

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN
ÁRAS AN CHONTAE ON THE 25th of April 2016**

PRESENT:

Councillors	Catherine Fitzgerald	In the Chair
	William Aird	Paddy Bracken
	John Joe Fennelly	Caroline Dwane Stanley
	Padraig Fleming	David Goodwin
	James Kelly	John King
	Jerry Lodge	Seamus McDonald
	Paschal McEvoy	John Moran
	Tom Mulhall	Aidan Mullins
	Mary Sweeney	Noel Tuohy
	Brendan Phelan	Ben Brennan

IN ATTENDANCE:

Messers John Mulholland, Chief Executive, Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, Mr. Michael Rainey, A/Director of Services, Ms. Irene Delaney, Administrative Officer, & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary.

39. VOTE OF SYMPATHY

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the Members unanimously agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to the Skehan family on the recent death of Mr. Tommy Skehan, a former employee of Laois County Council. In accordance with Laois County Council's Bereavement Protocol, the Members observed a minutes silence as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Skehan.

**40. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING HELD ON
THE 21ST OF MARCH 2016**

On the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney seconded by Councillor John King, the Minutes of the March meeting of Laois County Council held on the 21st of March 2016 were agreed as circulated.

**41. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR
FEBRUARY & MARCH 2016 (IN ACCORDANCE WITH CIRCULAR LETTER
LG 18/2014)**

Mr. John Mulholland, Chief Executive briefed the meeting on this matter and the report for February & March was circulated. The report for February & March 2016 was unanimously agreed and noted. A number of queries were raised on the report and the Directors of Services responded to the queries raised.

The Members were also circulated with a report from the Chief Executive, Mr. John Mulholland on the recent delegation that travelled to New York on the 15th of March 2016.

42. REPORTS ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS & STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD IN MARCH 2016 FOR NOTING

The Members noted the reports on the Municipal District Meetings & the Strategic Policy Committee Meetings held in March 2016 as circulated.

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

(i) DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 1 ACRAGAR, MOUNTMELICK

On the proposition of Councillor Brendan Phelan seconded by Councillor John Moran, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 1 Acragar, Mountmellick in the townland of Acragar to John & Breda Payne, 1 Acragar, Mountmellick, Co. Laois, for a consideration of €300.00

(ii) DISPOSAL OF 0.0172 HECTARES OF LAND AT 39 ROSSDARAGH GLEN, RATHEVAN, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.0172 hectares of land at 39 Rossdarragh Glen, Rathevan, Portlaoise in the townland of Rathevan to Mr. Eoin Meade, Coolderry, Ballacolla, Co. Laois, for a consideration of €118,000.

(iii) DISPOSAL OF 0.0172 HECTARES OF LAND AT 55 BIANCONI WAY, RIDGE RAOD, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Jerry Lodge, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.172 hectares of land at 55 Bianconi Way, Ridge Road, Portlaoise in the townland of Borris Little to Zane Polaskova, No. 5 Chestnut Avenue, Esker Hills, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, for a consideration of €99,000.00.

44. SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS 2016/ROADWORKS SCHEME FOR NOTING

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services briefed the Members on the details on the Roadworks Scheme 2016 and his report included details on the PSC Ratings. The Schedule of Municipal District Works for 2016 as agreed at recent Municipal District meetings were also circulated for noting by the Members.

45. CONFIRM DATE FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Members unanimously agreed that the Annual General Meeting of Laois County Council would be held in Monday, June 27th 2016 at 2.30 p.m. (in accordance with Section 3 (Schedule 10) of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended)

46. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2016

Mr. Michael Rainey, A/Director of Services briefed the Members on the draft 2016 Annual Service Delivery Plan, the adoption of which is now a statutory requirement under the Local Government Reform Act, 2014. The Members were circulated with a copy of the draft plan at the March meeting. On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed to the adoption of the Draft Service Delivery Plan 2016 to include the following amendment at No. 2 on Page 12 under the Rural Water Programme heading:

- ***Continue the programme of upgrades to active and orphan Group Water Schemes.***

47. ADOPTION OF DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Members were circulated with a copy of the draft Laois County Council Annual Report 2015. Mr. Michael Rainey, A/Director of Services indicated to the Members that Section 221 of the Local Government Act, 2001 requires that a draft Report be presented to the Members by the 30th of April. The final Report will be listed for consideration and adoption at the June meeting of Laois County Council. On the proposition of Councillor Seamus McDonald seconded by Councillor John Moran, the Members unanimously agreed to adopt the draft Laois County Council Annual Report for 2015.

48. COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY PROJECT FUND 2016 – SCHEME AND QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

The Members were circulated with a copy of the draft Scheme and Qualification Criteria for the Community & Voluntary Project Fund 2016. On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy, the scheme and qualification criteria was agreed to include the following amendments:

Under Item A – Guidelines – that No. 3 be amended to read “Maximum grant payment that can be made is €2,000. It is at the Elected Member’s discretion to allocate the funding to a single group/project or multiple groups/projects and it would be appreciated if ***as far as is practicable*** that this be kept to a maximum of four, to ensure that the recipient group/project enjoys the benefit of funding”

Under Item A – Guidelines No. 4 be omitted, viz –“If a group/project has qualified for funding under other Schemes in 2016 (i.e. Environment Community Grant Scheme or Tidy Towns Grant), they will be ineligible to apply for this funding”

49. RATIFICATION OF MR. BOBBY DELANEY FROM THE LAOIS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK TO THE ENVIRONMENT POSITION ON THE COMMUNITY, SOCIAL, CULTURAL & HERITAGE SPC

The Members were advised that Laois County Council had been notified of Mr. Bobby Delaney’s nomination to the Community, Social, Cultural & Heritage SPC by the Laois Public Participation Network. Mr. Delaney has been nominated as the representative for the Environment Pillar to replace Mr. Ricky Whelan who resigned from the position. On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously ratified the nomination of Mr. Bobby Delaney, 41 Patisson Estate, Mountmellick, Co. Laois to the Community, Social, Cultural & Heritage Strategic Policy Committee.

50. PROPOSED CIVIC RECEPTION FOR THE WINNERS OF THE ALL-IRELAND MINI-INTEL COMPETITION 2016

The Members were advised that the Members of the Corporate Policy Group at their meeting held on the 14th of March 2016 recommended that a Civic Reception be conferred on the winners of the All-Ireland Mini-Intel Competition 2016 from Timahoe National School. On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor Willilam Aird, the Members unanimously agreed to the conferral of a Civic Reception to the winners of the All-Ireland Mini-Intel Competition 2016 from Timahoe National School.

51. REQUEST FROM THE IRISH CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS TO ADDRESS THE ELECTED MEMBERS OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

The Members were advised that a request had been received from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to address Laois County Council to outline their campaign for the Congress Charter for Fair Conditions at Work and seek the support of the Elected Members for the campaign. On the proposition of Councillor Jerry Lodge seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley, the Members unanimously agreed that the Irish Congress of Trade Unions address Laois County Council at the May meeting.

52. PRESENTATION BY MS. CAROLINE MYERS, CO-ORDINATOR, LAOIS SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Ms. Caroline Myers, Co-Ordinator of Laois Sports Partnership delivered a very comprehensive presentation to the Members on the ‘Laois Sports Partnership Year in Review 2015 and Going Forward’.

Ms. Myers detailed the various education, training programmes and supports available. The Members complimented Ms. Myers on a very detailed presentation and wished the Laois Sports Partnership every success into the future.

53. PRESENTATION BY LAOIS COMHAIRLE NA nÓg

The Members welcomed the following Members of the Laois Comhairle na nÓg to deliver a presentation:-

- Niamh Bakker
- Cian Nic Gearailt
- Anam Rizwan
- Sidney Pindi.

The Members were briefed on the background of the Comhairle and in particular the Laois Comhairle na nÓg together with details of the various projects which are ongoing and those completed in 2015/2016. The Cathaoirleach & Members complimented all concerned for a very detailed presentation delivered and complimented the Comhairle on their support to young people across the County and developing the voice of youth in Laois.

54. RATIFICATION OF CONFERENCES & ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING

On the proposition of Councillor Seamus McDonald seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed to the ratification of conferences/attendance at training as circulated.

55. CORRESPONDENCE

It was noted that no correspondence had been received since the last meeting.

56. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 11/2016

Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council immediately send a deputation to the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government to discuss the flaws in the Tenant Purchase Scheme that was announced by the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 12/2015

Councillor Pdraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council ask that An Post not close any more Post Offices in County Laois”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. It was agreed that a letter issue to An Post in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 13/2016

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council call on the Minister for Finance to reduce the cost of Government levies and taxation in the construction industry to help in resolving the housing crisis”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor William Aird. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Minister for Finance in this regard.

57. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald requested that a letter issue to Tesco Ireland Headquarters requesting them to extend the deadline for the consideration of redundancy proposal to allow the matter be dealt with by the Workplace Relation Committee. It was agreed that a letter issue in this regard expressing the support of the Laois County Council Elected Members and that a copy of same be forwarded to all other Local Authorities for their information.

Councillor John Joe Fennelly raised the issue in relation to staffing resources at the O.P.W.'s visitor sites in County Laois and in particular, Laois County Council's letter to the Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government dated the 15th of March. It was noted that to date no response had been received to same. The Members expressed concern in relation to this matter and in particular raised concerns in relation to the recent announcement by the OPW to reduce opening hours at Emo Court and the resulting impact this will have on visitors. It was agreed that a further letter issue to the Minister as a matter of urgency in this regard.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
**DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
AFFAIRS**