

**MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 26TH OF
JUNE 2023 IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE**

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

81. VOTES OF SYMPATHIES

The following Votes of Sympathies were agreed:

- (i) The O' Mahony family on the recent death of Mr. Gerard O'Mahony, 7 Ashgrove, Mountmellick, Co. Laois, former G.S.S. with Laois County Council
- (ii) The Lambe family on the recent death of Ms. Patricia Lambe, Ballydavis, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, mother of Mr. Joe Lambe, Information Security Officer with Laois County Council
- (i) The O' Mahoney family on the recent death of Ms. Mary O' Mahoney, Ballycarnan, Portlaoise, Co. Laois
- (ii) The O' Sullivan family on the recent death of Mr. Aiden O' Sullivan, Bracaragh, Caherdaniel, Co. Kerry
- (iii) The Jestin family on the recent death of Ms. Avril Jestin, Coote Street, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
- (iv) The Reilly family on the recent death of Ms. Bride Reilly, Rathmoyle House, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois.
- (v) The Allen family on the recent death of Mr. Victor Allen, Doon, Mountrath, Co. Laois.
- (vi) The Kealy family on the recent death of Mr. Frank Kealy, Sheffield, Portlaoise, Co. Laois
- (vii) The O' Reilly family on the recent death of Ms. Breda O' Reilly, Cappalug, Killeshin, Carlow
- (viii) The Nolan family on the recent death of Mr. Michael Nolan, Knockraha, Cork
- (ix) The O' Connor family on the recent death of Mr. James O' Connor, the Swan, Wolfhill, Co. Laois.
- (x) The Whelan family on the recent death of Ms. Theresa Whelan, 23 Coote Street, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
- (xi) The Finnegan family on the recent death of Ms. Josephine Finnegan, Cork Road, Durrow, Co. Laois.

- (xii) The Murray family on the recent death of Mr. Patrick Murray, Coolaboughlan, Clonaslee, Co. Laois.
- (xiii) The Burke family on the recent death of Ms. Mary Burke, Erkina Court, Rathdowney, Co. Laois.
- (xiv) The Sadlier family on the recent death of Ms. Mary Sadlier, Sentry Hill, Borris-in-Ossory, Co. Laois.
- (xv) The Dollard Doran family on the recent death of Mr. Ben Dollard Doran, Curraun, Clough, Co. Laois.

82. MINUTES OF THE MAY MONTHLY MEETING HELD THE 29TH OF MAY 2023

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the May meeting held on the 29th of May 2023.

83. REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 22ND OF MAY 2023

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed the report on CPG meeting held on the 22nd of May 2023.

84. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN MAY 2023

On the proposition of Councillor Paschal McEvoy by Councillor Paddy Bracken, the Members unanimously agreed the report on the Municipal District meetings held in May 2023.

85. PART VIII OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 (AS AMENDED) IN RELATION TO PARKING FACILITIES AT THE ROCK OF DUNAMASE, PORTLAOISE

The Members were circulated with the Planning Report on the proposed Part VIII proposal. On the proposition of Councillor Thomasina Connell seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the proposed development to include the following:

- (i) A maximum of 44 car parking spaces including disabled parking spaces
- (ii) 2 Bus Parking Bays
- (iii) Bicycle Stands
- (iv) Picnic Area
- (v) Provision of traffic safety measures and signage to facilitate safe access
- (vi) Landscaping.

86. PROPOSED MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION OF THE LAOIS COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027 IN RESPECT OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DORMER BUNGALOW AND NEW VEHICULAR ACCESS AND ASSOCIATED SITE DEVELOPMENT WORKS AT THE SIDE OF CONNABERRY HOUSE, OLD KNOCKMAY ROAD, PORTLAOISE, CO. LAOIS.

The Members were circulated with the Planning Report on the proposed Material Contravention of the Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027. On the proposition of

Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh, the Members unanimously agreed to the granting of planning permission for the construction of a dormer bungalow and new vehicular access and associated site development works at the side of Connaberry House.

87. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 - DISPOSAL OF 0.0344 HECTARES OF LAND AT CLONCOURSE, MOUNTRATH, CO. LAOIS .

On the proposition of Councillor James Kelly seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.0344 hectares of land at Cloncourse, Mountrath, Co. Laois in the townland of Cloncourse for a consideration of €300.00

88. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 - DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD OF LAND COMPRISING 0.35 ACRES AT BRACKLONE STREET, PORTARLINGTON

On the proposition of Councillor P.J. Kelly seconded by Councillor Aidan Mullins, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold of land comprising 0.35 acres at Bracklone Street, Portarlington in the townland of Cooltederry for a consideration of a plot of land comprising 0.056 acres and €1.00.

89. TAKING IN CHARGE OF CILL AN OIR, GRAIGCUECULLEN

On the proposition of Councillor Pdraig Fleming seconded by Councillor Ben Brennan, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of Cill an Oir, Graiguecullen

90. TAKING IN CHARGE OF DROUGHILL LAWNS, PORTARLINGTON

On the proposition of Councillor Aidan Mullins seconded by Councillor P.J. Kelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the taking in charge of Droughill Lawns, Portarlington.

91. NOMINATION OF MS. CAROLINE LYDON REPRESENTING THE LAOIS COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, T/A LAOIS PARTNERSHIP TO THE LAOIS LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

On the proposition of Councillor Ollie Clooney seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to nominate Ms. Caroline Lydon representing the Laois Community & Enterprise Development Company, T/A Laois Partnership to the Laois Local Community Development Committee.

92. NOMINATION OF MR. HARRY LALOR REPRESENTING THE IRISH FARMERS ASSOCIATION TO THE LAOIS LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

On the proposition of Councillor Willie Aird seconded by Councillor Conor Bergin, the Members unanimously agreed to nominate Mr. Harry Lalor representing the Irish Farmers Association to the Laois Local Community Development Committee.

93. CONSIDERATION OF A CIVIC RECEPTION TO MR. RONAN BRENNAN AS RECOMMENDED BY THE C.P.G. ON THE 19TH OF JUNE 2023

On the proposition of Councillor Padriag Fleming seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly, the Members unanimously agreed to accord a Civic Reception to Mr. Ronan Brennan as recommended by the C.P.G. on the 19th of June 2023.

94. ADOPTION OF THE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Annual Report 2022 and was unanimously agreed by the Members on the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Padraig Fleming.

95. MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR JUNE 2023

The Members were circulated with a copy of the Monthly Management report for June 2023. The Director of Services responded to the various queries raised by the Members.

Following a discussion on this item, it was indicated to the Members that this report would issue with the agenda.

96. TRAINING AND CONFERENCES

The Members were circulated with a copy of the conferences and training for ratification and same was agreed on the proposition of Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald seconded by Councillor John Joe Fennelly.

97. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was circulated which was received since the last meeting:-

- (i) Correspondence dated the 7th of June 2023 from the Minister of State's office in relation to illegal dumping
- (ii) Correspondence dated the 14th of June 2023 from the Secretary General in relation to accommodation for International Protection
- (iii) Correspondence dated the 22nd of June 2023 from the Department of Rural and Community Development in relation to Local Improvement Schemes
- (iv) Correspondence dated the 7th & the 14th of June 2023 from the Minister for Health in relation to Notice of Motion No: 24/2023
- (v) Correspondence dated the 6th of June 2023 from the Dyslexia Association of Ireland in relation to Notice of Motion No: 25/2023
- (vi) Correspondence dated the 8th of June 2023 from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in relation to Notice of Motion No: 27/2023
- (vii) Correspondence dated the 6th of June 2023 from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in relation to Notice of Motion No: 28/2023
- (viii) Correspondence dated the 22nd of June 2023 from Minister Sean Fleming in relation to Notice of Motion No: 28/2023
- (ix) Correspondence dated the 6th & the 30th of June 2023 from the Minister of Education in relation to Notice of Motion No: 30/2023
- (x) Correspondence dated the 20th of June 2023 from the Department of Trade & Employment in relation to Notice of Motion No: 31/2023

98. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Notice of Motion No: 32/2023

Councillors Caroline Dwane Stanley, Aidan Mullins, James Kelly, Ben Brennan, Marie Tuohy proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council contact the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage and the Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery & Reform, Mr. Paschal Donohoe and impress on them the importance and urgency for proper terms and conditions to be put in place for the retained fire fighters”

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

Notice of Motion No: 33/2023

Councillor Ollie Clooney proposed the following Notice of Motion:-

“That this Council write a letter to the management of the ESB to demand a cut in connection times for new houses and street lighting etc.”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor Willie Aird. It was agreed that correspondence would issue to the ESB in this regard.

Notice of Motion No: 34/2023

Councillor Thomasina Connell adjourned the following Notice of Motion to the July Meeting of Laois County Council

“That Laois County Council write to Minister Darragh O’ Brien T.D. at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage seeking that both the thresholds and the amount of the grant be increased for both the Housing Adaptation Grant for Older and People with a Disability”

Notice of Motion No: 35/2023

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

“That Laois County Council consider asking the well known fast food outlets in County Laois to spearhead a pilot project whereby illegally disposed of take away packaging could be traced back to customers due to the ongoing problem of litter and dumping throughout County Laois”

This Notice of Motion was seconded by Councillor John King. The Members were advised that producers of packaging have an obligation to ensure that waste is managed in accordance with Packaging Regulations. Some, if not all, of the outlets referred to in the Notice of Motion, are Members of “Repak” and have obligations under Packaging Regulations, which includes providing take-back facilities at their premises for packaging

waste. The Notice of Motion refers specifically to packaging that is taken away from the premises. The matter will be tabled as and Agenda item for the next Environment SPC Meeting with a view to scoping out the pilot project envisaged under the Motion, prior to contact with fast food outlets.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

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