

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

**PRESENT:** Councillor Conor Bergin In The Chair

Councillors James Kelly John King  
Seamus McDonald Ollie Clooney  
Willie Aird John Joe Fennelly  
Paschal McEvoy Caroline Dwane Stanley  
Noel Tuohy Catherine Fitzgerald  
Thomasina Connell Aidan Mullins  
Padraig Fleming Ben Brennan  
P.J. Kelly Barry Walsh  
Paddy Bracken

**APOLOGIES:** 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.

**75. PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING CATHAOIRLEACH**

Mr. John Mulholland, Chief Executive made a formal presentation to Councillor Conr Bergin, the outgoing Cathaoirleach of a bound book of the minutes of meetings together with a photo album containing photographs of various events held during the year. Mr. John Mulholland, Chief Executive, on behalf of the Management and Staff thanked Councillor Bergin for his assistance during his term as Cathaoirleach of Laois County Council.

The Members individually and collectively also thanked the outgoing Cathaoirleach, Councillor Conor Bergin for all his assistance during his term as Cathaoirleach of Laois County Council. Councillor Bergin thanked the Chief Executive & Staff of Laois County Council and also his fellow elected Members for their kind words.

**76. ELECTION OF CATHAOIRLEACH**

It was proposed by Councillor Willie Aird and seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh:

***“That Councillor Thomasina Connell be appointed Cathaoirleach for the coming year”***

It was proposed by Councillor Aidan Mullins and seconded by Councillor James Kelly:

***“That Councillor Ben Brennan be appointed Cathaoirleach for the coming year”***

A Roll Call Vote was taken which resulted as follows:

COUNCILLOR		FOR COUNCILLOR CONNELL	FOR COUNCILLOR BRENNAN
FIRST NAME	SURNAME		
William	AIRD	✓	
Conor	BERGIN	✓	
Paddy	BRACKEN	✓	
Ben	BRENNAN		✓
Ollie	CLOONEY	✓	
Thomasina	CONNELL	✓	
Caroline	DWANE STANLEY		✓
John Joe	FENNELLY	✓	
Catherine	FITZGERALD	✓	
Padraig	FLEMING	✓	
James	KELLY		✓
John	KING	✓	
Seamus	MCDONALD	✓	
Paschal	MCEVOY	✓	
Aisling	MORAN		Absent
P.J.	KELLY	✓	
Aidan	MULLINS		✓
Noel	TUOHY		✓
Barry	WALSH	✓	

Total number of Votes 13 votes in favour of Councillor Thomasina Connell and 5 votes in favour of Councillor Ben Brennan with one Member absent. Councillor Thomasina Connell having been elected Cathaoirleach, thanked her proposer and seconder and all her colleagues who supported her and she then took the Chair. The Chief Executive, Mr. John Mulholland, on behalf of the Management and Staff at Áras an Chontae extended warm congratulations to Councillor Connell on this very proud and historical occasion for Councillor Connell and her family.

#### **77. ELECTION OF LEAS-CHATHAOIRLEACH**

It was proposed by Councillor Conor Bergin and seconded by Barry Walsh:

***“That Councillor P.J. Kelly be appointed Leas-Cathaoirleach for the coming year”***

It was proposed by Councillor Ben Brennan and seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy:

***“That Councillor James Kelly be appointed Leas-Cathaoirleach for the coming year”***

A Roll Call Vote was taken which resulted as follows:

COUNCILLOR		FOR COUNCILLOR KELLY (P.J.)	FOR COUNCILLOR KELLY (JAMES)
FIRST NAME	SURNAME		
William	AIRD	✓	
Conor	BERGIN	✓	
Paddy	BRACKEN	✓	
Ben	BRENNAN		✓
Ollie	CLOONEY	✓	
Thomasina	CONNELL	✓	
Caroline	DWANE STANLEY		✓
John Joe	FENNELLY	✓	
Catherine	FITZGERALD	✓	
Padraig	FLEMING	✓	
James	KELLY		✓
John	KING	✓	
Seamus	MCDONALD	✓	
Paschal	MCEVOY	✓	
Aisling	MORAN		Absent
P.J.	KELLY	✓	
Aidan	MULLINS		✓
Noel	TUOHY		✓
Barry	WALSH	✓	

Total number of Votes 13 votes in favour of Councillor P.J. Kelly, 5 votes in favour of Councillor James Kelly with one member absent.

Councillor P.J. Kelly having been elected Leas-Cathaoirleach, thanked his proposer and seconder and all his colleagues who supported him.

#### **78. Election of Chairs Designate to the Strategic Policy Committees:**

##### **(i) Transport, Environment & Emergency Services**

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald, the Members unanimously agreed that Councillor John Joe Fennelly be elected the Chair of the Transport, Environment & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee.

##### **(ii) Housing, Regeneration & Planning**

On the proposition of Councillor Aidan Mullins seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy, the Members unanimously agreed that Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley be elected the Chair of the Housing, Regeneration & Planning Strategic Policy Committee.

##### **(iii) Enterprise, Economic Development & Tourism**

On the proposition of Councillor Barry Walsh seconded by Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously agreed that Councillor Conor Bergin be elected the Chair of the Enterprise, Economic Development & Tourism Strategic Policy Committee.

**(iv) Climate Action & Community**

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald seconded by Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously agreed that Councillor Padraig Fleming be elected the Chair of the Climate Action & Community Strategic Policy Committee.

**78. DRAFT SCHEDULE OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL MEETINGS JULY 2021 - JUNE 2022 IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS**

It was agreed that the draft schedule of Laois County Council meetings for July 2022 to June 2023 would be circulated.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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