

**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 19TH
OF OCTOBER 2020 IN THE DUNAMAISE ARTS CENTRE & THEATRE**

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES: Councillor Tom Mulhall

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.

108. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 28TH OF SEPTEMBER 2020

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to the minutes of the September meeting of Laois County Council held on the 28th of September 2020

109. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ADJOURNED SEPTEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 5TH OF OCTOBER 2020

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to the minutes of the adjourned September meeting of Laois County Council held on the 5th of October 2020

110. REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 21ST OF SEPTEMBER 2020

On the proposition of Councillor Conor Bergin seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed to the report on CPG meeting held on the 21st of September 2020.

111. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN SEPTEMBER 2020

On the proposition of Councillor Conor Bergin seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed to the report on the Borris-in-Ossory/Mountmellick Municipal District Meeting held in September 2020.

112. AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to the amendment to Standing Orders to incorporate the requirements of the Standard Operating Guidance – Attendance at Council Meetings by Elected Members & Council Officials/Others (Media & Public) and attendance at other meetings or Council Buildings issued on the 25th of September 2020 as follows:-

The maximum duration of a meeting of Laois County Council shall be 115 minutes (as measured) from the notified start of the meeting. It shall not be in order for the Cathaoirleach to accept any motion (whether in relation to urgent business or otherwise) which seeks to extend the duration of the meeting.

113. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 IN RESPECT OF 15 BIANCONI WAY, RIDGE ROAD, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Noel Tuohy, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold at 15 Bianconi Way, Ridge Road, Portlaoise, in the townland of Borris Little, Maryborough East for a consideration of €1.00.

114. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 IN RESPECT OF DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD AT 10 LOWER BELADD, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor Noel Tuohy seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold at 10 Lower Beladd, Portlaoise in the townland of Maryborough East for a consideration of €300.00

115. NOMINATION OF A REPLACEMENT ELECTED MEMBER TO THE JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE

On the proposition of Councillor Aidan Mullins seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously agreed to the nomination of Councillor James Kelly to the Joint Policing Committee following the resignation of Councillor Aidan Mullins.

116. NOMINATION OF MR. MARTIN CROWLEY, CHAMBERS IRELAND TO THE LAOIS LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy Mullins seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the nomination of Mr. Martin Crowley, Chambers Ireland to the Laois Local Community Development Committee.

117. APPROVAL OF OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION IN RESPECT OF €8 MILLION FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST OF DECEMBER 2021 TO FINANCE WORKING CAPITAL

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously agreed to the overdraft accommodation in respect of €8 million for the year ending 31st of December 2021 to finance working capital.

118. APPROVAL OF OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION IN RESPECT OF €15 MILLION FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST OF DECEMBER 2021 TO FACILITATE ANY TIMING ISSUES REGARDING THE PAMENT OF PAYROLL AND PENSIONS FOR MYPAY

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the overdraft accommodation in respect of €15 million for the year ending 31st of December 2021 to facilitate any timing issues regarding the payment of payroll and pensions for MyPay.

119. ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT 2019

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously agreed the adoption of the annual report for 2019 as circulated.

120. AGREEMENT TO THE SCHEDULE OF WORKSHOPS AND FORMAL MEETINGS TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE DRAFT COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027

The Members were circulated with a schedule of dates for workshops and formal meetings to consider and adopt the draft County Development Plan 2021-2027 and this was unanimously agreed. Mr. Joe Delaney, Director of Services responded to the various queries raised.

121. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT DIGITAL STRATEGY FOR COUNTY LAOIS – PRESENTATION BY MS. ANGELA MCEVOY, SENIOR PLANNER

Ms. Angela McEvoy, Senior Planner delivered a comprehensive presentation on the draft digital strategy for County Laois.

Mr. Pat Grassick, Head of Information Systems was also in attendance. Responses were provided to the various queries raised.

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor Thomasina Connell, the Members unanimously agreed to the adoption of the draft Digital Strategy for County Laois as presented.

122. CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Catherine Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach brought the following items of correspondence to the attention of the Members which had been received since the last meeting:

- (i) Correspondence received from the Department of Health dated the 16th of October 2020 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 26/20 regarding access to dental care for medical card patients
- (ii) Correspondence received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage dated the 16th of October 2020 in relation to Notice of Motion No: 15 & 17/2020 regarding income thresholds and rent caps for housing qualification

123. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 32/2020

Councillor Conor Bergin proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council supports the introduction of lift-sharing services in Ireland and calls on the Minister for Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D., to advance proposals for same as soon as possible”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Thomasina Connell. It was agreed that the matter would be referred to the Minister for Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D.

Notice of Motion No: 33/2020

Councillor Aisling Moran proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That Laois County Council contact Mr. Sean Fleming, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Finance requesting that legislation be put in place to ensure that private life assurance companies do not use this pandemic as a reason to increase or add extra premiums and penalties to new or existing policies as was done in the 80s & 90s in relation to the Aids virus. People were classed as a higher risk if they had a test for HIV even if the test was negative”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird. It was agreed that the matter would be referred to the Minister of State at the Department of Finance, Mr. Sean Fleming

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED:

CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED:

**DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
CORPORATE AFFAIRS**