

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN
ÁRAS AN CHONTAE ON THE 24^H OF OCTOBER 2016**

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Messers John Mulholland, Chief Executive, Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary.

120. VOTE OF SYMPATHY

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the Members unanimously extended a vote of sympathy to the Fitzgibbon family, Cullenagh, Portlaoise on the recent death of Mr. John Fitzgibbon, a former member of Laois County Council.

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Tom Mulhall, the Members unanimously extended a vote of sympathy to the Lalor family, Main Street, Abbeyleix on the recent death of Mr. Paddy Lalor, also a former member of Laois County Council.

As a mark of respect to the late Mr. Fitzgibbon & Mr. Lalor and in accordance with the bereavement protocol for Laois County Council, the meeting was adjourned for a period of fifteen minutes and a minutes silence was observed prior to the meeting being adjourned as a mark of respect to the deceased.

121. VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Tom Mulhall, the Members unanimously agreed to extend congratulations to Ballyfin Demense on its recent outstanding achievement on being awarded the world's top hotel in The Conde Nast Travelers Reader's Choice Awards for 2016. For tourism and hospitality in County Laois, this is great news and the timing of the award is particularly favourable having regard to the development of a new tourism strategy for County Laois, the launch of our new audio guides for tourists and the work ahead of us on the Ancient East Programme. Congratulations was extended to Mr. Jim Reynolds, Managing Director, Mr. Damien Bastiat, General Manager and all the staff at Ballyfin Demense Hotel many of whom are from the local area. It was agreed that a letter of congratulations would be forwarded on the Members behalf to all involved.

On the proposition of Councillor John King the Members unanimously agreed to extend congratulations to Borris-in-Ossory/Kilcotton on winning the Senior County Hurling Final.

On the proposition of Councillor Seamus McDonald, the Members unanimously agreed to extend congratulations to Rosenallis on winning the intermediate hurling and the junior football championships.

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the Members unanimously agreed to extend congratulations to Stradbally on winning the Senior County Football final.

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird, the Members unanimously agreed to extend congratulations to Fr. Tom Dooley on the recent commemoration of the gardaí injured in Garryhinch. This was seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy

122. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 26TH OF SEPTEMBER 2016

On the proposition of Councillor Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Minutes of the September meeting held on the 26th of September 2016 were agreed as circulated.

123. REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 19TH OF SEPTEMBER 2016

On the proposition of Councillor John Moran seconded by Councillor John King, the report on the CPG meeting held on the 19th of September was agreed as circulated.

124. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN SEPTEMBER 2016

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the reports on Municipal District Meetings held in September 2016 were agreed as circulated.

125. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 – DISPOSAL OF 0.327 HECTARES OF LAND AT SPRINGFIELD, BALLACOLLA, CO. LAOIS

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.327 hectares of land at Springfield, Ballacolla, Co. Laois in the townland of Springfield or Knockkyle, Ballacolla for a consideration of €60,000.

126. UPDATE BY MR. PAUL VEALE, MIDLANDS REGIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, I.D.A. IRELAND

Mr. Paul Veale, I.D.A. Ireland delivered a presentation to the Members. He briefed Members on the I.D.A. targets and performance from 2015 – 2019. He also advised the Members of what Laois has to offer and included details on the Midland Region Action Plan for Jobs 2015-2017 and also the number of visits to the other Counties in the region. He responded to the various queries raised by the Members.

127. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL – MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2016 (IN ACCORDANCE WITH CIRCULAR LETTER LG 18/2014)

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

128. PRESENTATION BY DR. SEAN FLEMING ON BEHALF OF THE MEDICAL BOARD, MIDLANDS REGIONAL HOSPITAL, PORTLAOISE

Dr. Sean Fleming, Dr. Gerry White & Dr. Michelle Byrne were in attendance and delivered a presentation on behalf of the Medical Board of the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise.

The following Notice of Motion No: 30/2016 proposed by Councillor Pdraig Fleming seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald was also discussed as follows:-

“That Laois County Council ask the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris, T.D., to meet with Laois County Council before he finalises the plan for the Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise”

The Members of Laois County Council assured the Board of their full support.

A lengthy discussion ensued during which all Members expressed their concern in relation to the proposals. Councillor Jerry Lodge proposed a vote of ‘No Confidence’ in Dr. Susan O’ Reilly’s report and this was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. It was noted that the 69 Doctors in the County would support Laois County Council with a request to the Minister to meet the people of Laois to discuss what has been the most important issue in the County.

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed that all 19 Members go to the Dáil on Wednesday, November 9th 2016. It was agreed that a letter issue to Minister Charles Flanagan also in this regard.

129. RATIFICATION OF CONFERENCES & ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING

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

130. APPROVE CIVIC RECEPTION FOR MINISTER CHARLES FLANAGAN, T.D., MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Members agreed to the according of a Civic Reception to Minister Charles Flanagan, T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs. It was noted that Councillor Aidan Mullins did not agree – however, there was no counter proposal.

131. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- (i) Correspondence received from Minister Naughten, Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment in relation to Notice of Motion No: 17/2016 dated the 5th of October 2016
- (ii) Correspondence received from Minister Simon Harris, Department of Health in relation to Notice of Motion No: 29/2016 dated the 6th of October 2016
- (iii) Correspondence received from the Minister of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government in relation to Notice of Motion No: 22/2016 dated the 29th of October 2016
- (iv) Correspondence received from the Minister of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government in relation to Notice of Motion No: 19/2016 dated the 22nd of September 2016

132. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 31/2016

Councillor Noel Tuohy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“In light of the 40th anniversary of the event, that Laois County Council call on the Minister for Justice and the Garda Commissioner to award the Scott Medal for bravery to the Gardaí murdered and maimed while in the service of the protection of their community and the State, in the Garryhinch bombing in Portarlinton in 1976”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor William Aird. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Department in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 32/2016

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council writes to the Garda Commissioner firstly to acknowledge and welcome the allocation of new Garda Recruits to the Laois Garda District Area and secondly to request that further personnel be allocated to Laois as a matter of urgency as the number of new recruits does not cover the requirements of the County”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brennan. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Garda Commissioner in this regard.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DIRECTOR OF
CORPORATE AFFAIRS