

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE ON THE 20TH OF OCTOBER 2014

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

Messers Gerry Murphy, Chief Executive, Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary.

130. VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

Councillor Noel Tuohy extended a vote of congratulations to the Portlaoise Senior Football Team on winning the County Final this weekend in Portlaoise. Ballyfin were also congratulated on winning the Intermediate Football Championships.

131. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 22ND OF SEPTEMBER 2014 IN RELATION TO THE LOCAL PROPERTY TAX - NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF SETTING A LOCAL ADJUSTMENT FACTOR

On the proposition of Councillor Seamus McDonald seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall, the minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd of September in relation to the Local Property Tax - Notice of consideration of setting a Local Adjustment Factor were confirmed as circulated.

132. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING HELD ON THE 29TH OF SEPTEMBER 2014

On the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney seconded by Councillor John King, the Minutes of the September meeting of Laois County Council held on the 29th of September were confirmed as circulated.

133. 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 September was circulated. On the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney seconded by Councillor John Moran, it was unanimously agreed that the

Monthly Management Reports would be circulated on a monthly basis with the agenda papers. A number of queries were raised on the report and the Directors of Services responded to the queries raised.

134. PRESENTATION BY MR. COREY MARUM, CHAIRPERSON OF COMHAIRLE NA NÓG & MS. HANNAH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

Mr. Corey Marum, Chairperson of Comhairle na nÓg & Ms. Hannah Johnson, Secretary of Comhairle na nÓg delivered a very comprehensive presentation on the background of the Comhairle and the projects which are ongoing at the moment and in particular the IMind Project. They also indicated that the Annual General Meeting of the Laois Comhairle is being held on the 21st of October 2014 in the Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise and 120 delegates are expected to attend.

The Cathaoirleach & Members of Laois County Council congratulated Corey & Hannah on a very professional presentation and complimented them on their work to date with the Comhairle. Ms. Anna Marie, Director of Services also paid tribute to the Comhairle and their work to date and also thanked Mr. Ian McCormack & Ms. Rose Doolin, Community & Enterprise Department for running this programme.

135. APPROVAL TO THE DRAFT STRATEGIC POLICY SCHEME

Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services briefed the Members on the above item. The Members were advised that the scheme was adopted by the Members at their July meeting. The Notice was subsequently published in the Leinster Express on the 5th of August 2014 and written submissions were invited on or before the 5th of September 2014. The draft scheme was circulated to each of the National Pillars for comment and also to the Members of the former Community Forum and to those groups registered with the Forum for their consideration. Ms. Delaney indicated that one submission had been received from Mr. Michael Ewing on behalf of the Environment Pillar and briefed the Members on the details of same.

Ms. Delaney indicated that the Scheme had been formally recommended for adoption by the Corporate Policy Group at their meeting.

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously agreed to adopt the Draft Strategic Policy Scheme. Ms. Delaney indicated that the nominations will now be sought from all sectors, including the Public Participation Network.

Ms. Delaney dealt with the various queries raised by the Members and indicated also that the composition of the Strategic Policy Committees would come back to the Council for final approval.

136. CONFIRM DATE FOR THE DECEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL - 15TH OF DECEMBER 2014

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor Jerry Lodge, the Members unanimously agreed that the December Council meeting will take place on the 15th of December 2014 at 11.00 a.m.

137. RATIFICATION OF CONFERENCES/ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Jerry Lodge, the Members unanimously agreed to the ratification of conferences and attendance at training as circulated.

138. CORRESPONDENCE

The Members noted that no correspondence had been received since the last meeting.

139. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 43/2014

Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council request the Department of Education to consider re-locating St. Francis School to one of the existing school sites that will become available”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney. It was agreed that a letter issued to the Department of Education in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 44/2014

Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council call on Minister Alan Kelly, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government to review the impending national rent scheme with a view to curbing increases in household rent”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that in July 2014, Circular 35/2014 was issued to Local Authorities advising them that the implementation schedule for the new National Differential Rent Scheme had been received. The new commencement date for charging rents under Section 31 of the 2009 Act is 1st of July 2015. Detailed guidelines on the new scheme have yet to issue but the Department of Environment, Community & Local

Government have advised that the scheme includes a minimum base rent to be charged based on household composition with an additional amount to be charged where net household income exceeds a reckonable income threshold.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
AFFAIRS