

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN  
ARAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE, ON THE 30<sup>TH</sup> OF APRIL 2018**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Messers John Mulholland, Chief Executive, Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services, Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services & Ms. Michelle McCormack, Executive Secretary.

**VOTE OF SYMPATHY**

The Cathaoirleach, Councillor Padraig Fleming proposed a vote of sympathy to the Lodge family on the recent death of Councillor Jerry Lodge. In doing so, he proposed that the meeting be adjourned as a mark of respect to the late Councillor Lodge. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald.

The Members individually and collectively extended sympathies to Jerry's family, friends and colleagues and in particular the community of Portlaoise. Councillor Lodge started his public life when he was first elected to Portlaoise Town Commission in June 1967. He was elected to Laois County Council on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 1974 representing the Portlaoise Area and was elected at every Local Election after that which was testament to his commitment to his electorate. Jerry was Cathaoirleach of Laois County Council from 1994-1995.

Jerry was a life long member of the Fianna Fáil party and also contested a number of general elections in the 1980's.

During his 51 years of public life, Jerry served on a number of boards including Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances, the Laois Offaly Education & Training Board, the Portlaoise Enterprise & Leisure Centres, Dunamais Arts Theatre, Audit Committee to name but a few. Jerry also worked to develop third level education for the County, job creation and was actively involved in campaigning for the retention of services at Portlaoise hospital.

Close to his heart, Jerry worked tirelessly with the Portlaoise Tidy Towns Committee of which he was Chair and was committed and dedicated to the enhancement of Portlaoise which he worked many hours with the committee and especially with his late colleague, Ms. Kathleen O' Brien.

The Chief Executive also extended his sympathy to the family on behalf of all the staff of Laois County Council and joined in paying tribute to the late Councillor Lodge. The Cathaoirleach expressed thanks to everyone for their kind words. A minutes silence was then held.

It was agreed that the meeting be re-convened on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 2018

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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