

**MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED JANUARY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> OF FEBRUARY 2023 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Councillor	Thomasina Connell	In The Chair
		Willie Aird	Paddy Bracken
		John Joe Fennelly	Aidan Mullins
		James Kelly	P.J. Kelly
		Caroline Dwane Stanley	John King
		Conor Bergin	Paschal McEvoy
		Padraig Fleming	Ben Brennan
		Barry Walsh	Noel Tuohy
		Aisling Moran	Catherine Fitzgerald
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Councillor	Ollie Clooney	Seamus McDonald

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Messers John Mulholland, Chief Executive, Donal Brennan, Director of Services, Simon Walton, Director of Services, Ms. Angela McEvoy, Director of Services, Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Ms. Irene Delaney, A.O., & Ms. Michelle McCormack, S.O.

**23. STANDING ORDERS**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Thomasina Connell, following a point raised by Cllr Mullins on that matter, sought the co-operation of Members to ensure the orderly transaction of business at this and future Council meetings. This was noted by the Members present.

**24. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**Notice of Motion No: 01/2023**

Councillors Conor Bergin, Willie Aird, Thomasina Connell, John King, Barry Walsh & P.J. Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council call on the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly, T.D. to ensure that the MIDOC Out of Hours service will continue to serve the people in County Laois with no future reduction in the current level of service”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members requested that other options be considered in order to deliver the service, i.e. enabling Pharmacists/Nurses etc., to provide the service. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Minister in this regard.

### **Notice of Motion No: 02/2023**

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That Laois County Council, as part of our Joint Policing Committee and community role support the acquisition of a property marking machine to encourage people to mark their property to prevent theft"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Thomasina Connell. The Members were advised that Laois County Council supports this initiative and are currently liaising with Laois Public Participation Network to assist in exploring options to deliver on this initiative for the communities"

### **Notice of Motion No: 03/2023**

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That this Council populate the attached excel worksheet calling for a complete account of all quarrying & extractive interests within the County of Laois"***

This Notice of Motion received no seconder.

### **Notice of Motion No: 04/2023**

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That this Council give a detailed breakdown of monies paid to each of the following over the past two years – the amount and detail of each payment - The Leinster Express, Laois Today & The Laois Nationalist"***

This Notice of Motion received no seconder.

### **Notice of Motion No: 05/2023**

Councillor John Joe Fennelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***"That this Council give an update on the provision and design of bus shelters for the County"***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Bus Shelters are provided under a contract between the National Transport Authority and a bus shelter service provider. Laois County Council is committed to upgrading bus stops such that they meet all accessibility criteria and can accommodate a bus shelter. In late 2021, Laois County Council was allocated €70,000 by the National Transport Authority for bus shelter enabling works at 5 locations in County Laois. The works at all 5 locations will be complete by the end of Q2 2023, ready for bus shelter installation. Separately, in line with the drawdown of available funds, a new application to the NTA for a further 5 bus stops will be made.

Mr. Simon Walton, Director of Services responded to the various queries raised including details of the proposed locations for bus shelters.

**Notice of Motion No: 06/2023**

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That Laois County Council review the current Road Gritting Plan while acknowledging the extensive program currently in place as it is necessary that additional locations such as locations already highlighted by various people and Councillors for the immediate period ahead and that these locations be included in next year’s Road Gritting Plan”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy.

**Notice of Motion No: 07/2023**

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That this Council in the interest of public safety, provide finance for each Municipal District to purchase a tractor and spreader, so that smaller and more hard to reach roads can be salted during the winter months”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran. The Members were advised that from a plant/machinery perspective, at this point in time, there is absolutely no spare capacity available to Laois County Council, to introduce additional roads to rostered salting routes, save that an existing, rostered route, is removed and a new, similar type route introduced. To expand rostered salting routes, Laois County Council will need to, as a minimum, purchase a new Truck, Salt Spreader and Snow Plough, at an estimated cost of €230,000 (inclusive of VAT). There is no provision in the 2023 Budget for such an acquisition. If funds are made available, any acquisition of new plant will need to be considered against other logistical considerations such as salt stocks, driver availability, available spare fleet capacity, an existing ageing fleet etc. Similar issues arise if the Council is to purchase a tractor, snow plough and salt spreader for each Municipal District. Separate to rostered routes, it is open to each Municipal District to redeploy MD staff to winter maintenance services during longer periods of icy weather. Salt is available to each Municipal District on an ongoing basis for this purpose and each Municipal District Office has been requested to review existing arrangements.

A lengthy discussion ensued during which Mr. Simon Walton, Director of Services responded to the various queries raised by the Members.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

CERTIFIED: \_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTOR OF  
CORPORATE AFFIARS

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

CERTIFIED: \_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
CORPORATE AFFAIRS

-----ooOoo-----