

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

**MINUTES OF APRIL MONTHLY MEETING
OF OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 18TH APRIL 2016 AT 2.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:	Cllr. E. Dooley, Cathaoirleach (Presiding), Cllrs. N. Bourke, J. Carroll, J. Clendennen, N. Cribbin, D. Dolan, S. Dooley, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Foley, D. Harvey, B. Killeavy, J. Leahy, S. Maher, T. McKeigue, F. Moran, M. O'Reilly, P. Ormond, D. Owens and L. Quinn.
IN ATTENDANCE:	Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F; Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S; Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S; Mr. D. Kirrane D.O.S; Mr. G. Bruton, A/Meetings Administrator; Mr. J. Sellers, Vice Mayor of Chandler, Arizona; Ms. T. Ferguson, Chandler Chamber of Commerce; Mr. B. O'Loughlin, Offaly Local Development Company; Ms. R. Lennon, Offaly Local Development Company; Mr. C. McCarthy, Senior Engineer; Mr. J. Mitchell, Executive Engineer; Mr. T. Mawe, Financial/Management Accountant; Ms. F. Flaherty C.O.
VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS:	The members extended their congratulations and best wishes to Cllr. Liam Quinn on his recent engagement.
VOTES OF SYMPATHY:	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-</p> <p>Ms. Monica Cleary, Offaly County Council on the death of her father, Peter;</p> <p>Mrs. Mary Cleary, Clonfad, Shinrone, Birr on the death of her husband, Peter;</p> <p>The Cleary Family, Gurtgreen, Shinrone, Birr on the death of Ms. Anne Cleary;</p> <p>Ms. Helen Moran, Killiskea, Tullamore on the death of her brother, Michael;</p> <p>Mr. Joe Neville, Lynally, Mucklagh, Tullamore on the death of his brother, Gabriel;</p> <p>Ms. Eileen McDonnell, 41 Abbey Court, Kilcoursey, Clara on the death of her son, Joseph;</p> <p>Ms. Paula Bolton Sheils, Ballykane Geashill on the death of her father, Malachy;</p> <p>Mr. Danny Hynes, 42 St. Josephs Terrace, Portarlinton on the death of his wife, Mary;</p>

VOTES OF SYMPATHY: (cont'd)	The Chief Executive, on her own behalf and on behalf of the staff of the Council joined with the members in these votes of sympathy.
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:	On the proposal of Cllr. S. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the March Monthly Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 21 st March 2016.
MINUTES FOR NOTING:	<p>The following minutes were noted by the members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 15th February 2016; - Minutes of Housing Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 25th November 2015.
CIVIC WELCOME:	<p>Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S. addressed the meeting and introduced Mr. Jack Sellers, Vice Mayor of Chandler, Arizona and Ms. Teri Ferguson, Chandler Chamber of Commerce who were visiting Tullamore as part of the All Ireland US Sister City Summit.</p> <p>He noted that Tullamore had been twinned with Chandler, Arizona since 2008 which has lead to many positive business, community and cultural exchanges between both towns since.</p> <p>Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S. noted that Chandler had been founded in the 1800's by John Chandler, a veterinary surgeon. He advised that Sister Cities International was created by US President Eisenhower in 1956. Eisenhower envisioned an organization that could be the hub of peace and prosperity by creating bonds between people from different cities around the world. By forming these relationships, President Eisenhower reasoned that people of different cultures could celebrate and appreciate their differences and build partnerships that would lessen the chance of new conflicts.</p> <p>Cllr. E. Dooley, Cathaoirleach, formally welcomed Mr Sellers, and Ms Ferguson to the Chamber and the County Council meeting. The Chief Executive, Ms A. Delaney, on behalf of the staff extended a welcome to the Chandler visitors. There followed a formal exchange of gifts, the Cathaoirleach noted that the visitors were presented with a scroll to mark the occasion of their visit and that the Vice Mayor had presented the Council with a flag of the City of Chandler.</p> <p>Mr. Sellers, addressed the Council, he thanked them for their Civic Welcome and noted that both he and Ms Ferguson were greatly honoured by the welcome and courtesy extended to them. He noted that they both were looking forward to spending a few days exploring the County and they expected that their visit would prove to be informative and fruitful, and that there would be usefully exchange of views and ideas</p>
SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:	On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn, the members agreed to suspend standing orders to allow Mr. Brendan O'Loughlin, C.E.O Offaly Local

<p>SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS: (cont'd)</p>	<p>Development Company to make a presentation to the members.</p>
<p>OFFALY LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (OLDC):</p>	<p>Cllr. E. Dooley, Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Brendan O'Loughlin C.E.O, Offaly Local Development Company and Ms. Roisin Lennon Rural Development Team, Leader Offaly Local Development Company to the meeting.</p> <p>Mr O'Loughlin made a presentation to the members on Offaly Local Development Company (OLDC). He outlined for meeting the various business and job supports delivered by the OLDC. He noted that OLDC were contracted by Offaly LCDC to deliver part of the SICAP initiative and outlined the 3 goals of this programme. He briefed the members on the Rural Development Programme and gave them an overview of the outputs of this Programme from 2009 to 2013. He advised on the new LEADER Funding programme "The Offaly Way".</p> <p>Ms R. Lennon, briefed the members on the Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation strand of the Programme, she outlined the four key objectives of this strand and noted that funding of €2.8 million was in place to deliver the objectives.</p> <p>She spoke on the Social Inclusion strand of the Programme and advised that funding of €1.8 million was in place for this stand, which had two key objectives. She noted that the Rural Environment strand of the Programme had €1.4 million funding in place and had three key objectives.</p> <p>She then outlined for the members the Operational strategies of the OLDC. She briefed members on the Application Process and outlined the rules governing the OLDC supports. She noted that Tullamore was now included in the rules. She advised that OLDC were shortly to commence a Competitive call for Applications in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Energy Upgrades to Community Facilities ➤ Community Playgrounds, Skate Parks and Activity Parks ➤ Festivals ➤ Community Planning Initiatives ➤ Rural Towns – regeneration package ➤ Tourism Amenities – associated with accommodation <p>The members thanked Mr. O'Loughlin and Ms. Lennon for their excellent and informative presentation. They noted the funding initiatives available for communities across the county; they sought information in relation to "bridging" finance for some of the community projects being planned. They congratulated the OLDC for their support to communities in the past number of years and noted the Clann Credo organisation was an excellent financial resource to Communities.</p> <p>The members sought clarification on aspects of the presentation, particularly matching funding and the values of</p>

<p>OFFALY LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (OLDC): (cont'd)</p>	<p>voluntary labour and any lands given to communities for their projects. The members noted the layers of bureaucracy involved in the application process however they noted that OLDC personnel were a great assistance to communities in this process.</p> <p>In relation to specific queries regarding funding for Neighbourwatch Schemes, and maintenance costs on playgrounds, Mr. O'Loughlin advised that funding was not available for these types of projects, as they were considered operational costs. He advised that no funding was available to encourage use of derelict sites.</p> <p>The Chief Executive thanked Mr. O'Loughlin and Ms. Lennon for their presentations; she echoed the members' comments on the Clann Credo organisation. She noted the Council executive was working with the DoECLG to finalise the Programme.</p>
<p>DRAFT ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2015 / OVEREXPENDITURE:</p>	<p>Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F, presented to members, the Draft <i>Unaudited 2015 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) and schedule of over expenditures</i> which were circulated at the meeting.</p> <p>Mr. D. Conlon informed the members that there was an overall surplus of €586,237.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Clendennen, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn, the members resolved to approve and adopt the gross over expenditures for 2015 in the sum of € 9,327, 049.</p>
<p>DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2015:</p>	<p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S. drew the member's attention to the <i>Draft Annual Report 2015</i>, as previously circulated. He advised members that the contents were for noting and that Performance Indicators would issue in due course. He advised that clarification had been sought on some of the Performance Indicators.</p>
<p>TRAFFIC CALMING POLICY:</p>	<p>Mr. J. Mitchell, Executive Engineer Roads, presented the members with Offaly County Councils Traffic Calming Policy.</p> <p>In the discussion following the presentation the members noted a number of issues of concern that had been raised with them by constituents. They noted that road markings in some locations in the County needed to be re-painted. They noted that the issue of traffic calming at Schools was high on the agenda for communities across the County. The members suggested that CCTV should be installed in some areas as a method of controlling traffic speeds, they also noted that raised platforms should be provided in some areas as these had provided very effective. They queried if the Council had policy regarding the installation of electronic speed detection signs and if there was a rota for the location of these signs. The members suggested that there would be one of these signs available for each Electoral Area and the sign would be rotated to different locations in those Areas.</p>

<p>TRAFFIC CALMING POLICY: (cont'd)</p>	<p>Mr. F. Heslin, D. O. S., and Mr. C. McCarthy, S.E., responded to the members queries, they noted that traffic management at Schools was a critical issue and the Council would work with School Parents Committees to address these issues. They noted that the Line Marking Companies worked to the Guidelines issued by the DoECLG. They noted that the Council did not rule out ramps as a method of speed control but that they were considered as a last resort.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. S. Dooley, the members agreed to adopt the Traffic Calming Policy as discussed.</p>
<p>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive drew the members' attention to the monthly management report as circulated.</p> <p>She noted that in relation to the National Spring Clean initiative that the launch for this event in Tullamore is scheduled to be held on Saturday 23rd April 2016 at 10.00am in Áras an Chontae.</p>
<p>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</p>	<p>Cllr. E. Dooley, Cathaoirleach advised that the Corporate Policy Group met on 18th April 2016 to consider the Monthly Council Agenda and to approve the list of conferences and training courses for circulation.</p>
<p>NOTICES OF MOTION:</p>	<p>i. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. T. McKeigue and seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen:</p> <p><i>"That Offaly County Council calls on the Returning Officers for all Elections to use the many community centres and halls as polling stations and allow schools to continue as normal. And also to review the appointment of both poll clerks and presiding officers so as not to have the same people acting election after election and becoming part of the institution."</i></p> <p>It was agreed to write to the County Registrar on behalf of the members.</p> <p>ii. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. S. Dooley and seconded by Cllr. N. Bourke:</p> <p><i>"I call on the incoming Minister for Social Protection to reverse the harsh cuts made to One Parent Family payments by the previous Administration."</i></p> <p>It was agreed to circulate the motion to all councils and to write to Ms. Joan Burton TD, Acting Minister for Social Protection on behalf of the members.</p> <p>iii. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. S. Dooley and seconded by Cllr. F. Moran:</p> <p><i>"I call on the incoming Minister with responsibility for Housing to review the criteria with regard to eligibility to qualify for Local Authority Housing or Rent"</i></p>

<p>NOTICES OF MOTION (cont'd)</p>	<p><i>Assistance and to revise the Rent Allowances Allocations as a first step in dealing with our current housing crisis."</i></p> <p>It was agreed to circulate the motion to all councils and to write to Mr. Alan Kelly TD, Acting Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government on behalf of the members.</p> <p>iv. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. T. McKeigue and seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen:</p> <p><i>"That Offaly County Council extends its congratulations to everyone that helped to make such a success of the Easter Weekend commemorative events and to our President Mr. Michael D. Higgins for capturing the mood and spirit of the nation throughout the various ceremonies."</i></p>
<p>COMHDHÁLACHA:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. S. Dooley, the members noted and approved the conferences and training seminars as follows:</p> <p><u>CONFERENCES:</u></p> <p>ACE Management & Training Microsoft Excel Workshop for Councillors 27th – 28th April 2016 Clonakilty Hotel, Co. Cork <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences Registration and inspection of septic tanks 13th – 15th May 2016 Clonakilty Hotel, Co. Cork <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences Domestic Water Saving and Conservation Techniques 20th – 22nd May 2016 Clonakilty Hotel, Co. Cork <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p><u>TRAINING:</u></p> <p>Association of Irish Local Government Annual Conference 2016 5th – 6th May 2016 Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Bunrana, Inishowen, Co. Donegal <i>It was agreed Cllr. N. Cribbin would attend.</i></p> <p>All-Ireland US Sister Cities Summit Conference Friday 22nd April 2016 Croke Park Stadium, Dublin <i>It was agreed Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick would attend.</i></p>
<p>COMHFHREAGRAS:</p>	<p>The correspondences that issued with the Agenda were noted.</p>

