

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD
IN ARAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE, ON THE 19TH OF DECEMBER 2016**

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Messers Kieran Kehoe, Deputy Chief Executive, Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Donal Brennan, Director of Services, Ms. Angela McEvoy, A/Director of Services, Ms. Irene Delaney, Administrative Officer & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary.

156. VOTE OF SYMPATHY

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Tom Mulhall, the Members unanimously agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to the Barron Family, Cloonbunny, Loughglynn, Castlerea, Roscommon on the recent death of Mrs. Annie Barron, mother of Ms. Martina Barron, Environment Section.

The vote of sympathy was endorsed by all Members present.

157. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 28TH OF NOVEMBER 2016

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor John Moran, the Minutes of the November meeting held on the 28th of November 2016 were confirmed as circulated.

158. REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 21ST OF NOVEMBER 2016

On the proposition of Councillor Brendan Phelan seconded by Councillor William Aird, the report on the CPG meeting held on the 21st of November 2016 was confirmed as circulated.

159. REPORTS ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN NOVEMBER 2016

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the reports on the Municipal District Meetings held in November 2016 were confirmed as circulated.

160. REPORTS ON STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD IN DECEMBER 2016

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan, the reports on Strategic Policy Committee Meetings held in December 2016 were confirmed as circulated.

161. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL – MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2016

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Deputy Chief Executive briefed the meeting on this matter and the report for December was circulated. The report for December 2016 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.

162. AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER 2017

The Members were circulated with the Audit Committee Charter for 2017. On the proposition of Councillor John Moran and seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the Audit Committee Charter 2017 as circulated.

163. AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2017

The Members were circulated with the Audit Committee Annual Work Programme for 2017. On the proposition of Councillor John Moran seconded by Councillor Jerry Lodge, the Members unanimously agreed to the Audit Committee Annual Work Programme 2017.

164. TAKING IN CHARGE OF CARRIGLEA, KILLENARD

On the proposition of Councillor John Moran seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of Carriglea, Killenard.

165. LAOIS CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS 2016 AND LOOKING FORWARD TO CREATIVE IRELAND 2017-2022 – PRESENTATION BY MS. MUIREANN NÍ CHONAILL, ARTS OFFICER AND MS. CATHERINE CASEY, HERITAGE OFFICER

Ms. Catherine Casey, Heritage Officer delivered a presentation on the Laois 2016 Commemorations and outlined the highlights and different events which took place during the year. Ms. Casey also outlined details of the Creative Ireland Programme for 2017-2022 and the various plans for same.

Ms. Murieann Ní Chonail, Arts Officer delivered a presentation to the Members on the Arts Plan 2014-2017 including an overview of the Arts Programme. Ms. Ní Chonail also provided details of the various activities in the Laois Arthouse, the Laois Youth Theatre, Music Generation & the School of Music, the Youth Orchestra and the various activities throughout the year.

The Members complimented both Ms. Casey & Ms. Ní Chonail on the wonderful work being carried out in County Laois and in particular all the events and functions which were carried out as part of the 1916 Commemorations. Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Deputy Chief Executive jointed with the Members in complimenting all involved in the Arts & Heritage Section and also the School of Music & Music Generation.

166. RATIFICATION OF CONFERENCES/ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously agreed to the ratification of conferences/attendance at training as circulated.

167. CORRESPONDENCE

It was noted that no correspondence had been received since the last meeting of Laois County Council

168. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 38/2016

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald proposed the following Notice of Motion

“That this Council request TUSLA to adequately resource Laois Domestic Abuse Service in 2017”

This motion was seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley. The Members expressed concern regarding the sustainability of the service which is underfunded at present. It was agreed that a letter issue to TUSLA in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 39/2016

Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council by the date of this meeting requests an urgent meeting with An Taoiseach regarding the position of the Midlands Regional hospital in Portlaoise”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy. The Cathaoirleach of Laois County Council, Mr. Tom Mulhall referred to a telephone conversation with Minister Flanagan who has indicated that Minister Simon Harriss will visit Portlaoise Hospital during the first week of January and will also meet the Members & the Oireachtas Members.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird, it was unanimously agreed that the deputation would include the following Members:

2 Members from each of the groups as follows:

- Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald
- Councillor John Joe Fennelly

- Councillor David Goodwin
- Councillor Mary Sweeney

- Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley
- Councillor Noel Tuohy

3 Representatives of the Regional Health Forum

Councillor Pdraig Fleming
Councillor William Aird
Councillor John King
& The Cathaoirleach of Laois County Council, Councillor Tom Mulhall

It was agreed that correspondence issue to Minister Harris as a matter of urgency to request that he meet the above deputation during his visit to Portlaoise. It was also agreed on the proposition of Councillor William Aird that if the above deputation is too large that the Minister would meet a deputation comprising of the Cathaoirleach and not less than 3 Members of the Council.

This concluded the business of the meeting

SIGNED:_____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED:_____
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
CORPORATE AFFAIRS

