

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN  
ARAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE, ON THE 23<sup>RD</sup> OF OCTOBER 2017**

**PRESENT:**            **Councillor** **Padraig Fleming**    In the Chair

<b>Councillors</b> William Aird	Paddy Bracken
Ben Brennan	Paschal McEvoy
Catherine Fitzgerald	Brendan Phelan
David Goodwin	Tom Mulhall
Seamus McDonald	Noel Tuohy
John Joe Fennelly	James Kelly
Mary Sweeney	Aidan Mullins
Jerry Lodge	
Caroline Dwane Stanley	

**APOLOGIES:**        **Councillors** John Moran                            John King

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**147.    CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SETPEMBER MEETING OF  
LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 25<sup>th</sup> OF SEPTEMBER 2017**

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall, the Minutes of the September meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

**148.    REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 18<sup>th</sup> OF SEPTEMBER 2017**

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

**149.    REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN SEPTEMBER  
2017**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan, the reports on the Municipal District Meetings held in September 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

**150. REPORTS ON STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD IN SEPTEMBER 2017**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the reports on the Strategic Policy Committee Meetings held in September 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

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

**(i) DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 41 BORRIS LITTLE, PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.**

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal freehold interest at 41 Borris Little, Portlaoise, Co. Laois in the townland of Borris Little to Tony Browne, 41 Borris Little, Portlaoise, Co. Laois for a consideration of €1.00

**(ii) DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 68 WOODGROVE, BALLYFIN ROAD, PORTLAOISE , CO. LAOIS.**

On the proposition of Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 68 Woodgrove, Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois in the townland of Maryborough to Mr. Joseph Whelan & Mrs. Shirley Whelan, 68 Woodgrove, Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, for a consideration of €1.00

**(iii) DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 42 HEATHER LANE, ESKER HILLS, PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.**

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 42 Heather Lane, Esker Hills, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, in the townland of Borris Little to Ms. Emma McElroy, 42 Heather Lane, Esker Hills, Portlaoise, Co. Laois for a consideration of €1.00

**(iv) DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 11 CLONROOSK ABBEY, PORTLAOISE**

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 11 Clonroosk Abbey, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, in the townland of Clonreher to Mr. Liam Marum, 11 Clonroosk Abbey, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, for a consideration of €1.00

**152. TAKING IN CHARGE OF GLENBROOL, BALLYROAN, CO. LAOIS.**

On the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously approved the Taking in Charge of Glenbrook, Ballyroan, Co. Laois.

**153. TAKING IN CHARGE OF ARD ERIN, MOUNTRATH, CO. LAOIS.**

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan, the Members unanimously approved the Taking in Charge of Ard Eirn, Mountrath, Co. Laois.

**154. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2017**

Mr. John Mulholland, Chief Executive briefed the meeting on this matter and the report for October 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.

A discussed ensued regarding the National Planning Framework and the Director of Services, Mr. Kieran Kehoe advised that a National Planning Framework is scheduled for Members on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2017 at 2.00 p.m. – it was agreed that the plan be circulated to the members in advance of this workshop.

**155. SEVERE WEATHER INCIDENT REPORT EX-HURRICANE OPHELIA**

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services delivered a presentation on Ex-Hurricane Ophelia which occurred on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2017. Mr. Kehoe briefed the Members on the Local Co-Ordination Group which was established in County Hall comprising of Laois County Council employees, An Garda Síochána and the HSE and also the establishment of the Severe Weather Co-Ordination Centre through which all calls were routed. Crews addressed all issues reported from 6.00 p.m. on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 and continued all day again on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 ensuring all roads were cleared from obstructions. It was noted that over 230 incidents were reported to Laois County Council's Severe Weather Co-Ordination Centre.

The Director of Services expressed thanks to all staff from Laois County Council, An Garda Síochána & the HSE who were involved in efforts to deal with Ophelia, all outdoor crews from the Engineering & Fire Services, Civil Defence Volunteers, all those who worked in the Severe Weather Co-Ordination Centre, the media who reported Laois County Council's regular updates and also the public who heeded messages that issued by the Group.

The Members expressed thanks to all concerned and indeed congratulated Laois County Council for their professional response to the severe weather event and keeping the County safe.

#### **156. HOUSING REPORT**

The Members were circulated with a Housing Report which detailed the following:-

- 2015-2017 Capital Programme
- Acquisitions,
- the Capital Assistance Scheme,
- Approved Housing Bodies,
- Part V Acquisitions
- Assessments and Allocations
- O' Moore Place Regeneration Project
- Housing Maintenance Report
- Land Acquisition Portlaoise

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance and Mr. Ian McCormack, SE, Housing responded to the various queries raised by the Members.

#### **157. ECONOMIC MARKETING STRATEGY FOR COUNTY LAOIS – PRESENTATION BY MR. KIERAN KEHOE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES,**

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services delivered a presentation to the Members on the Economic Marketing Strategy for County Laois which included the link to the Connect 2 Laois Website. It was also noted that the Local Enterprise Unit was official opened by Minister Pat Breen, Minister of State for Trade & Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market & Data Protection on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2017.

#### **158. CONSIDERATION OF CIVIC RECEPTION TO MS. AOIFE MCNICHOLL & MS. EMER O' SULLIVAN**

It was noted that Laois County Council had a request from Councillor William Aird to host a reception for Ms. Aoife McNicholl & Ms. Emer O' Sullivan who were on the Irish Team that finished 6<sup>th</sup> overall in the 2017 FIPFA World Cup (Power Chair Football) in Florida in July 2017. It was noted that this was Ireland's first time to qualify for the FIPFA World Cup. At the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2017 on the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members of the CPG unanimously recommended that the consideration of a Civic Reception by Laois County Council be tabled on the agenda for the October meeting of Laois County Council.

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the Members unanimously agreed to the hosting of a Civic Reception to Ms. Aoife McNicholl & Ms. Emer O' Sullivan in honor of their wonderful achievements.

## 159. 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 October 2017 which was agreed on the proposition of Councillor Noel Tuohy seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney.

## 160. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- (i) Correspondence dated the 4<sup>th</sup> & the 13<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 from Deputy Sean Fleming in relation to the services at Portlaoise General Hospital. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the leaked 'Plan' in relation to the downgrading of the hospital in Portlaoise in particular the removal of 24/7 A & E .
- (ii) Correspondence dated the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 from the Department of Health in relation to Notice of Motion No: 32/2017
- (iii) Correspondence dated the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 from the Department of Health in relation to Notice of Motion No: 35/2017
- (iv) Correspondence dated the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 from the Department of Finance in relation to Notice of Motion No: 39/2017
- (v) Correspondence dated the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 from Transport Infrastructure Ireland in relation to Notice of Motion No: 38/2017
- (vi) Correspondence dated the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 from the Office of the Minister of the Minister for Education and Skills in relation to Notice of Motion No: 36/2017

## 161. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

### Notice of Motion No: 41/2017

**Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion**

***“That this Council write to Ms. Heather Humphries, Minister for Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht requesting that a funding stream is considered for the woners of Tower Houses that are on private lands. These important archaeological sites are the heritage of all the people of the State and the owners are bound by the Monuments Acts to protect these sites”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Minister in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 42/2017

**Councillor Mary Sweeney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

***“That Laois County Council urgently call on Failte Ireland to prioritise Tourism funding in County Laois in light of the poor funding performance from 2007-2014”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy. It was agreed that a letter issue to Fáilte Ireland in this regard.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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