

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN
ARAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE, ON THE 8TH OF MAY 2018**

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Messers John Mulholland, Chief Executive, Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Donal Brennan, Director of Services, Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary.

**50. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING OF
LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 26TH OF MARCH 2018**

On the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney seconded by Councillor John King, the Minutes of the March meeting held on the 26th of March 2018 were confirmed as circulated.

51. REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 12TH OF MARCH 2018

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the report on the CPG meeting held on the 12th of March 2018 was confirmed as circulated.

52. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN MARCH 2018

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the reports on the Municipal District Meetings held in February 2018 were confirmed as circulated.

53. REPORT ON SPC MEETINGS HELD IN MARCH 2018

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the report on SPC meetings held in March 201 were confirmed as circulated.

54. VOTES OF SYMPATHY

- On the proposition of Councillor Padraig Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to the McEvoy family on the recent death of Mr. Joe McEvoy, Clonaheen, Rosenallis, Co. Laois, father of Mr. Michael McEvoy, Western Area.
- On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall, the Members unanimously agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to the Delaney family on the recent death of Ms. Mary Delaney, New Inn House, Emo, Co. Laois.

55. CIVIC RECEPTION

The Cathaoirleach, Mr. Pdraig Fleming, advised the Members that at their meeting on the 18th of December 2017 agreed to accord a joint Civic Reception to Kiln Lane Residents Association & Mountrath Kettlebells.

Following clarification from the Cathaoirleach it was proposed that the Civic Receptions be accorded to both Kiln Lane Residents Association in recognition of their success at the I.P.B, Pride of Place 2017 competition where they were crowned 'Housing Estate All Ireland Champions' and Laois Kettlebells in recognition of their achievements at the World & European Championships in 2017 and also to recognise their achievement in securing the European Championships for Portlaoise in 2018. This proposal was seconded by both Councillor James Kelly & John Joe Fennelly.

56. PART VIII OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 AS AMENDED IN RESPECT OF PROVISION OF TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE AT TOGHER, PORTLAOISE

The Members were circulated with the Planning Report on the proposed development of the provision of transport infrastructure at Togher in order to develop lands and all associated works in relation to Transport Infrastructure, including new roads, cycle lanes, footpaths, etc.

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly the Members unanimously agreed to the proposed development.

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

(i) Disposal of 0.18 hectares of land at Modubeagh, Wolfhill, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan seconded by Councillor John Moran, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.18 hectares of land at Modubeagh, Wolfhill, Co. Laois in the townland of Ballylehane Upper for a consideration of €100.00

(ii) Disposal of 0.0397 hectares of land at 3 Bracklone Street, Portarlinton

On the proposition of Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.0397 hectares of land at 3 Bracklone Street, Portarlinton, Co. Laois in the townland of Cooltederry for a consideration of €96,000

(iii) Disposal of freehold interest at 23 Mooreville, Rathdowney

On the proposition of Councillor Brendan Phelan seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 23 Mooreville, Rathdowney, Co. Laois for a consideration €1.00

(iv) Disposal of freehold interest at 14 Higgins Park, Fairgreen, Portlaoise

On the proposition of Councillor Noel Tuohy seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 14 Higgins Park, Fairgreen, Portlaoise for a consideration of €1.00

(v) Disposal of 0.14 hectares of land at 1 Doonane Terrace, Crettyard, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.14 hectares of land at 1 Doonane Terrace, Crettyard, Co. Laois for a consideration of €70,000.

58. ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2017 INCLUDING APPROVAL OF OVER-EXPENDITURE AND TRANSFERS TO CAPITAL

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance briefed the Members on the Annual Financial Statement 2017 including the approval of over-expenditure and transfers to capital. On the proposition of Councillor Jams Kelly seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed the Annual Financial Statement 2017 including approval of over-expenditure and transfers to capital as presented.

59. REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance briefed the Members on the Development Contributions detailing monies received in respect of same and how such monies have been expended in 2017 . On the proposition of Councillor Jams Kelly seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed the Development Contributions as presented.

60. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR APRIL 2018

Mr. John Mulholland, Chief Executive briefed the meeting on this matter and the report for April was circulated. The report was unanimously agreed and noted. A number of queries were raised on the report and the Directors of Services responded to the various queries raised. A report in relation to the recent official visit to Bremen by Mr. Pdraig Fleming, Cathaoirleach of Laois County Council was also provided to the Members.

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy, it was agreed that an update on O' Moore Place & Hepburn Court would be included in the May Monthly Management Report. It was also agreed that the Portlaoise Municipal District Members would receive an update in relation to the Convent Site in Portlaoise at their next meeting scheduled for the 16th of May 2018.

61. CONFIRM DATE FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL, MONDAY, JUNE 25TH 2018 AT 2.30 P.M.

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly the Members unanimously agreed that the Annual General Meeting of Laois County Council would take place on Monday, June 25th 2018 at 2.30 p.m. in accordance with Section 3 (Schedule 10) of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended.

62. ADOPTION OF DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2017

The Members were circulated with a copy of the draft Annual Report 2017 and on the proposition of Councillor John Moran seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously adopted the draft Annual Report for 2017.

63. COUNTY LAOIS – CULTURE AND CREATIVITY STRATEGY 2018-2022

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Culture & Creativity Strategy and same was noted.

64. RATIFICATION OF CONFERENCES/ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING

The Members were circulated with the list of conferences/training for ratification and forthcoming conferences/training which was ratified on the proposal of Councillor Paschal McEvoy and seconded by Councillor John King.

64. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence for noting since the last meeting of Laois County Council.

49. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 11/2018

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council create a panel of local Agriculture Contractors to salt/grit minor roads throughout the County during extreme weather conditions”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. The Members were advised that the recent Storm Emma snowfall event has highlighted the significant contribution that local contractors can make to the cleanup operations associated with such extreme weather events. Laois County Council has a fleet of winter maintenance vehicles which can treat the Priority 1 and Priority 2 routes. In extreme frost and snowfall events, additional salt and grit can also be stored at other strategic locations on the regional and local road network for use by the public. Laois County Council liaised very well with the IFA through the recent extreme weather event and we would insist that this successful process be maintained.

Notice of Motion No: 12/2018

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council request a representative from Failte Ireland to explain why Laois has been left out of the new failte Tourism Plan for the Midlands”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Caroline Dwane Stanley. It was agreed that a letter issue to Failte Ireland in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 13/2018

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council with the co-operation of its communities provide funding for wheelchair-friendly equipment in our public playgrounds”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is committed to providing inclusive play opportunities for all children and young people. The Laois County Council Recreation, Play & Sports Strategy 2018-2022 which is currently under development will provide an opportunity to further enhance policy and actions in relation to play provision for all children and young people.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
**DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
CORPORATE AFFAIRS**