

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE
29th OF NOVEMBER 2021 IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE**

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

152. VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

On the proposition of Councillor Conor Bergin, Cathaoirleach, the Members unanimously agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to Mr. P.J. Kelly, Assistant Health & Safety Officer with Laois County Council on his recent appointment as incoming Chair of Laois GAA.

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the members unanimously agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to Abbeyleix on their recent success in winning the title of 'Ireland's Tidiest Small Town' for 2021. Congratulations was extended to the committee and all the hard-working volunteers who contributed to the success of Abbeyleix on the national stage.

153. VOTES OF SYMPATHY

On the proposition of Councillor Conor Bergin, Cathaoirleach, the Members unanimously agreed to pass a vote of sympathy to the following families who recently lost a loved one:

The Fitzpatrick Family, Bloom's House, Ballyhuppahan, Rosenallis, Co. Laois on the death of Mr. Paddy Fitzpatrick, former employee of Laois County Council

The Barry Family, Sandhill Road, Ballybunion, Kerry on the death of Mrs. Helen Barry, mother of Ms. Ruth Barry, Veterinary Inspector with Laois County Council

The Payne Family, Mountmellick on the death of Mr. Oliver Payne, former Mountmellick Town Councillor

The Strain Family, Omagh on the death of Mr. Eddie Strain, father of Mr. Cormac Strain, IT Department, Laois County Council.

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the Members unanimously agreed to pass a vote of sympathy to the Paisley Family, St. John's Square, Portlaoise on the recent death of Christy, former employee of Laois County Council.

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously agreed to pass a vote of sympathy on the death of Mr. Billy Garrigan, Portlaoise.

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the Members unanimously agreed to pass a vote of sympathy to John Lalor & family, Timahoe on the death of their nephew, Mr. Cormac Lalor.

On the proposition of Councillor Pádraig Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed to pass a vote of sympathy to the Wheatley family, Doonane, Crettyard on the death of Mr. Eamon Wheatley.

The meeting was adjourned for a period of fifteen minutes as a mark of respect to the deceased.

153. PUBLIC HEALTH PROTOCOLS

The Members were circulated with correspondence from the Chief Executive in relation to the importance of adhering to Covid-19 protocols in Áras an Chontae to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all those in attendance at meetings including the importance of the diligent completion of the Covid-19 Self Declaration Form.

154. LAUNCH OF LAOIS CALENDAR 2022

Councillor Conor Bergin, Cathaoirleach advised that the Laois Calendar for 2022 was launched this week in collaboration with the Laois Chamber of Commerce illustrating the beautiful towns and villages in the County proceeds of which will go to the local SOSAD organisation.

155. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 18TH OF OCTOBER 2021

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the Minutes of the October monthly meeting held on the 18th of October 2021 were confirmed.

The Members enquired as to the forthcoming TII meeting which Mr. Simon Walton, Director of Services confirmed was scheduled for the 13th of January 2021 at 11.00 a.m. via Microsoft teams.

156. REPORT ON C.P.G. MEETINGS HELD ON THE 11TH OF OCTOBER 2021 & THE 1ST OF NOVEMBER 2021

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the report on the CPG meetings held on the 11th of October and the 1st of November 2021 was confirmed as circulated.

157. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN OCTOBER 2021

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the reports on the Municipal District meetings held in October 2021 were noted.

158. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 in respect of (documentation enclosed):

DISPOSAL OF SITE NO. 8 COMPRISING OF 0.10 HECTARES AT CASTLETOWN UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of Site No. 8 comprising of 0.10 hectares at Castletown in the townland of Churchfield for a consideration of €30,000.

DISPOSAL OF 0.120 HECTARES OF LAND AT NEW ROAD, PORTLAOISE UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.120 hectares of land at New Road, Portlaoise in the townland of Kylekiproe for a consideration of €100.00.

159. Laois County Council Indicative Capital Programme 2022 to 2024

The Members were circulated with the details of the Indicative Capital Programme for 2022-2024 totalling €145.87 million including the list of projects. Mr. Gerry Murphy briefed the Members on the various areas and responded to the queries raised.

160. Section 85 Agreement with Kildare County Council – Leinster Bridges Rehabilitation Contract 2022

The Members were circulated with details on the above and Mr. Simon Walton advised the Members that one bridge had been identified for rehabilitation works to be carried out which is located at the M7 Ballydavis Interchange. It is recommended that Laois County Council enter into a Section 85 Agreement with Kildare County Council whereby Kildare County Council will administer and oversee the development and implementation of a works contract enabling the completion of necessary repairs to the M7 Ballydavis Interchange Bridge, all part of the Leinster Bridges Rehabilitation Contract 2022.

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the Section 85 Agreement with Kildare County Council – Leinster Bridges Rehabilitation Contract 2022.

161. Draft Litter Management Plan 2022-2024

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Draft Litter Management Plan 2022-2024. Mr. Simon Walton, Director of Services briefed the members on the draft Plan and advised that there will be a public consultation period from the 9th of December to the 20th of January and submissions resulting from this will be considered with the final Litter Management Plan 2022-2024 being put before the Elected Members for adoption in February 2022. On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed to the Draft Litter Management Plan 2022-2024 as circulated.

162. SPC Policy Recommendation on allocation on Local Improvement scheme Funding

On the proposition of Councillor Pdraig Fleming seconded by Councillor Willie Aird, the Members unanimously agreed to the SPC Policy Recommendation on the allocation on Local Improvement Scheme funding.

163. Recommendation from Housing Briefing held in committee on 28th October “That Laois County Council formally approves that derelict and vacant properties acquired by CPO or by agreement be disposed of to the market where the local demand for social housing has been satisfied”

On the proposition of Councillor Aisling Moran seconded by Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley, the Members unanimously agreed that Laois County Council formally approves that derelict and vacant properties acquired by CPO or by agreement be disposed of to the market where the local demand for social housing has been satisfied.

164. Agree a date for Council meeting to discuss the 3rd CE Report on the proposed material amendments and the adoption of the Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027

It was agreed that this item be considered at the December monthly meeting of Laois County Council.

165. Agree a date for an in-committee meeting to discuss the 3rd CE report on the proposed material amendments and adoption of the Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027

It was agreed that an in-committee meeting be scheduled for the 6th of December 2021 at 2.00 p.m. via Microsoft teams.

166. Establishment of a Task Force for Inward Investment & Jobs Creation

The Chief Executive outlined the background to the proposal and the Members welcomed the initiative. The Chief Executive undertook to revert to the Council with a further recommendation regarding same.

167. Monthly Management Report for October/November 2021

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Monthly Management Report for October/November 2021 and the Directors of Services responded to the various queries raised by the Members.

168. Ratification of Conferences & Training

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the Members unanimously agreed to the listing of conferences and training as circulated.

169. Correspondence

Correspondence dated the 4th of November 2021 from the Department of Social Protection, the 11th of November from Deputy Charles Flanagan, the 8th of November 2021 from Deputy Brian Stanley and the 9th of November from Minister Sean Fleming in relation to the Community Welfare Service in Mountmellick was circulated.

170. Notice of Motions

Notice of Motion No: 41/2021

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

“That this Council contact the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly, T.D., to request the HSE to put in place as soon as possible a Senior Dietitian for the Adult Diabetic Clinic at Portlaoise hospital”

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

Notice of Motion No: 42/2021

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council call on the Minister for Health, Mr. Stephen Donnelly, T.D., to instruct the HSE to cover the cost of the nurses annual registration fee in light of their hard work throughout the pandemic”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Thomasina Connell. The Members were advised that a letter issue to the Minister for Health in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 43/2021

Councillor P.J. Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council consider the cleaning down of the exterior of County Hall”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy. The Members were advised that in 2021 some small trial pieces of wall in County Hall were cleaned using a range of technique to examine the suitability of techniques to clean the building in the future. The results of this are under examination pending a future tender for the complete works.

Notice of Motion No: 44/2021

Councillor P.J. Kelly proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council support the use of traditional Laois manufactured stone on house buildings or entrances to properties within our own County”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King and agreed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
CORPORATE AFFAIRS