

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Edenderry Town Council</b> <b>Comhairle Bhaile Édan Doire</b></p>
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**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF EDENDERRY TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY THE 16<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER 2013 IN THE TOWN HALL, EDENDERRY AT 7.30PM**

**Present:** Cllr Finian O'Neill (Cathaoirleach), Cllr Patricia Brady, Cllr Fergus Mc Donnell, Cllr. Jim Murrin, Cllr. John Foley

**Apologies:** Cllr. Declan Leddin, Cllr. Mary Breen, Cllr. Liam Hogan and Cllr. Noel Cribbin

**In attendance:** Declan Conlon, Area Manager & Therese O'Meara (Acting Town Clerk)

**Confirmation of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr. Patricia Brady and seconded by Cllr John Foley the minutes from the September monthly meeting were adopted.

**R402**

The members requested an update from Kildare County Council in relation to ongoing work. Some members felt that the contractors may have encountered problems in the last few weeks and they felt that progressed has slowed down.

The members were disappointed to see negative press in a national newspaper the previous week. The members hope that the publication of the brochure will help to promote Edenderry.

**Ofalia House**

A meeting had been arranged by the Town Clerk with Joe Ruane, Area Manager HSE with responsibility for Ofalia House. The meeting was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2013 (previous day). Also present at the meeting were Mike Deveraux and Trudi Rowan. Cllr Patricia Brady advised that at the meeting a general discussion took place. She advised that there are currently 27 beds occupied and 1 palliative care bed in Ofalia House. She advised that the members were told that there are no plans to close Ofalia house at present. The HSE members did advise that staffing levels are fallings and that due to the embargo on staff recruitment at present, no staff can be hired. The HSE also advised that at present Ofalia House cannot take any long term care patients. Cllr Brady advised that HIQA do assess Ofalia House and the next planned audit is in 2015. The members were also advised that upgrade work is needed for which funding is being sought.

The members present welcomed the meeting and advised that overall it was a very positive meeting; however some members are still concerned about the long term future of Ofalia House. Cllr. Foley complimented Cllr Brady in relation to the questions that she had asked the HSE and the clarification that she had sought on some issues. Cllr Foley stated that it was obvious that Cllr Brady knew the system which he felt enhanced the meeting.

The members stated that there is an excellent Day Care service provided by Ofalia House and asked that families who have elderly members encourage them to avail of the service. There is a bus facility which picks up those who wish to attend and a meal is provided also.

At the meeting with the HSE a commitment was given to keep the members of Edenderry Town Council updated on the status of Ofalia House.

Cllr Foley proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to Joseph Ruane and this was agreed by the other members present.

### **24 hour ambulance service**

An email which was received by the Town Clerk the previous day was read by the Cathaoirleach to the members. This email stated that discussions were ongoing with the management of Ofalia House with the intention of securing an extra room to allow the extension of Ambulance services on a 24/7 basis from the Edenderry area, it is hoped that we can secure this room within the coming weeks. This will be on a temporary basis until a new premises can be secured to operate a full time service for the North Leinster area.

The members present were delighted with the positive news

### **Schools for Edenderry**

The members were very disappointed to note that no update was given by OPW, On the proposal of Cllr. Finian O'Neill and seconded by Cllr. Fergus Mc Donnell the members requested that the Town Clerk write to the OPW again to seek a further update.

Cllr. Fergus Mc Donnell complimented Offaly County Council in relation to works ongoing on the back road.

### **Promote Edenderry**

A draft programme of events for the week commencing Monday November 11<sup>th</sup> was given to the members. The Area Manager advised that work is continuing in relation to the brochure for which a final special meeting will be held shortly.

Suggestions were put forwards in relation to promoting the work of the council for example, by holding a council meeting in one of the secondary school, having open days in the town hall, promoting historical society in the town hall etc.

A query was raised in relation to the 99 year lease and the members request that a copy of same be sought.

### **Notice of motions**

**Muinebheag Town Council** – “calls on the government to provide that all Irish citizens residing outside of the Country who hold a valid Irish Passport, be entitled to vote in the Irish Presidential election”. On the proposal of Cllr. Jim Murrin and seconded by Cllr. Fergus Mc Donnell it was agreed to support this motion.

**Clones Town Council** – “calls on Minister for Health James Reilly, to ring fence funding for mental health services in budget 2014” On the proposal of Cllr. Fergus Mc Donnell and seconded by Cllr. John Foley it was agreed to support this motion.

**Clones Town Council** – “calls on the Minister for Health to ensure that the full amount ring fenced for mental health services be spent on the service on not on departmental overspending”. On the proposal of Cllr. John Foley and seconded by Cllr. Patricia Brady it was agreed to support this motion.

**Clones Town Council** – “Suicide is on the rise at an alarming rate and there is a responsibility on this Government to ensure the safety and well being of all its citizens”. On the proposal of Cllr. Patricia Brady and seconded by Cllr. Jim Murrin it was agreed to support this motion.

**Any other business**

Cllr Finian O'Neill advised the members that he was made aware of available spaces on a HSE course dealing with suicide; the course runs for 2 full days from 8am to 5pm.

Cllr Finian O'Neill suggested that a Civic reception be held for Greg Farrelly manager of the winning All Ireland Junior Ladies Football team. It was agreed to find out if a Civic reception will be held in Offaly County Council for same first.

Cllr. Finian O'Neill advised that members that St Mary's National School teachers from sixth class and their students have been in contact with the Town Clerk requesting a tour of the town hall. The tour has been arranged for the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October.

Cllr. Fergus Mc Donnell acknowledged the good wishes of the members bestowed on him at the last meeting on his graduation from Maynooth University.

Cllr. Jim Murrin suggested that a Christmas Party for all past and present members of Edenderry Town Council/Town Commissioners be organized. He also suggested that the plaque be erected with the names of all the members of Town Council/Town Commission.

It was agreed to hold off on this decisions until after the legislation in relation to Town Councils is published.

**Date of next meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2013**

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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**Cathaoirleach**

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**Date**

