

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ÁRAS
AN CHONTAE ON THE 19TH OF OCTOBER 2015**

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

APOLOGIES: Councillor Ben Brennan

IN ATTENDANCE:

Messers John Mulholland, Chief Executive, Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary.

123. VOTE OF SYMPATHY

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the Members unanimously agreed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the following on the recent death of their loved ones:-

- *Mr. Sean Quirke, Manager, Portarlinton Leisure Centre on the death of his father, Michael*
- *Ms. Fionnuala Daly, Senior Social Worker on the death of her brother, Niall*
- *Mr. Dermot Dillon, Eastern Area on the death of his brother Tony*
- *The Buggie Family on the death of Mr. Tony Buggie*

One minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect to the deceased.

124. BEST WISHES

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird, the Members unanimously agreed that a vote of best wishes be extended to Sergeant Tom Walton on his recent retirement.

125. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 28TH OF SEPTEMBER 2015

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor Jerry Lodge, the Minutes of the September meeting of Laois County Council held on the 28th of September were confirmed as circulated.

126. REPORTS ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN SEPTEMBER 2015

On the proposition of Councillor Brendan Phelan seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the reports on Municipal District meetings held in September 2015 were noted and agreed as circulated.

127. REPORTS ON STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD IN OCTOBER 2015

On the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney seconded by Councillor John King, the reports on Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held in October 2015 was noted and agreed as circulated.

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

(i) DISPOSAL OF THE FREEHOLD AT 2 HILLVIEW, MOUNTRRATH ROAD, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor Padraig Fleming seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of the freehold at 2 Hillview, Mountrath Road, Portlaoise in the townland of Knockmay for a consideration of €300.00

(ii) DISPOSAL OF 58 BIANCONI WAY, RIDGE ROAD, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 58 Bianconi Way, Ridge Road, Portlaoise in the townland of Borris Little for a consideration of €95,000

(iii) DISPOSAL OF THE FREEHOLD AT PARKVIEW, PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of the freehold at Parkview, Portlaoise, Co. Laois in the townland of Moneyballytyrell for a consideration of €300.00

(iv) DISPOSAL OF 0.1055 HA OF LAND AT THE REAR OF HOUSE AT NO. 7 ERKINA COURT, RATHDOWNEY

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.1055 ha of land at the rear of house at No. 7 Erkina Court, Rathdowney, Co. Laois for a consideration of €250.00

(v) DISPOSAL OF THE FREEHOLD AT 15 ST. JOHNS SQUARE, PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of the freehold at 15 St. John's Square, Portlaoise, Co. Laois., in the townland of Borris Little for a consideration of €300.00.

129. UPDATE BY MR. PAUL VEALE, MIDLANDS REGIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, I.D.A. IRELAND

The following Notice of Motion No: 63/2015 proposed by Councillor Jerry Lodge was also discussed as part of the presentations given by IDA:-

“That this meeting be presented with a report on the number of meetings between Laois County Council and IDA personnel in 2014 and up to the end of June 2015 and this report to include the number of foreign companies brought to Laois by I.D.A.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly.

Mr. Paul Veale, I.D.A. Ireland delivered a presentation to the Members. He briefed Members on the area of foreign direct investment, its impact in Ireland, the main growth areas and also IDA’s targets for 2015 – 2019. Mr. Veale referred to the Midlands Action Plan for Jobs and its objectives. The Members expressed dissatisfaction with the number of visits by the I.D.A. to Laois in the last four years. Councillor Jerry Lodge proposed that a delegation meet with the new CEO of the IDA, Mr. Martin Shanahan to outline why Laois had been neglected in recent times.

130. UPDATE BY MR. DENIS DUGGAN, SENIOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE, EASTERN & MILDAND REGION, ENTERPRISE IRELAND & MR. MICHAEL BROUGHAM, DIRECTOR, EASTERN & MIDLANDS REGION, ENTERPRISE CENTRE

Mr. Denis Duggan, Senior Regional Development Executive, Eastern & Midland Region, Enterprise Ireland delivered a presentation to the Members. Mr. Duggan detailed the client base of Enterprise Ireland and also detailed ways in which their client companies are supported. He gave details on the start-ups for 2014 and also referred to their engagement with the Local Enterprise Offices. The Members expressed their thanks to Mr. Duggan and complimented the Local Enterprise Office on it’s work with start-up enterprises.

131. MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2015 (IN ACCORDANCE WITH CIRCULAR LETTER LG 18/2014)

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

132.DRAFT LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2015 – 2017

The Members were circulated with a copy of the draft Litter Management Plan. Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services responded to the various queries raised and briefed Members on the key performance indicators and the various grants available.

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by John King, the Members unanimously agreed to adopt the Litter Management Plan 2015-2017.

The Members paid compliments to the Director of Services, Mr. Kieran Kehoe and the staff in the Environment Section & also the Tidy Towns Groups for their committment. Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services thanked all the Environment Staff, Litter Wardens, Outdoor Staff, Gateway Staff & thanked the Members for their support.

133. DRAFT SCHEME OF POLLING DISTRICTTS AND POLLING PLACES

The Members were circulated with a copy of the draft Polling Scheme for County Laois. It was noted that the making of a Polling Scheme is now a devolved function of the Council under Section 12 of the Electoral (Amendment) Act, 2001. It was noted that a public notice will be placed in the local newspapers advising that the scheme is available for inspection and that representations in relation to the draft scheme may be made within 5 weeks from the publication of the notice. After the five weeks have expired, the Council will consider any proposals for alterations or representations and may then make the Polling Scheme in accordance with the Draft scheme or with amendments. It was also noted that the County Registrar was consulted in relation to the proposed scheme.

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed to the draft scheme of Polling Districts and Polling Places as circulated.

134. TAKING IN CHARGE OF 'MONACLEAR', BALLINAKILL, CO. LAOIS.

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of 'Monaclear', Ballinakill, Co. Laois.

135. TAKING IN CHARGE OF 'HEYWOOD VILLAGE', BALLINAKILL, CO. LAOIS.

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor William Aird, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of 'Heywood Village', Ballinakill, Co. Laois.

136. 1916 COMMEMORATIONS UPDATE

Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services updated the meeting on the 1916 commemorations. The Members were advised that a presentation would be given to the Members at the December meeting of Laois County Council.

137. CAR PARKING POLICY FOR DECEMBER/CHRISTMAS 2015

The Members were circulated with proposals for car parking for December/Christmas 2015 which has been recommended and adopted by the Roads, Transportation, Environment, Fire Services & Rural Water S.P.C.

The Members noted the following proposals:

- First Hour Free parking to apply from 1st of December to the 19th of December 2015
- Free parking to apply from Monday, 21st of December 2015 to Saturday, 2nd January 2016
- The underground car park at the Civic Plaza will be opened up and employees of the Portlaoise Traders can use it free

A lengthy discussion ensued during which Members suggested various other options and that the policy be extended. It was agreed that the matter would revert back to the SPC for agreement.

138. RATIFICATION OF CONFERENCES & ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING

On the proposition of Councillor Brendan Phelan seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the ratification of conferences/attendance at training as circulated.

139. CORRESPONDENCE

The Members were circulated with the following correspondence which had been received since the last meeting:-

- (i) Acknowledgement from Ms. Therese Walsh, Private Secretary to the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation in relation to the membership of the Local Enterprise Offices

140. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 62/2015

Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council invite Dr. Susan O’ Reilly, Hospital Group CEO of the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group to attend the next County Council meeting to outline all future plans for all hospitals in County Laois”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. It was agreed that a letter issue to the CEO in this regard.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
AFFAIRS