposed development of site works which includes the provision of 2 all weather pitches, roof netting, appropriate all weather playing surfacing, surround fencing and 6 no. 12 m high column floodlighting (250lux). Works will include the re-location of playground equipment and sculpture within the park and provision of pedestrian access. Both pitches will be self contained with an access path in between. Sections of the site will

be landscaped. The site of the proposed development is located off the Eastern Link Road, northwestern boundary of the Portarlington Leisure Centre.

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

**140. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2011 IN RESPECT OF M7 PORTLAOISE – CASTLETOWN/M8 PORTLAOISE – CULLAHILL PPP MOTORWAY SCHEME**

- (i) **DISPOSAL OF 0.003 Ha. (PART OF GARDEN AND HOUSE CURTILAGE) AT CUFFSBOROUGH, BALLACOLLA IN THE TOWNLAND OF CUFFSBOROUGH**

On the proposition of Councillor Martin Phelan seconded by Councillor John King, the members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.003 Ha. (part of garden and house curtilage) at Cuffsborough, Ballacolla in the townland of Cuffsborough, Cuffsborough, Ballacolla, Co. Laois for a consideration of €500.00

- (ii) **DISPOSAL OF 0.371 Ha. AT PARKNAHOWN, CULLAHILL IN THE TOWNLAND OF PARKNAHOWN**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan, the members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.371 Ha at Parknahown, Cullahill in the townland of Parknahown, for a consideration of €1,000.00

- (iii) **DISPOSAL OF 0.0812 HA AT CORRAUN/PALMERSHILL IN THE TOWNLAND OF CORRAUN/PALMERSHILL**

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Martin Phelan, the member unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.0812 Ha at Corraun/Palmershill in the townland of Corraun/Palmershil, for a consideration of €2,500.00

**141. APPROVAL OF OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION IN THE SUM OF €9,000,000 FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2012**

On the proposition of Councillor James Deegan seconded by Councillor John Moran, the Members unanimously approved the overdraft accommodation in the sum of €9,000,000 for the year ending 31/12/2012

**142. OPW CATCHMENT FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT & MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME : NATIONAL PRELIMINARY FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT – PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

The Members were circulated with a summary of Laois County Council's response to the findings of the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment by the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2011.

Mr. John Daly, Director of Services briefed the Members on the details and responded to the various queries raised.

**143. NOMINATION OF MEMBER TO LAOIS VOCATIONAL EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE (FOLLOWING THE RESIGNATION OF MR. JOHN BONHAM, M.C.C., CATHAOIRLEACH**

On the proposition of Councillor Michael Lalor seconded by Councillor Pat Bowe, it was unanimously agreed that Councillor Ben Brennan be nominated to the Laois Vocational Educational Committee following the resignation of Mr. John Bonham, M.C.C., Cathaoirleach.

**144. LAOIS TOURISM FESTIVALS, EVENTS & ACTIVITIES 2011/2012 – PRESENTATION BY MR. DOMINIC REDDIN, LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL TOURISM OFFICER**

Mr. Dominic Reddin, Tourism Officer with Laois County Council gave a very comprehensive presentation to the Members on festivals, events and activities for 2011/2012.

The County Manager, Mr. Peter Carey thanked Mr. Reddin and all the staff in this area for the progress to date and acknowledged the work of the board of Laois Tourism, the business/trade community and Laois Chamber of Commerce and in particular the community at large.

The Cathaoirleach, Mr. John Bonham and all the Members complimented Laois County Council's Tourism Department and all involved.

**145. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES TO LAOIS ENTRANTS IN THE ALL-ISLAND NATIONAL PRIDE OF PLACE COMPETITION**

Mr. John Bonham, Cathaoirleach welcomed the Pride of Place 2011 entrants to the Chamber – Portlaoise Leisure Centre & Abbeyleix Business & Community Development Forum. Mr. Peter Carey, County Manager congratulated the two groups and acknowledged, in particular, the support of the Elected Members and also that of the Management Team. He congratulated all the groups involved in the competition and paid tribute to all the staff involved.

Mr. Ian McCormack A/Director of Services also congratulated the groups involved, thanked the communities individually and acknowledged the support of the Elected Members.

#### **146. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following items of correspondence were circulated to the Members which had been received since the last meeting of Laois County Council:-

- (i) Correspondence dated the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2011 from the Office of the Minister for Social & Family Affairs regarding social welfare rates
- (ii) Correspondence dated the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2011 from the Office of the Minister for Social & Family Affairs regarding the Back to Work Allowance Scheme
- (iii) Correspondence dated the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2011 from the Office of the Minister for Education & Skills regarding the cuts on Special Needs Assistants, English as Another Language Teachers & Visiting Teachers to Travellers

#### **147. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

##### **Notice of Motion No: 21/11**

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council provide funding for public lighting in next year’s budget”***

This motion was seconded by Councillor Alan Hand. The Members were advised that the provision of public lighting will be included for consideration in the preparation of the 2012 budget estimates

##### **Notice of Motion No: 22/11**

Councillor John Joe Fennelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council write to Mr. Alan Shatter, T.D., Minister for Justice requesting that no small or rural garda station in County Laois be closed”***

This motion was seconded by Councillor Ray Cribbin

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

### Notice of Motion No: 23/11

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council call on the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government, Mr. Phil Hogan, T.D., to introduce strict legislation for Scrap/Metal yards”***

The members were advised that there is currently legislation in regard to the storage, processing and transport of scrap metal. Any person transporting scrap metal must hold a Waste Collection Permit under the Waste Management (Collection Permit) Regulations, 2007, as amended. Any person who holds, stores, recovers or processes scrap metal waste must hold a Waste Facility Permit under the Waste Management (Facility Permit and Registration) Regulations, 2001, as amended. Under both of these regulations, a Local Authority may apply any condition that is deemed necessary to prevent environmental pollution. The Department of Environment have recently issued Guidance Documents in regards to End-of-Life Vehicles at scrap yards. These regulations deal mainly with the environmental aspects of the facility. The illegal activity such as the acceptance and processing of stolen property is dealt with by An Garda Siochana under the Criminal Acts.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Alan Hand. It was agreed that legislation should also be introduced for car boot sales.

### Notice of Motion No: 24/11 – Councillor Alan Hand

Councillor Alan Hand proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council provides serviced camping facilities in County Laois to help increase tourist numbers visiting County Laois”***

This motion was seconded by Councillor Jerry Lodge. The Members were advised that Laois County Council are currently not in a position to provide serviced camping facilities in County Laois for visitors to the County, however, a new caravan and camping facility has recently opened at Clondouglas, Mountrath Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois (proprietor, Ms. Tina Beehan). [www.caravanandcamping.com](http://www.caravanandcamping.com) and will be available for public use for camping, caravan and motor home parking.

Laois Caravan and Camping Park is set on a family run farm just three miles from Portlaoise and one mile from the new M7 by-pass at exit 18. Services include both hard standing and grass pitches with water and electricity, everything needed for touring vehicles, reception area, campers kitchen, laundry room, t.v., garbage disposal, recycling and sewage disposal facilities.

**Notice of Motion No: 25/11 – Councillor William Aird**

Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That Laois County Council ensure that the Fire Services carry a defibrillator with them at all times”*

This motion was seconded by Councillor Kathleen O’ Brien. The Members were advised that all fire stations/crews in County Laois are equipped with a defibrillator except Rathdowney and Portlaoise. Portlaoise recently received a defibrillator on loan from Civil Defence. Provision will be sought in the 2012 budget for the purchase of two (2) no. defibrillators to equip these two stations/crews.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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