

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ARAS AN
CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE, ON THE 21ST OF OCTOBER 2019**

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Messers John Mulholland, Chief Executive, Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services, Mr. Michael Rainey, Director of Services, Mr. Simon Walton, Director of Services, Ms. Irene Delaney, Administrative Officer & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary.

158. VOTES OF BEST WISHES

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously extended a vote of best wishes to Mr. Simon Walton on his appointment as Director of Services with Laois County Council.

159. VOTES OF SYMPATHY

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously extended a vote of sympathy to the following families on the recent death of their loved ones:-

- The O' Conaill family on the death of Mr. Sean O' Conaill, Blackrock, Dublin and father of Ms. Muireann Ní Chonaill, Arts Officer with Laois County Council
- The Lalor family on the death of Mr. Fintan Lalor, Garrafin, Camross, father of Mr. John Lalor, Roads Department and brother of former Member of Laois County Council, Mr. Michael Lalor
- The Dowling family on the death of Mr. Mick Dowling, Derrycarrow, Camross, Co. Laois.
- The Culleton family on the death of Mr. Kevin Culleton, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
- The Murphy family on the death of Mr. Billy Murphy, Bellgrove, Ballybrittas, Co. Laois.
- The Walsh family on the death of Mr. Shane Walsh, Erkindale Drive, Durrow, Co. Laois.

160. VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously extended a vote of congratulations to the following sections:-

- ✚ Community Section of Laois County Council and all those involved in the Community & Voluntary Awards for a very successful night of awards
- ✚ Business Support Unit and all those involved in organising the Taste of Laois event held recently

161. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 30TH OF SEPTEMBER 2019

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the Minutes of the September meeting held on the 30th of September 2019 were confirmed as circulated.

162. REPORT ON CPG MEETINGS HELD ON THE 23RD OF SEPTEMBER 2019

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the report on the CPG meeting held on the 23rd of September 2019 were confirmed as circulated.

163. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN SEPTEMBER 2019

On the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the reports on the Municipal District meetings held in September 2019 were confirmed as circulated.

164. PART VIII OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 IN RESPECT OF 22 HOUSING UNITS AND ASSOCIATED SITE DEVELOPMENT WORKS AT SEAN DOIRE, DURROW

On the proposition of Councillor Ollie Clooney seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed to the Part VIII of the Local Government Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 in respect of 22 housing units and associated site development works at Sean Doire, Durrow.

165. PART VIII OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 IN RESPECT OF 39 VOLUNTARY HOUSING UNITS AND ASSOCIATED SITE DEVELOPMENT WORKS AT ABBEYLEIX ROAD, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald seconded by Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously agreed to the Part VIII of the Local Government Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 in respect of 39 voluntary housing units and associated site development works at Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise with an amendment to the fenestration in First Floor Apartment - Unit Type H2 in Block A.

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

(i) DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 44 CARMODY WAY

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 44 Carmody Way, Fairgreen, Portlaoise in the townland of Clonreher for a consideration of €300.00

(ii) DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 16 COLLIERS VIEW, COLLIERS LANE, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 16 Colliers View, Colliers Lane, Portlaoise, Co. Laois in the townland of Ballyroan for a consideration of €1.00.

167. ADJOURNMENT OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously agreed to adjourn Standing Orders to take Notice of Motion No: 64/2019 in the name of Councillor Noel Tuohy as follows:

“That this Council recommend a ‘No Postering Policy’ in future Local & General Elections”.

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that the legalities in respect of Election Posters are set out in the Litter Act and Roads Acts and largely relate to prescribed rules around elections the placement of election posters and to certain exemptions that apply thereto. With advances in social media etc., together with concerns around the cumulative, negative impact that election posters have on the environment, some Councils have adopted policies/agreements whereby no posters are allowed. Other Councils have prohibited the erection of election posters in specific areas of towns or on specific streets with a view to limiting the number of posters produced. In considering the Motion, Members may wish to consider referring the matter to the Environment SPC for the development of a policy and/or guidelines in this matter.

A lengthy discussion ensued on the matter after which A Roll Call Vote was taken on the Motion which resulted as follows:

COUNCILLOR		FOR	AGAINST	ABSENT
FIRST NAME	SURNAME			
William	AIRD	✓		
Conor	BERGIN		✓	
Paddy	BRACKEN		✓	
Ben	BRENNAN		✓	
Ollie	CLOONEY		✓	
Thomasina	CONNELL		✓	
Caroline	DWANE STANLEY		✓	
John Joe	FENNELLY	✓		
Catherine	FITZGERALD	✓		
Padraig	FLEMING		✓	
James	KELLY		✓	
John	KING	✓		
Seamus	MCDONALD		✓	

Paschal	MCEVOY			✓
Aisling	MORAN		✓	
Tom	MULHALL		✓	
Aidan	MULLINS	✓		
Mary	SWEENEY		✓	
Noel	TUOHY	✓		

Total Number of Votes 6 votes in favour of the Notice of Motion, 12 votes against with one absent.

168. STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

(i) ASSIGNMENT OF SPC CHAIRS

The assignment of SPC Chairs was agreed as follows:-

- Housing, Regeneration & Planning SPC – Councillor Thomasina Connell
- Climate Action & Community – Councillor John King
- Transport, Environment and Emergency Services – Councillor Paddy Bracken
- Enterprise, Economic Development and Tourism – Councillor Conor Bergin

(ii) NOMINATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS TO SPC

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor John King, the following was agreed:

The following Members were nominated to the Transportation & Environment and Emergency Services SPC

- **Councillor Paddy Bracken (Chairperson)**
- **Councillor John Joe Fennelly**
- **Councillor Noel Tuohy**
- **Councillor Ben Brennan**
- **Councillor Willie Aird**

The following Members were nominated to the Housing, Regeneration & Planning SPC

- **Councillor Thomasina Connell (Chairperson)**
- **Councillor Mary Sweeney**
- **Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald**
- **Councillor Paschal McEvoy**
- **Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley**

The following Members were nominated to the Climate Action & Community SPC

- **Councillor John King (Chairperson)**
- **Councillor Padraig Fleming**
- **Councillor Tom Mulhall**
- **Councillor James Kelly**
- **Councillor Ollie Clooney**

The following Members were nominated to the Enterprise, Economic Development and Tourism SPC

- **Councillor Conor Bergin (Chairperson)**
- **Councillor Aisling Moran**
- **Councillor Seamus McDonald**
- **Councillor Aidan Mullins**

(iii) NOMINATION OF SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES TO SPCS

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the sectoral representatives were nominated as follows:-

ICTU on behalf of Trade Unions

Transport, Environment and Emergency Services SPC

Ms. Lisa Breatron

Enterprise, Economic Development and Tourism SPC

Ms. Deidre O'Connell Hopkins

Chambers Ireland on behalf of Business/Commercial

Housing Regeneration and Planning SPC

Mr. Bobby Fitzpatrick

Climate Action and Community SPC

Ms. Ann Fingleton

Enterprise, Economic Development and Tourism SPC

Ms. Bernie Everard

Chambers Ireland on behalf of Development/Construction

Housing Regeneration and Planning SPC

Mr. Michael Kelly, Jnr.

Transport, Environment and Emergency Services SPC

Mr. John Killeen

Enterprise, Economic Development and Tourism SPC

Mr. Pat Culleton

IFA on behalf of Farming

Climate Action and Community SPC

Mr. Henry Burns

Transport, Environment and Emergency Services SPC

Mr. Owen Conroy

Enterprise, Economic Development and Tourism SPC

Mr. Pat Hennessy

Laois PPN on behalf of Social Inclusion, Environment, Community and Voluntary

Social Inclusion

Housing Regeneration and Planning SPC

Mr. Michael Cobbe

Climate Action and Community SPC

Mr. Michael Noel Gorman

Environment

Housing Regeneration and Planning SPC

Ms. Sheelagh Coyle

Climate Action and Community SPC

Mr. Bobby Delaney

Transport, Environment and Emergency Services SPC

Vacancy to be filled.

Community and Voluntary

Climate Action and Community SPC

Ms. Ruth Sullivan

Enterprise, Economic Development and Tourism SPC

Mr. P. J. Phelan

(iv) DRAFT STANDING ORDERS

On the proposition of Councillor Pádraig Fleming seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney, the Members unanimously agreed the draft standing orders as presented.

169. NOMINATION OF LAOIS PARTNERSHIP COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE TO LAOIS LCDC

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the Members unanimously agreed to the nomination of Ms. Theresa McEvoy representing Laois Partnership Company on the Laois Local Community Development Committee.

170. WINTER MAINTENANCE PLAN 2019-2020

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Winter Maintenance Plan 2019-2020 and Mr. Simon Walton, Director of Services briefed the Members in relation to same and replied to the various issues raised.

168. EXTENSION OF DEVELOPMENT LEVY INCENTIVE SCHEME FOR HOUSING

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed to the extension of the Development Levy Incentive Scheme for Housing with the expiry date being extended to the 30th of November 2021.

169. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT IN SPORT TO THE STREET SOCCER LEAGUE

Mr. Shane Lambe & Mr. Ethan O' Reilly were presented with a Certificate of Achievement in Sport for their achievements on the Street Soccer League World Cup 2019 as members of the Irish Team and on receiving the Fair Play Award. The Cathaoirleach & Members congratulated Shane & Ethan on their wonderful success. The Chief Executive & Directors of Services associated themselves with the sentiments expressed.

170. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence which were received since the last meeting of Laois County Council were circulated:-

- (i) Correspondence dated the 27th of September 2019 from the Department of Health in relation to Notice of Motion No: 48/2019
- (ii) Correspondence dated the 2nd of October 2019 from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection in relation to Notice of Motion No: 51/2019
- (iii) Correspondence dated the 10th of October 2019 from the Department of Health in relation to Notice of Motion No: 58/2019
- (iv) Correspondence dated the 10th of October 2019 from the Department of Health in relation to Notice of Motion No: 54/2019

171. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 59/2019

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council establish a structure similar to the Barrow Drainage Board to deal with a proper River Maintenance Programme in a co-ordinated fashion”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will report back to Elected Members in Q1 2020 with a planned, co-ordinated approach in the matter of river maintenance generally. In the first instance the focus shall be on the extent to which drainage maintenance responsibilities apply within the County Laois Boundaries. More broadly, in the matter of the River Barrow, co-ordination of drainage activities with Counties Offaly and Kildare will also be pursued noting that similar approaches with adjoining counties will be required for other Rivers for which Laois County Council retains maintenance responsibilities.

Notice of Motion No: 60/2019

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council call on the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, to investigate the possibility of introducing a reminder system regarding the renewal of Driving Licences”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly. The Members were advised that a letter will issue to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 61/2019

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council call on the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport, Mr. Shane Ross, T.D., to increase the number of train carriages on all trains at peak times as this is necessary from a health and safety and environmental standpoint”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney. It was agreed that a letter will issue to the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 62/2019

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council call on the T.I.I. with a view to carrying out a pilot programme in County Laois in relation to road safety and speed control measures when entering a town or village on national roads, for example looking at changing the colour of the tarmac on approach and whilst driving through towns and villages”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. It was agreed that a letter will issue to the T.I.I. in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 63/2019

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council contact the Minister for Finance, Mr. Paschal Donohoe, T.D., to put a system in place to make the transfer of mortgages from banks and financial institutions to vulture funds clear and transparent in order to protect our citizens that were encouraged by our previous Government to buy houses at over inflated costs”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney. It was agreed that a letter will issue to the Minister for Finance in this regard.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
CORPORATE AFFAIRS