

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

MINUTES OF DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TULLAMORE ON MONDAY, 15TH DECEMBER 2008 AT 3.30P.M.

PRESENT: Cllrs. B. Cowen, Cathoairleach (Presiding), N. Bourke, M. Buckley, J. Butterfield, J. Carroll, P. Clendennen, M. Corcoran-Kennedy, D. Dolan, E. Dooley, T. Feighery, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Foran, M. Fox, C. Hanniffy, G. Killally, F. McDonnell, T. McKeigue, T. McLoughlin, S. Moylan Ryan, P. Ormond, D. Owens.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. P. Gallagher, County Manager, Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S., Mr. M. Roche, D.O.S., Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., Mr. D. Conlon, D.O.S., Mr. A. O’Gorman, S.E.O., Ms. A. Dillon, S.E.O., (Meetings Administrator), & Ms. N. Troy, C.O.

APOLOGIES:

VOTES OF SYMPATHY:

The members extended Votes of sympathy to families of the following: -

Mr. Brendan Clarke, Tullamore Town Council on the death of his mother, Mary.

Mr. Gerry McGlinchy, former Engineer O.C.C., County Engineer Laois Co. Co. on the death of his Oliver McGlinchy

Ms. Vera Gleeson, Rahan Road, Tullamore, Co Offaly on the death of her sister, Margaret.

Ms. Imelda Bracken, Moylena, Clara Road, Tullamore, on the death of her mother, Mrs Clarke.

The Jones Family, Knockaspur, Cloughjordan, Co Offaly on the death of their mother, Kathleen.

Mrs. Helen Clery & Family, Castletown House, Fortel, Birr, Co Offaly on the death of her husband, Michael.

Patsy & Matt Kearns, Rathure, Kilyon, Birr, Co Offaly on the death of their mother, Kathleen.

Mrs. Ita Lalor, Lismooney, Kinnitty, Birr, Co Offaly on the death of her brother, Patrick Coffey.

Mr. Billy O’Donoghue & Family, Moorpark Street, Birr, Co Offaly on the death of his wife, Adelaide.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY (cont'd):

Mr. Michael Dunne, Clonequinn, Portarlington, Co Offaly on the death of his father, Michael.

Mr. Brian Hutchinson, Garryhinch, Portarlington, Co Offaly on the death of his aunt, Mai Dunne.

The County Manager on his 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. T. Feighery, seconded by Cllr. D. Owens the minutes of Offaly County Council's November monthly meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore on Monday, 17th November 2008 at 2.00 p.m. were confirmed and signed.

NOTING OF MINUTES:

The following minutes were noted:

- Corporate Policy Group Meeting October 2008.
- Minutes of Tullamore Area Committee Meeting held 30th September 2008.
- Minutes of Housing, Social & Cultural Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the 2nd September, 2008.

SECTION 183 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 –DISPOSAL OF LAND AT: FERBANE, CO. OFFALY:

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. M. Corcoran-Kennedy the council approved of the disposal of lands at Ferbane, Co. Offaly in accordance with the terms of the Section 183 notice dated 1st December 2008 as follows:

- Plots A,B,C,D,E,F,G,I & J in Ferbane, Co. Offaly.

SECTION 183 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 –DISPOSAL OF LAND AT: BALLYVORA GROVE, FERBANE:

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. M. Corcoran-Kennedy the council approved of the disposal of land at in accordance with the terms of the Section 183 notice dated 1st December 2008 as follows:

- Site No.1, Ballyvora Grove, Ferbane, Co. Offaly.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT ON SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009 – 2015:

Members agreed the schedule of meetings proposed by Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S. for the consideration of the Managers Report on submissions received on proposed amendments to the Draft County Development Plan 2009-2015 as follows:

- Area Meetings:
 - Birr & Ferbane - 8th January 2009
 - Edenderry & Tullamore 9th January 2009
- Special Meeting: 12th January 2009
- Adoption: 19th January 2009

**RESOLUTION TO FIX
A JOINT MEETING
BETWEEN BIRR &
FERBANE AREA
COMMITTEES:**

The members agreed to hold a joint meeting of Birr & Ferbane Area Committees on 8th January 2008.

**STATUTORY AUDIT
REPORT TO THE
MEMBERS ON THE
ACCOUNTS OF
OFFALY COUNTY
COUNCIL FOR YEAR
ENDED 31
DECEMBER 2007:**

Mr. D. Conlon, Head of Finance, referred the members to the report which was previously circulated with the Agenda.

On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan the council approved of the Statutory Audit Report for year ending 31st December 2008 as circulated.

**HOME CHOICE
LOAN
PRESENTATION:**

Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., directed the members attention to the Home Choice Loan Presentation, which had been circulated. He referred to the following main points:

- What a Home Choice Loan is.
- Who qualifies?
- How it will work.
- How applicants apply.
- Role of the Central Processing Unit.
- Role of the Local Authorities.

The Cathoirleach, Cllr. B. Cowen, urged the members to familiarise themselves with the criteria.

**NOTICES OF
MOTION:**

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr M. Corcoran-Kennedy the council approved of the following motion:

(a) "That Offaly Co. Council write to Mary Harney, Minister for Health, to request that she reverse the decision not to have all 12-year-old girls vaccinated against a virus that causes cervical cancer"

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr M. Corcoran-Kennedy and agreed.

(b) "That Offaly Co. Council write to Batt O'Keeffe, Minister for Education & Science, to request an early appointment of a Design Team for Tullamore College"

COMHDHÁLACHA:

As there was no Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in December the members agreed the conference list. On the proposal of Cllr. D. Owens, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue the Council approved of the members attendance at conferences.

COMHFREAGRAS: On the proposal of Cllr. M. Buckley, it was agreed to support the following motions:

Clones Town Council:

“That Clones Town Council writes to Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Mary Hanafin and the Taoiseach Brian Cowen, requesting that the Fuel Allowance Scheme be doubled, and that the payment be extended to 34 weeks instead of the current 30 weeks. We also request that the Living Alone Allowance be doubled, in line with the proposal from Age Action.”

Waterford City Council:

“Waterford City Council calls on the Minister for Health and the HSE to develop and implement a Stroke Strategy which would save up to 500 lives a year, and improve the rehabilitation of thousands of stroke sufferers who are left disabled unnecessarily.”

Laois County Council:

“That as a consequence of the sharp fall in house prices and difficulties obtaining credit, the members of this Council are calling on the Minister for the Environment and Local Government to bring forward a new scheme of affordable housing. The present scheme is no longer affordable for many people who should be able to use it to purchase a home.”

**ANY OTHER
BUSINESS:**

Farm Waste Scheme

Cllr. T. McKeigue requested that we write to the Minister for Agriculture & Food seeking an extension of the above scheme. His request was supported by the members. Cllr. M. Corcoran-Kennedy asked for specific reference to be made to reversing cutbacks, restoring young farmers and early retirement supports.

Overdraft Accommodation

Mr. D. Conlon, Head of Finance advised the members that it was necessary to renew our overdraft facility of €10 million.

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. C. Hanniffy the members approved a provision for overdraft accommodation for 2009 in the sum of €10 million.

V.F.I. Good Neighbour Award

Cllr. P. Clendennen congratulated Mr. George Smith, Banagher on winning the V.F.I. Good Neighbour Award on the nomination of Seán Corrigan.

Parking at Áras an Chontae

Members asked officials to address parking at the Áras.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED: -

CATHAOIRLEACH
19TH JANUARY 2008

MEETINGS ADMINISTATOR