

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ**

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE  
ON MONDAY, 19TH JUNE 2017 AT 2.00 P.M.**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, Cathaoirleach (Presiding), Cllrs. N. Bourke, J. Carroll, J. Clendennen, N. Cribbin, D. Dolan, E. Dooley, S. Dooley, J. Foley, D. Harvey, B. Killeavy, J. Leahy, S. Maher, T. McKeigue, M. O'Reilly, P. Ormond, D. Owens and L. Quinn.
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Cllr. F. Moran
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S; Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S; Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S; Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S.; Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator; Ms. A. Dillon, SEO; Mr. T. Mawe, Financial/Management Accountant; Mr. M. Mahon; S.E.E.; Mr, P. Pilkington, E.E.; Mr. J. Connelly, S.E.E; Ms. F. Flaherty, A/A.S.O.
<b>VOTES OF SYMPATHY:</b>	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-</p> <p>Ms. Theresa Hanany, Church Street, Clara on the death of her brother, Mr. James Hanniffy;</p> <p>Mrs. Madeline Hudson, Avondale, Portarlinton on the death of her husband, Mr. Dick Hudson;</p> <p>Mr. Seamus Feeney, Woodlawn Drive, Clonbullogue on the death of his mother Ms. Kathleen (Kitty) Feeney;</p> <p>Leona, Colin &amp; Graham Delaney, Tinnacrannagh, Portarlinton on the death of their father, Mr. Joe Delaney; and</p> <p>Mrs. Patsy Carroll &amp; Family, 17 Bulfin Park, Birr on the death of her husband, Mr. Dan Carroll.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:</b>	On the proposal of Cllr. J. Clendennen, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, the members agreed to suspend Standing Orders to welcome the Chief of Police, Chandler to the meeting.
<b>WELCOME TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE, CHANDLER:</b>	Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. Sean Duggan, Chief of Police, Chandler and his wife Mary to Offaly and to the meeting. He acknowledged the links between Tullamore and Chandler and wished them both an enjoyable time in Ireland. The Cathaoirleach acknowledged the role of the

	<p>Tullamore Sister Cities Committee and thanked Mr. Tony McCormack for all his work. Cllr. S. Dooley, Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Tullamore welcomed the Chief of Police and outlined the links that had been fostered over the years between Tullamore and Chandler. Mr. Sean Duggan thanked the Cathaoirleach and members for extending such a warm welcome to him and advised that he looked forward to meeting the local Superintendent.</p>
<b>VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS:</b>	<p>The members extended their congratulations to the five Offaly teams that had participated in the Féile 2017 competitions during the weekend.</p>
<b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</b>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the May meeting of Offaly County Council held in St. Brigid's Social Club, Garryhinch, Portarlinton on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017.</p>
<b>MINUTES FOR NOTING:</b>	<p>The minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were noted by the members.</p>
<b>PART VIII PLANNING &amp; DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 AS AMENDED – PORTAVOLLA FLOOD DEFENCE SCHEME:</b>	<p>Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., drew the meetings attention to the report which had circulated with the agenda, noting the responses made to the submissions received.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, the members agreed to adopt the Part VIII proposal for the Portavolla Flood Defence Scheme as previously circulated.</p>
<b>PART VIII PLANNING &amp; DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 AS AMENDED – O'CONNELL SQUARE AND JKL STREET, EDENDERRY:</b>	<p>Mr. J. Connelly, S.E.E., drew the meetings attention to the report which had circulated with the agenda, noting the consultation process that had taken place and the responses made to the submissions received.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. N. Cribbin, seconded by Cllr. N. Bourke, the members agreed to adopt the Part VIII proposal for O' Connell Square and JKL Street, Edenderry, as previously circulated.</p>
<b>SCHEME OF LETTING PRIORITIES FOR SOCIAL HOUSING ACCOMMODATION:</b>	<p>Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., informed the meeting that the SPC had reviewed the <i>Scheme of Letting Priorities for Social Housing Accommodation</i>. He advised that the cap to the number of points that may be awarded for the number of years on the Housing Waiting List had been removed.</p> <p>Cllr. P. Ormond, Chair of the SPC, in proposing the Scheme for adoption stated that the terms in the Scheme were both fair and balanced. Cllr. B. Killeavy seconded the proposal and the members resolved adopt the <i>Scheme of Letting Priorities for Social Housing Accommodation</i>, as previously circulated.</p>
<b>ANNUAL REPORT 2016:</b>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. S. Dooley, the members agreed to adopt the Annual Report 2016, as previously circulated.</p>

<p><b>NOMINATION/ELECTION/ APPOINTMENT TO STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES (SPC's):</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan, the members agreed that Cllr. D. Owens would transfer from the Transportation and Emergency Services SPC to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC, and, that Cllr. N. Bourke would transfer from Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC to the Transportation and Emergency Services SPC.</p>
<p><b>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</b></p>	<p>Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, Cathaoirleach advised that the Corporate Policy Group met earlier that day to consider the Monthly Council Agenda, the Annual Meeting Agenda and to approve the list of conferences and training courses for circulation.</p>
<p><b>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</b></p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive, drew the members' attention to the monthly management report which had circulated with the agenda. She noted that the Council is collaborating with neighbouring counties in relation to the Greenway project and that an application for funds, under the Rural Recreation Scheme, to further expand the greenways was being prepared. She advised that a joint application, with Laois County Council, for funds for the Slieve Bloom Mountain Bike trail is also being finalised. She advised that match funding will be required for the projects if applications are successful. The Chief Executive noted that judging for the three Pride of Place projects will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July and welcomed any of the members who may be available to attend on the day.</p> <p>The members welcomed the proposal to form a General Operative panel, noting that there are a number of issues in relation to maintaining amenities and Council owned graveyards throughout the county. Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., in responding to questions raised noted that the cessation of the Gateway Scheme, without advance notice, had caused issues for the Council. He advised that the outdoor work force will be maintained at agreed levels, i.e., one employee to every 100km and one employee to every 3,000 persons in Tullamore, Birr and Edenderry. He agreed to bring a proposal to the budget meeting regarding recruitment above these numbers. Clarification was sought on the revenue being collected in the absence of a Traffic Warden in Edenderry and it was proposed that consideration be given to the sharing of Traffic Wardens between Municipal Districts until a permanent appointment is made.</p> <p>The members thanked the Chief Executive for the comprehensive report.</p>
<p><b>SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley, the members agreed to suspend Standing Orders to delay the commencement of the Annual Meeting until the June monthly meeting had concluded.</p>
<p><b>NOTICES OF MOTION:</b></p>	<p>(i) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. D. Dolan, was seconded by Cllr. S. Dooley, and agreed:</p> <p><i>“That the executive of Offaly County Council arrange a meeting with Transport Infrastructure Ireland to request an</i></p>

	<p><i>immediate allocation of funding to progress the N52 Tullamore to Kilbeggan road link from the Tullamore bypass to the M6 motorway at Kilbeggan”.</i></p> <p>The members agreed to invite the Chairperson, Transport Infrastructure Ireland to meet with them to discuss this matter noting the importance of the Tullamore to Kilbeggan link road for the county. They agreed that every effort be made to get the matter included on the national infrastructure programme during the mid-term review that is currently on-going. It was further agreed to write to local TD’s on this matter.</p>
<p><b>COMHDHÁLACHA:</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn, the members noted and approved the conferences and training seminars as follows:</p> <p><b><u>CONFERENCES:</u></b></p> <p>Celtic Conferences  “What does a Hard Brexit mean for Ireland”  The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork  23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017  <i>It was agreed no Councillor would attend.</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences  “ODEC/Office of the Director of Corporate Enforcement”  The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork  07<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017  <i>It was agreed no Councillor would attend.</i></p> <p>2017 Dr Douglas Hyde Conference  “What Price Culture? Its community, economic and social values.”  Frenchpark, Co. Roscommon  13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> July 2017  <i>It was agreed no Councillor would attend.</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences  “Doing More with Less – Managing Time and Productivity”  The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork  21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2017  <i>It was agreed no Councillor would attend.</i></p> <p><b><u>TRAINING:</u></b>  None.</p>
<p><b>COMHFHREAGRAS:</b></p>	<p>The correspondences that issued with the Agenda were noted.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll, the members agreed to support the motion from Waterford City &amp; County Council in relation to the legalisation of the use of cannabis for medicinal purposes.</p>
<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</b></p>	<p><b>Retirement of Mr. Declan Kirrane, Director of Services</b>  The Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S., will be retiring from Offaly County Council after a forty-one-year career in the Local Government sector on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017. He acknowledged the significant contribution that</p>

he had made to Offaly County Council and to Offaly during his time in Offaly. He thanked him for the proactive approach that he had adopted and for the advice, guidance, direction and forthright manner that he had dealt with him and with the elected members. The members, both individually and collectively, joined with the Cathaoirleach in wishing Declan, his wife Claire and his family the very best in his retirement. They thanked him for being approachable and helpful, in particular to members following their election, and for the experience he brought to the many boards that he was a member of. Among the legacies mentioned a number noted the instrumental part he played in bringing Tullamore Dew back to Tullamore and the proactive and common-sense approach that he had applied to the development of Lough Boora Parklands and the Faithful Fields in Kilcormac. Declan's willingness to attend events and support local communities was commended by the members and his leadership in Tullamore Town Council and later in the Municipal Districts of Tullamore and Birr were commended. The members thanked him for his outstanding service and wished him health and happiness in his retirement.

Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive, on her own behalf and on behalf of the staff of the Council joined with the members in their remarks. She advised that Declan had joined Laois County Council on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1976 and had served in Offaly from 1978 to xxx and as Director of Services from 2005. She reiterated that he had an excellent career in the public service and wished him, Claire and his family good health and a happy retirement.

Mr. Declan Kirrane, D.O.S., thanked everyone for their warm tribute. He advised that he was proud to have worked in the public sector, that he enjoyed his working life and was very happy that he had spent over half his career, 21 years, with Offaly County Council. He thanked the elected members throughout his time for their support acknowledging that all initiatives are supported through the adoption of policies and through a partnership approach. He wished the elected members well in their role noting the honour it is to be elected as a Councillor while also noting that their role is both demanding and getting increasingly more pressurised. He wished the Chief Executive, Management Team and staff of Offaly County Council continued success.

#### **Notice of Motion**

Cllr. M. O. Reilly expressed his disappointment that a notice of motion submitted by him was not listed on the Agenda. He acknowledged that the subject matter, i.e., wind turbines, may have been similar but proposed that the thrust of the motions were different and that the item should have been listed for debate. Cllr. M. O' Reilly noting the recent press release on Wind Energy reiterated that the Guidelines and County Development Plan do not provide adequate protection to householders in Offaly.

The Cathaoirleach advised that both motions related to Wind Turbines and would require a variation of the County

