

**MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY  
2021 IN THE DUNAMAISE ARTS CENTRE & THEATRE & BY MICROSOFT TEAMS**

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

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Mary Sweeney

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Messers John Mulholland, Chief Executive, Donal Brennan, Director of Services, Simon Walton, Director of Services, Mr. Joe Delaney, Director of Services, Mr. Gerry Murphy, Head of Finance, Ms. Irene Delaney, A.O., & Ms. Michelle McCormack, S.O.

**106. VOTE OF SYMPATHY**

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously extended a vote of sympathy to the Rohan family on the recent death of former Member of Laois County Council, Mr. Marty Rohan. In accordance with the Laois County Council's bereavement protocols, the meeting was adjourned for a period of fifteen minutes and 1 minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect to Mr. Rohan.

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously extended a vote of sympathy to the Delaney family on the recent death of Mrs. Hannah Delaney, wife of former Member of Laois County Council, Mr. Bill Delaney (R.I.P.) and sister of former Member of Laois County Council, Ms. Geraldine Delaney.

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously extended a vote of sympathy to the Mitchell family on the recent death of Ms. Bernadette Mitchell, River Court, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor Padraig Fleming, the Members unanimously extended a vote of sympathy to the Dunne family on the recent death of Mr. Raymond Dunne, 4F The Swan, Laois/Kilkenny.

On the proposition of Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously extended a vote of sympathy to the Shiels family on the recent death of Ms. Ann Shiels, Lower Rossmore, Carlow.

On the proposition of Councillor John King, the Members unanimously extended a vote of sympathy to the Gaffney family on the recent death of Mr. Frank Gaffney, Monamandra, Errill, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of Councillor John King, the Members unanimously extended a vote of sympathy to the Doyle Family on the recent death of Mr. Joe Doyle, Kyle, Rathdowney, Co. Laois.

**107. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 28<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE 2021**

On the proposition of Councillor Seamus McDonald seconded by Councillor Thomasina Connell, the Minutes of the June monthly meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 were confirmed as circulated.

**108. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE A.G.M. OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 28<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE 2021**

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor John King, the Minutes of the A.G.M. of Laois County Council held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 were confirmed as circulated

**109. REPORT ON C.P.G. MEETING HELD ON THE 21<sup>ST</sup> OF JUNE 2021**

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney, the report on the CPG meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2021 was confirmed as circulated.

**110. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN JUNE 2021**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor John King, the report on Municipal District Meeting held in June 2021 were confirmed as circulated.

**111. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 in respect of DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD COMPRISING 0.01273 HECTARES AT 42 GLEANN NA GLAISE, BALLYROAN**

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold comprising 0.01273 hectares at 42 Gleann na Glaise, Ballyroan in the townland of Ballyroan for a consideration of €1.00.

**112. LOCAL PROPERTY TAX – NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION OF SETTING A LOCAL ADJUSTMENT FACTOR**

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Conor Bergin, it was unanimously agreed that the this matter be deferred to an in-committee for further discussion this afternoon.

**113. AGREE DATE FOR SPECIAL MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT LAOIS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027 AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> STAGE OF CONSULTATION**

On the proposition of Councillor Thomasina Connell seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran, the Members unanimously agreed that the special meeting would take place in the Dunamais Arts Centre & Theatre on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September at 11.00 a.m.

**114. NOMINATION OF THE FOLLOWING THREE REPRESENTATIVES TO THE LAOIS LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**(i) MR. JOHN OXLEY REPRESENTING THE LAOIS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY REPRESENTATIVE)**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed to the nomination of Mr. John Oxley representing the Laois Public Participation Network (Community & Voluntary Representative) to the Laois Local Community Development Committee

**(ii) MS. NINA HORAN REPRESENTING THE LAOIS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY REPRESENTATIVE)**

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously agreed to the nomination of Ms. Nina Horan representing the Laois Public Participation Network (Community & Voluntary Representative)

**(iii) MS. JOAN BOLGER REPRESENTING THE LAOIS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK (SOCIAL INCLUSION REPRESENTATIVE)**

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney, the Members unanimously agreed to the nomination of Ms. Joan Bolger representing the Laois Public Participation Network (Social Inclusion Representative)

**115. MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR JUNE 2021**

The Members were circulated with the Monthly Management Report for June 2021 and the Director of Services responded to the various queries raised.

**116. CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was circulated which had been received since the last meeting:-

- (i) Acknowledgment from the Minister for Health dated the 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2021 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 36/2021
- (ii) Correspondence from Limerick City & County Council dated the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2021 in relation to the campaign of Epilepsy Ireland

**117. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**Notice of Motion No: 37/2021**

Councillor Noel Tuohy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council erect a monument or designate an area in remembrance of those who lost their lives from the Covid-19 pandemic”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly. The Members were advised that at this stage Laois County Council do not have information regarding any Central Government initiative or coordination of initiatives in relation to the matter raised.

Laois County Council have had informal approaches from organisations such as the Nurse a Tree initiative, who seek to honour those who have worked in our health services over this time by planting some trees. As the Councillors may be aware, the Council is exploring the *Creating Woodlands on Public Lands Initiative* and examining land parcels within our ownership which may be planted with native trees. One possibility to address the Notice of Motion may be to dedicate an area of such planting in honour of those who have died from Covid-19 while also remembering those who cared for people who suffered from Covid-19. As these planting projects are advanced, or as any national advice becomes available the Council will be kept informed of progress in the matter.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 38/2021**

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That Laois County Council contact Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) seeking an update on the proposed N80 bypass for Mountmellick, further to the feasibility study which was carried out in 2020”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken. It was agreed that a letter would issue in this regard to Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 39/2021**

Councillor Paschal McEvoy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

***“That this Council call on NPHEA to issue an urgent recommendation to Government in relation to the planning and hosting of festivals and events attracting large numbers of people”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Caroline Padraig Fleming. It was agreed that a letter issue to NPHEA in this regard.

#### **Notice of Motion No: 40/2021**

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

***“That Laois County Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage, Mr. Darragh O’ Brien, T.D asking him to review the decision made recently to exclude maintenance payments made by social housing applicants from the assessment process for social housing eligibility”***

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird. It was agreed that a letter issue to the Minister in this regard.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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