

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ
MINUTES OF DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING
OF OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 21ST DECEMBER 2009 AT 3.30 P.M.

PRESENT: Cllr. N. Bourke (Presiding), Cllrs. M. Buckley, J. Butterfield, J. Carroll, P. Clendennen, B. Cowen, D. Dolan, E. Dooley, S. Dooley E. Fitzpatrick, J. Foley, C. Hanniffy, N. Hogan, T. McKeigue, J. Leahy, T. McLoughlin, S. Moylan Ryan, , D. Owens, G. Plunkett and L. Quinn

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. P. Gallagher, County Manager, Mr. M. Roche, D.O.S., Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S., Mr. D. Conlon, Head of Finance, Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator and Ms. N. Troy, Clerical Officer.

APOLOGIES: Cllr. P. Ormond

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS: On the proposal of Cllr. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue and agreed, the Standing Orders were suspended to discuss recent flooding incidents and the impact on the county.

During the ensuing discussion the members expressed their concerns regarding the recent flooding. They welcomed the proposal to develop a County Drainage Plan and agreed that it should be coordinated with other relevant agencies.

On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue seconded by Cllr. N. Bourke it was agreed to meet with the region's three European Parliament Members to discuss funding which maybe available from the EU.

The members and management thanked all personnel involved in helping in the flooded areas for their good work.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY: Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-

The Deegan Family, Clonminch, Tullamore on the death of Martin.

The Feighery Family, Coolinarney, Blueball on the death of Mary.

The Kinahan Family, Killurin, Tullamore on the death of John.

Maura Daly, Burkeshill, Birr on the death of her son, Michael.

Theo Dillon, Elm Park, Birr on the death of his cousin, Edgar.

Una Fitzpatrick, Inchacooley, Monasterevan, Kildare on the death of her husband, Henry.

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. B. Cowen, seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan the minutes of Offaly County Council's November Monthly Meeting, held in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore on Monday, 16th November 2009 at 2.00 p.m., were confirmed and signed.

MINUTES FOR NOTING:

The following minutes were noted:

- Tullamore Area Committee meeting held on the 26th May 2009.
- Tullamore Area Committee meeting held on 12th October 2009.
- Corporate Policy Group held on 19th October 2009.
- Housing, Social and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on 29th October 2009.

SECTION 183 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 – DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST IN LANDS AT GREENVILLE, TUBBER, MOATE, CO. WESTMEATH:

Mr. Declan Kirrane, D.O.S., in referring to the notice which had been circulated with the Agenda, advised the members that Offaly County Council propose to dispose of lands at Greenville, Tubber, Moate which are currently being used as a cowpark

In responding to a query raised he confirmed that the proceeds from the sale would be receipted to the Council's general funds.

On the proposal of Cllr. B. Cowen, seconded by Cllr. C. Hanniffy, the Council approved the disposal of freehold interest in lands at Greenville, Tubber, Moate in accordance with the terms of the Section 183 notice dated 8th December 2009.

REVISED GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PART V:

Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., advised that the matter had been discussed at the Housing, Social and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee meeting. He drew the members' attention to the re-prioritisation of the preferred options and advised that the preferred option of Offaly County Council, Tullamore and Birr Town Councils will be option (g) the payment of a monetary contribution.

On the proposal of Cllr. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn the Revised Guidelines on the Implementation of Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended by the Planning and Development Act 2002 was approved.

CORPORATE PLAN 2010-2014:

Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., directed the members' attention to the Draft Offaly Local Authorities Corporate Plan 2010-2014.

On the proposal of Cllr. C. Hanniffy, seconded by Cllr. M. Buckley the Council adopted the Corporate Plan 2010-2014 as circulated.

DRAFT PLAN FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS:

This item was deferred to the Budget Meetings scheduled for Monday, 11th January 2010.

**ELECTION/
APPOINTMENT/
NOMINATION OF
MEMBERS TO:**

- **STRATEGIC POLICY
COMMITTEES**
- **OFFALY FILM
COMMISSION**

Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)

Ms. Monica Cleary, S.E.O., advised the members that the IFA had nominated Mr. Dominic Carroll, Ballyshiel, Belmont to sit on the Planning, Economic and Local Development SPC.

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Butterfield, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn it was agreed.

Offaly Film Commission

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Moylan-Ryan, seconded by Cllr. B. Cowen the Council nominated Cllr. S. Dooley to the Offaly Film Commission.

**TULLAMORE TOWN
PLAN 2010-2016**

Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S., advised that the County Manager's report on the Review of the Tullamore Town Plan 2010-2016 was circulated. He advised that the members of Tullamore Town Council and the Tullamore Area were meeting to discuss the Plan in January 2010 and that the Plan would be placed on the February monthly meeting agenda for their consideration.

NOTICES OF MOTION:

a) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. T. McKeigue.

"In view of the recent flooding throughout the country, I call on Offaly County Council together with Tullamore Town Council to amend the Tullamore Environs Development Plan adopted last year by both councils so as to rezone all parts of the flood plain at Tullamore West (i.e. The Grand Canal Quarter) from its present states to farmland, wildlife and natural amenity".

It was agreed that the motion could be dealt with at the meetings arranged to discuss the review of the Tullamore Town Plan 2010-2016.

b) Cllr. T. McKeigue proposed the following motion, which was seconded by Cllr. J. Butterfield:

"That Offaly County Council rejects the New Planning Bill at present being introduced by The Minister for the Environment, as it is totally removing planning away from Councils to bother regional and central government."

It was agreed to forward the motion the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government.

c) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. N. Hogan and agreed:

"That Offaly County Council contact Barry Andrews, the Minister for Children, regarding the delay in adoptions from Vietnam."

d) Cllr. M. Buckley proposed the following motion, which was seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn:

"That Offaly County Council contact the Tanaiste, Mary Coughlan, regarding the establishment of Unemployment Centres due to the high level of unemployment in the country."

It was also agreed to forward the motion to Offaly Local Development Company and to circulate the motion to other Councils.

**NOTICES OF MOTION
(cont'd):**

e) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick and seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn:

“I call on Offaly County Council to give an exemption on rates for a certain period of time to be agreed by this council and not to be exceeded by more than two years. This would apply to any businesses who are intending to develop a new building only.”

Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F., advised that Offaly County Council is not legally entitled to provide exemptions on rates. He confirmed that Offaly County Council is willing to discuss phased payments for new businesses.

f) Cllr. P. Clendennen and seconded by Cllr. N. Hogan:

“Any building in the county should only be listed as a Protected Structure subject only to agreement with the owners and that a review be carried out on all Protected Structures in the county.”

In response Mr. Kirrane, DOS, advised that the current legislation does not provide for the agreement of owners when listing a protected structure. He confirmed that a review of the protected structures list is carried out during the adoption of the various Development Plans.

g) Cllr. L. Quinn and seconded by Cllr. M. Buckley:

“That this Council calls on the Government to delegate greater powers to Local Authorities allowing them discretion in areas where local government funds are to be spent.”

It was agreed to forward the motion to the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government.

COMHDHÁLACHA:

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick it was agreed to approve the members attendance at conferences as follows:

Mid-West Regional Authority Annual Conference 4th – 5th February 2010.

It was agreed to send Cllr. J. Butterfield to this Conference.

St. Colmcille Winter School - 26th – 28th February 2010.

No members expressed interest in attending this conference.

COMHFHREAGRAS:

The Cathaoirleach drew the members' attention to President McAleese letter in relation to the recent flooding difficulties.

Cllr. M. Buckley proposal that the motion received from South Tipperary County Council dated 5th November 2009 be supported was agreed.

Cllr. M. Buckley expressed disappointment with the response received from the Department of Social and Family Affairs in correspondence dated 9th December 2009.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Cllr T. McKeigue proposal that the Minister for Education and Science be contacted and requested to provide adequate secondary school places in Tullamore was seconded by Cllr. M. Buckley and agreed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH **RUNAÍ**

18th JANUARY 2010