

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING OF LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON THE 24TH OF
APRIL 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 Mary Sweeney Seamus McDonald	Paddy Bracken Marie Tuohy P.J. Kelly John King Paschal McEvoy Catherine Fitzgerald Ollie Clooney Aisling Moran Conor Bergin

APOLOGIES: Councillor Ben Brennan

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

52. VOTES OF SYMPATHIES

On the proposition of the Cathaoirleach, Councillor Thomasina Connell, M.C.C., the Members unanimously agreed to pass a vote of sympathy to the Browne family on the recent death of Mr. David Browne, Heathfield, Portlaoise, son of Portlaoise Station Officer, Mr. James Browne. This was also endorsed by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald & Councillor Willie Aird.

Councillor Willie Aird proposed the following Votes of Sympathies which were unanimously agreed:-

- (i) The Dunne family on the recent death of Ms. Breda Dunne, Capoley, Portlaoise, Co Laois.
- (ii) The Hickey family on the recent death of Ms. Mary Hickey, St. John's Square, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
- (iii) The Orłowski family on the recent death of Master Mateusz, Esker Hills, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
- (iv) The Lalor family on the recent death of Mr. Tom Lalor, Ballyroan Road, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois.
- (v) The Whelan family on the recent death of Ms. Sylvia Whelan, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
- (vi) The McEvoy family on the recent death of Ms. Pippy Booth, Garryduff, The Heath, Stradbally, Co. Laois. This vote of sympathy was also endorsed by Councillor Catherine Fitzgerald
- (vii) The Fitzpatrick family on the recent death of Mr. Dan Fitzpatrick, Ballydavis North, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
- (viii) The Brophy family on the recent death of Mr. Matthew Brophy, Colliers Lane, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

- (ix) The Greene family on the recent death of Mr. Michael Greene, Well Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois,

Councillor John King proposed a vote of sympathy to the O' Sullivan family on the recent death of Mr. Kieran O' Sullivan, The Showgrounds, Rathdowney, Co. Laois. This was also endorsed by Councillor James Kelly.

53. MINUTES OF THE MARCH MONTHLY MEETING HELD THE 27TH OF MARCH 2023

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Pdraig Fleming, the Members unanimously agreed the minutes of the March Meeting held on the 27th of March 2023. The further request from Councillor Moran for the provision of additional information in relation to Section 183 Notices was noted.

54. REPORT ON CPG MEETING HELD ON THE 20TH OF MARCH 2023

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney, the Members unanimously agreed the report on CPG meeting held on the 20th of March 2023.

55. REPORT ON MUNICIPAL DISTRICT MEETINGS HELD IN MARCH 2023

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor Ollie Clooney McEvoy, the Members unanimously agreed the report on the Municipal District meetings held in March 2023.

56. REPORT ON STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD IN DECEMBER 2022

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Paschal McEvoy, the Members unanimously agreed the report on Strategic Policy Committee Meetings held in December 2022.

57. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 – DISPOSAL OF 0.48 HECTARES OF LAND AT SWAN ROAD, DURROW

On the proposition of Councillor John King seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.48 hectares of land at Swan Road, Durrow in the townland of Course for a consideration of €170,000 plus V.A.T.

58. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 – DISPOSAL OF 0.0023 HECTARES OF LAND (RECTIFICATION OF BOUNDARY) AT 3 ST. FINTAN'S TERRACE, MOUNTRATH

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor James Kelly, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of 0.0023 hectares of land (rectification of boundary) at 3 St. Fintan's Terrace, Mountrath, Co. Laois in the townland of Mountrath for a consideration of €300.00.

59. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 – DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD COMPRISING 0.0071 HECTARES OF LAND AT KNOCKMAY, HEPBURN COURT, SQUASH COURT AND KINGDOM HALL, BALLYFIN ROAD, PORTLAOISE

On the proposition of Councillor Caroline Dwane Stanley seconded by Councillor Thomasina Connell, the Members unanimously agreed to the disposal of freehold comprising 0.0071 hectares of land at Knockmay, Hepburn Court, Squash Court and Kingdom Hall, Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois in the townland of Knockmay to Cluid Housing, 159-161 Sherriff Street Upper, Dublin, D01 R8NO for a consideration of €300.00.

60. DISPOSAL OF LAND UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 – LEASE OF 1.67 HECTARES OF LAND AT TULLYROE, ABBEYLEIX

On the proposition of Councillor John Joe Fennelly seconded by Councillor Barry Walsh, the Members unanimously agreed to the lease of 1.67 hectares of land at Tullyroe, Abbeyleix in the townland of Tullyroe to Laois Beekeeper's Association for a period of 20 years for a consideration of €500.00 per annum.

61. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2022

The Members were circulated with a copy of the draft Annual Report for 2022 which was noted by the Members.

62. MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR MARCH 2023

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

The Members discussed the ongoing problem of illegal dumping in our County. Serious concerns were expressed in relation to the extent of the problem, the blight such activities leaves on our landscape, the costs associated with clean ups etc., but also in relation to the deterrents currently in place for those who are fined and/or convicted of an offence in relation to same.

Following a lengthy discussion on the matter, it was agreed that the Council write to the Minister to request that a national consultation process commence to consider the issue of illegal dumping.

63. 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 Paschal McEvoy seconded by Councillor John King.

64. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- (i) Correspondence from Offaly County Council dated the 3rd of April 2023 in relation to the Eviction Ban
- (ii) Acknowledgement from the Minister O' Brien's Office, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage dated the 21st of April 2023 in relation to correspondence which issued in relation to housing matters
- (iii) Correspondence received from Mr. Brian O' Flynn, Failte Ireland dated the 12th of April 2023 in relation to the Regenerative Tourism Scheme 2023-2026 under the EU Just Transition Fund (EU JTF) – it was agreed that a briefing be held in committee on the 2nd of May 2023 in committee subject to confirmation with Fáilte Ireland.
- (iv) Correspondence received from Minister Josepha Madigan dated the 6th of April 2023 in relation to the Kolbe Centre in Portlaoise

This concluded the business of the meeting.

SIGNED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH

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