

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE ON
THE 22nd OF OCTOBER 2012**

PRESENT:	Councillors	Paul Mitchell	In the Chair
		Rotimi Adebari	William Aird
		Pat Bowe	Paddy Bracken
		Ray Cribbin	Ben Brennan
		James Daly	James Deegan
		John Joe Fennelly	Catherine Fitzgerald
		Padraig Fleming	David Goodwin
		Alan Hand	John King
		Michael Lalor	Jerry Lodge
		Seamus McDonald	John Moran
		Tom Mulhall	Kathleen O' Brien
		Brendan Phelan	Martin Phelan
		Mary Sweeney	
APOLOGIES:	Councillor	John Bonham	

IN ATTENDANCE:

Messers Peter Carey, County Manager, Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services, Ms. Josephine Kavanagh, A/Senior, Administrative Officer & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary.

106. VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

On the proposition of Councillors Tom Mulhall & Ray Cribbin and unanimously agreed a vote of congratulations was extended to the Emo Intermediate Football Team on winning the Intermediate Football Championship

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird and unanimously agreed a vote of congratulations was extended to Portlaoise Senior Football Team on winning the County Final.

On the proposition of Councillors John King, Martin Phelan & Brendan Phelan and unanimously agreed a vote of congratulations was extended to Rathdowney Senior Hurling Team on winning the Senior Championship.

107. VOTE OF SYMPATHY

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Moran family on the death of Ms. Annette Moran, Mountrath Road, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Rowney family on the death of Mr. Philip Rowney, 53 Marian Avenue, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Thompson family on the death of Mr. Dan Thompson, St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Kavanagh family on the death of Mr. Peter Kavanagh, Marian Avenue, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillors William Aird & Mary Sweeney and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Fahy family on the death of Mr. John Fahy, 55 Beladd, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. The County Manager also endorsed this vote of sympathy to the Fahy family on the death of John who was a former employee of Laois County Council.

On the proposition of Councillor Patrick Bracken and unanimously agreed a vote of sympathy was extended to the Dunne family on the death of Mr. Leo Dunne, Derryguile, Mountmellick, Co. Laois.

108. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- (i) On the proposition of Councillor John Moran seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Minutes of the September Monthly Meeting of Laois County Council held on the 24th of September 2012 were agreed as circulated.
- (ii) On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor William Aird, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Laois County Council held on the 24th of September 2012 were agreed as circulated.

109. PART VIII OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 IN RESPECT OF PROPOSED SCHEME AT THE DOWNS, PORTLAOISE FOR THE PROVISION OF A NEW PURPOSE BUILT SCHOOLS CAMPUS COMPRISING 3 NO. PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND ANCILLARY INFRASTRUCTURE.

The Members were circulated with the planning report on the above proposed development. In accordance with the provisions of Part V111 of the Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 as amended, Laois County Council, in partnership with the Minister for Education & Skills, seeks consent for the development of a purpose built primary schools campus and ancillary facilities on an extensive 3.93 hectares (9.7 acres) at Downs, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. In particular, the proposed scheme for the following:-

- Construction of a new 2-storey, 16 classroom Portlaoise Educate Together National School of 2,600 square metres floor area
- Construction of a new 2-storey, 16 classroom Gaelscoil Portlaoise National School of 2,600 square metres floor area
- Construction of a new single storey, 4 classroom Maryborough National School of 820 square metres floor area
- Provision of ancillary infrastructure including ball courts, play areas, storage areas, bicycle racks, pedestrian and cycle paths, car parking, foul and surface water drainage, portable water connection, internal road
- Installation of palisade security fencing around the curtilage of the site and
- Landscaping of the site

The proposed school campus will effectively replace three existing schools in the town, namely: Portlaoise Educate Together National School (currently located in former VEC premises on Railway Street), Gaelscoil Portlaoise National School (currently located off the Mountrath Road) and Maryborough National School (currently located on Stradbally Road). The Members enquired as to

the provision of cycle lanes and drop off areas at the schools. Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services confirmed that an application for funding has been made under the Active Town Travel Scheme and there is also a Mobility Action Plan in place.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor Alan Hand, the Members unanimously agreed to proceed with the proposed Part VIII of the Local Government Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 in respect of proposed scheme at The Downs, Portlaoise for the provision of a new purpose built School Campus comprising 3 no. Primary Schools and ancillary infrastructure.

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

- (I) DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 135 ST. BRIGID'S PLACE, PORTLAOISE, IN THE TOWNLAND OF MONEYBALLYTYRELL, 135 ST. BRIGID'S PLACE, PORTLAOISE, FOR A CONSIDERATION OF €127.00**

On the proposition of Councillor Kathleen O' Brien seconded by Councillor Alan Hand, the members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 135 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise, in the townland of Moneyballytyrell, 135 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise, for a consideration of €127.00

- (i) DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT NO. 1 CHAPEL STREET, BALLINAKILL IN THE TOWNLAND OF BALLINAKILL, NO. 1 CHAPEL STREET, BALLINAKILL, FOR A CONSIDERATION OF €127.00**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at No. 1 Chapel Street, Ballinakill in the townland of Ballinakill, No. 1 Chapel Street, Ballinakill, for a consideration of €127.00

111. LEASE OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001

- (I) LEASE OF 0.3552 HECTARES OF LAND AT DOONANE IN THE TOWNLAND OF DOONANE FOR A PERIOD OF 10 YEARS TO DOONANE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION AND ST. ABBAN'S COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, FOR A CONSIDERATION OF €100.00 PER ANNUM**

On the proposition of Councillor Pdraig Fleming seconded by Councillor James Daly, the Members unanimously agreed to the lease of 0.3552 hectares of land at Doonane in the townland of Doonane for a period of 10 years to Doonane Residents Association and St. Abban's Community Association, for a consideration of €100.00 per annum

112. NOMINATION OF MEMBER TO THE BOARD OF LAOIS COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD T/A LAOIS PARTNERSHIP COMPANY

The Members were advised that Laois County Council were advised that in Laois Partnership Companies' Memorandum & Articles of Association at each A.G.M., one third of the Directors shall retire from office, those Directors to retire every year to be those who have served the longest in office sine the last election. As Councillor Tom Mulhall is one of the longest serving Directors, he is nominated for retirement.

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Martin Phelan, it was unanimously agreed that Mr. Tom Mulhall, M.C.C., be re-nominated to the Board of Laois Community & Enterprise Development Company t/a Laois Partnership Company.

113. STATUTORY AUDIT REPORT FOR 2011

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Local Government Audit Service Statutory Audit Report for the year ended 31st of December 2011. Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance briefed the Members on the contents of the report which is delivered in accordance with Section 120 of the Local Government Act, 2001. The main issues highlighted in the report are as follows:

- Income & Expenditure Account Deficit
- Collection Performance
- Development Levies

The Head of Finance, Mr. Gerry Murphy responded to the various concerns of the Members.

114. TAKING IN CHARGE OF GRALLOW WOOD, ABBEYLEIX

The Members were advised that an advertisement was placed in the Leinster Express on the 18th of July 2012 giving notice of intention to consider the making of a declaration regarding the taking in charge of 'Gralow Wood', Abbeyleix, Co. Laois. The closing date for submissions was 12.00 p.m. on Friday, August 31st 2012. No submissions were received. It is estimated that the cost to Laois County Council will be as follows:-

- Public Lighting approx - €690.00 per annum
- Ongoing maintenance and repair of roads and services – none envisaged for next 15 years
- Annual maintenance and running costs of pumping station €1,500.00

On the proposition of Councillor Martin Phelan seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of Grallow Wood, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois.

115. TOURISM UPDATE – EVENTS & FESTIVALS 2012 – MR. DOM 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 2012/2013.

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. Paul Mitchell and all the Members complimented Laois County Council's Tourism Department and all involved.

116. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS – DURROW TOWN – ALL ISLAND NATIONAL PRIDE OF PLACE ENTRANT

Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services welcomed Ms. Evelyn Clancy & representatives from the Durrow Development Forum to accept a presentation of a certificate in recognition of Durrow

Town being a participant in the All Island National Pride of Place Awards 2012 in November in Thomond Park, Limerick.

117. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS – NATIONAL TIDY TOWNS AWARDS 2012

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services welcomed groups who recently won prizes in the National Tidy Towns Awards 2012. The following cups were presented:

The Laois Federation of Tidy Towns Competition Cup

Ballacolla, overall and Category A winners in the Laois Federation of Tidy Towns Competition 2012. Mr. Gerry Henry and Noreen were presented with the trophy. Ms. Noreen Byrne was also presented with a framed picture of Ballacolla in recognition of her Supervalu Tidy Towns Hero.

The Three Inter Community Litter Challenge Cups

Joint winners Clough and Killasmestia were presented with the trophy for the small village category of the Inter Community Litter Challenge and were represented by Ms. Marie McCraith, Clough & Mr. Paul Hogan & Mr. Richard Kelly, Killasmestia.

Durrow were presented with the trophy for the Town Category of the Inter Community Litter Challenge and were represented by Ms. Noeleen Dunphy and Ms. Mary Walsh.

Ballacolla were presented with the trophy for the Large Village Category of the Inter Community Litter Challenge and were represented by Mr. Gerry Henry & Ms. Noreen Byrne.

118. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence were circulated to the Members:-

- (i) Correspondence dated the 4th of October 2012 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 05/2012 regarding the possible introduction of a deposit and refund system for containers in which alcohol is sold
- (ii) Correspondence dated the 17th of October 2012 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 43/2012 regarding the new centralized system for grant applications

119. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 45/2012

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council write to the Management of Allied Irish Bank asking them to re-consider their decision to close two branches in Laois”

This motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly.

A discussion ensued regarding the closure of the branch in Portarlington. It was noted that a previous letter had issued to Allied Irish Bank in this regard and that a reminder would issue on same. It was also noted that the Portarlington Branch was due to close on Friday, October 26th 2012.

Notice of Motion No: 46/2012

Councillor Alan Hand proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council makes provision for emergency homeless situations and calls on the Housing Department to provide a dwelling in County Laois which can be utilized at short notice to provide short term accommodation for persons in distress”

This motion was seconded by Councillor Rotimi Adebari.

The Members advised that there are currently 2 transitional emergency units in operation in the Council.

A discussion ensued during which Councillor Mary Sweeney indicated that these two units are working satisfactorily

SIGNED:

CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED:

**DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
AFFAIRS**