

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN
ARAS AN CHONTAE ON THE 26TH OF SEPTEMBER 2011**

PRESENT: **Councillors** John Bonham In the Chair

	Rotimi Adebari	William Aird
	John Bonham	Pat Bowe
	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
	Mary Sweeney	

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

**119. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE JULY MONTHLY MEETING HELD
ON THE 25TH OF JULY 2011**

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Michael Lalor, the Minutes of the July Monthly Meeting held on the 25th of July 2011 were confirmed as circulated.

120. NOMINATION FOR OFFICE OF UACHTÁRAN NA HEIREANN

- (i) Councillor Rotimi Adebari proposed that Senator David Norris, 18 North Great Georges Street, Dublin be nominated by Laois County Council to be a candidate at the Presidential Election on the 27th of October 2011. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan

A roll call vote was taken which resulted as follows:-

COUNCILLOR		FOR	AGAINST	ABSTENTION
FIRST NAME	SURNAME			
Rotimi	ADEBARI	✓		
Willie	AIRD			✓
John	BONHAM			✓
Pat	BOWE			✓
Paddy	BRACKEN		✓	
Ben	BRENNAN		✓	
Raymond	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 Robert	MORAN			✓
Tom	MULHALL			✓
Kathleen	O'BRIEN			✓
Brendan	PHELAN	✓		
Martin	PHELAN			✓
Mary	SWEENEY			✓

As a result of the Roll Call Vote, there was 7 votes in favour of Senator David Norris. 4 votes against with 14 abstentions. As a result Senator David Norris was nominated by Laois County Council to be a candidate at the forthcoming Presidential Election on the 27th of October 2011. Senator David Norris thanked Laois County Council for their support.

(ii) Councillor Paul Mitchell proposed that Ms. Mary Davis, 39 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin 2 be nominated by Laois County Council to be a candidate at the Presidential Election on the 27th of October 2011

Councillor Paul Mitchell withdrew this Motion.

121. REPORTS ON AREA & STRATEGIC POLICY MEETINGS HELD IN SEPTEMBER 2011

The Members were circulated with a copy of the reports on the Area & Strategic Policy Committee Meetings which were held in September 2011 and same were noted.

122. FIX DATE FOR MEETINGS

- It was agreed that the special meeting of Laois County Council to discuss the County Manager's Report on Submissions on Amendments to the Draft County Development Plan 2012 – 2018 would be held on the 11th of October 2011 at 11.00 a.m.
- It was agreed that the October monthly meeting of Laois County Council be held on the 24th of October 2011 at 11.00 a.m.
- It was agreed that the December monthly meeting of Laois County Council be held on the 12th of December 2011 at 11.00 a.m.
- It was agreed that the Budget meeting of Laois County Council be held on the 19th of December 2011 at 11.00 a.m.

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

(i) DISPOSAL OF 0.00025 ACRES OF LAND AT 7 HILLVIEW, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor Alan Hand, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.00025 acres of land at 7 Hillview, Portlaoise in the townland of Clonrooske Little for a consideration of €10.00.

(ii) DISPOSAL OF 0.12 ACRES AT NO. 9 GREEN ROAD, PORTLAOISE

It was unanimously agreed that this item be deferred.

(iii) DISPOSAL OF PROPERTIES AT MAIN STREET, BALLYROAN, PORTLAOISE

It was noted that Councillor Mary Sweeney excused herself from the meeting for the duration of the discussion of this item in accordance with Part 15 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor Kathleen O' Brien, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of properties at Main Street, Ballyroan in the townland of Ballyroan in the townland of Ballyroan, Ballyroan, Portlaoise, for a consideration of €23,000.

(iv) LEASE OF 1.52 ACRES AT STRADBALLY

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Ray Cribbin, the Members unanimously agreed to the lease of 1.52 acres at Stradbally in the townland of Stradbally for a consideration of €500 per annum.

(v) DISPOSAL OF EQUITY INTEREST AT 10 CARMODY WALK, THE FAIRGREEN, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor Kathleen O' Brien, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of equity interest at 10 Carmody Walk, The Fairgreen, Portlaoise in the townland of Portlaoise for a consideration of €44,991.72

(vi) DISPOSAL OF 4.089 HECTARES IN THE TOWNLAND OF THE DOWNS, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor Alan Hand, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 4.089 hectares in the townland of The Downs, Portlaoise, Co. Laois by way of sub-sale for a consideration of €1,500,000

124. TAKING IN CHARGE

(a) Bellingham (Phase 1), Mountrath Road, Portlaoise

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor Kathleen O' Brien, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of Bellingham (Phase 1), Mountrath Road, Portlaoise.

(b) Glenbarrow, Mountmellick Road, Portlaoise

On the proposition of Councillor Jerry Lodge seconded by Councillor Alan Hand, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of Glenbarrow, Mountmellick Road, Portlaoise.

(c) Glenregan, Mountmellick Road, Portlaoise

On the proposition of Councillor Alan Hand seconded by Councillor Rotimi Adebari the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of Glenregan, Mountmellick Road, Portlaoise

(d) Ashbury, Railway Street, Portlaoise

On the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney seconded by Councillor Kathleen O' Brien, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of Ashbury, Railway Street, Portlaoise

(e) Pine Villas, Edenderry Road, Portarlinton

On the proposition of Councillor Paul Mitchell seconded by Councillor Ray Cribbin, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of Pine Villas, Edenderry Road, Portarlinton.

125. NATIONAL TIDY TOWNS AWARDS 2011

The Members were circulated with the National Tidy Towns Results for 2011. The Members acknowledged the work of the Environment Section in keeping all towns and villages in Laois litter free and also complimented the committees, individuals and volunteers involved who make an invaluable contribution to the enhancement of our County.

The County Manager acknowledged the input of the Elected Members, the Environment Section, the Committees and Volunteers and also paid tribute to Ms. Maeve Flynn, Horticulturist with Laois County Council for all her excellent work throughout the County.

126. PRESENTATION BY MR. PETER LUTTRELL, CHAIRMAN OF LAOIS IRISH FARMERS ASSOCIATION ON 'THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE AND THE FOOD INDUSTRY TO THE IRISH ECONOMY'

Mr. Peter Luttrell, Chairman of Laois Irish Farmers Association and Mr. William Dolan, Regional Development Officer, Irish Farmers Association were in attendance to make a presentation on the Importance of Agriculture and the Food Industry to the Irish Economy.

The Chairman, Councillor John Bonham thanked the I.F.A. for a very comprehensive presentation.

127. CORRESPONDENCE

The Members were circulated with the following items of correspondence received since the last Council Meeting:-

- (i) Acknowledgement from the Department of Health dated the 9th of August 2011 & the 12th of September 2011 in relation to the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise
- (ii) Correspondence from the Department of Social Protection dated the 24th of August 2011 in relation to Fuel Allowance
- (iii) Correspondence from the Minister for Education & Skills dated the 14th of September 2011 in relation to the Student Maintenance Grants

128. VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

Councillor Michael Lalor proposed a vote of congratulations to Ms. Denis Bastic, a native of Camross who won an All-Ireland Senior Football Medal with Dublin.

Councillor Patrick Bracken extended a vote of best wishes to Mr. Declan Byrne, Director of Services & Mr. Eddie Harvey, Maintenance who recently retired from Laois County Council.

129. VOTE OF SYMPATHY

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the O' Connor family on the recent death of Mr. Arthur O' Connor, Ballymanus, Vicarstown, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the McCluskey family on the recent death of Mr. Arthur McCluskey, Kilbride, Portarlinton, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Lalor family on the recent death of Mr. Jim Lalor, Ardough, Bilboa, Carlow.

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Lyons family on the recent death of Mr. David Lyons, Killeshin, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Cullen family on the recent death of Mr. Peter Cullen, Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Dunne family on the recent death of Ms. Sadie Dunne, Clonreher, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Rankin family on the recent death of Mr. Henry Rankin, Wayside, Old Knockmay Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Rankin family on the recent death of Mr. Atchelle Rankin, Annebrooke House, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird and unanimously agreed, a vote of sympathy was extended to the Coughlan family on the recent death of Ms. Christine Coughlan, Kilminchy, Dublin Road, Portlaoise. Co. Laois.

130. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 17/11

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council put a scheme in place for Council tenants to insulate their homes”

This motion was seconded by Councillor William Aird. The Members were advised that the current Building Energy Upgrade Scheme provides for energy upgrade works to be carried out on vacant social units as part of the overall re-letting works. This year, the Council were granted permission by the Department to extend this scheme to include energy upgrade works on a number of suitable tenanted properties. These works are currently underway. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Department in this regard with a view to putting a scheme in place.

Notice of Motion No: 18/11

Councillor Rotimi Adebari proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That, in the forthcoming budget, this Council calls on the Government to maintain social welfare rates”

This motion was seconded by Councillor Alan Hand. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Department of Social Protection in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 19/11

Councillor Rotimi Adebari proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council calls on the Government to re-introduce Back to Work Allowance Scheme (BTWA) as one response to the dramatic rise in long-term unemployment”

This motion was seconded by Councillor Alan Hand

Notice of Motion No: 20/11

Councillor Rotimi Adebari proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council calls on the Government to restore the cut made to three most vulnerable sections in our society, Special Needs Assistants (SNA), English as Another Language Teachers (EAL) and Visiting Teachers to Travellers (VTT)

This motion was seconded by Councillor Alan Hand.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
AFFAIRS