

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 29<sup>TH</sup> OF  
APRIL 2024 IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Messrs John Mulholland, Chief Executive, Donal Brennan, Director of Services, Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Ms. Angela McEvoy, Director of Services, Mr. Paul McLoughlin, A/Director of Services, Ms. Carmel McNicholl, A/Director of Services, Ms. Irene Delaney, Administrative Officer & Ms. Michelle McCormack, S.O.

**61. VOTE OF SYMPATHIES**

The following Votes of Sympathies were agreed:

- (i) The Macken Family, Summerhill Lane, Portlaoise on the recent death of Mr. Paddy Macken, former Library Service, Laois County Council
- (ii) The Ryan Family, Cloonagh, Golden Grove, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary on the recent death of Mr. Michael Ryan, brother of Ms. Eilish Dillon, Library Service
- (iii) The Corry Family, 59 The Paddocks, Naas, Co. Kildare on the recent death of Ms. Eileen Corry, mother of Ms. Caroline Farrell, Finance Department
- (iv) The Shannon Family, Killamaster, Killerig, Carlow on the recent death of Ms. Geraldine Shannon, sister of Ms. Pauline Dunne, My Pay Department
- (v) The Kelly Family, Portlaoise Road, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois on the recent death of Mr. Tommy Kelly, father of Ms. Anne Marie Kelly, Marketing & Communications Executive, Midlands Ireland Project Team
- (vi) The Fitzpatrick Family, The Hermitage, Portlaoise, Co. Laois on the recent death of Ms. Mary Fitzpatrick, sister of Mr. Liam Timmons, Library Service

**62. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH 2024**

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the minutes of the March monthly meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 were confirmed as circulated.

Under matters arising Mr. John Mulholland, Chief Executive provided an update to the Members on the proposals for the provision of a Sports Complex in Portlaoise. He outlined the various options and confirmed to the Members that further updates will be available in due course. Reference was also made to the Feasibility Study carried out a number of years ago and Members were advised that a copy of same would be circulated.

**63. REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 18<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH 2024**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the minutes of the CPG Meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 were confirmed as circulated.

**64. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN MARCH 2024**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the minutes of the Municipal District meetings held in March 2024 were confirmed as circulated.

**65. REPORT ON STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES HELD IN DECEMBER 2023**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the minutes of Strategic Policy Committees held in December 2023 were confirmed as circulated.

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

**Disposal of Site No. 12 comprising 0.087 ha at Castletown, Co. Laois**

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of Site No. 12 comprising 0.087 ha at Castletown in the townland of Churchfield for a consideration of €30,000

**Lease of property (land and building) comprising 0.08595 hectares of land at the Dunamais Theatre Centre for the Arts, Church Street, Portlaoise**

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh, the Members unanimously agreed to the lease of property (land and building) comprising 0.08595 hectares of land at the Dunamais Theatre & Centre for the Arts, Church Street, Portlaoise in the townland of Maryborough for a period of ten years for a consideration of €1.00 per annum.

**67. ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2023 INCLUDING APPROVAL OF OVER-EXPENDITURE AND TRANSFERS TO CAPITAL**

The Members were circulated with the Financial Review on the Annual Financial Statement 2023 and same was agreed on the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Paddy Bracken.

**68. REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS**

The Members were circulated with the report on the Development Contributions and same was agreed on the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken.

**69. TAKING IN CHARGE OF CHAPEL LANE, MOUNTMELICK**

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of Chapel Lane, Mountmellick.

**70. ANTI-FRAUD POLICY FOR NOTING**

The Members noted the Anti-Fraud Policy as circulated.

**71. CONFIRM DATE FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL – FRIDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> OF JUNE 2024 AT 2.30 P.M.**

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously agreed that the Annual General Meeting of Laois County Council would take place on Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> 2024 at 2.30 p.m.

**72. SISTER CITIES INVITATION – 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSY OF THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY FAIR AUGUST 2024**

The Members were circulated with an invitation from The Mayor of Williamson County for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Williamson County Fair August 2024. On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor John King it was agreed in principle.

**73. PROPOSED CIVIC RECEPTION TO BOBBY KINSELLA, LYNAM DANCING SCHOOL**

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald the Members unanimously agreed to accord a Civic Reception to Bobby Kinsella, Lynam Dancing School on winning first prize at the World Irish Dancing Competition as recommended by the Corporate Policy Group on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2024.

**74. MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR APRIL 2024**

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Monthly Management Report for April 2024 and the Directors of Services responded to the various queries raised.

**75. TRAINING & CONFERENCES**

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed the details as circulated on Training & Conferences

**76. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- (i) Correspondence dated the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 in response to Notice of Motion 03/2024 from Minister Roderic O' Gorman, T.D.
- (ii) Correspondence dated the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 in response to Notice of Motion No: 01/2024 from Minister Darragh O' Brien, T.D.

## 77. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

### Notice of Motion No: 19/2024

Councillor Barry Walsh proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That Laois County Council contact the Department of Health and the HSE to ensure that any review of the medical card system includes the introduction of a temporary medical card up to two years in duration for those with a terminal illness and long term illness without a means test”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly & Paschal McEvoy. It was agreed that a letter would issue to the Department of Health & the HSE in this regard.

### Notice of Motion No: 20/2024

Councillor Barry Walsh proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That Laois County Council request the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government, Mr. Darragh O’ Brien, T.D., to consider the introduction of an opt out option from the onerous Building Control Amendment Regulations (BCAR) for all proposed developments from voluntary groups, sporting groups and developments under €500,000 in value”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. The Members were advised that a letter would issue to the Department of Housing, planning & Local Government, Mr, Darragh O’ Brien, T.D., in this regard.

### Notice of Motion No: 21/2024

Councillor Barry Walsh proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That Laois County Council write to the Department of Transport requesting an update and timeline outlining what stage the speed review process is at and when guidelines will be issued”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that a letter issue to the Department of Transport in this regard.

### Notice of Motion No: 23/2024

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That Laois County Council call on the Liaison Officer for the HSE with responsibility for the carers in the Laois area, to explain the costs that the HSE pay to Agencies for hours provided”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Marie Tuohy. The Members were advised that a letter would issue to the HSE in this regard.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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