

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE ON THE 27TH OF JANUARY 2014**

PRESENT:	Councillors	Mary Sweeney	In the Chair
	Councillor	Rotimi Adebari	William Aird
		John Bonham	Paddy Bracken
		Ray Cribbin	Lisa Delaney
		James Daly	James Deegan
		John Joe Fennelly	Catherine Fitzgerald
		Padraig Fleming	David Goodwin
		John King	Michael Lalor
		Jerry Lodge	Seamus McDonald
		Paul Mitchell	John Moran
		Tom Mulhall	Kathleen O' Brien
		Brendan Phelan	Martin Phelan
		Caroline Dwane Stanley	
	APOLOGIES:	Councillor	Ben Brennan

1. (a) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 19TH OF DECEMBER 2013

On the proposition of Councillor Rotimi Adebari seconded by Councillor Kathleen O' Brien, the Minutes of the special meeting of Laois County Council held on the 19th of December 2013 were confirmed as circulated.

1. (b) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 20TH OF DECEMBER 2013

On the proposition of Councillor Rotimi Adebari seconded by Councillor Kathleen O' Brien, the Minutes of the budget meeting of Laois County Council held on the 20th of December 2013 were confirmed as circulated.

2. REPORTS ON AREA & STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD IN DECEMBER 2013

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Kathleen O' Brien, the reports on Area & Strategic Policy Committee Meetings held in December 2013 were noted.

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

(I) DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT 57 ST. BRIGID'S PLACE, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor Jerry Lodge seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of property at 57 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise in the townland of Moneyballytyrell for a consideration of €40,000.00

(ii) DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT 57 & 59 O' MOORE PLACE, PORTLAOISE

Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley indicated her objection to the above disposal in light of the current housing waiting list.

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance indicated that both properties are derelict and would cost €50,000 to repair them for which there is no budget. There has been an offer of €18,000 for both properties which will deal with two derelict houses.

On the proposition of Councillor James Deegan seconded by Councillor John King, the Members agreed to the disposal of property at 57 & 59 O' Moore Place, Portlaoise in the townland of Maryborough

(iii) DISPOSAL OF PLOT OF LAND TO THE REAR OF NO. 8 ERKINA COURT RATHDOWNEY

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Martin Phelan, the Members agreed to the disposal of plot of land to the rear of No. 8 Erkina Court, Rathdowney in the townland of Rathdowney for a consideration of €200.00

(iv) DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT 360 MARKET MEWS, MARYBOROUGH VILLAGE, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor Jerry Lodge seconded by Councillor Kathleen O' Brien, the Members agreed to the disposal of property at 360 Market Mews, Maryborough Village, Portlaoise in the towland of Clonroosk Little for a consideration of €65,000

(v) DISPSOAL OF PROPERTY AT 366 MARKET MEWS, MARYBOROUGH VILLAGE, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor Rotimi Adebari seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members agreed to the disposal of property at 366 Market Mews, Maryborough Village, Portlaoise in the townland of Clonroosk for a consideration of €65,000

(vi) DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT 368 MARKET MEWS, MARYBOROUGH, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members agreed to the disposal of property at 368 Market Mews, Maryborough Village, Portlaoise in the townland of Clonroosk Little for a consideration of €65,000

(vii) DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AT 369 MARKET MEWS, MARYBOROUGH VILLAGE, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor Jerry Lodge seconded by Councillor Kathleen O' Brien, the Members agreed to the disposal of property at 369 Market Mews, Maryborough Village, Portlaoise in the townland of Clonroosk Little for a consideration of €65,000

4. UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CORPORATE PLAN 2009-2014

The Members were circulated with an update on the Corporate Plan 2009 - 2014 and a general discussion took place in relation to same. Ms. Anna Marie Delaney indicated that the strategies and objectives outlined in the plan will enable Laois County Council's Elected Members and Employees to continue to provide leadership in the promotion and development of the social, economic and cultural life of the County.

The County Manager, Mr. Peter Carey advised the Members that the Council can be justifiably satisfied with the progress achieved in the implementation of the Corporate Plan 2009-2014. Laois County Council is constantly striving to achieve excellence in all areas. Given the commitment and dedication of it's employees and the Elected Members and the co-operation of the Sectoral Partners, the Council will continue to be viewed as a model of excellence in Local Government, notwithstanding the difficult economic climate and the unprecedented challenges facing the Council.

The Members complimented everyone involved in the compilation of the Corporate Plan 2009 - 2014 and indicated that it is an excellent record of progress made.

On the proposition of Councillor John Bonham seconded by Councillor James Deegan, the Members unanimously agreed with the plan as circulated.

5. HERITAGE PLAN 2013 - 2018 - PRESENTATION BY MS. CATHERINE CASEY, HERITAGE OFFICER

Ms. Catherine Casey, Heritage Officer gave a very comprehensive presentation on the Heritage Plan 2013 - 2018. Ms. Casey outlined the preparation of the plan process, the objectives of the Heritage Plan and the various activities currently being carried out.

The County Manager and the Elected Members complimented Ms. Casey and acknowledged the work being carried out in the Heritage area. The County Manager also thanked the Heritage Council & the Heritage Forum for their support and also the community groups involved. It was also agreed that a visit to Donaghmore Workhouse and Museum would be arranged for the Elected Members.

6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL 2013 - PRESENTATION BY MS. ANNA MARIE DELANEY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Ms. Anna Marie Delaney gave a brief presentation on the Local Government Bill 2013 which included the background to the Bill, the new structures including

Municipal Districts, community development within Local Authority Areas, the governance and management and also the financial implications. Ms. Delaney responded to the Members queries.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- (i) Briefing Note for Elected Representatives from Irish Water dated January 2014
- (ii) Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Housing & Planning dated the 6th of January 2014 in relation to Notice of Motion No's 39, 40 & 41/2013
- (iii) Acknowledgement letter from the Office of the Taoiseach dated the 20th of January 2014 in relation to Notice of Motion No's 41 & 43/2013
- (iv) Circular Letter RW 3/2014 from the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport dated the 24th of January 2014 in relation to the 2014 Regional and Local Road Grant Allocations
- (v) Summary of Public Water Supply quality in 2012 – Councillor Paul Mitchell requested an up to date report on the effects of fluoride on our health.

8. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 01/2014

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council write to the relevant Ministers in the Department of Transport and the OPW to secure adequate funding for storm damage relief, particularly to repair road damage”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan

Notice of Motion No: 02/2014

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council request the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government to permit submissions to be refunded when planning applications have been withdrawn”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly. The Members were advised that there is no provision in the current legislation to allow for the refund of payment in conjunction with submissions where a planning application has been withdrawn. The legislation specifically refers to refund of fees in the case of an invalid planning application. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Department in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 03/2014

Councillor Mary Sweeney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council ensure, following a recent increase in funding to the housing adaption grants, that all applications be processed as soon as possible”

This motion was seconded by Councillor Dwane Stanley. Councillor Sweeney indicated that it would be important that extra staffing would be provided to expedite the processing of applications due to the extra funding allocation.

9. VOTES OF SYMPATHY

The Members were advised that the following Votes of Sympathies were received to the Corporate Affairs Department:

- The Brennan Family on the recent death of Mr. Martin Brennan, Borris Little, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
- The Conroy Family on the recent death of Mr. Stephen Conroy, Marian Avenue, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
- The Dolan Family on the recent death of Mr. Michael Dolan, No. 1 St. Brigid’s Square, Portarlington, Co. Laois.
- The Drennan Family on the recent death of Mr. Pat Drennan, Cool-na-Carrig, Ratheniska, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
- The Corcoran Family on the recent death of Ms. Pauline Corcoran, Crubbin, Ballyroan, Co. Laois.
- The Conry Family on the recent death of Mr. Liam Conry, Esker, Jenkinstown, Co. Kilkenny.
- The Finance Family on the recent death of Ms. Bridget Finane, Killenard, Co. Laois.
- The O’ Loughlin Family on the recent death of Ms. Liz O’ Loughlin, The Old Rectory, Ballickmoyler, Carlow.

All the Votes of Sympathies were unanimously agreed by the Members. This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS