

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING
OF OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER 2009 AT 2.00 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, P. Ormond, 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. D. Conlon, Head of Finance, Mr. C. McCarthy, A/D.O.S., Ms. R. McNally, A/D.O.S., Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator, Mr. S. Ryan, C.E.O., Ms. N. Troy, Clerical Officer.

**APOLOGIES:
VOTES OF
SYMPATHY:**

Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-

The Molloy Family, c/o Kathleen Mullen, Mountbolus, Tullamore on the death of their brother, Patrick.

The Conroy Family, Clondonnell, Blueball, Tullamore on the death of their mother, Annie.

Willie Murphy, Cloneyquinn, Portarlinton on the death of his wife, Bridie.

Gerry Dempsey, Cushina, Portarlinton on the death of his mother, Nancy.

Maira Crossan & Family, Kilkeeran, Portarlinton on the death of her son, Patrick.

Helen Trimble, Avondale, Portarlinton on the death of her mother, Eileen.

Damien Finnerty, Clareen, Birr on the death of his mother, Maisie.

Cronan Kelly, Ballinasragh, Lusmagh, Banager on the death of his father, Martin.

Joan McGill, Collins Lane, Tullamore on the death of her sister, Mary.

P.J. Hctor, New Road, Tullamore on the death of his wife, Tilly.

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Culleton & Family, Roscomroe, Roscrea on the death of his mother, Eileen.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY (cont'd):

George Golly, Ballincur, Kinnitty, Birr on the death of his sister Betty.

Peter King, Woodland Park, Birr on the death of his brother, Tony.

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.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS:

The members extended a Vote of Congratulations to the following:

Sinead Mulcathy on winning the 2009 Irish Farmers Journal Queen of the Land Competition, also, Marie-Therese Kennedy, Kilkenny 1st runner up.

Tullamore Hurling Team on going through to the Leinster Final.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Owens, seconded by Cllr. M. Buckley the minutes of Offaly County Council's October Monthly Meeting, held in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore on Monday, 19th October 2009 at 2.00 p.m., were confirmed and signed.

MINUTES FOR NOTING:

The following minutes were noted:

- Housing, Social & Cultural Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on 19th May 2009.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2008:

Mr. D. Conlon, HOF, directed the members' attention to an extract of the Income & Expenditure Account Statement and Balance Sheet for 2008 and also a report on excess expenditure which had previously been circulated. He informed them that in 2008 there was an overall deficit of €267,090 (0.4% of total expenditure) and an overall accumulated deficit of €32,081. He advised that an analysis of excess expenditure had been attached, amounting to €14,869,736, which was counterbalanced by the DoEHLG allocation, recoupment contra income and excess income and savings to give the net deficit of €267,090. He noted the main reasons for the deficit are as follows:

- Roads Division was overspent due to additional flooding and gritting operations in 2008.
- The Water Services Division was overspent due to the additional regulatory requirements regarding Drinking Water, EPA Licences, Health & Safety requirements and transfer of water services to Town Councils.

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. C. Hanniffy the members approved of the excess expenditure as set out in the report.

RESOLUTION TO FIX A DATE FOR STATUTORY BUDGET MEETING:

Mr. D. Conlon, Head of Finance advised the members that it was proposed to hold a Special Meeting In-Committee on 14th December 2009 at 2.00pm to discuss the 2009 Budget, followed by the Statutory Budget Meeting on 21st December at 2.00p.m.

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick it was agreed to hold the Special Meeting In-Committee and the Statutory Budget Meeting as proposed.

**ELECTION /
APPOINTMENT /
NOMINATION OF
MEMBERS TO THE
FOLLOWING BODIES
/ COMMITTEES:
- STRATEGIC POLICY
COMMITTEES
- COUNTY OFFALY
VOCATIONAL
EDUCATIONAL
COMMITTEE**

(i) Strategic Policy Committees (SPC)

Ms. M. Cleary, SEO, Corporate Services advised the members that Mr. Joe Gaffey had been nominated to the Environment and Water Services SPC.

The nomination was proposed by Cllr. B. Cowen, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue and agreed.

It was agreed by the members that the national pillars be contacted and requested to forward outstanding nominees for consideration at the December meeting.

(ii) County Offaly Vocational Education Committee (VEC)

Ms. Cleary advised that in accordance with the regulations four (4) representatives were required to be nominated to the VEC, comprising of two males and two females. Nominees received from the representative groupings were noted.

Cllr. Sinead Dooley proposed Ms. Miriam O'Callaghan for the first female position. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. B. Cowen and agreed.

Cllr. T. McKeigue proposed Ms. Mary McLoughlin for the second female position. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. B. Cowen and agreed.

Cllr. D. Owens proposed Mr. Tom Feighery for the first male position. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue and agreed.

Cllr. M. Buckley proposed Mr. Oliver McCormack for the second male position. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. J. Butterfield.

Cllr. P. Ormond proposed Mr. Eoghan Maher for the second male position. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley.

Cathaoirleach, N. Bourke advised that as there were two nominees for the second position the members would be required to vote. A ballot ensued resulting as follows:

Mr. Oliver McCormack received 6 votes.

Mr. Eoghan Maher received 13 votes.

There was one member not in attendance.

Cllr. N. Bourke declared Mr. Eoghan Maher elected to the VEC.

**RAISING OF LOAN:
TULLAMORE WASTE
WATER TREATMENT
PLANT:**

Mr. M. Roche, DOS, advised that it is estimated the Tullamore Waste Water Treatment Plant Scheme will cost €23,600,000. He informed the members that Offaly County Council is required to raise €7.4 million towards the scheme. He stated that €1.4 million will be raised through the Development Contribution Scheme and that he was now seeking approval to draw down a loan for the remaining €6 million.

On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded Cllr. D. Owens the council approved of the raising of loan in the amount of €6 million

**RAISING OF LOAN:
TULLAMORE WASTE
WATER TREATMENT
PLANT (cont'd):**

to fund the Tullamore Waste Treatment Plant Scheme.

Cllr. N. Bourke advised that the scheme would now be sent to the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government for their approval.

**OVERDRAFT
ACCOMMODATION
2009:**

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.

**COUNCIL STANDING
ORDERS:**

Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator advised that following a review by the Corporate Policy Group it was proposed to amend the Councils Standing Orders as circulated. She outlined the three proposed amendments as follows:

1. Admittance of member(s) of the public by prior application, in person or by writing, to the Meetings Administrator.
2. Notice of Motion – restrict number of motions appearing on the agenda to the first four motions received; a member may have no more than two motions on any one agenda; and all outstanding motions to be addressed at every third meeting.
3. Restrict external presentations, where possible, to one per meeting.

A discussion on the proposals ensued after which on the proposal of Cllr. C. Hanniffy, seconded by Cllr. M. Buckley the members agreed to adopt the proposed changes regarding attendance of members of the public and presentations. It was agreed not to amend the format for addressing notices of motion.

**COUNTY
ENTERPRISE BOARD
PRESENTATION:**

Mr. S. Ryan, CEO Offaly County Enterprise Board (CEB) gave a comprehensive presentation to the members on the functions and current operations of the CEB.

In responding to queries raised Mr. Ryan advised that the CEB provide assistance to business with regard to the preparation of business plans which, he suggested, may help them when they approach banks looking for funds. He also advised that where funding is available it was accessible to all applicants.

The members complemented Mr. Ryan and the CEB staff on their work and thanked him for his presentation.

NOTICE OF MOTION:

a) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Buckley and seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn.

“That Offaly County Council asserts the fundamental importance of the arts to economic recovery and calls for action at local and national level”

The Cathaoirleach advised that all financial matters would be considered as part of the 2010 budgetary process.

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

b) Cllr C. Hanniffy proposed the following motion, which was seconded by Cllr. P. Clendennen

“That Offaly County Council ensure we allocate adequate funding to promote tourism in our County”

It was agreed to expand the motion to include ‘resources’

Mr. Gallagher stated that the issue would be considered in the context of drafting the Budget for 2010. He advised that Offaly County Council would continue to work with interagency groups to promote and progress initiatives.

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

“That Offaly County Council contact the HSE regarding the increased costs of Nursing Homes and the need for additional beds for older people”

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

“That this council would put a freeze on commercial rates for a period of two years”

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. N. Bourke advised that as with motions a) and b) all financial matters would be considered as part of the 2010 Budgetary process.

e) Cllr. N. Hogan proposed the following motion, which was seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn:

“That Offaly County Council would write to Kildare County Council asking them to clarify when work will begin on the upgrade of the Edenderry Enfield road”

It was agreed to write to Kildare County Council and to the Department of Transport.

COMHDHÁLACHA:

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

“Promoting Partnership in Tourism” – A National Tourism Conference

It was agreed to send Cllrs. G. Plunkett, B. Cowen, E. Dooley, P. Clendennen and M. Buckley

Irish Planning Institute – Autumn Conference 2009

It was agreed to send Cllr. M. Buckley and J. Butterfield.

COMHFHREAGRAS:

In relation to correspondence received from the Department of Social & Family Affairs, dated 28th October 2009, regarding cuts to the Christmas Bonus, Cllr. M. Buckley expressed her disappointment with the approach being adopted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Draft Plan for Fire and Emergency

Cllr. P. Ormond advised that following the discussion on the draft *Plan for Fire and Emergency Operations* a number of the members met with a view to developing proposals to keep the three (3) fire stations open. A document outlining these proposals was circulated to the meeting.

The County Manager confirmed that he received the proposals approximately one hour before the meeting and would consider the contents of the proposal. He welcomed the submission and requested that any further submissions be forwarded in advance of the December meeting. He advised that proposals should have regard to revenue cost, health and safety requirements and to the capital costs associated with the maintenance and operation of the fire service.

Signage on Tullamore Bypass

Cllr. J. Carroll noted that Dublin was not included on any of the signs located on the Tullamore bypass i.e. Dublin. Cllr. G. Plunkett requested that a signpost for Daingean be erected.

Littering and Illegal Dumping

Cllr. Quinn expressed his concern regarding the increasing level of illegal dumping that was taking place in the county. He requested that information on the resources being applied to this area be made available. Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, Chair of the Environment and Water Services SPC, advised that policy on the matter was being considered by the SPC.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED:

CATHAOIRLEACH

RUNAÍ

21st DECEMBER 2009