

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 28TH OF
SEPTEMBER 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

APOLOGIES:	Councillor	Conor Bergin	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.

87. VOTES OF SYMPATHY

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach proposed the following Votes of Sympathies:-

- (i) The Conroy Family, Derrycloney, Mountmellick on the recent death of Mr. David Conroy, former Revenue Collector with Laois County Council and Mountmellick Town Councillor
- (ii) The McVeigh Family, Strawhall Villas, Athy Road, Carlow on the recent death of Mrs. Loretta McVeigh, mother of Mr. Philip McVeigh, Senior Executive Engineer
- (iii) The Mullins Family, Block Road, Portlaoise on the recent death of Mr. Sean Mullins, former Senior Executive Engineer with Laois County Council
- (iv) The O' Neill Family, Tooreenasillane, Skibereen, Cork on the recent death of Mr. David O' Neill, brother of Ms. Kathleen Dunne, Housing Department, Laois County Council

88. NOTE OF THANKS

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach read a note which had been received from the Mulhall family expressing thanks to Laois County Council Members for their support over the past eight weeks and for all the good wishes expressed to Tom.

89. VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald and seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to extend a vote of congratulations to the Portlaoise Senior Ladies Football Team on winning the Laois Ladies Senior Football Championship in O' Moore Park on Sunday, 27th of September 2020.

90. STANDARD OPERATING GUIDANCE

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach referred to the Standard Operating Guidance for attendance at Council meetings by Elected Members & Council Officials/Others (Media & Public) and attendance at other meetings or Council Buildings issued by the LGMA, AILG & LAMA on the 25th of September 2020. A copy of the new guidance was circulated to the Members for their information and

on the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously agreed that the time of attendance at Council meetings be kept to a minimum and within a recommended maximum of 1 hour and 55 minutes. It was agreed that Standing Orders would be amended to reflect this amendment.

91. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING HELD ON THE 27TH OF JULY 2020

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to the minutes of the July meeting held on the 27th of July 2020. Councillor James Kelly raised Notice of Motion No: 19/2020 regarding the reduction in funding for the Laois Local Authority Veterinary Service which provides food safety. Mr. Simon Walton confirmed that the existing Service Level Agreement between Laois County Council and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland has now been extended to the 31st of December 2020.

92. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON THE 11TH OF AUGUST 2020

On the proposition of Councillor Seamus McDonald seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously agreed to the minutes of the special meeting held on the 11th of August 2020.

93. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON THE 4TH OF SEPTEMBER 2020

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the minutes of the special meeting held on the 4th of September 2020.

94. REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 20TH OF JULY 2020

On the proposition of Councillor Paddy Bracken seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney, the Members unanimously agreed to the report on the CPG meeting held on the 20th of July 2020.

94. REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 31ST OF AUGUST 2020

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed to the report on the CPG meeting held on the 31st of August 2020.

95. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN JULY 2020

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to the report on the July meeting of the Portlaoise Municipal District.

96. PART VIII OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 IN RESPECT OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT MOOREVILLE, RATHDOWNEY

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney, the Members unanimously agreed to the Part VII of the Local Government Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 in respect of the construction of a residential development of 3 houses and 4 apartments, all in a single terrace at a site of 0.10 hectares at Mooreville, Rathdowney.

97. PART VIII OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 IN RESPECT OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NO. 3 BED SINGLE STOERY RURAL DWELLING AT COOLROE, BALLYBRITTAS

On the proposition of Councillor Pdraig Fleming seconded by Councillor Thomasina Connell, the Members unanimously agreed to the Part VIII of the Local Government Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 in respect of the construction of 1 No. 3 bed single storey rural dwelling with associated siteworks at Coolroe, Ballybrittas.

98. PART VIII OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 IN RESPECT OF THE NEW CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND AT HEYWOOD DEMENSE, BALLINAKILL

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Thomasina Connell, the Members unanimously agreed to the Part VIII of the Local Government Planning & Development Regulations, 2001 in respect of the construction of a new children's playground, the widening and re-use of the existing vehicular entrance from Heywood Demense Road, a new roadway within the site, car parking with 51 spaces, turning circle, bus set down area, lighting and associated site development works and the construction of a multipurpose sports court, perimeter fencing, outdoor lighting and landscaped open space/wildflower meadow at Heywood Demense, Ballinakill.

Councillor Aird proposed that equipment for children with disabilities be provided at the new playground.

99. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 IN RESPECT OF 0.0264 HECTARES OF LAND AT BALLYFARRELL, CLONASLEE , CO. LAOIS.

On the proposition of Councillor Seamus McDonald seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.0264 hectares of land at Ballyfarrell, Clonaslee in the townland of Ballyfarrell by way of land swop for a consideration of €1.00

100. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 IN RESPECT OF 0.337 HECTARES OF LAND AT OLDTOWN, CULLAHILL, CO. LAOIS.

On the proposition of Councillor Ollie Clooney seconded by Councillor John King, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.337 hectares of land at Oldtown Cullahill, Co. Laois in the townland of Oldtown for a consideration of €10,000.00

101. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 IN RESPECT OF 0.10 HECTARES OF LAND (SITE NO.7) AT CASTLETOWN, CO. LAOIS.

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.10 hectares of land (Site No. 7) at Castletown, Co. Laois in the townland of Churchfield for a consideration of €30,000.00

102. TAKING IN CHARGE OF GRAIGAVERN LODGE, BALLYBRITTAS

On the proposition of Councillor Aidan Mullins seconded by Councillor Aisling Moran, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of Graigavern Lodge, Ballybrittas, Co. Laois.

Mr. Simon Walton, Director of Services advised that there was one submission following the public consultation which was not reflected in the report circulated to the Members. The ownership of the Pumping Station is yet to be clarified.

103. UPDATE ON PORTLAOISE & PORTARLINGTON LEISURE CENTRES – PRESENTATION BY MR. DONAL BRENNAN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES

Mr. Donal Brennan, Director of Services delivered a presentation to the members on the Portlaoise & Portarlington Leisure Centres. It was noted that the Council is committed to the re-opening of facilities at Portlaoise Leisure Centre and that both Leisure Centres will operate under a common structure. These new structures to re-establish operations at Portlaoise Leisure Centre are currently under discussion with Laois County Council’s legal advisors. The works carried out and underway at Portlaoise Leisure Centre were outlined and also grant details for the retiling and remedial works at Portarlington Leisure Centre.

The Members welcomed the update.

104. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald seconded by Councillor Mary Sweeney, the Members unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting until Monday, October 5th at 11.00 a.m. in the Dunamais Arts Centre & Theatre to consider the remainder of the agenda. This was necessary to adhere to the new guidance outlining that meetings are to be kept to a minimum with a recommended maximum of 1 hour and 55 minutes. It was further agreed that in the event that the full agenda is not considered within 1 hour and 55 minutes that an adjourned meeting would be held on the Monday thereafter the said meeting. It was agreed that Standing Orders would be reviewed also to reflect the new guidelines which were issued on the 25th of September 2020.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

CERTIFIED: _____
**DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
CORPORATE AFFAIRS**