

**MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN
ARAS AN CHONTAE, PORTLAOISE, ON THE 30TH OF JULY 2018**

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

**113. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING OF
LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 25TH OF JUNE 2018**

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy, the Minutes of the June meeting held on the 25th of June 2018 were confirmed as circulated.

**114. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE A.G.M. OF LAOIS COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD ON THE 25TH OF JUNE 2018**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy, the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 25th of June 2018 were confirmed as circulated.

**115. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 17TH OF JULY 2018**

On the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy, the Minutes of the July meeting held on the 17th of July 2018 were confirmed as circulated.

116. REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 20TH OF JUNE 2018

On the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the report on the CPG meeting held on the 20th of June 2018 was confirmed as circulated.

117. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN MAY 2018

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed that this item be deferred to the September meeting of Laois County Council.

118. FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

The Members were advised that notification had been received from the Fianna Fáil Party on the 24th of July 2018 nominating Ms. Pauline Madigan, 76 Hawthorn Drive, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. to fill the casual vacancy on Laois County Council following the death of Councillor Jerry Lodge, R.I.P.

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, Ms. Pauline Madigan was unanimously co-opted to Laois County Council to fill the casual vacancy on Laois County Council.

The Members individually and collectively welcomed Councillor Madigan to the Council and the Chief Executive, Mr. John Mulholland on behalf of the Management & Staff of Laois County Council also welcomed Councillor Madigan to the Council. In doing so, the Chief Executive paid tribute to the late Councillor Jerry Lodge for his time with Laois County Council. Councillor Madigan thanked her proposer and seconder, her family and friends and the Fianna Fáil party and subsequently took her seat on Laois County Council. The Members assured Councillor Madigan of their support to her going forward.

119. Nomination of Member of Laois County Council to the LCDC (Local Community Development Committee)

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously nominated Councillor Pauline Madigan to the Local Community Development Committee

120. Nomination of Member to the Transportation, Environment & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously nominated Councillor Pauline Madigan to the Transportation, Environment & Emergency Services SPC

121. Nomination of Member to Irish Public Bodies

On the proposition of Councillor Seamus McDonald seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously nominated Councillor John Joe Fennelly to Irish Public Bodies

122. Nomination of Member to Laois & Offaly Education & Training Board

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald, the Members unanimously nominated Councillor Padraig Fleming to the Laois & Offaly Education & Training Board

123. Nomination of Member to Laois Arts Theatre Company Ltd

On the proposition of Councillor Padraig Fleming seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously nominated Councillor Pauline Madigan to the Laois Arts Theatre Company Ltd

124. Nomination of Member to the Portlaoise Leisure Centre

On the proposition of Councillor Padraig Fleming seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald, the Members unanimously nominated Councillor Pauline Madigan to the Portlaoise Leisure Centre

125. Nomination of Member to the Portlaoise Enterprise Centre

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken the Members unanimously nominated Councillor Pauline Madigan to the Portlaoise Enterprise Centre

126. Nomination of Member to the Audit Committee

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously nominated Councillor Pauline Madigan to the Audit Committee

127. Nomination of Member to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously nominated Councillor Pauline Madigan to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

128. Nomination of Member to the Laois Third Level Initiative

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously nominated Councillor Pauline Madigan to the Laois Third Level Initiative

129. Nomination of Member to the Placenames Committee

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously nominated Councillor Pauline Madigan to the Placenames Committee

130. PART VIII OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 AS AMENDED IN RESPECT OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF 22 HOUSES AT BALLYMORRIS, PORTARLINGTON

The Members were circulated with the Planning Report on the proposed construction of 22 houses at Ballymorris, Portarlington. It was noted that the scheme comprises 22 units and support infrastructure including access road, public lighting, public footpaths, public and private open space, foul and surface water drainage and portable water supply. On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins, the Members unanimously agreed to the proposed development.

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

(i) Disposal of land at Togher, Portlaoise Co. Laois

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of land at Togher, Portlaoise, Co. Laois in the townland of Togher, Portlaoise, comprising 5 hectares for a consideration of €925,000

(ii) Lease of the Dunamais Theatre & Centre for the Arts, Church Street, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

On the proposition of Councillor Noel Tuohy seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the lease of the Dunamais Theatre & Centre for the Arts, Church Street, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, in the townland of Maryborough by way of a Licence Agreement for a period of 4 years and 11 months for a consideration of €1.00 per annum

(iii) Lease of land at Rathmoyle, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed to the lease of land at Rathmoyle, Abbeyleix in the townland of Rathmoyle, comprising of 1.6942 hectares for a period of three years for a consideration of €1.00 per annum with the condition that the lease be extendable at the end of the three years for a further period of 25 years.

132. PRESENTATION BY MS. AIDEEN ROCHE ON BEHALF OF LAOIS PARTNERHSIP AND THE LAOIS INTEGRATION NETWORK

Ms. Aideen Roche gave a presentation on behalf of Laois Partnership and the Laois Integration Network on the Laois Integration Strategy 2018-2023. Ms. Roche outlined the strategy development, public consultations, needs and challenges together with the specific actions for Local Authorities in the National Integration Strategy.

It was noted that the Strategy will be launched in October 2018. A questionnaire was also circulated to the Members for completion. The Members thanked Ms. Roche for a very informative presentation.

133. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR JUNE 2018

Mr. John Mulholland, Chief Executive briefed the meeting on this matter and the report for July 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.

Councillor John King, Cathaoirleach conveyed his best wishes and congratulations to Mr. Martin Keane on his appointment as Group Chairman of Glanbia and wished him every success in his new role.

134. RATIFICATION OF CONFERENCES/ATTENDANCE AT TRAINING

The Members were circulated with the list of conferences/training for ratification and forthcoming conferences/training which was ratified on the proposal of Councillor John Joe Fennelly and seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald.

135. FIX DATE FOR LOCAL PROPERTY TAX MEETING

It was agreed that the Local Property Tax Meeting would take place on the 10th of September 2018 at 11.00 a.m.

102. CORRESPONDENCE

The following item of correspondence was circulated to the Members which had been received since the last meeting:-

- (i) Correspondence dated the 30th of June 2018 the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform in relation to Notice of Motion No: 11/2018. Councillor Willie Aird expressed his dissatisfaction with the response
- (ii) Correspondence dated the 13th of July 2018 from the Minister for Health in relation to Notice of Motion No: 14/2018
- (iii) Email correspondence from Councillor James Kelly in relation to formally scheduling an agenda item for a full Council meeting to facilitate the members of Laois County Council to give due consideration to candidates seeking a nomination for the upcoming presidential election in October 2018.

This proposal was formally seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan. Councillor Kelly requested that Laois County Council meet within 7 days after the announcement of the election.

A query arose in relation to postal votes and the financial burden associated with the requirement of a medical certificate. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government in relation to same.

103. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 15/2018

Councillor Willie Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council be informed of the social housing delivery targets achieved to date in Laois under the ‘Rebuilding Ireland’ Programme”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney. The Members were advised as follows:-

Under the Rebuilding Ireland programme 2018 to 2021 Laois County Council has been tasked with delivering 627 social housing units. The target for 2018 is 76 units and it is expected that LCC will far exceed that target this year. Already in 2018 a total of 72 units have been delivered and a further 52 properties are at contract stage and will be delivered by the end of 2018.

The breakdown is as follows -

1. Construction - 33
2. Acquisitions - 17
3. Approved Housing Bodies – 22 Delivered and a further 57 at nomination/final contract stage.

Approved Housing Body	Location	No. Of Units	Status
Oaklee Housing Association	Mountrath	11	Delivered
Cluid Housing Association	Stradbally	6	Delivered
Cluid Housing association	Mountmellick	2	Delivered
Oaklee Housing Association	Durrow	1	Delivered
Oaklee Housing Association	Abbeyleix	1	Delivered
Tuath Housing Association	Mountmellick	1	Delivered

Tuath Housing Association	Portarlington	39	Nomination Stage
Cluid Housing Association	Portlaoise	5	Nomination Stage
Clanmil Housing Association	Portlaoise	8	Contract Stage
Tuath Housing Association	Portarlington/Graiguecullen/Rathdowney	3	Contract Stage
iCare Housing	Portlaoise	2	Contract Stage

In addition, Mr. Mulholland advised that it is intended to hold an in-committee meeting for the members in relation to Re-Building Ireland and the Housing Programme at the end of August. This was agreed by Members.

Notice of Motion No: 16/2018

Councillor Ben Brennan proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council invite a representative from Irish Water to come down and explain why the pressure is being turned down and in some cases turned off completely in the Graiguecullen/Portarlington Municipal District Area”

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

Notice of Motion No: 17/2018

Councillor Tom Mulhall proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council give an update on their plan for river maintenance in the County this coming year”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. The Members were advised of the following for the three Municipal Districts

- (1) **The Borris in Ossory Mountmellick MD** commenced vegetation removal works in February 2018 on both the Owenass and Murglash rivers in Cloncannon/Clonaheen area with similar works on the river Barrow and the Nore proposed to commence in August/September subject to final agreement with Inland Fisheries Ireland and National Parks and Wildlife. This work along with bank reinstatement works have required appropriate assessments, screening reports and walk over surveys which have been undertaken for various locations on the River Nore north east of Borris in Ossory (for a distance of 5.7 KM), the River Barrow at Rathcoffey, Reary valley and Irishtown to the Convent bridge Mountmellick town. Bank reinstatement works have already been undertaken at Barkmills, Skerry, Rathcoffey and Tinnahinch. Bridge repairs/maintenance works are being carried out at Tinnahinch, Skerry, Water Castle and Cannon Delaney Bridge (ongoing).

- (2) **The Portarlington/Graigecullen MD** has completed appropriate assessment screening reports and walk over surveys for proposed works at various locations on the River Barrow north of Dunrally Bridge to the M7 Motorway, the Stradbally River between Stradbally and its confluence with the river Barrow and the Douglas river from its confluence with the River Barrow to the R-429. Vegetation removal works commenced on the Stradbally river in February 2018 with similar works on the river Barrow and the Douglas river due to commence on August the 7th subject to final agreement with Inland Fisheries Ireland and National Parks and Wildlife.
- (3) **The Portlaoise Municipal District** has completed appropriate assessment screening reports and walk over surveys for various works on approximately 8km of the River Nore in South Laois. A Natura Impact Assessment is also being undertaken for the reopening of one full arch, the removal of silt/debris and carrying out minor repairs to Newbridge at Cloncough, Shanahoe. Clearing of flow restrictions by undertaking the removal of vegetation, dead wood and tree pruning works on the River Nore have continued in 2018 following consultation with Inland Fisheries Ireland and National Parks and Wildlife.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
CORPORATE AFFAIRS