

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ÁRAS AN
CHONTAE ON THE 9TH OF JUNE 2015**

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

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Chief Executive, Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary.

67. PORTLAOISE GENERAL HOSPITAL

Councillor John Joe Fennelly, Cathaoirleach advised the Members that he had called the special meeting of Laois County Council to discuss the Portlaoise General Hospital. The Members welcomed Ms. Kathleen O' Brien and Mr. Dick Sythes from the Portlaoise Hospital Action Committee who were in the public gallery.

The members noted the following:

- 3 Notices of Motion had been passed at the May monthly meeting of the Council in relation to the hospital and that a letter had issued to the Minister for Health requesting a meeting.
- Portlaoise A&E treats 40,000 cases annually and is one of the busiest A&Es outside of the major cities,
- Frontline staff are under pressure,
- Abbeyleix & Shaen Hospitals are also under threat,
- There was pressure on the Ambulance Service.

The following was agreed:-

- A & E services should not be downgraded; resources must be put in place to retain and upgrade the current services at the General Hospital due to the huge increase in population of Portlaoise and surrounding areas.
- The services at Portlaoise General Hospital must remain as they are currently, i.e. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year.
- A commitment is required from every political party to support the 24/7 A&E and to resource it to the standard required by the Irish Association for Emergency Medicine (IAEM).
- Request the Minister for Health to receive a deputation from Laois County Council to clarify his proposals for Portlaoise General Hospital.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

Certified: _____
**DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
AFFAIRS**

