

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 30TH
OF JANUARY 2023 IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE**

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Messrs 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.

1. VOTES OF SYMPATHIES

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Thomasina Connell, the Members unanimously agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to the following:

- (i) The Guidera family, Moneen Court, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary on the recent death of Mr. Patsy Guidera, father of Ms. Catherine Guidera, the Arts Office, Laois County Council
- (ii) The Larkin family, Clonminch, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on the recent death of Mr. Jim Larkin, father of Mr. Adrian Larkin, Housing Maintenance Department, Laois County Council
- (iii) The Delaney family, 36 Arden View, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on the recent death of Ms. Theresa Delaney & Mr. Leo Delaney, parents of Ms. Leona Conroy, IT Department, Laois County Council
- (iv) The Foyle family, Cullenagh, Timahoe, Co. Laois on the recent death of Mr. Seamus Foyle, husband of Ms. Breda Foyle, MyPay Department, Laois County Council
- (v) The Hyland family, Currawn, Aghaboe, Ballacolla, Co. Laois on the recent death of Ms. Agnes Hyland, sister of Mr. Fintan Deegan, Housing Maintenance Department Laois County Council
- (vi) The Heffernan family, Ringstown, Mountrath, Co. Laois on the recent death of Mr. Anthony Heffernan, father of Ms. Lourda Heffernan, Planning Department & Ms. Yvonne Kelly, MyPay Department, Laois County Council.
- (vii) On the proposition of Councillors Willie Aird and Noel Tuohy the Members unanimously agreed to pass a vote of sympathy to the Bracken family on the recent death of Mr. Declan Bracken, Block Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
- (viii) On the proposition of Councillors Catherine Fitzgerald and Willie Aird the Members unanimously agreed to pass a vote of sympathy to the Sides family on the recent death of Mr. Dick Sides, Ridge Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly the Members unanimously agreed to pass a vote of sympathy to the O' Hara family on the recent death of Ms. Eilish O' Hara, Patrick Street, Mountrath, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ollie Clooney the Members unanimously agreed to pass a vote of sympathy to the Presentation Sisters on the recent death of Sr. Sheila Bowe, Presentation Convent, Parnell Street, Kilkenny.

On the proposition of Councillor Pashal McEvoy, the Members unanimously agreed to pass a vote of sympathy to the Mullen Family on the recent death of Mr. Jack Mullen, Ballymaddock, Stradbally, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillors James Kelly & Conor Bergin, the Members unanimously agreed to pass a vote of sympathy to the Lalor family on the recent death of Ms. Mary Lalor, Garrafin, Camross, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Barry Walsh, the Members unanimously agreed to pass a vote of sympathy to the Grant family on the recent death of Mr. John Bosco Grant, Colt, Raheen, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously agreed to pass a vote of sympathy to the Cooney family on the recent death of Ms. Nell Cooney, Rahin Road, Ballylinan, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously agreed to pass a vote of sympathy to the Hackett family on the recent death of Ms. Mary Hackett, Mayo, Bilboa, Carlow.

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously agreed to pass a vote of sympathy to the Murphy family on the recent death of Fr. Denis Murphy, Upper Grange, Goresbridge, Kilkenny.

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously agreed to pass a vote of sympathy to the Julian family on the death of Mr. Pat Julian, Graigue, Ballylinan, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously agreed to pass a vote of sympathy to the Culleton family on the death of Mr. Ronan Culleton, Cloonagh, Mountmellick, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor P.J. Kelly, the Members unanimously agreed to pass a vote of sympathy to the Dunne family on the death of Mr. Tommy Dunne, Main Street, Portarlinton, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor P.J. Kelly, the Members unanimously agreed to pass a vote of sympathy to the O' Connell family on the death of Ms. Tess O' Connell, Courtwood Stores, Ballybrittas, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ollie Clooney, the Members unanimously agreed to pass a vote of sympathy to the Thornton family on the death of Ms. Maeve Thornton, Derrywood, Durrow, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously agreed to pass a vote of sympathy to the White family on the death of Ms. May White, Newpark, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously agreed to pass a vote of sympathy to the Ryan family on the death of Ms. Teresa Ryan, Woodbrook, Portarlinton, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Padraig Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed to pass a vote of sympathy to the Condren family on the death of Mr. Michael Condren, Slatt Lawn, The Swan, via Athy, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillors John Joe Fennelly & Padraig Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed to pass a vote of sympathy to the Magennis family on the death of Ms. Kathleen Magennis, Timahoe, Co. Laois.

2. VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

The Members expressed a vote of congratulations and well wishes to Mr. Martin Dunne on his forthcoming retirement from Laois County Council after almost 50 years of service.

The Members passed a vote of congratulations to the Cathaoirleach of Laois County Council, Councillor Thomasina Connell and her partner Tristan on the recent birth of their baby boy Thomas.

3. MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON THE 12TH OF DECEMBER 2022

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the December monthly meeting held on the 12th of December 2022 as circulated.

4. REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 5TH OF DECEMBER 2022

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed the report on CPG meeting held on the 5th of December 2022.

5. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN DECEMBER 2022

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney, the Members unanimously agreed the report on the Graiguecullen/Portarlinton Municipal District meeting held in December 2022.

6. REPORT ON STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD IN SEPTEMBER 2021

On the proposition of Councillor Conor Bergin and seconded by Councillor John King, the Minutes of the Strategic Policy Committee meetings held in June and September were agreed.

7. DISPSOAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001

LEASE OF 0.2759 HECTARES OF LAND AND BUILDINGS AT ST. MARY'S SPORTS HALL, BORRIS LITTLE, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor Thomasina Connell seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh, the Members unanimously agreed to the lease of 0.2759 hectares of land and buildings at St. Mary's Sports Hall, Borris Little, Portlaoise in the townland of Borris Little for a period of 4 years and 11 months to Portlaoise Sports Hall Company Limited by guarantee, Elly's Place, Ballycormick, Mountrath, Portlaoise, Laois, R32 V6X9, for a consideration of €100.00 per annum.

LEASE OF 0.3641 HECTARES OF LAND INCLUDING HOUSE AT BALLYMORRIS ROAD, PORTARLINGTON

On the proposition of Councillor Aidan Mullins seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the members unanimously agreed to the lease of 0.3641 hectares of land including house at Ballymorris Road, Portarlington in the townland of Ballymorris and Cooltederry for a period of 4 years and 11 months to Laois Traveller Action Group, Unit 7, Bridge Street, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 HDN4 for a consideration of €100.00 per annum.

8. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE – AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE'S FINDINGS IN RELATION TO THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT & STATUTORY AUDIT REPORT 2021

On the proposition of Councillor Pádraig Fleming seconded by Councillor James Kelly the Members unanimously agreed to the Audit Committee Report on the Committee's findings in relation to the Audited Financial Statement & Statutory Audit Report for 2021 as circulated.

9. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE – AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2022

On the proposition of Councillor Pádraig Fleming seconded by Councillor John King the Members unanimously agreed to the Audit Committee Annual 2022 as circulated.

10. ADOPTION OF THE CASUAL TRADING BYE-LAWS FOR STRADBALLY

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly the Members unanimously agreed to adopt the Casual Trading Bye-Laws for Stradbally as circulated.

11. SECTION 11 ROADS ACT 1993, DECLARATION OF PUBLIC ROADS (TAKING IN CHARGE):

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of the following estates under Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993:-

- Bellingham (Phase 2 Area 2), Mountrath Road, Portlaoise

- Garden Village, Portlaoise
- Ashewood Walk and Ashewood Gardens, Portlaoise
- The Orchard, Stradbally
- Cathair na gCapall, Portarlinton
- Rushall, Mountrath
- Kyle Manor, Borris in Ossory
- Silverwood, Silverglen and Silverbrook, Mountmellick

12. OFFICIAL INVITATION TO THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE, 15TH – 18TH MARCH 2023

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh the Members unanimously agreed the official invitation to the St. Patrick's Day Parade – 15th – 18th of March 2023 New York from the Laois Association New York.

13. OFFICIAL INVITATION TO LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL'S SISTER CITY – FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE – 19TH – 22ND OF MARCH 2023

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming the Members unanimously agreed the official invitation to Laois County Council's Sister City – Franklin, Tennessee, 19th – 22nd of March 2023 from the President of Sister cities of Franklin and Williamson County.

14. EXTEND OFFICIAL INVITATION TO LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL'S SISTER CITY – FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE TO VISIT COUNTY LAOIS – SEPTEMBER 2023

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly the Members unanimously agreed the official invitation to Laois County Council's Sister City – Franklin, Tennessee to visit County Laois in September 2023.

15. UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CORPORATE PLAN 2019-2024

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the Members unanimously agreed to the update on the implementation of the Corporate Plan 2019-2024.

16. DRAFT TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously agreed the draft Training & Development Programme as presented.

17. SECTION 174(1) (a) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ACT, 2001 AS AMENDED – ANNUAL ETHICS DECLARATION

The Members noted the requirement to furnish an annual Declaration in accordance with the requirements under Section 174(1)(a) of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended for the Annual Ethics Declarations.

18. CONSIDERATION OF A CIVIC RECEPTION TO MS. MARY MULHARE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE C.P.G. GROUP ON THE 23RD OF JANUARY 2023

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald seconded by Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously agreed to the according of a Civic Reception to Ms. Mary Mulhare as recommended by the C.P.G. Group on the 23rd of January 2023.

19. MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2022/JANUARY 2023

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Monthly Management report for December 2022/January 2023. The Director of Services responded to the various queries raised by the Members.

20. TRAINING AND CONFERENCES

The Members were circulated with a copy of the conferences and training for ratification and same was agreed on the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken.

21. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was circulated which was received since the last meeting:-

- (i) Correspondence received from Kerry County Council dated the 14th of October 2022 in relation to the retention of accommodation for the homeless and those on our Local Authority Housing list when the Ukrainian Refugees return home
- (ii) Correspondence received from Limerick City & County Council dated the 2nd of December 2022 in relation to a call on the Minister for Transport for the adoption of a policy for the construction of bus shelters
- (iii) Correspondence received from the Department of Social Protection dated the 21st of December 2022 in response to Notice of Motion No: 46/2022 in relation to Community Welfare Service in County Laois
- (iv) Correspondence received from Cavan County Council in relation to the retention and expansion of long Covid clinics
- (v) Acknowledgement received from Minister Darragh O' Brien, Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage dated the 13th of December 2022 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 65/2022
- (vi) Acknowledgment received from Minister Paschal Donohoe, Minister for Finance dated the 15th of December 2022 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 65/2022
- (vii) Correspondence received from Meath County Council dated the 3rd of January 2023 in relation to the possible implementation of nuclear power generation in Ireland
- (viii) Correspondence received from the Minister for Transport dated the ? in response to Notice of Motion No: 61/2022
- (ix) Correspondence received from Cork County Council dated the 9th of January 2023 in relation to the possibility of the operation of Uber in this Country
- (x) Correspondence received from Leitrim County Council dated the 13th of January 2023 in relation to the holding of a long promised referendum on voting rights for Irish citizens abroad

- (xi) Correspondence received from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage dated the 4th of January 2023

22. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

In accordance with Standing Orders and as the time was near 5.00 p.m. Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed that the meeting be adjourned and re-scheduled to another date to conclude the business of the agenda. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney.

A Counter Proposal from Councillor Aisling Moran and seconded by Councillor Padriag Fleming was also made to continue with the business of the agenda.

A Roll Call Vote was taken which resulted as follows:

COUNCILLOR		PROCEED	ADJOURN	ABSENT
FIRST NAME	SURNAME			
William	AIRD			✓
Conor	BERGIN		✓	
Paddy	BRACKEN		✓	
Ben	BRENNAN	✓		
Ollie	CLOONEY		✓	
Thomasina	CONNELL		✓	
Caroline	DWANE STANLEY			✓
John Joe	FENNELLY	✓		
Catherine	FITZGERALD			✓
Padraig	FLEMING	✓		
James	KELLY	✓		
John	KING			✓
Seamus	MCDONALD			✓
Paschal	MCEVOY	✓		
Aisling	MORAN	✓		
Barry	WALSH		✓	

Aidan	MULLINS			✓
P.J.	KELLY		✓	
Noel	TUOHY			✓

Total Number of Votes 6 votes to proceed with meeting, 6 votes to adjourn with 7 Members absent. As there was a tie in the votes the Cathaoirleach exercised her casting vote and it was agreed that the meeting be adjourned.

It was agreed that the adjourned meeting would take place on Friday, February 3rd at 11.00 a.m. via Microsoft teams to conclude the remaining business of the agenda.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
CORPORATE AFFAIRS