

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON
THE 28TH OF NOVEMBER 2022 IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE**

PRESENT:

Councillor	Thomasina Connell In The Chair		
Councillors	James Kelly	John King	
	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	
	P.J. Kelly	Barry Walsh	
	Ben Brennan	Ollie Clooney	

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.

129. VOTES OF SYMPATHIES

On the proposition of the Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the Members unanimously passed a vote of sympathy to the Quigley family, Rockdale, Portlaoise on the recent death of Ms. Catherine Quigley.

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the Members unanimously passed a vote of sympathy to the Daly family, Fossey Upper, Timahoe on the recent death of Ms. Kathleen Daly.

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.

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 John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously passed a vote of sympathy to the O' Shea family, Balladine, Abbeyleix on the recent death of Mr. Kevin O' Shea.

130. VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

The Members unanimously passed a vote of congratulations to the Portarlinton Leisure Centre on winning the best Leisure Centre in Ireland recently.

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly, the Members unanimously passed a vote of congratulations to Mr. Niall O' Sheil Flemming from Camross on winning two gold medals at the Violin Society of America's 24th International competition in Anaheim, Belgium recently.

The Chief Executive and Directors of Services also requested that they be associated with the vote of congratulations and best wishes on these wonderful awards.

131. MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON THE 24TH OF OCTOBER 2022

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the minutes of the October monthly meeting of Laois County Council held on the 24th of October 2022 were confirmed as circulated.

132. MINUTES OF THE STATUTORY BUDGET MEETING HELD ON THE 7TH OF NOVEMBER 2022

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor John King, the minutes of the Statutory Budget Meeting held on the 7th of November 2022 were confirmed as circulated.

133. REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 17TH OF OCTOBER 2022

On the proposition of Councillor Padraig Fleming seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed the report on CPG meeting held on the 17th of October 2022 as circulated.

134. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2022

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh, the Members unanimously agreed the report on the Municipal District Meetings held in September & October 2022.

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

(i) LEASE OF PREMISES COMPRISING 0.80 HECTARES AT ÁRAS EOGHAN COMMUNITY CENTRE, O' MOORE PLACE, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Thomasina Connell, the Members unanimously agreed to the lease of premises comprising 0.80 hectares at Áras Eoghan Community Centre, O' Moore Place,

Portlaoise in the townland of Maryborough for a period of 25 years to Laois Community & Enterprise Development Company, T/A Laois Partnership Company for a consideration of €100.00 per annum.

(ii) DISPOSAL OF 0.0129 HECTARES OF LAND AT NEW ROAD, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Thomasina Connell, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.0129 hectares of land at New Road, Portlaoise in the townland of Kylekiproe for a consideration of €500.00.

136. PROPOSED LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL CEMETERY BYE-LAWS 2022

The Members were circulated with a copy of the draft Laois County Council Cemetery Bye-Laws 2022 which Members were also briefed at their respective Municipal District Meetings in September 2022.

On the proposition of Councillor Pádraig Fleming seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the draft Laois County Council Cemetery Bye-Laws 2022 as circulated.

137. NOMINATION OF THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTATIVES TO THE LAOIS LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

NOMINATION OF PAULA PHELAN REPRESENTING THE HEALTH SERVICES EXECUTIVE

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the Members unanimously agreed to the nomination of Paula Phelan representing the Health Services Executive to the Laois Community Development Committee.

NOMINATION OF PETER O' NEILL REPRESENTING THE LAOIS PARTNERSHIP COMPANY

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh, the Members unanimously agreed to the nomination of Peter O' Neill representing the Laois Partnership Company to the Laois Community Development Committee.

138. CONSIDERATION OF CIVIC RECEPTION TO MR. TEDDY FENNELLY AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP ON THE 21ST OF NOVEMBER 2022.

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley, the Members agreed to accord a Civic Reception to Mr. Teddy Fennelly as recommended by the Corporate Policy Group on the 21st of November 2022.

139. MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2022

The monthly management report for October/November 2022 was circulated and the Directors of Service responded to the various queries raised.

140. PRESENTATION BY LAOIS COMHAIRLE NA NÓG

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the members of Laois Comhairle nan Óg who delivered a presentation on their activities to date. The Members of Laois County Council congratulated them on their work programme.

141. TRAINING & CONFERENCES

It was noted that there is no forthcoming training and conferences for the remainder of this year.

142. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- (i) Correspondence from the Department of Social Protection dated October 20th 2022 in response to Notice of Motion No: 46/2022
- (ii) Correspondence from Donegal County Council dated October 20th 2022 in relation to turf cutting
- (iii) Correspondence from Cork County Council dated October 24th 2022 in relation to the movement of materials of waste.
- (iv) Correspondence from Offaly County Council dated October 26th 2022 in relation to the difficulties faced by emergency medical technicians
- (v) Correspondence from Wicklow County Council dated November 8th 2022 in relation to the Government addressing the case of C.J. Gaffney and the MV Mary Kate through the European Maritime Fisheries Fund
- (vi) Correspondence from Monaghan County Council dated November 9th 2022 in relation to deferring the introduction of a concrete/block levy for the foreseeable future
- (vii) Correspondence from Monaghan County Council dated November 9th 2022 in relation to the fitting of solar panels fitted to homes for the pensioners and retired.

- (viii) Correspondence from Sligo County Council dated November 11th 2022 in relation to a review of the numbers of doctors and nurses being trained annually
- (ix) Correspondence from Sligo County Council dated November 11th 2022 in relation to all new buildings having a changing place facility for people with disabilities
- (x) Correspondence from Sligo County Council dated November 11th 2022 in relation to the Jobseekers Allowance
- (xi) Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine dated November 1st 2022 in response to Notice of Motion No: 45/2022
- (xii) Correspondence from the Office of the Planning Regulator dated November 14th 2022 in response to Notice of Motion No: 54/2022

143. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 57/2022

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council call on the Minister for Social Protection, Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D., to fully reinstate all Community Welfare Officers (CWOs) and their clinics in County Laois following the recent reduction in local services”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised that correspondence would issue to the Minister for Social Protection in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 58/2022

Councillor James Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council write to the Minister of State with responsibility for Financial Services Credit Unions and Insurance, Mr. Sean Fleming, T.D. requesting that the Government set up a state initiative to make insurance available to households located on flood plains which commercial insurers have refused cover”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley. The Members were advised that correspondence would issue to Mr. Sean Fleming, T.D., Minister of State with responsibility for Financial Services Credit Unions and Insurance in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 59/2022

Councillors Aidan Mullins, Ben Brennan, James Kelly, Caroline Dwane Stanley, Aisling Moran & Noel Tuohy proposed the following Notice of Motion:

"That Laois County Council address the concerns raised by Physical Impairment Ireland (PII), the Disabled Persons Organisation, around the barriers and difficulties people with physical impairments face when using footpaths and disabled parking bays etc"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh. The Members were advised that Laois County Council endeavours to maintain public infrastructure to a standard that provides access for all users. Any issues being experienced by physically impaired members of the public can be reported to the Council for attention.

Notice of Motion No: 60/2022

Councillor Thomasina Connell proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

"That Laois County Council erect Communication Boards for use by Children and Adults with additional sensory needs in playgrounds and public parks throughout County Laois"

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird. The Members were advised that the Sport & Leisure Office have liaised with the HSE regarding the format for Communication Boards and are currently seeking quotations with a view to installing boards in all play spaces in early 2023.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
CORPORATE AFFAIRS