

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON
THE 12TH OF DECEMBER 2022 IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE**

PRESENT: Councillor P.J. Kelly (Leas Cathaoirleach) In The Chair

Councillors John King Ollie Clooney
Seamus McDonald Aisling Moran
Willie Aird John Joe Fennelly
Paschal McEvoy Caroline Dwane Stanley
Noel Tuohy Catherine Fitzgerald
Conor Bergin Aidan Mullins
Padraig Fleming Paddy Bracken
Barry Walsh Ben Brennan

APOLOGIES: Councillor Thomasina Connell (Cathaoirleach)
Councillor James Kelly

IN ATTENDANCE:

Messers John Mulholland, Chief Executive, Donal Brennan, Director of Services, Simon Walton, Director of Services, Ms. Angela McEvoy, Director of Services, Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Ms. Irene Delaney, S.E.O., Corporate Affairs & Ms. Michelle McCormack, S.O.

144. VOTES OF SYMPATHIES

On the proposition of the Leas Cathaoirleach, Councillor P.J. Kelly, the Members unanimously passed a vote of sympathy to Mr. Shea Brennan, Assistant Chief Fire Officer and the Brennan family on the recent death of Mrs. Margaret Brennan, Drimaterrill, Ballinakill, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley, the Members unanimously passed a vote of sympathy to the Coss Family, 11 Grove Park, Mountmellick on the recent death of Mr. Eoin Coss.

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously passed a vote of sympathy to the Sherlock Family, Eyne, Portlaoise on the recent death of Mr. Mick Sherlock.

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously passed a vote of sympathy to the Moore Family, Ashfield House, Calverstown, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare on the recent death of Mr. Pat Moore.

On the proposition of Councillor Padraig Fleming, the Members unanimously passed a vote of sympathy to the Fennelly Family, 14a Slatt, Wolfhill on the recent death of Mrs. Nancy Fennelly.

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously passed a vote of sympathy to the Carpenter Family, Farnans, Wolfhill on the recent death of Mrs. Bridget Carpenter.

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously passed a vote of sympathy to the Dunne Family, Davitt Road, Mountmellick on the recent death of Mr. Eddie Dunne.

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously passed a vote of sympathy to the Conway Family, Coonbeg on the recent death of Mr. John Conway.

The Chief Executive and Directors of Services also requested that they be associated with the vote of sympathies extended and a minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect to the deceased.

145. VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan and unanimously agreed that a vote of congratulations be extended to Ms. Mary Mulhare on leading Ireland to winning a bronze medal at the European Cross Country Championships.

146. RETIREMENT OF COUNCILLOR NOEL TUOHY FROM LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor Noel Tuohy advised the Members of his intention to retire from his position as a Member of Laois County Council following the January 2023 meeting of Laois County Council. The Members together with the Chief Executive thanked Councillor Tuohy for his contribution to public life and wished him well for the future.

147. MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON THE 21ST OF NOVEMBER 2022

On the proposition of Councillor Seamus McDonald seconded by Councillor Willie Aird, the minutes of the November monthly meeting of Laois County Council held on the 21st of November 2022 were confirmed as circulated.

148. REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 21ST OF NOVEMBER 2022

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney, the Members unanimously agreed the report on CPG meeting held on the 21st of November 2022 as circulated.

149. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN NOVEMBER 2022

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed the report on the Municipal District Meetings held in November 2022.

150. PART VIII OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 (AS AMENDED) IN RELATION TO THE PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE AT FR. BROWNE AVENUE, PORTLAOISE

The Members were circulated with a copy of the planning report on this proposed development which aims to continuing the cycle infrastructure from the Mountrath Road to the school campus on the Southern Circular Road.

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the proposed pedestrian and cycling infrastructure at Fr. Browne Avenue, Portlaoise.

151. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE – STATUTORY AUDIT RPEORT TO THE MEMBERS OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST OF DECEMBER 2021

On the proposition of Councillor Padraig Fleming seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed the Statutory Audit Report to the Members of Laois County Council for the year ended 31st of December 2021 as circulated.

152. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE – INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2023

On the proposition of Councillor Padraig Fleming seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed the Internal Audit Plan 2023 as circulated.

153. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER 2023

On the proposition of Councillor Ollie Clooney seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed the Audit Committee Charter 2023

154. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2023

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed the Audit Committee Work Programme 2023

155. ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2023

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously agreed the Annual Service Delivery Plan 2023 as circulated.

156. CULTURE & CREATIVITY STRATEGY 2023-2027

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed the Culture & Creativity Strategy 2023-2027 as circulated.

157. TRAINING & CONFERENCES

The Members were circulated with a list of training and conferences for ratification. On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken the list of training and conferences attended were ratified.

158. CORRESPONDENCE

It was noted that no correspondence had been received since the November meeting of Laois County Council.

159. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 61/2022

Councillor Willie Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council seek a deputation with the Minister for Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D., the Cathaoirleach of Laois County Council & Director of Services with responsibility for roads to establish the funding which is available for new roads in County Laois”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh. It was agreed that correspondence issue to the Minister for Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D. in this regard and that a copy of the correspondence be given to the Oireachtas Members.

Notice of Motion No: 62/2022

Councillor PJ Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council contact Coillte requesting them to clear laneways and recognised walkways of debris and bushes so that people can safely walk and cycle the state forests of County Laois as some people are using chainsaws to do these jobs and might not be insured to carry out the works”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. It was agreed that a letter issue to Coillte in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 63/2022

Councillor PJ Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council ensure that any capital projects or Council supported works within County Laois be supplied with materials by Laois based businesses or are invited to tender to supply as these businesses are the rate payers and drivers of the Laois economy”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that The Local Government Operation Procurement Centre (LGOPC) under the auspices of Kerry County Council is tasked with leading two categories of procurement on behalf of the public sector, i.e. Minor Building Works including Materials and Civil Plant Hire. The most recent call for competition to qualify to the Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for Civil Engineering Materials was published nationally in June 2020 and was, also, on the Laois County Council website. The majority of Laois County Council’s civil engineering materials are procured by running mini competitions off this DPS. There are some Laois based material suppliers already on the DPS and any other Laois based supplier can apply to join the DPS. For some small material requirements, quotations may be sought from Laois based suppliers. Laois County Council’s expenditure is governed by EU and National Legislation.

Notice of Motion No: 64/2022

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council call on A.I.R.O (All Ireland Research Observatory) to extend to all Local Authorities, the recent release of the Regional Development Monitor (RDM) as a matter of priority. The full suite of Dashboards & Maps, as they are of intrinsic importance to delivering effective local management and tracking Vitelli societal needs”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley. It was agreed that a letter issue to the All-Ireland Research Observatory in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 65/2022

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council, in light of the Council housing plan targets per year for total homes not being met for private home supply (566 homes) which is where private development is failing, and in light of the cost of living crisis for both homes and building. I am asking that the Ministers for Finance and Housing, extend the Living Cities Initiative of €200k Tax credits, to be applied as a pilot, to all Laois towns and villages, roll out in Q1 2023”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley. The Members were advised that correspondence would issue to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage in this regard.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED:

CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED:

DONAL BRENNAN
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES