

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE  
11<sup>TH</sup> OF DECEMBER 2023 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. Simon Walton, Director of Services, Ms. Carmel McNicholl, A/Director of Services, Ms. Irene Delaney, Administrative Officer & Ms. Michelle McCormack, S.O.

**159. Votes of Sympathies**

**The following Votes of Sympathies were agreed:**

- (i) The Delaney Family, Kyledellig, Ballacolla on the recent death of Mr. John Delaney
- (ii) The Cooney Family, 14 Mary Street, Durrow on the recent death of Mr. Vincent Cooney
- (iii) The Walsh Family, the Heath, Portlaoise on the recent death of Mr. Anthony Walsh
- (iv) The Emerson Family, Bishopswood Road, Portarlinton on the recent death of Mrs. Brigid Emerson, former Member of Offaly County Council
- (v) The Boran Family, Ballinagall, Ballickmoyer on the recent death of Ms. Grace Boran
- (vi) The Phelan Family, Knockanoran, Durrow on the recent death of Ms. Helen Phelan
- (vii) The Brennan Family, Upper Rossmore, Killeshin on the recent death of Ms. Mary Brennan
- (viii) The Knowles Family, Slatt Lower, Wolfhill on the recent death of Mr. Tommy Knowles
- (ix) The Duggan Family, 18 Fr. O' Connor Crescent on the recent death of Rose.
- (x) The Kelly Family, 27 Kylebeg, Stradbally on the recent death of Mr. Edward Kelly

**160. Confirmation of the Minutes of the November monthly meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2023**

On the proposition of Councillor Thomasina Connell seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly the minutes of the November monthly meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November were confirmed as circulated.

**161. Report on CPG Meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2023**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming the minutes of the CPG Meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 were confirmed as circulated.

**162. Report on Municipal District meetings held in November 2023**

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the minutes of the Municipal District meetings held in November 2023 were confirmed as circulated.

**163. Laois County Council Audit Committee – Statutory Audit Report to the Members of Laois County Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2022**

On the proposition of Councillor Padraig Fleming seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously agreed the Statutory Audit Report to the Members of Laois County Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2022.

**164. Laois County Council Audit Committee - Draft Annual Report including annual review and assessment of Audit Committee's Performance and Effectiveness – 2023**

On the proposition of Councillor Padraig Fleming seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously agreed the Draft Annual Report including annual review and assessment of Audit Committee's Performance and Effectiveness 2023 as circulated.

**165. Laois County Council Audit Committee - Internal Audit Plan 2024**

On the proposition of Councillor Padraig Fleming seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously agreed the Internal Audit Plan 2024 as circulated.

**166. Laois County Council Audit Committee Charter 2024**

On the proposition of Councillor Padraig Fleming seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously agreed the Audit Committee Charter 2024 as circulated.

**167. Laois County Council Audit Committee Annual Work Programme 2024**

On the proposition of Councillor Padraig Fleming seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously agreed the Audit Committee Annual Work Programme 2024 as circulated.

**168. Laois County Council Indicative Capital Programme 2024 to 2026**

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance briefed the Members on the Indicative Capital Programme 2024 – 2026 setting out the proposed projects to be undertaken in the three year period ahead. It was noted that the total estimated expenditure for the period is €315,487,065.

**169. Adoption of the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2024**

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Annual Service Delivery Plan for 2024 and was agreed on the proposition of Councillor Padraig Fleming and seconded by Councillor John King.

**170. Draft Protocol for Special Lighting and Flag Raising Requests at Council building and facilities**

The Members were circulated with a copy of the draft protocol for Special Lighting and Flag Raising Requests at Council building and facilities and same was agreed on the proposition of Councillor Padraig Fleming seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran.

**171. Monthly Management Report for December 2023**

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Monthly Management Report for December 2023 and the Directors of Services responded to the various queries raised.

**172. 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

**173. Correspondence**

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

- (i) Correspondence from Minister Jack Chambers in relation to recent correspondence on a Notice of Motion with regard to NCT certificate duration – Councillor Aisling Moran requested that a further letter issue to the Minister in relation to this issue requesting that the matter be re-considered and also that additional staff be employed. This was seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley and agreed;
- (ii) Acknowledgment from Minister Eamon Ryan in relation to Notice of Motion No: 51/2023 regarding the local hackney pilot scheme;
- (iii) Acknowledgment from Minister Eamon Ryan in relation to Notice of Motion No: 57/2023 regarding electric scooters;
- (iv) Acknowledgment from Minister Stephen Donnelly in relation to Notice of Motion No: 56/2023 regarding the extension of the Mammogram Screening Programme to the Over 70's;
- (v) Acknowledgment from Minister Eamon Ryan in relation to Notice of Motion No: 61/2023 regarding the burning of bushes;
- (vi) Acknowledgment from Minister Eamon Ryan in relation to Notice of Motion No: 60/2023 regarding planning permission for quarries.

**174. Notice of Motions**

**Notice of Motion No: 62/2023**

Councillor Thomasina Connell proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council write to the Minister for Justice Ms. Helen McEntee T.D., seeking a National Wills Register in Ireland whereby the General Register Office would be required to maintain a Register of Wills whereby a Solicitor must notify the GRO of the existence of a Will made by a client and held by a Solicitor”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly. It was agreed that correspondence will issue to the Minister in this regard.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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