

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD
ON THE 25TH OF NOVEMBER 2019**

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

176. VOTES OF SYMPATHY

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor William Aird, the members unanimously agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to Ms. Fionnuala Daly, Senior Social Worker on the recent death of her father, Mr. James Daly, Tower View, Kildare Town.

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor William Aird, the members unanimously agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to Mr. Damien Dollard on the death of his wife, Ms. Nicola Dollard and also sister to Ms. Michelle Redmond, Finance Department in Laois County Council.

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor William Aird, the members unanimously agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to the Daly family on the recent death of Ms. Bernie Daly, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor William Aird, the members unanimously agreed to extend a vote of sympathy to the Delaney family on the death of Mr. Loughlin Delaney, Newpark, Portlaoise.

**176. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF
LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 21ST OF OCTOBER 2019**

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the minutes of the October meeting of Laois County Council held on the 21st of October 2019

177. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE STATUTORY BUDGET MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 11TH OF NOVEMBER 2019

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed to the minutes of the Statutory Budget Meeting of Laois County Council held on the 11th of November 2019.

178. REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 14TH OF OCTOBER 2019

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the report on CPG meeting held on the 14th of October 2019

179. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN OCTOBER 2019

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously agreed to the minutes of the reports on Municipal District Meetings held in October 2019.

180. PART VIII OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 IN RESPECT OF 6 SINGLE STOREY HOUSES AT BALLYCULLENBEG, MOUNTMELICK, CO. LAOIS.

Councillor Thomasina Connell proposed the Part VIII of the Local Government Planning & Development Regulations 2001 in respect of 6 single storey houses at Ballycullenbeg, Mountmellick, Co. Laois. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney. Councillor Paddy Bracken proposed not to proceed with the proposed Part VIII and this was seconded by Councillor Seamus McDonald. A roll call vote was taken on Councillor Paddy Bracken's proposal not to proceed with the proposed construction as follows:-

COUNCILLOR		FOR COUNCILLOR BRACKEN'S PROPOSAL	AGAINST COUNCILLOR BRACKEN'S PROPOSAL
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 7 votes in favour of Councillor Bracken's proposal and 12 against. Therefore, it was agreed to proceed with the proposed construction as presented.

181. DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 43 BELADD LOWER, STRADBALLY ROAD, PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 43 Beladd Lower, Stradbally Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois in the townland of Maryborough East for a consideration of €300.00

182. DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 78 COLLEGE AVENUE, MOUNTMELICK, CO. LAOIS.

On the proposition of Councillor Seamus McDonald seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold interest at 78 College Avenue, Mountmellick, Co. Laois in the townland of Townsparks for a consideration of €300.00

183. TAKING IN CHARGE OF WHITETHORN GROVE, BALLYLINAN

On the proposition of Councillor Padraig Fleming seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of Whitethorn Grove, Ballylinan.

184. TAKING IN CHARGE OF HIGHFIELD MANOR, GRAIGEUCULLEN

On the proposition of Councillor Padraig Fleming seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of Highfield Manor, Graiguecullen.

185. TAKING IN CHARGE OF HYNDS SQUARE, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, it was agreed to defer this matter to the January meeting of Laois County Council pending clarification on some issues.

186. PURCHASE OF LANDS AT STRADBALLY ROAD, PORTLAOISE AND LOAN SANCTION

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Thomasina Connell, the Members unanimously agreed to the approval in respect of the raising of a loan in the amount of €1.4 million towards the purchase of a 26 acre (approx) site at Stradbally Road, Portlaoise and that Laois County Council seek formal sanction from the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government in respect of the loan.

186. LAOIS INTEGRATION STRATEGY 2019-2023

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Laois Integration Strategy 2019-2023 which was noted by the Members.

187. CONSIDERATION OF CIVIC RECEPTIONS (AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CORPORATE POLICY GROUP ON THE 18TH OF NOVEMBER 2019)

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald seconded by Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously agreed to host a Civic Reception to Scoil Chroist Rí.

On the proposition of Councillor Tom Mulhall seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed to host a Civic Reception to the Management & Staff of Portarlinton Leisure Centre

188. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2019-2024

The Members were circulated with a copy of the draft Corporate Plan for 2019-2024 which was proposed by Councillor Seamus McDonald & seconded by Councillor John King.

189. LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT NOVEMBER 2019

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

190. PRESENTATION BY VISION 85

The Members welcomed Mr. Eamon O' Callaghan, Vision 85 who gave a presentation to the Members on his business and how digital hubs benefit the local economy.

The Cathaoirleach and Members thanked Mr. O' Callaghan for a very informative presentation and congratulated him on his successful business and wished him every success going forward.

191. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- (i) Correspondence dated the 29th of October 2019 from Transport Infrastructure Ireland in relation to Notice of Motion No: 56/2019
- (ii) Correspondence dated the 6th of November 2019 from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government in relation to Notice of Motion No: 60/2019
- (iii) Correspondence dated the 7th of November 2019 from the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport in relation to Notice of Motion No: 61/2019
- (iv) Correspondence dated the 7th of November 2019 from the Department of Finance & Public Expenditure & Reform in relation to Notice of Motion No: 63/2019
- (v) Correspondence dated the 13th of November 2019 from Transport Infrastructure Ireland in relation to Notice of Motion No: 62/2019

192. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 65/2019

Councillor Mary Sweeney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council provide an update on their application for funding under the wifi4EU initiative”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly. The Members were advised that Laois County Council have secured 4 number WIFI 4 EU Vouchers which will be rolled out over the next 18 months. One voucher will be provided in each of the 3 Municipal area and one in the Portlaoise Urban area.

Notice of Motion No: 66/2019

Councillor Pdraig Fleming proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council write to the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government, Mr. Eoghan Murphy, T.D., to streamline the rules so that when a person gets HAP they are automatically included on the Transfer List for Social Housing by the Council or an Approved Housing Body in the Local Authority area except where a person does not wish to get a transfer”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that a letter would issue to the Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 67/2019

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Justice & Equality, Mr. Charles Flanagan, T.D., the Minister for Children & Youth Affairs, Ms. Katherine Zappone & the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris, T.D., asking them to acknowledge PARENTAL ALIENATION as a form of psychological, emotional and physical abuse and to call on all professionals and statutory agencies to respond to this form of child abuse like they would for all other forms”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor James Kelly. The Members were advised that a letter would issue to the Minister for Justice & Equality in this regard

Notice of Motion No: 68/2019

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Communications, Climate Action & Environment, Mr. Richard Bruton, T.D. to stop the rollout of 5G Fifth Generation Cellular Technology across the Country – we as a Council and public representatives have a moral and ethical responsibility to protect the health and wellbeing of our citizens – there is a reason why insurance companies will not insure 5G – this needs to be investigated further by an independent company with no prospect of financial gain”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley. The Members were advised that a letter issue to the Minister for Communications, Climate Action & Environment in this regard. It was also agreed that this be sent to each Local Authority.

Notice of Motion No: 69/2019

Councillor Noel Tuohy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council contact and seek a written response in advance of the next general election which is due early in 2020 from the Minister for Health, Simon Harris, all the leaders of the main political party groupings and their respective health spokespersons, to seek a commitment to retaining the 24/7 service and status of the A&E Unit at Portlaoise General Hospital, as this has been called into question once again by senior HSE management”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley. The Members were advised that a letter would issue to the Minister for Health, Mr. Simon Harris in this regard.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
CORPORATE AFFAIRS