

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN
ÁRAS AN CHONTAE ON THE 30th OF NOVEMBER 2015**

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

141. BEST WISHES

The Members congratulated Ms. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services on her forthcoming appointment as Chief Executive of Offaly County Council. Mr. John Mulholland, Chief Executive also joined with the Members in congratulating Anna Marie on her promotion on behalf of the Management Team & the staff of Laois County Council and wished here every success in Offaly County Council.

142. VOTE OF THANKS

The Members extended a vote of thanks to all the Emergency Staff including outdoor staff on their recent response to Storm Barney & Clodagh and also complimented ESB and Eircom on the services which they provided.

143. LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP 2016

The Cathaoirleach indicated to the Members that it was very disappointing that the Leinster Championship match scheduled for the 4th of June 2016 had been fixed for Nowlan Park and not Portlaoise. O'Moore Park is a magnificent stadium that can facilitate upwards of 27,000 spectators. The Cathaoirleach proposed that a meeting with the Leinster Council be requested in this regard. This was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly and unanimously agreed.

144. VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

Councillor John Joe Fennelly proposed that a vote of congratulations be extended to the Ballypickas Hurling Team on winning the Leinster Hurling Final on Sunday, 29th of November 2015.

145. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING HELD ON THE 19TH OF OCTOBER 2015

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan, the Minutes of the October meeting of Laois County Council held on the 19th of October 2015 were agreed as circulated

146. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE STATUTORY BUDGET MEETING HELD ON THE 16TH OF NOVEMBER 2015

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Minutes of the Statutory Budget meeting of Laois County Council held on the 16th of November 2015 were agreed as circulated.

147. REPORTS ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2015

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor David Goodwin, the reports on Municipal District meetings held in October & November 2015 were noted and agreed as circulated.

148. REPORTS ON STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD IN OCTOBER 2015

It was agreed that report on the Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held in October 2015 would be circulated to the Members.

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

(i) DISPOSAL OF 0.0036 HA OF LAND AT LORD EDWARD STREET, MOUNTMELICK

On the proposition of Councillor David Goodwin seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.0036 ha of land at Lord Edward Street, Mountmellick, Co. Laois in the townland of Ballycullenbeg for a consideration of €100.00

(ii) DISPOSAL OF 0.119 HA OF LAND AT BALLYTARSNA, ABBEYLEIX

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.119 ha of land at Ballytarsna, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois in the townland of Ballytarsna for a consideration of €100.00

150. MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2015 (IN ACCORDANCE WITH CIRCULAR LETTER LG 18/2014)

Mr. John Mulholland, Chief Executive briefed the meeting on this matter and the report for October & November was circulated. The report for October & November was unanimously agreed and noted. A number of queries were raised on the report and the Directors of Services responded to the queries raised.

151. APPROVAL OF OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION IN THE SUM OF €8,000,000 FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2016

On the proposition of Councillor Jerry Lodge seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the approval of overdraft accommodation in the sum of €8,000,000 for the year ending 31st of December 2016.

152. PROPOSED LEASE BETWEEN LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL AND B9 POWER LIMITED, 4TH FLOOR, 5 LAPPS QUAY, CORK FOR THE MIDLANDS REGION LANDFILL GAS UTILISATION PROJECT AT KYLETALESHA FOR A CONSIDERATION OF €100.00

The Members were circulated with the proposed lease between Laois County Council and B9 Power for the Midlands Region Landfill Gas Utilisation Project at Kyletalesha. Mr. Kieran Kehoe briefed the Members on this and indicated that B9 Power have to make an application for a re-fit contract with the DECNR and to have legal possession of the land and right of way in order to do so.

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed to the proposed lease as circulated.

153. TERMS OF NEW TENANT PURCHASE SCHEME FOR EXISTING LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSES

Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance briefed the Members on the new tenant purchase scheme for existing local authority houses and changes to the existing schemes notified by the Department on the 17th of November 2015. Mr. Murphy outlined the main points of the new scheme and it is proposed to introduce the scheme on the 1st of January 2016. Mr. Michael Rainey, S.E.O., Housing responded to the various queries raised in relation to the scheme. Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald proposed that a letter issue from the Housing Policy SPC to the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government outlining the concerns raised by the members in relation to the new scheme. It was also agreed that all Council members would be invited to the Housing SPC on the 7th of December 2015.

The following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Tom Mulhall and seconded by Councillor William Aird was also discussed.

Notice of Motion No: 66/2015

“That this Council write to the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government for an up to date on the Incremental Purchase Scheme”

154. NOMINATION OF BOUNDARY COMMISSION GROUP FOR THE PURPOSES OF REVIEWING THE LAOIS/CARLOW BOUNDARY AT GRAIGUCULLEN

Mr. John Mulholland, Chief Executive briefed the Members in relation to the forthcoming review of the administrative boundary between Carlow and Laois in the Graiguecullen area. A boundary review committee has been established and a public consultation phase will commence with a view towards a closing date for submissions at the end of January 2016. It was agreed that the Cathaoirleach and the 6 Members of the Graiguecullen/Portarlinton Municipal District would be nominated to the Boundary Commission Group. It was noted that a meeting is scheduled for the 9th of December 2015 in the Talbot Hotel.

155. NOMINATION OF MS. SHEELAGH COYLE, DERRYGUILE, MOUNTMELICK AS THE SOCIAL INCLUSION REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK TO THE HOUSING POLICY SPC

Laois County Council have been advised that Ms. Sheelagh Coyle, Derryguile, Mountmellick has been nominated from the Social Inclusion Sector to the Housing Policy SPC. On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor William Aird, the Members unanimously ratified Ms. Sheelagh Coyle's nomination to the Housing Policy SPC.

156. RATIFICATION OF CONFERENCES & ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING

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

157. CORRESPONDENCE

The Members were circulated with the following correspondence which had been received since the last meeting:-

- (i) Correspondence from the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme dated the 24th of November 2015 advising of the total allocation being available to all Local Authorities in the sum of €94,000. The Chief Executive, Mr. John Mulholland indicated that it is proposed to put a programme of events together and details of same will be circulated to the Members with corresponding sums of money for each project. The Cathaoirleach extended thanks to Ms. Catherine Casey, Heritage Officer for her input in this area

158. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 64/2015

Councillor John King proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council make a request to Mr. Alan Kelly, Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government to provide funding for new Fire Stations as required across the County”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor William Aird. The Members were advised that a letter is being currently drafted to the Minister in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 65/2015

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That this Council call on the N.R.A. to put in place cattle grids on the slip roads on and off the Motorway at the Interchanges in the County”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor William Aird. It was agreed that a letter would issue to Transport Infrastructure Ireland in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 67/2015

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council provide funding to repair/re-instate the extensive bank erosion on the River Nore to prevent a total collapse of the embankment which will lead to severe flooding in the area and a potential threat to the endangered freshwater pearl mussel on the River Nore”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. The Members were advised that the main issue in relation to the repair and reinstatement of the embankment identified is that Laois County Council requires access to lands along the river bank to access the river at the location in question. Despite numerous discussions and meetings, the Area roads office is finding it difficult to get access. Laois County Council are seeking legal opinion regarding Laois County Council’s powers of entry over the lands to the location and once this is clarified we can progress with securing the necessary approvals for the works from an environmental protection point of view.

Notice of Motion No: 68/2015

Councillor Noel Tuohy proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That Laois County Council welcomes the news of the major schools programme planned for the County and ensures to engage with all stakeholders to ensure that all the necessary infrastructure, traffic management, road safety and pre-planning arrangements are in place so as this vital investment in schools and our children’s future can be expedited and delivered on schedule”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor William Aird. This was unanimously agreed.

Notice of Motion No: 69/2015

Councillor Noel Tuohy proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That the Council calls on the Department of Social Protection to automatically offer a mobile alarm system to all our citizens as they reach old age pension and or free travel age”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Department of Social Protection in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 70/2015

Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That this Council agree to send a deputation to Mr. Alan Kelly, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Community & Local Government to discuss funding for the new County Library and for the deputation to include the Cathaoirleach of Laois County Council, Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald and to invite Minister Charles Flanagan, Deputy Sean Fleming, Deputy Brian Stanley & Senator John Whelan”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly. Councillor Mary Sweeney proposed that Ms. Bernie Foran, A/County Librarian also be included in the deputation. It was agreed that a letter issue to Minister Kelly in this regard.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
**DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
AFFAIRS**