

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD
IN ARAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE, ON THE 28TH OF NOVEMBER 2016**

PRESENT: Councillor Tom Mulhall In the Chair

 Councillors William Aird Paddy Bracken
 John Joe Fennelly Catherine Fitzgerald
 Padraig Fleming David Goodwin
 John King Jerry Lodge
 Seamus McDonald Paschal McEvoy
 John Moran Aidan Mullins
 Brendan Phelan Mary Sweeney
 Noel Tuohy James Kelly
 Caroline Dwane Stanley

APOLOGIES: Councillors Ben Brennan

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

142. VOTE OF SYMPATHY

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Tom Mulhall, the Members unanimously agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to the Ireland Family, New Road, Portlaoise on the recent death of Mr. John Ireland, former Revenue Collector with Laois County Council, husband of Ms. Dorothy Ireland, Portlaoise Cemetery Registrar and father of Ms. Georgina Ireland, Administrative Officer, Community & Enterprise.

The vote of sympathy was endorsed by all Members present and the meeting was adjourned for a period of five minutes as a mark of respect to Mr. Ireland.

**143. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF
 LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 24TH OF OCTOBER 2016**

On the proposition of Councillor John Moran seconded by Councillor John King, the Minutes of the October meeting held on the 24th of October 2016 were agreed as circulated.

Councillor William Aird referred to Item No. 128 in the minutes regarding the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise.

The following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Noel Tuohy and seconded by Councillor Willie Aird was also discussed:

“That the recent deferred meeting between the Councillors of Laois County Council and the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris and the Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade, Mr. Charles Flanagan be reconvened immediately”

It was noted that correspondence had been received from Minister Harris on the 8th of November 2016 indicating that the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group has recently produced a draft plan which sets out a proposed service design for a new model of clinical service delivery at Portlaoise Hospital. The draft plan has been discussed with the Department and is currently the subject of further work and consideration within the HSE with a view to finalising it for submission to the Department. The Minister indicated that he would then be briefed in advance of further necessary consultations with stakeholders, including GPs, Consultants and Councillors.

No decisions have been made in relation to Portlaoise Hospital at this stage, but once the work outlined is completed Minister Harris stated that he would be happy to meet with the Laois Oireachtas members and members of Laois County Council in the context of the consultation process.

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald it was agreed that the Cathaoilreach Councillor Tom Mulhall together with Councillor Brendan Phelan, Councillor John King & Councillor John Joe Fennelly organise a meeting for the elected members of the Council with the relevant Ministers and the 3 Oireachtas Members. Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley also proposed that a representative from the Laois GPs be asked to attend also.

144. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE STATUTORY BUDGET MEETING HELD ON THE 14TH OF NOVEMBER 2016

On the proposition of Councillor John Moran seconded by Councillor John King, the Minutes of the Statutory Budget meeting held on the 14th of November 2016 were confirmed as circulated. Councillor William Aird sought clarification on the 4% discount on rates which was clarified by the Head of Finance, Mr. Gerry Murphy.

145. REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 17TH OF OCTOBER 2016

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor John Moran, the report on the CPG meeting held on the 17th of October 2016 was confirmed as circulated.

146. REPORT ON CPG BUDGET MEETING HELD ON THE 3RD OF NOVEMBER 2016

On the proposition of Councillor Seamus McDonald seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the report on the CPG budget meeting held on the 3rd of November 2016 was confirmed as circulated.

**147. REPORTS ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN OCTOBER
2016**

On the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the reports on the Municipal District Meetings held in October 2016 were confirmed as circulated.

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

(i) DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 1 ACRAGAR, MOUNTMELICK

On the proposition of Councillor David Goodwin seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 1 Acragr, Mountmellick, Co. Laois in the townland of Acragar for a consideration of €300.00

**(ii) DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 25 FR. O' CONNOR CRESCENT,
MOUNTRATH**

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 25 Fr. O' Connor Crescent, Mountrath, Co. Laois in the townland of Mountrath for a consideration of €300.00.

(iii) DISPOSAL OF 0.0106 HECTARES OF LAND IN CHAPEL LANE

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.0106 hectares of land in Chapel Lane, Balinakill, Co. Laois for a consideration of €100.00.

**(iv) DISPOSAL OF 0.0109 HECTARES OF LAND BESIDE 24 ERKINDALE DRIVE,
DURROW**

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.0109 hectares of land beside 24 Erkindale Drive, Durrow, in the townland of Durrow, Townsparks for a consideration of €300.00.

**149. MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION OF THE LAOIS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT
PLAN 2011-2017 AND THE GRAIGUECULLEN LOCAL AREA PLAN 2012-2018
- REF: 16/161**

The Members were circulated with the planning report on the proposed material contravention of Laois County Council Development Plan 2011-2017 and the joint spatial plan for the Greater Graiguecullen Urban Area 2012-2018.

It was noted that this is an application to retain the continuance of the use of the existing industrial unit to facilitate a local community group as granted under Planning Reference No: 09/29.

On the proposition of Councillor Padraig Fleming seconded by Councillor John Moran, the Members unanimously agreed to the material contravention of Laois County Development Plan 2011-2017 and the Graiguecullen Local Area Plan 2012-2018 – Ref: 16/61 – Barrowvalley Community Church, c/o Sean O’ Reilly, Dean Design, Dunlackney, Bagnelstown, Co. Carlow to retain the continuance of the use of the existing industrial unit to facilitate a local community group as granted under Planning Ref: 09/29 at Unit 5A, Barrowside Business Park, Sleaty Road, Graiguecullen, Co. Laois. A Roll Call Vote was taken on Councillor Padraig Fleming’s proposal which resulted as follows:

COUNCILLOR		FOR	AGAINST
FIRST NAME	SURNAME		
William	AIRD	✓	
Paddy	BRACKEN	Absent	
Ben	BRENNAN	Absent	
Caroline	DWANE STANLEY	✓	
John Joe	FENNELLY	✓	
Catherine	FITZGERALD	✓	
Padraig	FLEMING	✓	
David	GOODWIN	✓	
James	KELLY	✓	
John	KING	✓	
Jerry	LODGE	✓	
Seamus	MCDONALD	✓	
Paschal	MCEVOY	✓	
John Robert	MORAN	✓	
Tom	MULHALL	✓	
Aidan	MULLINS	✓	

Brendan	PHELAN	✓	
Mary	SWEENEY	✓	
Noel	TUOHY	✓	

Total Number of Votes – 17 votes in favour of Councillor Padraig Fleming’s proposal and 2 absent. Therefore, the proposal was formally adopted.

150. TAKING IN CHARGE

(i) TAKING IN CHARGE OF NEW LINE CLOSE, MOUNTRATH

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of New Line Close, Mountrath

(ii) TAKING IN CHARGE OF BRUACH NA HABHANN, MAGANEY

On the proposition of Councillor John Moran seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of Bruach na hAbhann, Maganey

(iii) TAKING IN CHARGE OF RADHARC NA SLEIBHTE, MOUNTRATH

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of Radharc na Sleibhte, Mountrath

(iv) TAKING IN CHARGE OF KNOCKNAMOE LANE, ABBEYLEIX

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of Knocknamoe Lane, Abbeyleix

(v) TAKING IN CHARGE OF AGHNAHARNA COURT, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor Noel Tuohy seconded by Councillor William Aird, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of Aghnaharna Court, Portlaoise

151. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL – MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2016

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

152. LAUNCH OF THE LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL WEBSITE

Mr. Cormac Strain, ICT gave a very comprehensive presentation on the new Laois County Council Website and outlined the various changes in relation to same. Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance complimented the I.T. Section and in particular Mr. Strain for the work involved to date in getting the new website finalised.

153. RATIFICATION OF CONFERENCES/ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING

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

154. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence were circulated since the last meeting :

- (i) Correspondence dated the 26th of October 2016 from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government in relation to Notice of Motion No: 19/2016 regarding the Tenant Purchase Scheme
- (ii) Correspondence dated the 1st November 2016 from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills in relation to Notice of Motion No: 27/2016 regarding the use of school facilities after hours and during holidays
- (iii) Correspondence dated the 14th of November 2016 from the Department of Health in relation to Notice of Motion No: 29/2016 regarding the provision of Home Help. Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald expressed concern in relation to the situation in County Laois and it was agreed that a further letter issue to the Department in this regard.
- (iv) Acknowledgement dated the 4th of November 2016 from the Office of the Tanaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality in relation to Notice of Motion No: 31/2016 regarding the Garryhinch Bombing in 1976
- (v) Acknowledgement dated the 7th of November 2016 from the Office of the Garda Commissioner in relation to Notice of Motion No: 32/2016 regarding new Garda Recruits
- (vi) Email dated the 8th of November 2016 from the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris in relation to the request for a meeting in relation to Portlaoise General Hospital

155. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 33/2016

Councillor Willie Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council agree to include Clonad on its Cemetery Register”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald. The Members were advised that Clonad cemetery is not in the ownership of Laois County Council. The Council has no role in relation to this cemetery and no allowance has been made in the annual budget for same. It should be noted that there are numerous similar cemeteries in the county for which Laois County Council are not responsible. The matter was discussed in detail and it was agreed to examine the matter and refer to the S.P.C.

Notice of Motion No: 34/2016

Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That all requests received by Laois County Council for Civic Receptions be included in monthly correspondence to Councillors”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy. The Members were advised that the Members of Laois County Council at their meeting held on 14th December, 2015 adopted Protocols for the conferral of Civic Honours and Receptions.

These Protocols provide that any Member wishing to propose a formal Civic Reception for any group or individual must consult with the Cathaoirleach of the Council who will raise the matter for discussion with the Corporate Policy Group. The CPG will consider all proposals for a Civic Reception at their meetings held in January, April, July and October of each year and recommend on the appropriate level of honour that should be conferred in any particular case and by whom, i.e. Plenary or Municipal District Level.

Recommendations for Civic Receptions at Plenary Level will be submitted to the full Council for approval at the next available monthly meeting, after consideration at CPG, while recommendations for recognition to be conferred at Municipal District level will be submitted to the relevant Municipal District for approval at their next available meeting; it was also agreed to circulate requests received in monthly correspondence.

Notice of Motion No: 35/2016

Councillor Willie Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council investigate options for providing a premises to Down Syndrome Centre – Midlands”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Jerry Lodge. The Members were advised that The Committee of Down Syndrome Centre – Midlands have already made a presentation to officials on their aspirations for a Down Syndrome Centre in Portlaoise. The group has particular requirements for the location of the centre. While Laois County Council would not have a premises meeting the requirements of the Centre, the Council can assist the Group in their search and in their interactions with other bodies who may be able to assist.

Notice of Motion No: 36/2016

Councillor John Joe Fennelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That all Local Authority houses in County Laois be provided with Carbon Monoxide Alarms”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald. The Members were advised that Carbon Monoxide Alarms have been provided to occupants of demountables and are included in the list of works to be carried out when houses are purchased and when existing dwellings are being re-let.

A survey of our existing Council stock is being carried out to identify at the outset the homes of elderly residents that may require carbon monoxide alarms. It is expected that these alarms will be installed in the coming months. Carbon Monoxide alarms will also be installed in houses when the Maintenance team call to carry out repairs. The Council will be kept advised of progress.

This concluded the business of the meeting

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
**DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
CORPORATE AFFAIRS**