

**MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY 2020 BY MEANS OF TEAMS/VIDEOCONFERENCE**

PRESENT:	Councillor	William Aird	In The Chair
	Councillors	Conor Bergin	Paddy Bracken
		Ben Brennan	Ollie Clooney
		Thomasina Connell	Caroline Dwane Stanley
		John Joe Fennelly	Padraig Fleming
		John King	Seamus McDonald
		Paschal McEvoy	Aisling Moran
		Tom Mulhall	Aidan Mullins
		Mary Sweeney	James Kelly
		Catherine Fitzgerald	Noel Tuohy

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Messers John Mulholland, Chief Executive, Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Donal Brennan, Director of Services, Simon Walton, Director of Services, Joe Delaney, Director of Services, Ms. Irene Delaney, A.O., & Ms. Michelle McCormack, S.O.

**56. VOTE OF SYMPATHY**

Councillor William Aird Cathaoirleach proposed the following Vote of Sympathies:

- Mr. Paul Quail, Chantiere Gate, Portlaoise/Member of the Portlaoise Unit of Laois County Fire & Rescue Service on the death of his daughter, Ms. Hollie Quail.
- The Farrell Family, Broomville, Portlaoise on the death of Mr. Sean Farrell, also brother of Pat Farrell, Kyletalehsa Landfill, Uncle of Ken Farrell, Kyletelesha Landfill, Cathal Farrell, Water Services Section & Michael O' Loughlin, Housing Section
- The Scully Family, 50 Fr. Byrne Park, Graiguecullen, Carlow on the death of Mr. Jimmy Scully & brother in law of Councillor Ben Brennan.

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Votes of Sympathies:

- The Bowe Family on the death of Ms. Noelle Bowe, Timahoe Road, Stradbally, Co. Laois.
- The Cullen Family on the death of Mr. Michael Cullen, Kilteale, Stradbally, Co. Laois.

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Votes of Sympathies:

- The Ryan Family, Camross, Co. Laois on the death of Mr. Danny Ryan & uncle to Ms. Ann Carroll, Water Services Section.
- The Dunphy Family, Cappagh, Knockaroo, Borris-in-Ossory on the death of Mr. Paddy Dunphy

Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed a vote of sympathy to the Lynch family, Rathmore, Ballintubbert, Ballyadams on the death of Mrs. Brigid Lynch

**57. VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS**

Councillor Thomasina Connell proposed that a vote of congratulations be extended to the Portlaoise Musical Society on being nominated for seven awards from the Association of Irish Musical Societies. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy. The Members wished the Society every success in the forthcoming awards.

**58. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 27<sup>TH</sup> OF APRIL 2020**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the Members unanimously agreed to the minutes of the April meeting of Laois County Council held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2020.

**59. CONFIRM VENUE FOR THE JUNE MONTHLY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL – MONDAY, JUNE 29<sup>TH</sup> 2020**

On the proposition of Councillor Thomasina Connell seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy, the Members unanimously agreed that the June Monthly Meeting of Laois County Council would be held in the Dunamaise Arts Centre & Theatre, Portlaoise on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 at 11.00 a.m.

**60. CONFIRM DATE FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL**

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor John King, the Members agreed that the Annual General Meeting of Laois County Council would take place on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 in the Dunamaise Arts Centre & Theatre. It was further agreed on the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney seconded by Councillor John King that the Annual General Meeting would take place immediately following the June Monthly meeting of Laois County Council.

It was noted that meeting rooms would be made available prior to the meeting details of which will follow.

**61. ARTS ACT GRANTS 2020**

The Members were circulated with the successful applicants for funding under the Arts Act Grants for 2020. It was noted that the total grants payable are in the sum of €6,000. On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed the Arts Act Grants for 2020.

**62. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR MAY 2020**

Mr. John Mulholland, Chief Executive briefed the meeting on this matter and the report for May 2020 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.

## **61. COUNCIL SUPPORTS TOWARDS REOPENING BUSINESS AND SOCIETY**

A presentation was made to the Members on the following issues:-

- Laois County Council Supports to Business by Ms. Evelyn Reddin, Head of Local Enterprise Office
- Local Enterprise Supports to Business by Ms. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance
- Supporting Business Through Enhanced Public Realm Use & Open Streets Initiative by Mr. Simon Walton, Director of Services
- Assisting the Community & Volunteers by Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services

Each Director of Services responded to the various queries raised by the Members.

## **62. UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT OF C.B.S. SITE, PORTLAOISE AND ADOPTION OF NEW FORM OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Mr. Joe Delaney, Director of Services delivered a presentation on the development of the former C.B.S Site in Portlaoise Mr. Delaney, Director of Services indicated that the public consultation period commences on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2020. Members expressed concerns in relation to the new consultation tool to view plans and make submissions which is available until the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2020. Mr. Delaney advised that there is a further two week period for receipt of submissions by post until the 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2020. It was noted that the Chief Executive's report would be considered at the July Meeting of Laois County Council.

The Members complimented Laois County Council on the proposed development. It was noted that 67 residential units, open spaces and 94 public car park spaces will be provided. The residential units will comprise of 30 two, three and four bed units. There is also an apartment building with 16 two bed units, two duplex buildings with 13 units and 8 units respectively of 2 bed units and an E-Charging Point and Bus Stop.

It was confirmed that the housing units will be owned by Cluid Housing Association whilst the car park will be operated/controlled by Laois County Council.

It was agreed that the drawings would be forwarded to the Members for their perusal following a request for same.

## **55. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Members expressed serious concern in relation to the issue of Bord na Mona not being able to commence the peat harvest and domestic turf cutters not being able to start cutting their turf on the bog. It was noted that issues at a national level are at play in relation to this matter and it was agreed to seek an urgent update from Bord na Mona in relation to same.

**SIGNED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**CERTIFIED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
CORPORATE AFFAIRS**