

MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ÁRAS
AN CHONTAE ON THE 30TH OF MAY 2016

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

**58. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING HELD ON
THE 25TH OF APRIL 2016**

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor John King, the Minutes of the April meeting of Laois County Council held on the 25th of April 2016 were agreed as circulated.

**59. PRESENTATION BY MR. LIAM BERNEY, INDUSTRIAL OFFICER, THE
IRISH CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS**

Mr. Liam Berney, Industrial Officer, the Irish Congress of Trade Unions delivered a short presentation to the Members on the Congress Charter for Fair Conditions at Work. The Members noted that the ICTU have addressed a number of Local Authorities and Mr. Berney outlined the congress campaign for the Charter and sought the support of the Elected Members for this campaign which concludes in July. The Members were circulated with a copy of the charter.

**60. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR
APRIL & MAY 2016 (IN ACCORDANCE WITH CIRCULAR LETTER LG
18/2014)**

Mr. John Mulholland, Chief Executive briefed the meeting on this matter and the report for April & May was circulated. The report for April & May 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.

61. REPORTS ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN APRIL 2016 FOR NOTING

The Members noted the reports on the Municipal District Meetings & the Strategic Policy Committee Meetings held in April 2016 as circulated.

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

(i) DISPOSAL OF 0.2 HECTARES OF LAND AT PORTARLINGTON BUSINESS PARK

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.2 hectares of land at Portarlington Business Park in the townland of Cooltederry to Mr. Paul Carney, Camsaw Distributors Ltd., Portarlington Business Park, Canal Road, Portarlington by way of a 500 year lease, for a consideration of €25,000

63. UPDATE ON HOUSING

The Members were circulated with a report on Housing prepared by Mr. Ian McCormack, Senior Executive Officer, Housing. Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance/Director of Housing & Mr. Ian McCormack, Senior Executive Officer responded to the various queries raised by the Members.

Mr. John Mulholland, Chief Executive advised the members of proposals with regard to the provision of improved customer services for housing applicants. He referred to factors that will inevitably lead to a requirement to enhance the Council's capacity to deal with an increasing number of applicants for Council services. Such factors include the distressed mortgages issue, increasing rents on private properties, lack of affordable private sector housing supply and preparedness for the housing assistance payment scheme in Laois. A briefing to be arranged for the Members in advance of the June meeting in relation to same.

64. UPDATE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mr. John Mulholland, Chief Executive delivered a presentation to the Members on Enterprise, Economic Development and Job Creation in County Laois and also responded to the various queries raised by the Members. It was agreed that I.D.A./Enterprise Ireland be requested to receive a delegation from Laois County Council to discuss the issue of job creation in County Laois

65. PROPOSED CIVIC RECEPTION FOR THE LAOIS I.C.A.

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed that a Civic Reception be accorded to the Laois I.C.A.

66. RATIFICATION OF MR. KIERAN FINNANE AS THE BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE ON THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall, the Members unanimously agreed to the ratification of Mr. Kieran Finnane as the Business Representative on the Local Community Development Committee.

67. RATIFICATION OF CONFERENCES & ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy, the Members unanimously agreed to the ratification of conferences/attendance at training as circulated.

68. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was noted which had been received since the last meeting of the Council:-

- (i) Correspondence dated the 29th of April 2016 from An Post in relation to the closure of Post Offices in County Laois
- (ii) Correspondence dated the 18th of May 2016 from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government in relation to the level of littering and the level of existing litter fines under the litter pollution legislation
- (iii) Acknowledgement dated the 27th of April 2016 from the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government in relation to the Tenant Purchase Scheme
- (iv) Acknowledgement dated the 11th of May 2016 from the Department of Finance in relation to the levels and taxation in the construction industry

69. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 14/2016

Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council be informed from the Environmental Section as to how many on farm inspections are carried out by Laois County Council in 2015 and how many will be carried out in 2016 and how many have been referred to the Department of Agriculture”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. The Members were advised that in 2015, Laois County Council carried out 16 farm inspections under the European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014. In 2016, Laois County Council propose to carry out 16 farm inspections. Non-compliances arising from these inspections are cross reported to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). DAFM also has a programme of farm inspections and carried out 80 in 2015 and propose to carry out 60 in 2016 in Co. Laois. The number of inspections carried out by DAFM is not in any way determined by the number of Local Authority inspections. DAFM inspections are spatially spread around the country and the only constraining criteria is the availability of their own inspectors. They carry out on average 1,650 inspections per

year across the country on behalf of Local Authorities. Laois County Council does not refer farms to DAFM for inspection.

Notice of Motion No: 15/2016

Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council invite the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government, Mr. Simon Coveney to Laois County Council to meet a deputation to discuss the housing building programme for Laois”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. It was agreed that a letter issue to Minister Coveney in this regard and that the Minister be requested to attend a future meeting of Laois County Council to discuss this Notice of Motion and other housing issues.

Notice of Motion No: 16/2016

Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council invite the Minister for Social Protection, Mr. Leo Varadkar to ensure that the waiting time for application forms for Carers allowance be reduced – at the moment there is an average waiting time of four months”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly. It was agreed that a letter issue to Minister Varadkar in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 17/2016

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

“That this Council contacts the Minister for Communications, Climate Change and Natural Resources, Mr. Denis Naughten, to request that he introduces Regulations as a matter of urgency for the development of Wind Farms”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming. It was agreed that a letter issue to Minister Naughten in this regard.

70. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Members had a full discussion in relation to the future level of services at Portlaoise General Hospital and also referred to the recent statement from the Laois G.P.s. It was agreed that both the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris and Dr. Susan O’ Reilly, Chief Executive of the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group be requested to attend a future meeting of Laois County Council to have the matter discussed in more detail.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED:

_____ **CATHAOIRLEACH**

CERTIFIED:

_____ **DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
AFFAIRS**