

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup>  
OF DECEMBER 2020 IN THE DUNAMAISE ARTS CENTRE & THEATRE**

**PRESENT:**

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

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Tom Mulhall

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Messers John Mulholland, Chief Executive, Donal Brennan, Director of Services, Simon Walton, Director of Services, Mr. Joe Delaney, Director of Services, Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Ms. Irene Delaney, A.O., & Ms. Michelle McCormack, S.O.

**142. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 30<sup>TH</sup> OF NOVEMBER 2020**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken Mullins, the Members unanimously agreed to the minutes of the November meeting of Laois County Council held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2020.

**143. REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 23<sup>RD</sup> OF NOVEMBER 2020**

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed to the report on CPG meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2020.

**144. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN NOVEMBER 2020**

On the proposition of Councillor Thomasina Connell seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the report on the Municipal District Meetings held in October 2020.

**145. PART VIII OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 IN RESPECT OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF FOUR NO. TWO BAY HALTING SITES AND ALL ASSOCIATED WORKS AT OAK PARK, KNOCKMAY, PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.**

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the proposed construction of four no. two bay halting sites and all associated works at Oak Park, Knockmay, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

**146. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 IN RESPECT OF DISPOSAL OF 0.108 HA (SITE NO. 13) AT CASTLETOWN, COUNTY LAOIS**

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of land comprising 0.108 ha (Site No. 13)) at Castletown, County Laois in the townland of Churchfield, Co. Laois for a consideration of €30,000.00

**147. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 IN RESPECT OF DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST COMPRISING 0.163 HECTARES AT THE GLEBE, COOLRAIN**

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest comprising 0.163 hectares at The Glebe, Coolrain, Co. Laois in the townland of Glebe for a consideration of €1.00

**148. CAPITAL INDICATIVE PROGRAMME 2021-2023**

The Members were presented with the Three Year Capital Indicative Programme 2021-2023 in accordance with the provisions of Section 135 of the Local Government Act, 2001 setting out the capital projects over each of the three years under the main headings of Housing, Roads, Climate Action, Flood Relief, Amenities, Urban & Rural Regeneration, Town & Village renewal, Libraries and Fire Services. The total estimated value of the Capital Programme is just over €130 million, the objective of which is to advance the physical, economic, social and cultural development of the County. The estimated contribution by income streams is as follows:

State Grants	€112,775,511
Borrowings	€12,538,191
Development Contributions	€2,087,500
Other	€2,986,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€130,387,202</b>

It should be noted that the delivery of the projects listed in the capital programme depends very much on the level of state aid to Laois County Council. The members welcomed the investment in the County and the Directors of Service and Head of Finance responded to the various queries raised.

**149. ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2021**

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2021 and same was unanimously agreed on the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney.

**150. CONSIDERATION AND AGREEMENT OF THE DRAFT LAOIS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027 FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY UNDER SECTION 11(5)( C) OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 AS AMENDED (DRAFT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT CIRCULATED ON THE 16<sup>TH</sup> OF NOVEMBER 2020**

It was agreed that discussion on this matter would be adjourned to the Special Meeting of Laois County Council which is scheduled for the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2020 at 2 p.m.

**150. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following items of correspondence were circulated which had been received since the last meeting:-

- (i) Correspondence received from the Office of the Minister of State, Mr. Sean Fleming, T.D., in relation to Notice of Motion No: 33/2020
- (ii) Correspondence received from the Office of Public Works in relation to Notice of Motion No: 37/2020

It was requested by the Members to issue a letter to the Courts Service seeking an update on the new Courthouse.

**151. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**Notice of Motion No: 39/2020**

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:

*“That Laois County Council call on the H.S.E. to recruit personnel for the purpose of contact tracing instead of deploying staff from dental and homecare services”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin. It was agreed that a letter issue to the H.S.E. in this regard and also to Minister Stephen Donnelly, Minister for Health.

**Notice of Motion No: 40/20**

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That Laois County Council call on the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly, T.D., to consider the abolition of the registration fee of €100.00 which is payable by all nurses and midwives to the N.M.B.I. as these people work on the frontline and in particular during the pandemic”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Thomasina Connell. The Members were advised that a letter issue to the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 41/2020

Councillor Willie Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That Laois County Council invite a representative from Irish Water to explain the price increase for the delivery of water connections to domestic and commercial users”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley. The Members were advised that Irish Water can be invited to the February meeting of Laois County Council or to a special meeting of the Council to discuss Members various concerns.

**152.CHRISTMAS WISHES AND THANKS**

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach paid tribute and thanks to all Laois County Council staff for all their assistance during a difficult year and in doing so wished everyone a Happy &Healthy Christmas.

The Cathaoirleach also extended thanks to Mr. Nick Anton and all the team at the Dunamaise Arts Centre & Theatre for all their assistance during the holding of the Council Meetings.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED:

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CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED:

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DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
CORPORATE AFFAIRS