

**MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ARAS AN CHONTAE,
PORTLAOISE, ON THE 29th of JULY 2019**

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Councillor	Willie Aird	In the Chair
	Councillors	John King	Paddy Bracken
		Ben Brennan	Caroline Dwane Stanley
		John Joe Fennelly	Padraig Fleming
		Ollie Clooney	James Kelly
		Paschal McEvoy	Aisling Moran
		Tom Mulhall	Aidan Mullins
		Conor Bergin	Mary Sweeney
		Noel Tuohy	Seamus McDonald
		Thomasina Connell	Catherine Fitzgerald

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

123. VOTES OF SYMPATHY

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously extended a vote of sympathy to the following:-

- Ms. Mary Rankin, Human Resources Department on the death of her father, Mr. Des Rankin, Annebrook, Stradbally Road, Portlaoise
- Mr. Derek Lewis, Traffic Warden with Laois County Council on the death of his wife, Geraldine, The Heath, Portlaoise.
- Ms. Caroline Sheppard, Water Services Department on the death of her mother, Mrs. Mary Butler, 35 Greenview, Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny
- Mr. Michael Drennan, Water Services on the death of his brother, Mr. Kevin Drennan, 18 Gleann na Glaise, Ballyroan.
- The Foyle Family, Aghaboe, Ballacolla on the death of Mr. Matt Foyle, former employee of Laois County Council
- The Costello Family, Portlaoise Road, Mountrath on the death of Mr. Tom Costello, former employee of Laois County Council
- The Laffey Family, Irishtown, Mountmellick on the death of Mr. Ted Laffey, former Principal of Scoil Bhride, Knockmay, Portlaoise
- The Fitzpatrick Family, Ballinlough, Ballyroan on the death of Mr. John Fitzpatrick

The Chief Executive on behalf of the Management & Staff associated themselves with the votes of sympathies extended.

124. VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

On the proposition of Councillor William Aird, the Members unanimously extended a vote of congratulations to the following:-

- The Laois Hurling Team on their success in the McDonagh Cup.

- Ms. Ava O' Connor on her success in the European Youth Olympics Championships in Baku.
- Mr. Shane Lowry on winning the Irish Open.
- Mr. Fergal Conroy on his recent success in his appointment as Civil Defence Officer with Roscommon County Council.
- St. Abban's on the Club's recent success in the National League.
- Ms. Margaret Saunders, former employee with Laois County Council on her retirement and wishing her every success in her new business Open Farm in Castletown.

125. VOTE OF WELL WISHES

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the Members unanimously extended their good wishes for a speedy recovery to former Taoiseach and Laois/Offaly T.D., Mr. Brian Cowen.

126. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 24TH OF JUNE 2019

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Minutes of the June meeting held on the 24th of June 2019 were confirmed as circulated.

127. REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 17TH OF JUNE 2019

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney, the report on the CPG meeting held on the 17th of June was confirmed as circulated.

128. DISPOSAL OF SITE NO. 5 COMPRISING 0.32 HECTARES AT PORTARLINGTON BUSINESS PARK

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of Site No. 5 comprising 0.32 hectares at Portarlington Business Park in the townland of Cooltederry by way of 500 year lease for a consideration of €60,000

129. DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 23 MOOREVILLE, RATHDOWNEY, CO. LAOIS.

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 23 Moreville, Rathdowney in the townland of Knockheel for a consideration of €1.00.

130. TWO YEAR REVIEW OF THE LAOIS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017-2023 (PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15(2) OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 AS AMENDED)

Ms. Angela McEvoy, Senior Planner briefed the Members on this item and referred to report which has been circulated and which outlines the progress achieved in securing the objectives of the Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023. The requirement under the above legislation to carry out a review of the progress achieved in implementing the Housing Strategy is also included in this report.

The review of the County Development Plan will commence in Q. 4 of 2019 as a result of the adoption of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midland Region on the 28th of June 2019.

Councillor Aidan Mullins requested an update on the feasibility study on the Portarlington Relief Road and Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services indicated that he would follow up on this with the Department of Transport.

131. ADOPTION OF SPEED LIMITS 2019

Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services briefed the members on the Speed Limit Review for 2019. The Members were advised that Laois County Council has conducted a public consultation process on the proposed review of the special speed limit bye-laws across the County in conjunction with the national review.

The Members were also briefed in detail at their respective Municipal District meetings on the various changes on the national route that affects their areas.

Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services responded to the various queries raised by the Members.

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald, the Members unanimously agreed to adopt the Laois County Council Road Traffic (Speed Limit)(County of Laois) Bye Laws 2019 (with the consent of TII in relation to national roads) and that the Byelaws shall come into effect on the 15th of October 2019.

132. ADOPTION OF THE LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2018

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Annual Report for 2018. On the proposition of Councillor Mary Sweeney seconded by Councillor Oliver Clooney, the Members unanimously adopted the Annual Report for 2018.

133. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT S.P.C. SCHEME 2019-2024

The Members were circulated with the draft S.P.C. Scheme 2019-2024. Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services briefed the members on the scheme and advised that one of the main changes in this draft scheme at 8.4 is the requirement to comply with the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015 – Transparency Code which was not included in the last scheme.

Councillor Aidan Mullins referred to No. 7 of the scheme and in particular to the chairing of the relevant S.P.C.s with regard to ensuring that the various political parties be treated fairly and be equitably represented on same.

Councillor Aidan Mullins proposed that legal advice be sought on this and this proposal was seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley. A roll call vote was taken which resulted as follows:

A Roll Call Vote was taken which resulted as follows:

COUNCILLOR		FOR (legal advice)	AGAINST (legal advice)	ABSENT
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		✓	
Tom	MULHALL		✓	
Aidan	MULLINS	✓		
Mary	SWEENEY		✓	
Noel	TUOHY	✓		

Total Number of Votes 5 votes in favour of Councillor Aidan Mullin's proposal and 14 against.

The Chief Executive, Mr. John Mulholland advised that the Chairs of the SPCs were assigned at the AGM of Laois County Council in accordance with the grouping system.

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor John King, the draft SPC scheme for 2019-2024 was agreed.

134. CONSIDERATION OF CIVIC RECEPTION TO PORTLAOISE MUSICAL SOCIETY (AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP ON THE 22ND OF JULY 2019)

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the according of a civic reception to the Portlaoise Musical Society (as recommended by the Corporate Policy Group on the 22nd of July) in honour of winning the Best Musical in Ireland for 2019.

135. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT JULY 2019

Mr. John Mulholland, Chief Executive briefed the meeting on this matter and the report for July 2019 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.

136. FIX DATE IN SEPTEMBER FOR LOCAL PROPERTY TAX MEETING – NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF SETTING A LOCAL ADJUSTMENT FACTOR (PROPOSED DATE THE 6TH OF SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 2.30 P.M.)

The Members unanimously agreed that the Local Property Tax Meeting would take place on the 6th of September 2019 at 2.30 p.m.

137. PRESENTATION BY MR. SEAN QUIRKE, MANAGER OF PORTARLINGTON LEISURE CENTRE

Mr. Sean Quirke, Manager of Portarlington Leisure Centre gave a very comprehensive presentation on the services on offer to the public at Portarlington Leisure Centre and also gave details on customer numbers, budgetary control and achievements to date. The Members complimented Mr. Quirke on his excellent management of the Centre to date.

138. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 47/2019

Councillor James Padraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council contact the Minister for Agriculture to regularise the pricing structure to ensure that beef retail prices are distributed in fixed percentages to the entire supply chain to ensure that each of the links are protected from adverse pricing and also to ensure the sustainability of each of the links to ensure the protection of farmers and the prices which they get for their product”

This Motion was seconded by Councillor Tom Mulhall. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Minister for Agriculture in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 48/2019

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council call on the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris, T.D., to investigate the possibility of having all cervical checks linked to hospitals in Ireland instead of outsourcing and putting a price on women’s lives in light of the recent glitch where a significant number of women did not receive their Cervical Check smear test results”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Minister for Health in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 49/2019

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That this Council call on the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government to review the RBI Homeloan with a view to making it available to applicants who are not first time buyers”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 50/2019

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:

“That this Council call on the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government to increase the rent payments available under HAP”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor William Aird. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 51/2019

Councillor William Aird proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Social Protection, Ms. Regina Doherty, T.D., to revoke Section 179/181 and 302 (B) of the Social Welfare Consolidation Act, 2005 whereby parent(s) who are full time carers of children with severe disabilities are means tested”

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

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
CORPORATE AFFAIRS