

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD  
IN ARAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE, ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> OF SEPTEMBER 2017**

**PRESENT:**            **Councillor Padraig Fleming**    In the Chair

<b>Councillors</b> William Aird	Paddy Bracken
Ben Brennan	Paschal McEvoy
Catherine Fitzgerald	John King
David Goodwin	Tom Mulhall
Seamus McDonald	Noel Tuohy
John Moran	James Kelly
Mary Sweeney	Aidan Mullins
Jerry Lodge	Brendan Phelan
Caroline Dwane Stanley	

**APOLOGIES:**        **Councillors** John Joe Fennelly

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**127.    CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING OF  
LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 31<sup>ST</sup> OF JULY 2017**

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor John King, the Minutes of the July meeting held on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

**128.    CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON  
THE 11<sup>TH</sup> OF SEPTEMBER 2017**

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor John King, the Minutes of the special meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

**129.    REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 24<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY 2017**

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Jerry Lodge, the report on the CPG meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 2017 was confirmed as circulated.

**130.    REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 5<sup>TH</sup> OF SEPTEMBER 2017**

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald, the report on the CPG meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2017 was confirmed as circulated.

**131. REPORT ON BORRIS-IN-OSSORY/MOUNTMELICK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD IN JUNE 2017**

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald, the reports on the Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District Meeting held in July 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

**132. REPORTS ON STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD IN SEPTEMBER 2017**

On the proposition of Councillor JERRY Lodge seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the reports on the Strategic Policy Committee Meetings held in July 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

**133. GRAIGUECULLEN LOCAL AREA PLAN 2012 – 2018**

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously adopted a resolution to to extend the life by a further 4 years (up to and including 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2022), of the Graiguecullen Local Area Plan 2012-2018 (as contained in the Joint Plan for the Greater Carlow Graiguecullen Urban Area 2012-2018) in accordance with the provisions of Section 19 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000, as amended, which provides for the extension of the valid life of a Local Area Plan (LAP). The extension of the LAP will allow Laois County Council and all other relevant stakeholders adequate time and opportunity to realize the strategic objectives for Graigucullen LAP which is in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the Area. Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services responded to the various queries by the Members.

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

**(i) DISPOSAL OF 1.609 HECTARES OF LAND AT OLDTOWN**

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 1.609 hectares of land at Oldtown in the townland of Oldtown for a consideration of €11,500 (inclusive of legal conveyance costs)

**(ii) DISPOSAL OF 1.295 HECTARES OF LAND AT TRUMERA, MOUNTRATH**

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 1.295 hectares of land at Trumera, Mountrath in the townland of Trumera for a consideration of €10,500 (inclusive of Council legal conveyance costs)

**(iii) DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST OF 33 ROSS, BALLYFIN ROAD, PORTLAOSIE**

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest of 33 Ross, Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois in the townland of Ross for a consideration of €1.00

**(iv) DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST OF 13 CLONROOSKE ABBEY, PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS**

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest of 13 Clonrooske Abbey, Portlaoise, Co. Laois in the townland of Clonreher for a consideration of €1.00

**(v) DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 6 MILL LANE, MOUNTRATH, CO. LAOIS.**

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 6 Mill Lane, Mountrath, Co. Laois in the townland of Mountrath for a consideration of €1.00

**(vi) DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST OF 6 RATHMOYLE, ABBEYLEIX, CO. LAOIS**

On the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest of 6 Rathmoyle, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois in the townland of Rathmoyle for a consideration of €1.00

**(vii) DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 36 ROSSVALE COURT, PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS**

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 36 Rossvale Court, Portlaoise, Co. Laois in the townland of Maryborough for a consideration of €1.00

**(viii) DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST OF 38 BROTHERTON, SELATY ROAD, GRAIGUECULLEN, CO. LAOIS.**

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest of Brotherton, Slaty Road, Graiguecullen, Co. Laois in the townland of Graigue for a consideration of €1.00

**(ix) DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 12 THE ORCHARD,  
STRADBALLY, CO. LAOIS.**

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 12 The Orchard, Stradbally, Co. Laois in the townland of Stradbally, Co. Laois for a consideration of €1.00

**135. TAKING IN CHARGE OF BELLINGHAM (PHASE 1 - AREA 2),  
MOUNTRATH ROAD, PORTLAOISE**

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the Members unanimously approved the Taking in Charge of Bellingham (Phase 1 - Area 2), Mountrath Road, Portlaoise.

**136. TAKING IN CHARGE OF THE VILLAGE, BALLYLINAN,**

On the proposition of Councillor Pdraig Fleming seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins, the Members unanimously approved the Taking in Charge of The Village, Ballylinan.

**137. APPROVAL OF OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION IN THE SUM OF  
€8,000,000 FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2018 TO FINANCE  
WORKING CAPITAL**

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed to the approval of overdraft accommodation in the sum of €8,000,000 for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2018 to finance working capital.

**138. APPROVAL OF €15,000,000 FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2018  
TO FACILITATE ANY TIMING ISSUES REGARDING THE PAYMENT OF  
PAYROLL AND PENSIONS IN RELATION TO MYPAY**

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed to the approval of €15,000,000 for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 to facilitate any timing issues regarding the payment of payroll and pensions in relation to MyPay.

**139. DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME**

On the proposition of Councillor John Moran seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously approved the draft Development Contribution Scheme 2017 to 2023 as presented.

**140. NOMINATION OF MR. THOMAS TIMMONS AS THE PPN  
REPRESENTATIVE ON THE J.P.C.**

On the proposition of Councillor Noel Tuohy seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley, the Members unanimously agreed to the nomination of Mr. Thomas Timmons as the PPN Representative on the J.P.C. replacing its previous nominee, Mr. John E. Troy.

**141. PRESENTATION BY MS. JOSEPHINE RIGNEY, RESOURCE OFFICER FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION LAOIS/OFFALY**

Ms. Josephine Rigney, Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention Laois/Offaly delivered a presentation to the Members on Suicide Prevention for the Laois and Offaly areas. She outlined various statistics and information to the Members on the issue and sought the support of Members on same. Ms. Rigney outlined details of the HSE's development of a 'Regional Suicide Prevention Action Plan' for the counties of Laois, Offaly, Westmeath, Longford, Louth & Meath. 'Connecting for Life' is Ireland's national strategy and Ms. Rigney advised that every County in Ireland is required to develop a plan through consultation with the various service providers, service users and Members of the public. The Members thanked Ms. Rigney for her very comprehensive presentation on a very important issue and assured her of the support of the Members of Laois County Council.

**142. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2017**

Mr. John Mulholland, Chief Executive briefed the meeting on this matter and the report for August/September 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.

**143. RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT – SETTING A DATE FOR LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL FEEDBACK AND ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS WITH ELECTED MEMBERS & THE PUBLIC**

The Members were advised that the Local Authority Waters and Communities Office will be organizing during October, an Engagement and Feedback event for the public on emerging priority actions for the draft River Basin Management Plan. It is hoped to have this workshop sometime in the first half of October. Ahead of that public session it is intended to have a session specifically for Councillors and the Members were advised of the suggested date of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2017. Local Authority Waters and Communities Office will be advised and they can then arrange for the public meeting at a later date.

**144. RATIFICATION OF CONFERENCES/ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING**

It was noted that there were no conferences for ratification and Members were circulated with the list of forthcoming training and conferences for August/September 2017 which was agreed on the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald.

## 145. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was circulated which had been received since the last meeting of Laois County Council:

- (i) Correspondence from the T.I.I. dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 2017 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 22/2017
- (ii) Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills dated the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2017 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 31/2017
- (iii) Correspondence from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government dated the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 2017 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 19/2017
- (iv) Correspondence from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government dated the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 2017 in relation to the designation of areas in County Laois as rent pressure zones
- (v) Correspondence from the Office of the Minister dated the 18<sup>th</sup> of August 2017 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 23/2017
- (vi) Correspondence from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government dated the 24<sup>th</sup> of August 2017 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 28/2017
- (vii) Correspondence from the Department of Justice and Equality dated the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2017 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 18/2017
- (viii) Correspondence from the Office of the Minister dated the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2017 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 24/2017
- (ix) Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Justice and Equality dated the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2017 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 20/2017
- (x) Correspondence from the Department of Health dated the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2017 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 15/2017

## 146. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

### Notice of Motion No: 32/2017

**Councillor Jerry Lodge proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

“That this Council believing that the Minister for Health has had adequate time to peruse the Susan O’ Reilly report on future services at Portlaoise General Hospital, now calls on him to publish this report”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Minister as a matter of urgency requesting a further meeting with the Minister and that a copy of this request be forwarded to Minister Charles Flanagan and the two Dáil deputies for their support on the issue also.

### Notice of Motion No: 33/2017

**Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

“That this Council give an update on the volume of Japanese knotweed in the County and what are the plans to dispose of it”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird.

**Notice of Motion No: 34/2017**

**Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

“That Laois County Council furnish the number of reports of anti-social behaviour over the last 12 months and that this Council address the serious issue by assigning extra staff to the Estate Management Section of our Housing Department”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins. The Members were advised that 35 reports of anti-social behavior have been received by Laois County Council since the beginning of January 2017. They relate to issues such as the holding of parties, loud music, dogs barking at night, drug incidents, intimidation of residents, dangerous driving, etc. Mr. Gerry Ryan will be Acting Tenant Liaison Officer in place will be writing to all Residents Associations and Elected Members in the coming week. He is at present carrying out a full review of existing cases.

**Notice of Motion No: 35/2017**

**Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

“That Laois County Council write to the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris, T.D., requesting that he increase the existing 3% of the health budget that is spent on General Practices in light of the fact that the pressure on GP services show that patients are reporting increased difficulty in finding GPs that are accepting new patients”

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

**Notice of Motion No: 36/2017**

**Councillor Noel Tuohy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

“That Laois County Council call on the Minister for Education, Mr. Richard Bruton, T.D., to address his Department’s policy failure in not providing for recreation and sports field facilities in the design, planning and building of new primary schools as these should be an essential and fundamental part of any new build”

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

**Notice of Motion No: 37/2017**

**Councillor Noel Tuohy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

“That Laois County Council lead by example and in tandem with other Stakeholders such as the ESB to provide more public charging points for electric and hybrid vehicles and ensure that there is no parking fee required for the use of such spaces”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council will engage with ESB Networks to maximise the provision of electric charging points.

**Notice of Motion No: 38/2017**

**Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

“That this Council request a nominee or nominees from TII to attend the October meeting of Laois County Council so that we, the Councillors, be afforded the opportunity to ask questions as to the position regarding outstanding works that have been requested”

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

**Notice of Motion No: 39/2017**

**Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

“That this Council call on Minister Paschal Donohue, T.D., Minister for Finance, Public Expenditure & Reform to sign off on the final CFRAM maps as the delay is affecting people making application for planning permission for once off houses”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy.

**Notice of Motion No: 40/2017**

**Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-**

“That Laois County Council expedite the undertaking of the works in relation to the Slieve Bloom Mountain Bike Trail so as to maximize tourist potential similar to the project which is currently in operation in Waterford”



This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The development of the Mountain Bike Trail is a project which is spearheaded by Coillte. Laois County Council continue to work closely with Coillte and Offaly County Council to ensure delivery of the project. Separately the Council will work with Tourism interests in the County to maximise the benefits of the Slieve Blooms and the Mountain Bike Trail to the whole County.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**

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