

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 23RD
OF OCTOBER 2023 IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE

PRESENT:	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		
	ABSENT:	Councillor	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. Irene Delaney, Administrative Officer & Ms. Michelle McCormack, S.O.

136. VOTES OF SYMPATHIES

The following Votes of Sympathies were agreed:

- (i) The Callaghan Family on the death of Mr. Johnny Callaghan, Trumera, Mountrath, father of Mr. Fintan Callaghan and Mr. Patrick Callaghan, Laois County Council
- (ii) The Smyth Family on the death of Mr. Joe Smyth, 58 Kirwan Park, Mountmellick, father of Mr. John Smyth, Laois County Council Firefighter
- (iii) The Moore Family, Whitefield, Stradbally, mother of Ms. Geraldine Moore (Delaney), Laois County Council Library Department
- (iv) The Curran Family, Magheraclogher, Derrybeg, Donegal, on the death of Mr. Frank Curran, brother of Mr. Tom Curran, Laois County Council
- (v) The Kirwan Family, Clonard, Mountrath on the death of Mr. Donal Kirwan, father of Ms. Grainne Kirwan, Laois County Council My Pay Department
- (vi) The Drennan Family, Knocknagad, Mountrath on the death of Mr. Joe Drennan, nephew of Ms. Karol Bennett Gee, Laois County Council My Pay Department
- (vii) The Byrne Family, Ballacolla on the death of Mr. Michael Byrne
- (viii) The Whelan Family, Green Roads, Ballybrophy on the death of Mr. Daniel Whelan
- (ix) The Mulhall Family, Bog Road, Ballyroan on the death of Ms. Mary Mulhall
- (x) The Buggy Family, Tolerton, Ballickmoyer on the death of Ms. Elaine Buggy
- (xi) Ms. Molly Donlon, Buttercup Avenue, Esker Hills, Portlaoise on the death of Mr. Alan McEvoy
- (xii) The family of Ms. Kim Dante who died recently near the Gaza border
- (xiii) The Lyons Family, Cashel, Ballyroan on the death of Mr. Jack Lyons

137. VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the Members unanimously extended a vote of congratulations to the Abbeyleix Tidy Towns on their recent success of being crowned Ireland's Tidiest Town in the National Tidy Towns Competition 2023.

Councillor John Joe Fennelly proposed that Laois County Council accord a Civic Reception to Abbeyleix Tidy Towns in recognition of their wonderful success. This was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, Cathaoirleach and it was agreed that the matter would be listed for consideration at the November CPG Meeting.

A vote of congratulations was also extended to Portlaoise on their success in winning a gold award, Durrow on receiving a bronze award and Ballinakill on receiving a County Laois Endeavour Award in the recent National Tidy Towns Competition 2023.

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously extended a vote of congratulations to Colt/Shanahoe on bringing home the IHC Cup recently.

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously extended a vote of congratulations to Strdabally Parish Gaels on winning the Senior Football B Final recently.

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly, the Members unanimously extended a vote of congratulations to Camross on winning the Senior Hurling Championship.

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously extended a vote of congratulations to St. Joseph's on winning the Senior Football Championship.

138. MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING HELD ON THE 25TH OF SEPTEMBER 2023

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney, the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the September meeting held on the 25th of September 2023.

139. REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 18TH OF SEPTEMBER 2023

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 18th of September 2023.

140. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN SEPTEMBER 2023

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Patrick Bracken, the Members unanimously agreed the reports on Municipal District Meetings held in September 2023.

141. PART VIII OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 (AS AMENDED) IN RELATION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF BALLYROAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAYGROUND SITE

On the proposition of Councillor Barry Walsh seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) in relation to the development of Ballyroan Community Development Playground Site.

142. PART VIII OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 (AS AMENDED) IN RELATION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DIGITAL HUB AND ASSOCIATED WORKS AT BORRIS-IN-OSSORY COURTHOUSE, MAIN STREET, BORRIS-IN-OSSORY

On the proposition of Councillor Conor Bergin seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed to the Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) in relation to the development of a Digital Hub and associated works at Borris-in-Ossory Courthouse, Main Street, Borris-in-Ossory.

143. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 IN RESPECT OF LEASE OF PROPERTY COMPRISING 62 SQ. METRES AT THE HERITAGE CENTRE, TIMAHOE

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor P. J. Kelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the lease of property comprising 162 sq. metres at the Heritage Centre, Timahoe in the townland of Timahoe for a period of 4 years and 11 months to Tigh Mochua Cheile Committee, the Pink House, Timahoe, Co. Laois for a consideration of €100.00 per annum .

144. TO NOTE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE DRAFT CONSULTATION PROCESS OF THE DRAFT LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The Members were circulated with a copy of the draft Laois County Council Action Plan. It was noted that the Plan is going out for formal public consultation in order to meet the statutory deadlines. After the public consultation stage, the draft plan will be tabled for consideration at an SPC meeting and subsequently back to the full Council for consideration. The draft Laois County Council Climate Action Plan has been noted by the Climate Action & Community SPC. It was noted that workshops will be held for Members with further details of the draft plan similar to the briefings held with SPC Members.

145. MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2023

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

146. 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 John King seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly.

147. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- (i) Correspondence dated the 26th of September 2023 from Limerick City & County Council in relation to a Notice of Motion passed regarding tax placed on residentially zoned land;
- (ii) Correspondence dated the 27th of September 2023 from Limerick City & County Council in relation to a Notice of Motion passed regarding raising of funding support for the Cuan Mhuire Association in Bruree and centres around the Country;
- (iii) Correspondence dated the 27th of September 2023 from Limerick City & County Council in relation to funding for the National Treatment Purchase Fund;
- (iv) Correspondence dated the 12th of October 2023 from Clare County Council in relation to traffic calming measures being part of planning conditions to all new housing applications;
- (v) Correspondence dated the 17th of October 2023 from the Minister of State for Transport in relation to Notice of Motion No: 44/2023. In noting the reply, the Members requested if consideration could be given to the issuing of the certificate effective from the date of the test rather than the expiry date of the previous certificate. It was agreed to revert to the Department in this regard.
- (vi) Correspondence dated the 4th of October 2023 from the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth in relation to Notice of Motion No: 45/2023;
- (vii) Correspondence dated the 4th of October 2023 from the Minister for Finance in relation to Notice of Motion No: 47/2023;
- (viii) Correspondence dated the 20th of October 2023 from the Minister for Justice in relation to the re-location of Portlaoise Courthouse

148. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 51/2023

Councillor Conor Bergin requested that this Notice of Motion be deferred to the November meeting of Laois County Council :-

“That Laois County Council call on the Minister for Transport, Eamon Ryan TD to extend the Local Hackney Pilot scheme to rural areas across County Laois as a matter of priority”

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
CORPORATE AFFAIRS

