

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ÁRAS
AN CHONTAE ON THE 28TH OF SEPTEMBER 2015**

PRESENT:

Councillors	Catherine Fitzgerald	In the Chair
	William Aird	Paddy Bracken
	Ben Brennan	Caroline Dwane Stanley
	John Joe Fennelly	Padraig Fleming
	David Goodwin	John King
	Seamus McDonald	Paschal McEvoy
	Tom Mulhall	Aidan Mullins
	Brendan Phelan	Mary Sweeney
	Noel Tuohy	

APOLOGIES:

Councillor	James Kelly	Jerry Lodge
	John Moran	

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. Irene Delaney, Administrative Officer & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary.

105. 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:-

- *Ms. Brenda Earl, Finance Section, on the death of her brother Mr. James Earl*
- *Councillor James Kelly on the death of his mother Mrs. Una Kelly*
- *Councillor Paddy Bracken on the death of his Aunt Ms. Carmel Hibbits*
- *Ms. Bridie O' Reilly, MyPay on the death of her mother, Mrs. Rosaleen Dunne*
- *Ms. Alice Kirwan, Reception on the death of her mother, Mrs. Anna Murphy*
- *Ms. Jackie Costigan, Library on the death of her mother, Mrs. Sadie Conroy*
- *Ms. Julie Bergin, Finance on the death of her mother, Ms. Margaret McGree*
- *Mr. Evan Fennell, Internal Auditor on the death of his father, Mr. Jimmie Fennell*
- *Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services on the death of his father in law, Mr. Tom Colgan (also retired Town Councillor)*
- *Ms. Marie Nestor, Finance on the death of her father, Mr. Denis Roe*
- *Councillor Ben Brennan on the death of his brother, Mr. Eamon Brennan*
- *Mr. Stephen Mulhall, Water Services on the death of his mother, Ms. Bernadette Mulhall*
- *Mr. Michael McGlynn, Central Area on the death of his mother, Mrs. Agnes McGlynn*
- *Mr. Dom Reddin, Tourism Officer on the death of his mother, Mrs. Chris Reddin*
- *Ms. Ann Lowry, Environment on the death of her mother, Mrs. Nora Lowry*
- *Ms. Breda Creed, My Pay on the death of her sister, Mrs. Catherine Miller*
- *Ms. Carmel Austin, Reception on the death of her mother, Mrs. Bridie O' Connor*
- *The O' Riordan Family, Hawthorn Drive Portlaoise on the death of Joan*

It was agreed that the meeting be adjourned for fifteen minutes as a mark of respect to the deceased.

106. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 27th OF JULY 2015

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor John King, the Minutes of the July meeting of Laois County Council held on the 27th of July were confirmed as circulated.

107. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 14TH OF SEPTEMBER 2015 IN RELATION TO THE LOCAL PROPERTY TAX – NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF SETTING A LOCAL ADJUSTMENT FACTOR

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th of September 2015 in relation to the Local Property Tax- Notice of Consideration of setting a Local Adjustment Factor.

108. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 17TH OF SEPTEMBER 2015 IN RELATION TO THE LOCAL PROPERTY TAX – NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF SETTING OF A LOCAL ADJUSTMENT FACTOR

On the proposition of Councillor Seamus McDonald seconded by Councillor John King, the Minutes of the meeting held on the 17th of September 2015 in relation to the Local Property Tax – Notice of Consideration of setting a Local Adjustment Factor.

109. REPORTS ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN SEPTEMBER 2015

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the reports on Municipal District meetings held in September 2015 were noted and agreed as circulated.

110. REPORTS ON STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD IN SEPTEMBER 2015

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

111. WELCOME TO NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE, MR. JOHN MULHOLLAND

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald welcomed the new Chief Executive of Laois County Council, Mr. John Mulholland to Laois. The Members also welcomed Mr. Mulholland to Laois. In doing so the Cathaoirleach & Members also paid tribute to Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance who was Chief Executive since September 2014 and thanked Mr. Murphy for his commitment during his time as Chief Executive.

Mr. John Mulholland thanked the Members for their very warm welcome and indicated that he looked forward to working with the Members in bringing Laois to its full potential.

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance also expressed thanks to the Members for their support during his time as Chief Executive of Laois County Council.

112. MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR JULY & AUGUST 2015 (IN ACCORDANCE WITH CIRCULAR LETTER LG 18/2014)

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Chief Executive briefed the meeting on this matter and the report for July & August was circulated. The report for July & August 2015 was unanimously agreed and noted. A number of queries were raised on the report and the Directors of Services responded to the queries raised.

113. DISPSOAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001

DISPOSAL OF 0.0435HA (FREEHOLD) AT 4 BELADD, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.0435ha (freehold) at 4 Beladd, Portlaoise, Co. Laois in the townland of Beladd for a consideration of €300.00.

DISPSOAL OF 0.203 HECTARES OF LAND AT GRANTSTOWN, BALLACOLLA

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.203 hectares of land at Grantstown, Ballacolla, Co. Laois for a consideration of €500.00

DISPOSAL OF 0.102 HECTARES OF LAND AT SPRINGFIELD, BALLACOLLA

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.102 hectares of land at Springfield, Ballacolla, Co. Laois in the townland of Springfield or Knockkyle for a consideration of €500.00.

114. FIX DATE FOR BUDGET MEETING IN COMMITTEE AND STATUTORY BUDGET MEETING

The following dates were unanimously agreed:

- Budget Meeting in Committee to be held on the 12th of November 2015 at 2.00 p.m.
- Statutory Budget Meeting to be held on the 16th of November 2015 at 11.00 a.m.

115. UPDATE ON THE PREPARATION OF THE LAOIS LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (2016-2022) - PRESENTATION BY MS. GORMLA O' CORRIN, ACTING SENIOR EXECUTIVE PLANNER, FORWARD PLANNING

Ms. Gormla O' Corrain, Acting Senior Executive Planner, Forward Planning gave a presentation to the Members on the Laois Local Economic and Community Plan. The presentation detailed the summary of the LECP Plan-Making Process and the timeframes. Members were also given details of the forthcoming public consultation dates.

The Members thanked Ms. O' Corrain for her very comprehensive presentation.

116. COMMENCEMENT OF THE REVIEW OF THE LAOIS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (2011-2017) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

ACT, 2000 AS AMENDED – PRESENTATION BY MS. ANGELA MCEVOY, SENIOR PLANNER

Ms. Angela McEvoy, Senior Planner delivered a presentation to the Members on the commencement of the review of the Laois County Development Plan (2011-2017) in accordance with the Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended. The presentation included details of the preparations required for the review of the County Development Plan and the necessary timeframe. Details of public consultation dates were also outlined.

The Members thanked Ms. McEvoy for her very comprehensive presentation.

117. PRESENTATION BY MS. MICHELLE DE FORGE, DIRECTOR, DUNAMAISE ARTS CENTRE

Ms. Michelle de Forge, Director of the Dunamaise Arts Centre delivered a presentation to the Members on the Dunamaise Arts Centre. Ms. De Forge outlined the challenges overcome over the past number of years with regard to the running and upkeep of the centre and thanked Laois County Council for their continued support for the venue.

The Cathaoirleach & Members thanked Ms. De Forge for her presentation and for all the work done by the Dunamaise Arts Centre and also the Arts Office in Laois County Council.

The Members unanimously agreed that the good wishes of the Members be extended to Mr. Louis Brennan, Chairperson of the Board for a speedy recovery from his illness.

118. SPEED LIMIT REVIEW

The Members were circulated with a copy of the summary background and outline draft proposals for policy implementation in relation to the Speed Limit Review. The document includes details on the default speed limits, speed limit structure and signage, special speed limit of 30km/hr, housing estate roads and slow zones and rural areas.

The Members were advised that there is no legal status for any speeds under 30km/hr. However where a speed limit of 30km/hr is being implemented the implementation of 'Slow Zones' can be considered. A blanket 30km/hr was proposed in all housing estates.

The Members were advised that the public consultation period will commence the first week in October. Works will then commence on drafting bye-laws for the new limits.

119. RATIFICATION OF CONFERENCES & ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor William Aird, the Members unanimously agreed to the ratification of conferences/attendance at training as circulated.

120. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- (i) Correspondence received from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government dated the 24th of July 2015 in relation to the Carlow/Laois Boundary
- (ii) Correspondence received from the Office of the Taoiseach dated the 5th of August 2015 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 57/2013
- (iii) Acknowledgment received from the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform, Mr. Brendan Howlin, T.D., in relation to Notice of Motion No: 57/2013
- (iv) Correspondence received from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government dated the 26th of August in relation to Notice of Motion No: 56/2015
- (v) Correspondence received from the Office of the Minister for Social Protection dated the 20th of August 2015 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 54/2015
- (vi) Correspondence received from the Office of the Minister for Justice & Equality dated the 28th of August 2015 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 50/2015
- (vii) Correspondence received from the Office of the Minister for Justice & Equality dated the 3rd of September 2015 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 49/2015
- (viii) Correspondence received from the Office of the Minister for Justice & Equality dated the 14th of August 2015 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 17/2015

121. VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

(i) TIDY TOWNS COMMITTEES

The Members were circulated with the National Tidy Towns results. The local towns and villages featured among the National winners were as follows:

- Gold Medal – Abbeyleix
- Silver Medal – Ballacolla, Castletown & Portlaoise
- Bronze Medal – Clonaslee
- Endeavour Award – Shanahoe with an increase of 11 marks

County Awards went to

- Abbeyleix (1st)
- Castletown (2nd)
- Ballacolla (3rd)

The Cathaoirleach & Members congratulated each Tidy Towns Committee, all individuals and volunteers involved who make an invaluable contribution to the enhancement of County Laois and congratulated the Winners.

(ii) THE NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015

The Members extended their congratulations to The National Ploughing Association on a very successful Championship in Ratheniska again this year for its third year and requested that a letter issue to the National Ploughing Association in this regard. Thanks was also extended to the Gardaí and the outdoor staff of Laois County Council for their assistance.

122. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 59/2015

Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council request Irish Water to indicate if there are any plans for the replacement of lead pipes in the County”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised of the position as follows:-

1. All Public Water supplied by IW to consumers does not breach the parametric limit under the EU 2014 DW Regulations
2. Laois County Council is not aware of any lead water mains in the Public Water Supplies in Co. Laois. Lead can be present in some older private connections off the water mains and are primarily on the consumer side of the Boundary Box.
3. The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and the Department of Health jointly published the “National Strategy to reduce exposure to Lead in Drinking Water” in June 2015. Having regard for the National Strategy, Irish Water is developing a Lead in Drinking Water Mitigation Plan and published an issues paper in June 2015 to present for consultation the options and considerations that will likely form the basis for that plan. The issues paper states that:
 - a. Irish Water intends to replace all public-side lead pipes by 2025;
 - b. Irish Water is identifying high risk households using information from Local Authorities, the CSO and the Domestic Metering Project;
 - c. Irish Water has commenced a national random daytime sampling programme to identify elevated lead concentrations at properties that would otherwise not have been identified and intends to roll out this scheme to the entire country by the end of Q1 2016;
 - d. A pilot scheme is underway in Limerick to assess the effectiveness and environmental implications of ortho-phosphate dosing as a method of mitigating lead concentrations in drinking water as an interim measure until lead pipework is replaced;
 - e. Irish Water has established a lead pipe replacement “opt-in” scheme where Irish Water will also replace the pipework between the water main and the outer edge of the property boundary, if a property owner replaces the lead pipework on their property.

Notice of Motion No: 60/2015

Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council contact the Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government to implore on him the need to reverse the recent rules that were introduced regarding Local Authorities re-possessing abandoned Council houses”

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

Notice of Motion No: 61/2015

Councillor Noel Tuohy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council commends the leadership shown by local parishes and communities in their compassionate and humanitarian efforts to reach out and show support and solidarity with Syrian Refugee Families fleeing War, Persecution and ISIS terrorists and that the Council now engage with the local clergy, charities and communities to establish how best to combine efforts so as to assist refugees seeking safety and sanctuary in a sensible and sustainable way”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. Ms. Anna Marie Delaney briefed the Members on the Syrian Re-Settlement Programme which is currently underway.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
**DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
AFFAIRS**