

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD
IN ARAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE, ON THE 26th OF FEBRUARY 2018**

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor	Padraig Fleming	In the Chair
	Councillors	William Aird	Ben Brennan
		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
		Jerry Lodge	John Moran
		Caroline Dwane Stanley	
	<u>APOLOGIES:</u>	Councillor	Paddy Bracken

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

**19. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF
LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 29TH OF JANUARY 2018**

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor John King, the Minutes of the January meeting held on the 29th of January 2018 were confirmed as circulated.

20. REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 23RD OF JANUARY 2018

On the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney seconded by Councillor John King, the report on the CPG meeting held on the 23rd of January 2018 was confirmed as circulated.

21. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN JANUARY 2018

On the proposition of Councillor Brendan Phelan seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the reports on the Municipal District Meetings held in January 2018 were confirmed as circulated.

22. TAKING IN CHARGE OF THE TILES, ABBEYLEIX

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor William Aird, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of the Tiles, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois.

23. TAKING IN CHARGE OF THE CROSS AT NEWTOWN, BALLYROAN

On the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of The Cross at Newtown, Ballyroan, Co. Laois.

24. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2018

Mr. John Mulholland, Chief Executive briefed the meeting on this matter and the report for February 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.

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services briefed the Members on the forthcoming severe weather forecasted for the County/Storm Emma and the orange level warning for the County. He outlined details in relation to the resources available to the Council and the procedures which are being put in place to deal with the various issues associated with the severe weather.

Notice of Motion No: 07/2018 proposed by Councillor Jerry Lodge was also discussed as follows:-

“That this meeting be informed of the reasons for the promised IDA visit which never took place”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor William Aird. The Chief Executive, Mr. John Mulholland outlined details of a meeting which took place with the IDA and Enterprise Ireland on Friday, February 16th 2018 and a copy of the press release by IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland was included in the Monthly Management Report, for the information of the Members.

25. RATIFICATION OF MR. COLM PURCELL, AREA MANAGER, AS THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AFFAIRS & SOCIAL PROTECTION REPRESENTATIVE ON THE L.C.D.C.

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously ratified Mr. Colm Purcell, Area Manager as the Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection representative on the L.C.D.C.

26. INDIVIDUAL HOME FLOOD PROTECTION DEFENCES RELIEF PILOT SCHEME FOR MOUNTMELICK

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services briefed the Members on the above and indicated that Laois County Council has examined the market regarding the availability of flood defence systems which can be utilised on houses in the event of a flood event. Laois County Council have identified 2 products which require further assessment and consideration. It is recommended that 100 of the units be acquired initially for deployment to those properties which were flooded during the event of 22nd November 2017 in Mountmellick and environs. It is further recommended the level of subvention available from the Council will be 50%. On the proposition of Councillor Seamus McDonald seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the proposed over expenditure of €60,000 to acquire the units.

27. NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK – PRESENTATION BY MR. KIERAN KEHOE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services briefed the Members on Project Ireland 2040 – National Development Plan 2018-2027 and the National Planning Framework. He outlined the main priorities and objectives and responded to the various queries raised.

28. 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 Jerry Lodge and seconded by Councillor John King.

29. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was circulated which had been received since the last meeting of Laois County Council:

- (i) Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality dated the 26th of January 2018 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 48/2017
- (ii) Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality dated the 26th of January 2018 in relation to Crime statistics
- (iii) Correspondence from the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform dated the 30th of January 2018 & 1st of February 2018 in relation to Notice of Motions No: 45 & 49/2017
- (iv) Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Higher Education dated the 25th of January 2018 regarding the Cassel's Report and the proposals in relation to funding of third level education in Ireland.
- (v) Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality dated the 29th of January 2018 in relation to crime statistics for County Laois
- (vi) Correspondence from the HSE dated the 14th of February 2018 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 05/2018
- (vii) Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht dated the 14th of February 2018 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 41/2017
- (viii) Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Health dated the 14th of February 2018 & the Health Services Executive dated the 14th of February 2018 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 05/2018
- (ix) Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government dated the 13th of February 2018 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 03/2018
- (x) Correspondence from the Employment Affairs and Social Protection dated the 22nd of February 2018 in relation to Notice of Motion No's 45 & 49/2017

30. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 06/2018

Councillor Willie Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council provide an update as to when the public counter to deal with housing matters will be in use – this was promised 18 months ago and as of now housing customers are still using the phone in the reception area”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley. The Members were advised that designs were undertaken and tenders sought for the new Housing Counter Area in Block 2 of Áras an Chontae. Some modifications to the design are under consideration, based both on the tender price received and some additional more recent feedback on the design.

Councillor Aird raised concerns in relation to the use of the phone in the Reception area of Áras an Chontae and Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance indicated that he would have this matter addressed as a matter of urgency.

Notice of Motion No: 08/2018

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council call on all dog owners to keep their dogs under control especially in the hours of darkness as farmers are now in the middle of the lambing season”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy. The Members were advised that Laois County Council encourages dog owners at all times to keep their dogs under control, and particularly now at this time of year.

Notice of Motion No: 09/2018

Councillors John King & James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council supports publicly funded higher education and rejects income contingent loan (ICL) schemes and calls on the Government to affirm its commitment to providing equality of access to education for all, to reject any move to implement an income contingent loan scheme to fund third level education and to adopt a policy of ending college fees and implementing a truly publicly funded higher education system in Ireland”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. It was agreed that the Laois County Council notify the Union of Students in Ireland of the passing of the Notice of Motion and Laois County Council’s support of same.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
CORPORATE AFFAIRS