

**MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN
ARAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE, ON THE 25TH OF FEBRUARY 2019**

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

APOLOGIES: Councillor John Moran

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

33. VOTE OF SYMPATHY

- (i) The Members expressed a vote of sympathy to Ms. Evelyn Brownrigg, Human Resources Department on the recent death of her father, Mr. Harry Brownrigg, Graiguemore, Bunclody, Wexford.
- (ii) The Members expressed a vote of sympathy to Ms. Helen Phelan, My Pay Department on the recent death of her father, Mr. Martin Bennett, Clonard, Mountrath, Co. Laois.
- (iii) The Members expressed a vote of sympathy to the Cummins Family, Fr. Kevin O' Neill & Bishop Denis Nulty on the recent death of Rev. Fr. John Cummins, Ballinakill Road, Abbeyleix/Newbridge, Co. Kildare.
- (iv) The Members expressed a vote of sympathy to the Gorman Family on the recent death of Mr. Thomas Gorman, Spink, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois.

34. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 28TH OF JANUARY 2019

On the proposition of Councillor Brendan Phelan seconded by Councillor Pauline Madigan, the Minutes of the January meeting held on the 28th of January 2019 were confirmed as circulated.

35. REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 21ST OF JANUARY 2019

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the report on the CPG meeting held on the 21st of January 2019 was confirmed as circulated.

36. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN JANUARY 2019

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Members unanimously agreed the reports on Municipal District Meetings held in January 2019.

37. PART VIII OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 IN RESPECT OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF 20 HOUSING UNITS, PLUS ALL ASSOCIATED SITE DEVELOPMENT WORKS AT GLEANN NA GLAISE, BALLYROAN, CO. LAOIS

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to the Part VIII of the Local Government Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 in respect of the construction of 20 housing units plus all associated site development works at Gleann na Glaise, Ballyroan, Co. Laois.

38. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 – Site No. 7A (COMPRISING 0.172 HECTARES) AT CLONMINAM INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of Site No. 7A (comprising 0.172 hectares) at Clonminam Industrial Estate, Portlaoise, Co. Laois in the townland of Clonminam, Portlaoise, Co. Laois for a consideration of €70,000.

39. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 – SITE NO. 7B (COMPRISING 0.172 HECTARES) AT CLONMINAM INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, it was agreed that this item be deferred to the March meeting of Laois County Council pending further clarification.

40. DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 21 WILLOW GROVE, MOUNTMELICK, CO. LAOIS.

On the proposition of Councillor David Goodwin seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 21 Willow Grove, Mountmellick, Co. Laois in the townland of Ballycullenbeg for a consideration of €1.00.

41. DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 47 COLLIER'S VIEW, KILMINCHY, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 47 Colliers View, Kilminchy, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, in the townland of Ballyroan by way of a 99 Year Shared Ownership Lease (LS3029L) for a consideration of €300.00.

**42. DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 61 CASTLEGATE,
PORTARLINGTON**

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 61 Castlegate, Portarlington, Co. Laois in the townland of Cooltederry for a consideration of €1.00.

43. DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT GLANMALIRE, BALLYBRITTAS

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at Glanmalire, Ballybrittas in the townland of Ballybrittas for a consideration of €1.00.

**44. DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT PORTLAOISE ROAD,
ABBEYLEIX**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Pauline Madigan, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at Portlaoise Road, Abbeyleix in the townland of Rathmoyle for a consideration of €1.00.

**45. DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 44 CARMODY WAY,
FAIRGREEN, PORTLAOISE**

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 44 Carmody Way, Fairgreen, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, in the townland of Clonreher for a consideration of €300.00.

**46. NOMINATION OF MR. PADRAIG BOLAND, TRAINING MANAGER,
LOETB AS THE LOETB REPRESENTATIVE TO THE LCDC/LAG**

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the nomination of Mr. Padraig Boland, Training Manager, LOETB as the LOETB representative to the LCDC/LAG.

47. AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2018

On the proposition of Councillor Pauline Madigan seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan, the Members unanimously agreed the Audit Committee Annual Report 2018 as circulated.

**48. AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT
AND STATUTORY AUDIT REPORT 2017**

On the proposition of Councillor Pauline Madigan seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins, the Members unanimously agreed the Audit Committee Report on the Annual Financial Statement and Statutory Audit Report 2017.

49. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2019

Mr. John Mulholland, Chief Executive briefed the meeting on this matter and the report for February 2019 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.

50. PRESENTATION BY THE LAOIS SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Ms. Muireann Ní Chonail, Arts Officer & Mr. Jason Ritchie, Music School Co-Ordinator delivered a presentation on the Laois School of Music. They also thanked the Members of Laois County Council for their ongoing support and outlined details of their work programme

51. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2019

On the proposition of Councillor Pauline Madigan seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan, the Members unanimously adopted the draft Training & Development Programme for 2019.

52. 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 Pauline Madigan and seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald.

53. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence were circulated to the Members which had been received since the last meeting of Laois County Council:-

- (i) Correspondence received from the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group dated the 7th & 12th of February 2019 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 03/2019
- (ii) Correspondence received from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government dated the 13th of February 2019 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 07/2019
- (iii) Correspondence received from the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment dated the 11th of February 2019 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 18/2018
- (iv) Correspondence received from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government dated the 1st of February 2019 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 39/2018

54. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 10/2019

Councillor Noel Tuohy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council call on the Minister for Justice & Equality, Mr. Charles Flanagan, T.D., to introduce mandatory sentencing for anyone found to be carrying a knife in a public place”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. It was agreed that the matter be referred to the Minister for Justice & Equality, Mr. Charles Flanagan, T.D.

Notice of Motion No: 11/2019

Councillor Aidan Mullins & Caroline Dwane Stanley proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council write to Minister Katherine Zappone, Minister for Children & Youth Affairs calling on her Department and the Irish Government to acknowledge identity rights and give adopted people a statutory right to access their birth certificates, adoption files, medical history and family heritage, in line with the equality and personal autonomy rights of all other citizens. This motion is proposed on behalf of Aitheantas (Adoptee Identity Rights)”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy. It was agreed that a letter issue to Minister Katherine Zappone in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 12/2019

Councillor Mary Sweeney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council provide Members with a date as to when the new Housing Office becomes operational”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly. The Members were advised that construction work associated with the new housing office should be complete in March. It is anticipated that the offices would become operational shortly thereafter.

Notice of Motion No: 13/2019

Councillor Mary Sweeney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council provide an update on the current number of successful Laois applicants for the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly. The Members were advised that the current number of successful approved applicants for the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan is 44.

Notice of Motion No: 14/2019

Councillor Mary Sweeney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council provide an update for their plans for a local digital strategy including supporting the rollout of Broadband throughout the County”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Indecon have been engaged by the Department of Rural and Climate Action (DRCA) to develop a template for all Local Authorities in relation to the Local Digital Strategies (LDS). In 2018, Laois County Council filled out an extensive questionnaire for Indecon in line with the Digital Readiness Assessments and Guidelines documents.

The Broadband officers with approval from the DRCA have asked Indecon for one to one support sessions to develop their own LDS.

The Broadband Officer is currently completing a survey issued by Indecon and consulting with the relevant sections of the Council such as IT, the Business Support Unit and LEO office for their input.

As soon as Indecon has replies from all Local Authorities they will be in touch to finalise dates for the one to one sessions.

In relation to the Rollout of Broadband across the County, EIR are continuing to roll out their service in the county, Signal are currently developing their infrastructure including 10 sites in Laois. This infrastructure is currently being looked with the view to being shared amongst the service providers.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

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