

**MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE  
27<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE 2022 IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Councillor	Conor Bergin	In The Chair
	Councillors	James Kelly Seamus McDonald Willie Aird Paschal McEvoy Noel Tuohy Thomasina Connell Padraig Fleming P.J. Kelly Paddy Bracken	John King Ollie Clooney John Joe Fennelly Caroline Dwane Stanley Catherine Fitzgerald Aidan Mullins Ben Brennan Barry Walsh
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Councillor	Aisling Moran	

**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, A.O., & Ms. Michelle McCormack, S.O.

**63. VOTES OF SYMPATHIES**

On the proposition of Councillor Padraig Fleming, the Members unanimously passed a vote of sympathy to the O' Neill Family, Hillside View, Castlecomer, Kilkenny on the recent death of Mr. James O' Neill, brother-in-law of Councillor Ben Brennan.

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously passed a vote of sympathy to the Parkinson Family, Mountrath Road, Portlaoise, on the recent death of Mr. Paddy Parkinson, brother of former employee of Laois County Council, Mr. Martin Parkinson.

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously passed a vote of sympathy to the Nolan Family, Rossmore View, Killeshin, Carlow on the recent death of Ms. Bernie Nolan.

On the proposition of Councillor Thomasina Connell, the Members unanimously passed a vote of sympathy to the Mulhare Family, Courtwood, Ballybrittas, Co. Laois on the recent death of Mr. Michael Mulhare.

**64. MINUTES OF THE MAY MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON THE 30<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY 2022**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the minutes of the May monthly meeting of Laois County Council held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2022 were confirmed as circulated. Councillor Aidan Mullins, under

matters arising, read out a statement from the RTS Group in relation to previously agreed Notice of Motion and associated correspondence, recently received from ESB Networks/Eirgrid.

In summary, the group are requesting Laois County Council to facilitate the procurement of a suitable, independent, expert company to carry out a risk assessment of the site at Coolnabacky, prior to the commencement of works on the main footprint and structure of the substation. The Elected Members and the RTS Group are requesting a meeting with officials of Laois County Council to discuss same.

Mr. Simon Walton, Director of Services advised that Laois County Council is and has been available for such a meeting. Mr. Walton also confirmed that ongoing environmental inspections were being carried out at the Site and, in the specific matter of drinking water, highlighted that ongoing monitoring of the local water supply was being undertaken in accordance with Drinking Water Regulations and monitoring results are in accordance with drinking water standards.

Councillor P.J. Kelly under matters arising sought an update on Notice of Motion No: 25/2022 which was proposed and seconded at the May Meeting of Laois County Council in relation to the reinstatement of lights that are non-operational on the M7/M8 Motorway. It was agreed that Laois County Council would engage further with the T.I.I. on the matter.

#### **65. REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 23<sup>rd</sup> OF MAY 2022**

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald, the Members unanimously agreed the report on CPG meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2022 as circulated.

#### **66. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN MAY 2022**

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed the report on Municipal District meetings held in May 2022 as circulated.

#### **67. PART VIII OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 IN RELATION TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF 54 HOUSES ON A SITE OF 2.4 HECTARES OF HEPBURN COURT, PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS**

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Thomasina Connell, the Members unanimously agreed to the proposed development of the construction of a residential development of 54 houses on a site of 2.4 hectares of Hepburn Court, Portlaoise, Co. Laois in accordance with Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001.

The Members were circulated with the planning report on the proposed development which will consist of the construction of 54 dwellings, foul and surface water drainage works and surface water attenuation, footpaths and landscaped public open space with passive and active areas that includes a secure playground for young children,

associated siteworks that includes boundary treatment and a total of 111 no. car parking spaces.

The Members were advised that the issue of boundary treatment would be addressed.

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

**(i) LEASE OF 0.94 HECTARES OF LAND AT MONURE, GRAIGUECULLEN**

On the proposition of Councillor Pádraig Fleming seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously agreed to the lease of 0.94 hectares of land at Monure, Graiguecullen in the townland of Monure for a period of 3 years—consideration for the licence agreement shall be €1.00 per annum and the consideration for the lease agreement of the property shall be €100.00 per annum.

**(ii) LEASE OF 2.1 HECTARES OF LAND AT MONURE, GRAIGUECULLEN**

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan seconded by Councillor Pádraig Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed to the lease of 2.1 hectares of land at Monure, Graiguecullen in the townland of Monure for a period of 3 years – consideration for the lease of the property shall be €1.00 per annum and the consideration for the lease agreement of the property shall be €100.00 per annum.

**(iii) DISPOSAL OF 3.75 HECTARES OF LAND AT J17 NATIONAL ENTERPRISE PARK, TOGHER, PORTLAOISE**

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Thomasina Connell, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 3.75 hectares of land at J17 National Enterprise Park, Togher, Portlaoise in the townland of Togher for a consideration of €966,000 plus V.A.T.

**(iv) DISPOSAL OF 1.49 HECTARES OF LAND AT CLONMINAM, PORTLAOISE**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 1.49 hectares of land at Clonminam, Portlaoise in the townland of Knockmay for a consideration of €396,476.00 plus V.A.T.

**69. ADOPTION OF THE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Members were circulated with the 2021 Annual report which was unanimously agreed on the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy and seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney.

**70. CONSIDERATION OF A CIVIC RECEPTION TO THE PORTLAOISE AFC GIRLS U-14 SOCCER TEAM ON WINNING THE SFAI U-14 NATIONAL CUP FINAL AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE 2022**

On the proposition of Councillor Thomasina Connell, seconded by Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously agreed to accord a Civic Reception to the Portlaoise AFC Girls U-14 Soccer Team on winning the SFAI U-14 National Cup Final. It was noted that this was recommended by the Corporate Policy Group on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2022.

#### **71. MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR JUNE 2022**

The Monthly Management Report for June 2022 was circulated and noted by the Members. The Directors of Services responded to the various queries raised.

#### **72. TRAINING AND CONFERENCES**

The Members were circulated with a copy of the conferences and training for ratification and same was agreed on the proposition of Councillor Thomasina Connell seconded by Councillor James Kelly.

#### **73. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence received since the last meeting was circulated and noted by the Members:-

- (i) Correspondence from the T.I.I in relation to the Multiannual Footpath Restoration Programme for County Laois dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2022
- (ii) Correspondence from Sligo County Council in relation to a Notice of Motion on the National Abhaile Service dated the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2022
- (iii) Correspondence from Sligo County Council in relation to a Notice of Motion on the opening of a public passport office in Sligo dated the 16<sup>th</sup> of June
- (iv) Correspondence from Clare County Council in relation to a Notice of Motion on the review of the National Aviation Policy dated the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2022
- (v) Correspondence from Midlands Louth Meath Community Health Organisation in relation to the re-opening of day care centres in County Laois dated the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2022

#### **74. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

##### **Notice of Motion No: 27/2022**

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That Laois County Council call on the Minister for Finance, Mr. Paschal Donohoe, T.D., to extend the ‘Help to Buy Scheme’ for first time buyers to include vacant and derelict houses in the upcoming Budget 2023”*

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

##### **Notice of Motion No: 28/2022**

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council request Coillte as to the possibility of them using dead trees as firewood and distributing it to those in need in County Laois”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that correspondence would issue to Coillte in this regard.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 29/2022**

Councillor Willie Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council request the Minister for the Environment, Climate & Communications, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D. when engaging in his review of the Fire Services to ensure that more flexible working arrangements are put in place in order to make volunteering for the service more attractive to people”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that correspondence will issue to the Minister for the Environment, Climate & Communications in this regard.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 30/2022**

Councillor Willie Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council calls on the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly, T.D. to review the level and availability of services for children with special needs and disabilities in the Laois area”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley. The Members were advised that correspondence will issue to the Minister for Health in this regard.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 31/2022**

Councillor P.J. Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council make contact with CIE to ask them, where possible, to make a school bus service available to all schools in County Laois as this would help ease some of the extra burden of costs on families and would also reduce the amount of cars doing extra school runs”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird. The Members were advised that correspondence would issue to C.I.E. in this regard.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 32/2022**

Councillor P.J. Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council contact ESB network to ask them to correct the constant outages of electricity supply to householders and businesses in parts of County Laois”***

*for sometimes unknown reasons as a standing charge still applies when power is down”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald. The Members were advised that correspondence would issue to ESB in this regard.

**Notice of Motion No: 33/2022**

Councillor Moran requested that the following Notice of Motion be deferred to the July meeting due to her absence:-

*“That this Council calls on the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly T.D., the officials in his Department and the Health Service Executive (HSE) to immediately explain the reasons for the delays in relation to people with disabilities in our communities waiting for prostheses, orthotics and mobility aids e.g. wheelchairs in receiving them”*

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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