

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN  
ARAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE, ON THE 29<sup>TH</sup> OF JANUARY 2018**

<b><u>PRESENT:</u></b>	<b>Councillor</b> <b>Padraig Fleming</b>	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
	Jerry Lodge	John Moran
	Caroline Dwane Stanley	

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Ben Brennan

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**1. VOTE OF SYMPATHIES**

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Mr. Padraig Fleming, the Members unanimously passed a vote of sympathy to the Lalor family on the recent death of Mr. Michéal Lalor, Cardtown, Camross, Co. Laois, son of former Member of Laois County Council, Mr. Michael Lalor

On the proposition of Cathaoirleach, Mr. Padraig Fleming, the Members unanimously passed a vote of sympathy to the O' Carroll family on the recent death of Mr. John O' Carroll, Seskin South, Lisdowney, Kilkenny, brother of Mr. Tom O' Carroll, Laois County Council Water Services

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Mr. Padraig Fleming, the Members unanimously passed a vote of sympathy to the Stapleton family on the recent death of Mr. Eddie Stapleton, brother in law of Councillor Ben Brennan

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach Mr. Padraig Fleming, the Members unanimously passed a vote of sympathy to the Buggy family on the recent death of Mr. Dominic Buggy of Dromagh, Crettyard, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Mr. Padraig Fleming, the Members unanimously passed a vote of sympathy to the Kealy family on the recent death of Mr. Liam Kealy, Aughanure, Ballylinan, Co. Laois.

**2. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 18<sup>TH</sup> OF DECEMBER 2017**

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Minutes of the December meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

It was noted that Mr. Trevor O' Callagahn is the new Chief Executive Officer of the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group and it was unanimously agreed on the proposition of Councillor James Kelly and seconded by Councillor William Aird that Mr. O' Callaghan be invited to meet the Members of Laois County Council to discuss the H.S.E's future plans for the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise.

**3. REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 11<sup>th</sup> OF DECEMBER 2017**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the report on the CPG meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2017 was confirmed as circulated.

Councillor Mullins enquired as to the up to date position regarding the Board of Portarlinton Leisure Centre. It was agreed that the matter be reviewed for further consideration by the Members at a future meeting of Laois County Council.

**4. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN DECEMBER 2017**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor John King, the reports on the Municipal District Meetings held in December 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

**5. REPORT ON STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD IN DECEMBER 2017**

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor John Joe Fenelly, the reports on the Strategic Policy Committee Meetings held in December 2017 were confirmed as circulated.

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

**(i) DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 45 ROSSDARRAGH GLEN, RATHEVAN, PORTLAOISE**

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanely, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 45 Rossdarragh Glen, Rathevan, Portlaoise, Co. Laois for a consideration of €1.00

**(ii) DISPOSAL FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 16 GLENKEEN PARK, THE FAIRGREEN, PORTLAOISE**

On the proposition of Councillor Jerry Lodge seconded by Councillor William Aird, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 16 Glenkeen Park, the Fairgreen, Portlaoise, Co. Laois in the townland of Clonreher for a consideration of €1.00

**(iii) DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 20 CANAL COURT, PORTARLINGTON, CO. LAOIS**

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 20 Canal Court, Portarlington, Co. Laois for a consideration of €1.00

**(iv) DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 1 BROCKLEY PARK, STRADBALLY, CO. LAOIS.**

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 1 Brockley Park, Stradbally, Co. Laois for a consideration of €1.00

**7. PART VIII OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 AS AMENDED IN RESPECT OF 8 HOUSES AT NEW ROAD/SHANNON STREET, MOUNTRATH**

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously agreed to the proposed Part VIII of the Local Government Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 as amended in respect of 8 houses at New Road/Shannon Street, Mountrath. The Members were briefed on the proposed development by Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services which involves the demolition of an existing two-storey dwelling at the Shannon Street frontage and the construction of 8 no. replacement dwellings.

**8. TAKING IN CHARGE OF RAHIN WOOD, BALLYLINAN**

On the proposition of Councillor Pdraig Fleming seconded by Councillor John Moran, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of Rahin Wood, Ballylinan.

**9. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT & HOUSING UPDATE**

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

Mr. Michael Rainey, S.E.O., Housing delivered a presentation on Housing and briefed Members on the following:

- The Social Housing Programme 2015-2017
- Local Authority Construction Programme 2015-2017
- Local Authority Acquisition Programme 2015-2017
- Approved Housing Body Delivery 2015-2017
- Housing Assistance Payment
- Housing Improvement Works
- Relets and Maintenance
- Housing Presentations
- The Traveller Accommodation Programme
- Urban Regeneration
- The Rebuilding Ireland Targets for 2017-2021
- The Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

The Members complimented Mr. Rainey on his presentation and Mr. Rainey responded to the various queries raised.

The Members also wished Mr. Ian McCormack well in his post in C & E and thanked him for his input in Housing during his time as S.E.O., Housing.

**10. OFFICIAL INVITATION TO THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE 2018 NEW YORK FROM THE LAOIS ASSOCIATION NEW YORK**

The Members were advised that an invitation has been received from the County Laois Association in New York inviting the Cathaoirleach and other officials of Laois County Council to the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York. On the proposition of Councillor Jerry Lodge seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan, approval was given to same.

**11. RATIFICATION OF MS. ANN MCAULIFFE BY LAOIS PPN TO THE SOCIAL INCLUSION POSITION ON THE COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL & HERITAGE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan, the Members unanimously ratified Ms. Ann McAuliffe by Laois PPN to the Social Inclusion position on the Community, Social and Cultural & Heritage Strategic Policy Committee

**12. ADOPTION OF 2018 DRAFT SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN**

The Members were circulated with a copy of the 2018 Draft Service Delivery Plan. On the proposition of Councillor John Moran seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan, the Members confirmed the adoption of the Draft Service Delivery Plan for 2018.

**13. UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CORPORATE PLAN 2014-2019**

The Members were circulated with a copy of the update on the Corporate Plan 2014-2019. On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor John Moran, the Members noted the update on the implementation of the Corporate Plan 2014-2019 as presented.

**14. SECTION 174 (1)(A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 AS AMENDED – ANNUAL ETHICS DECLARATIONS**

The Members noted Section 174(1)(b) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended which requires that the issue of the Annual Declaration of Interests be brought to the attention of the members at the next meeting of the Local Authority after their issue.

**15. CONSIDERATION OF CIVIC RECEPTION TO HONOUR THE GOLD SCOTT MEDAL RECIPIENTS**

On the proposition of Councillor Noel Tuohy and seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, it was agreed to accord a Civic Reception to honour the Gold Scott Medal recipients for exceptional courage and bravery (namely Garda Michael Clerkin, R.I.P., Detective Garda Thomas F Peters, Detective Garda Ben Thornton, Garda Gerry Bohan & Sergeant James Cannon).

**16. RATIFICATION OF CONFERENCES/ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING**

The Members were circulated with the list of conferences/training for ratification and forthcoming conferences/training which was agreed.

**17. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- (i) Correspondence from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform dated the 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2017 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 45 & 49
- (ii) Correspondence from the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris, T.D. dated the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 2018 in relation to the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise
- (iii) Correspondence from the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 2018 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 50/2017
- (iv) Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Justice & Equality dated the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2018 & the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2018 in relation to Notice of Motion No:52/2017
- (v) Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Justice & Equality dated the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2018 & the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2018 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 48/2017
- (vi) Correspondence from the Office of the Minister for Education and Skills dated the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2018 in relation to Notice of

**18. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**Notice of Motion No: 05/2018**

Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council call on the H.S.E. and the Department of Health to put in place a plan to upgrade and extend Abbeyleix Hospital”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Brendan Phelan. It was agreed that a letter issue to both the H.S.E and the Department of Health in this regard.

**Notice of Motion No: 01/2018**

Councillor Willie Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council seek clarification from the Department of Justice & Equality on the Data Controller role for the new systems”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Moran. The Chief Executive indicated that Laois County Council are engaging with the Department of Justice & Equality at present in relation to this matter.

**Notice of Motion No: 02/2018**

Councillor Noel Tuohy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council recognise and indeed compliment the tremendous and life saving work being done by groups such as Pieta House and fully support the effort to encourage Pieta House to open an outreach Centre for the growing population of Portlaoise and Laois”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley.

**Notice of Motion No: 03/2018**

Councillors Catherine Fitzgerald, Paddy Bracken, Jerry Lodge, John Joe Fennelly, Padraig Fleming, Paschal McEvoy & Seamus McDonald proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council request the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government to immediately address the unjust and unfair threshold for people trying to access social housing”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney. The Members were advised that a letter would issue to the Department in this regard and that the Minister be requested to meet a deputation to discuss the matter in more detail.

**Notice of Motion No: 04/2018**

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

*“That Laois County Council ask the Government to adapt legislation to allow for the naming and shaming of litter louts and also that the cost of litter fines be increased from €150.00 in line with the quantity of litter dumped. If €150.00 is the fine for a dropping of a piece of paper, cigarette butt or a piece of chewing gum then the fine should be more for a bag of litter. The scale of dumping since New Year has been appalling”*

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Department in this regard.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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