

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF LAOIS
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE ON THE 24TH OF
NOVEMBER 2014**

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

APOLOGIES:Councillor Ben Brennan

Messrs Gerry Murphy, Chief Executive, Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services, Ms. Julie Bergin, A/Head of Finance, Ms. Irene Delaney, Administrative Officer & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary.

139. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING HELD ON THE 20TH OF OCTOBER 2014

On the proposition of Councillor Brendan Phelan seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Minutes of the October meeting of Laois County Council held on the 20th of October were confirmed as circulated.

140. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE STATUTORY BUDGET MEETING HELD ON THE 17TH OF NOVEMBER 2014

On the proposition of Councillor John Moran seconded by Councillor John King, the Minutes of the Statutory Budget meeting held on the 17th of November 2014 were confirmed as circulated.

141. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL – MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT (IN ACCORDANCE WITH CIRCULAR LETTER LG 18/2014

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Chief Executive briefed the meeting on this matter and the report for October was circulated. On the proposition of Councillor Brendan Phelan seconded by Councillor John King, the monthly management report for October was unanimously agreed and noted. A number of queries were raised on the report and the Directors of Services responded to the queries raised.

142. REPORTS ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS (JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2014) FOR NOTING

On the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney seconded by Councillor John King, the Minutes of the Municipal District Meetings (June to September 2014) were confirmed as circulated.

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

(i) DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 20 EMMET TERRACE, MOUNTMELICK, CO. LAOIS

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor David Goodwin, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 20 Emmet Terrace, Mountmellick, Co. Laois in the townland of Townsparks for a consideration of €300.00

(ii) DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 31 EMMET ROAD, MOUNTMELICK, CO. LAOIS.

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 31 Emmet Road, Mountmellick, Co. Laois in the townland of Townsparks for a consideration of €300.00

(iii) DISPOSAL OF 0.3753 HECTARES OF LAND IN CLONBROCK, CRETTYARD, CO. LAOIS

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor John Moran, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.3753 hectares of land in Clonbrock for a consideration of €72,000

(iv) DISPOSAL OF 0.0266 HECTARES OF LAND AT THE FIRE STATION, BALLINAKILL

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.0266 hectares of land at the Fire Station, Ballinakill, for a consideration of €5,000 (on receipt) of the consideration, Laois County Council will arrange for the demolition of the Fire Station

144. APPROVAL OF OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION IN THE SUM OF €8,000,000 FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2014

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor John Moran, the Members unanimously agreed to the approval of overdraft accommodation in the sum of €8,000,000 for the year ending 31st December 2014.

145. LAOIS TOURISM FESTIVALS & EVENTS 2014 – PRESENTATION BY MR. DOMINIC REDDIN, TOURISM OFFICER

Mr. Dominic Reddin, Tourism Officer with Laois County Council gave a very comprehensive presentation to the Members on festivals, events and activities for 2014.

The Chief Executive, Mr. Gerry Murphy thanked Mr. Reddin and all the staff in this area for the progress to date and acknowledged the work of the board of Laois Tourism, the business/trade community and Laois Chamber of Commerce and in particular the community at large. The Chief Executive also paid tribute to the Members for their continued support. The Cathaoirleach, Mr. John Joe Fennelly paid tribute to Mr. Reddin and his team and the Members individually thanked Mr. Reddin for his presentation.

146. EAST MIDLANDS WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN – PRESENTATION BY MR. KIERAN KEHOE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services delivered a presentation on the East Midlands Waste Management Plan. The presentation detailed the National, Regional and Local Structures. It was noted that Laois is now part of the Eastern and Midlands Waste Region with the Lead Authority being Dublin City Council. It was noted that the overall performance targets would be to reduce household waste, recycle and reduce disposal to landfill. The Members were advised that written submissions/observations in relation to the draft plans and the associated Environmental Reports and the Natura Impact Reports should be made to the Lead Authority. The latest date of receipt of submissions is the 30th of January 2015.

147. CORRESPONDENCE

Members were circulated with a list of correspondence which had been received since the last meeting of Laois County Council as follows:-

- Correspondence dated the 10th of October 2014 from the Office of the Minister for Justice & Equality in relation to Notice of Motion No: 30/2014
- Correspondence dated the 13th of October 2014 from the Department of Finance in relation to Notice of Motions No: 35 & 36/2014
- Correspondence dated the 24th of October 2014 from the Office of the Minister of Education & Skills in relation to Notice of Motion No: 43/2014

- Correspondence dated the 31st of October 2014 from the Office of the Minister for Justice & Equality in relation to Notice of Motion No: 33/2014
- Correspondence dated the 19th of November 2014 from the Department of Health in relation to Notice of Motion No: 41/2014
- Circular Letter LG 24/2014 dated the 18th of November 2014 from the Department of the Environment, Community & The Local Government in relation to the Ethical Framework for the Local Government Service
- Briefing Note on the Eastern-Midlands Draft Waste Management Plan 2015-2021

148. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 45/2014

Councillor Mary Sweeney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council welcome RSD 01/2014 on the control of Vehicle Speeds in Housing Estates requiring an examining of speed limits in residential areas and housing estates to improve road safety for cyclists and pedestrians, especially children and requests the Chief Executive in line with the Circular, to initiate consultation with residents across our County with a view to determining the need for new bye-laws for 30km/hr limits for residential estates and additional selected safety zones”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that Laois County Council also welcomes this Circular and will initiate consultations with residents in accordance with the Circular and the impending speed limit review as previously advised.

Notice of Motion No: 46/2014

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

“That Laois County Council calls on the Government to abolish water charges and for Local Authorities to be the primary providers of public water supply”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. A number of queries were raised as a result of this Notice of Motion. Mr. Gerry Murphy, Chief Executive confirmed that Laois County Council have been requested by Irish Water to supply a list of names of Council tenants but this information has not been supplied yet. The Members indicated their opposition to the proposal. A show of hands was taken and Notice of Motion No: 46/2014 was passed.

Notice of Motion No: 50/2014 was also taken as follows:-

“That this Council request the Government for a referendum to stop the privatization of Irish Water”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly.

It was agreed that a letter issue to the Minister in relation to both Notice of Motion No: 46 & 50/2014.

Notice of Motion No: 47/2014

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

“That this Council give an update on the review that was promised regarding the provision of suitable facilities for Members of the public to discuss their issues with Laois County Council staff in private”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Jerry Lodge. The Members were advised that Laois County Council is currently carrying out a review of the area at Reception with a view to providing additional customer service facilities together with accommodation for the staff of the Local Enterprise Office.

Notice of Motion No: 48/2014

Councillor John Joe Fennelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council call on the Tánaiste & Minister for Social Protection, Ms. Joan Burton to reverse the decision to close the Community Welfare Offices in different parts of the County”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Minister in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 49/2014

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council request the appropriate Minister to allocate funding as soon as possible for the provision of new Fire Stations in the County”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Minister in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 51/2014

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council write to the Department of Justice asking for an update on the progress on the completion of the Scrap & Precious Metal Dealers Bill”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. It was agreed that a letter be issued to the Minister in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 52/2014

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council write to the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government in relation to securing funding from Europe for the Rural Development Programme for 2015”.

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

Notice of Motion No; 53/2014

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council should write to the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government to seek to have included in planning law the right for Local Authorities to seek to initiate the taking in charge process for estates where an application for same is needed. This would be in the interest and safety of the people on the estates where it is not forthcoming from a developer or from householders”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Minister in this regard

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
**DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
AFFAIRS**

