

**MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ÁRAS  
AN CHONTAE ON THE 27<sup>th</sup> OF JUNE 2016**

**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  
Mary Sweeney Noel Tuohy  
Brendan Phelan Ben Brennan

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**71. VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the Members unanimously agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to the following:-

- The Dunican Family, Killamuck, Abbeyleix on the recent death of Stephen Dunican, a fire fighter with Laois County Council
- The Marum Family, O' Moore's Place, Portlaoise on the recent death of Mrs. Kathleen Marum, mother of Mrs. Mary Flynn, operator of Laois County Council's canteen
- The Fitzpatrick family, Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise on the recent death of Mr. Jimmy Fitzpatrick, former employee of Laois County Council
- The Fitzpatrick family, 2 Woodlawn Villas, Portlaoise on the recent death of Sean Fitzpatrick, a former employee of Laois County Council
- The Dunne family, Kilcavan, Geashill on the recent death of Mr. Jack Dunne, a former employee of Laois County Council

In accordance with Laois County Council's Bereavement Protocol, the Members observed a minutes silence as a mark of respect to the deceased and adjourned the meeting for a period of 15 minutes as a mark of respect to our current staff member, Mr. Stephen Dunican.

**72. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 30<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY 2016**

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan, the Minutes of the May meeting of Laois County Council held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2016 were agreed as circulated.

**73. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR JUNE 2016 (IN ACCORDANCE WITH CIRCULAR LETTER LG 18/2014)**

Mr. John Mulholland, Chief Executive briefed the meeting on this matter and the report for June was circulated. The report for June 2016 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.

**74. REPORTS ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN JUNE 2016**

The reports on the Municipal District Meetings held in June 2016 were noted by the Members.

**75. REPORTS ON SPEC MEETINGS HELD IN JUNE 2016**

The reports on the SPC Meetings held in June 2016 were noted by the Members.

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

**(i) DISPOSAL OF SITE NO. 5 (COMPRISING 0.33 HECTARES) AT PORTARLINGTON BUSINESS PARK**

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of Site No. 5 (comprising 0.33 hectares) at Portarlington Business Park in the townland of Cooltederry by way of a 500 year lease, for a consideration of €41,000

**(ii) DISPOSAL OF SITE NO. 4 (COMPRISING 0.40 HECTARES) AT PORTARLINGTON BUSINESS PARK**

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of Site No. 4 (comprising 0.40 hectares) at Portarlington Business Park in the townland of Cooltederry by way of a 500 year lease, for a consideration of €38,000

**77. ADOPTION OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT**

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Laois County Council Annual Report for 2015. On the proposition of Councillor Brendan Phelan seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald, the Members unanimously agreed to the adoption of the Laois County Council Annual Report 2015 as circulated.

**78. ADOPTION OF BYE-LAWS FOR ROAD TRAFFIC SPECIAL SPEED LIMITS (30 KM/HR) FOR HOUSING ESTATES**

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services briefed the Members on the Bye-Law for Road Traffic Special Speed Limits for Housing Estates.

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Jerry Lodge, the Members unanimously adopted the bye-laws for Road Traffic Special Speed Limits (30 km/hr) for Housing Estates. The Director of Services, Mr. Kieran Kehoe responded to the various queries raised and indicated that the areas of concern would be raised with the Local Engineer.

#### **79. RE-ORGANISATION OF CUSTOMER SERVICES AREA FOR ÁRAS AN CHONTAE**

The Members were circulated with the details on the proposals to provide offices to accommodate the Local Enterprise Office in Block 1 and the provision of a dedicated Customer Services Area in Block 2.

The proposals were discussed and it was agreed that the item be adjourned for further consideration, in committee with the Members. Following clarification on the proposals, and on the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor John King, the Members agreed to the proposals as outlined.

#### **80. RATIFICATION OF CONFERENCES & ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING**

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

#### **81. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was noted which had been received since the last meeting of the Council:-

- (i) Correspondence dated the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2016 received from the Department of Social Protection in relation to the Carer's Allowance applications. The Members expressed concern in relation to the 19 week waiting list and requested that a further letter issue to the Minister in this regard.
- (ii) Acknowledgement email dated the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2016 from the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources in relation to the development of wind farms
- (iii) Correspondence dated the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2016 received from Deputy Sean Fleming in relation to the Office of Public Works
- (iv) Acknowledgement dated the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2016 received from the Office of the Minister for Health in relation to Portlaoise General Hospital
- (v) Correspondence dated the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2016 received from the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group in relation to Portlaoise General Hospital – the Members discussed the said correspondence from Dr. Susan O' Reilly, Chief Executive Officer of the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group. It was

noted that Ms. O' Reilly, in her correspondence, indicated that she would not be in a position to attend the July meeting of the Council scheduled for the 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2016 as the draft plan is still being considered and finalised. However, in this regard the Members have requested a meeting with Dr. O' Reilly prior to the draft plan being finalised. It was agreed that a letter issue to Dr. O' Reilly requesting same. The Members also requested that a letter issue to Minister Charles Flanagan, Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade requesting him to meet the Laois County Council members together with Deputy Fleming & Deputy Stanley to have the matter discussed. It was agreed that Minister Flanagan be requested also to liaise with the Minister for Health with a view to receiving a deputation from Laois County Council.

- (vi) Concern was also raised in relation to the recent correspondence which had issued to the O.P.W. and it was agreed that a further letter issue to the Minister of State for the Office Of Public Works in relation to the reduced opening hours at Emo Court and staffing resources at Heywood Gardens.

## 82. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

### Notice of Motion No: 18/2016

Councillor Jerry Lodge proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council agrees to establish a sub-committee to specifically examine and identify those areas in the County which can fit in with the programme for Ireland’s Ancient East and thus ensure that Laois gets its fair share of tourists”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will engage with all interested groups to maximize the return to Laois County Council with this very positive proposal

### Notice of Motion No: 19/2016

Councillor Willie Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council calls on the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government, Mr. Simon Coveney, T.D., to change the terms of the 2016 Incremental Tenant Purchase Scheme to allow old age pensioners to buy out their Council houses”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. It was agreed that a letter issue to Minister Naughten in this regard.

## 83. VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

The Members unanimously passed a vote of congratulations to the Ballyroan U-14 Football Team who reached the All-Ireland Semi Final recently.

The Members unanimously passed a vote of congratulations to the Abbeyleix U-14 Hurling Team who recently won the All-Ireland Championship.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

**CERTIFIED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**A/DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE  
AFFAIRS**