

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 11<sup>TH</sup> OF  
AUGUST 2020 IN THE DUNAMAISE ARTS CENTRE & THEATRE

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Deputy Pippa Hackett, Minister for State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine & Deputy Sean Fleming, Minister for State at the Department of Finance.

Messers John Mulholland, Chief Executive, Simon Walton, Director of Services, Joe Delaney, Director of Services & Ms. Irene Delaney, A.O.,

**82. SPECIFIC COVID-RELATED MEASURES FOR COUNTY LAOIS ANNOUNCED ON THE 7<sup>TH</sup> OF AUGUST 2020**

The Members discussed the specific Covid related measures for Laois announced on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald, Cathaoirlach of Laois County Council, while acknowledging the importance of complying with all public health advice and with the measures which have been introduced, outlined a number of concerns in relation to the measures and also provided details of a number of specific questions which need to be addressed in relation to the imposition of the restrictions. The meeting was advised that these questions are currently with the Department of Health and a response to same is currently awaited.

In addition, Cllr. Fitzgerald proposed the following:

*That Laois County Council request all the relevant government departments, including the Departments of Finance, Agriculture, Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Business Enterprise and Innovation and Community and Rural Development to make all appropriate supports and measures available to Laois in order to ensure that our community is fully supported both at this time and going forward.*

The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Mary Sweeney and agreed. A lengthy and detailed discussion ensued and each of the Members present expressed their concerns regarding the impact of the measures on communities, businesses, families and those in vulnerable categories. The members called for an economic stimulus package to be introduced for the county to assist those businesses in meeting the costs associated with re-opening.

The meeting was also addressed by Deputy Pippa Hackett, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and by Deputy Sean Fleming, Minister of State at the Department of Finance.

Mr. John Mulholland, Chief Executive also circulated details of the establishment of the Tri-County Coordination Centre and outlined how it will operate. The members welcomed the establishment of the Centre.

It was also agreed that a delegation consisting of the following members seek a virtual meeting with Deputy Stephen Donnelly, Minister for Health as a matter of urgency to discuss the restrictions:

Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald,  
Councillor Conor Bergin,  
Councillor Thomasina Connell  
Councillor Ben Brennan  
Councillor Aisling Moran &  
Councillor Paschal McEvoy.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**SIGNED:**

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**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**CERTIFIED:**

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**DIRECTOR OF SERVICES  
CORPORATE AFFAIRS**