

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 19TH DECEMBER 2011 AT 3.30 P.M.**

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| PRESENT: | Cllr. D. Owens (Presiding), Cllrs. N. Bourke, M. Buckley, J. Butterfield, J. Carroll, P. Clendennen, D. Dolan, E. Dooley, S. Dooley, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Foley, C. Hanniffy, N. Hogan, T. McKeigue, T. McLoughlin, J. Leahy, S. Moylan-Ryan, P. Ormond, G. Plunkett, L. Quinn and P. Rowland. |
| IN ATTENDANCE: | Mr. P. Gallagher, County Manager, Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S., Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F., Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator, Mr. D. Mahon, S.E.O., Mr. B. Pey, Housing Social and Community Co-ordinator, Ms. N. Troy, C.O. |
| VOTES OF SYMPATHY: | <p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-</p> <p>Mr. Joe Smollen, Daingean Road, Tullamore, Offaly on the death of his wife, Eileen.</p> <p>Mrs. Judy Hanlon, 10 Cormac Street, Tullamore, Offaly on the death of her mother, Dora (Doll) Behan.</p> <p>Mr. Finbar Connolly, Main Street, Daingean, Offaly on the death of his aunt, Tilly Walsh.</p> <p>Mrs. Loretta Dunne, Main Street, Clonaslee, Laois on the death of her son, James.</p> <p>Mr. John Molloy, Kyle, Kinnitty, Birr, Offaly on the death of his uncle, Patsy.</p> <p>Mrs. Rita Guing, Carrick Road, Edenderry on the death of her mother, Sheila Hickey.</p> <p>The Stanley Family, Rathcahill House, Shinrone, Birr, Offaly on the death of their mother, Olive Stanley-Watzel.</p> <p>Mr. George O’Sullivan, Killenard, Laois on the death of his wife, Gemma.</p> <p>Mrs. Margaret Egan & Family, Kilbride, Portarligton, Laois on the death of her husband, Noel.</p> <p>Mr. Frank Sweeney, Clonamore House, Arden Road, Tullamore, Offaly on the death of his nephew, James.</p> <p>Mr. Joe Bolger, Frankfort, Dunkerrin, Birr, Offaly on the death of his wife, Maura.</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| VOTES OF SYMPATHY (cont'd): | 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. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn, the minutes of Offaly County Council's Monthly Meeting held on 21 st November 2011 were agreed and adopted. |
| MINUTES FOR NOTING: | <p>The following minutes were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Edenderry JPC held on 24th March 2011 - Tullamore Area Committee held 12th September 2011 - Housing, Social & Cultural SPC held on 15th September 2011 - Transportation & Emergency Services SPC held on 16th September 2011 - Corporate Policy Group held on 17th October 2011 |
| SECTION 183 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 – DISPOSAL OF LAND AT SITE 6, MEADOWLANDS, KILCORMAC, CO. OFFALY: | On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. C. Hanniffy, the members resolved to the disposal of land at Site 6, Meadowlands, Kilcormac in accordance with the Section 183 Notice dated 6th December 2011. |
| SECTION 183 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 – DISPOSAL OF LEASEHOLD INTEREST IN LANDS AT BALLYCOLLIN, KILCORMAC: | On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley, the members resolved to the disposal of leasehold interest in lands at Ballycollin, Kilcormac in accordance with the Section 183 Notice dated 6th December 2011. |
| DRAFT MID TERM REVIEW OF TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2009 – 2013: | <p>Mr. D. Mahon, SEO, referred to the <i>Draft Mid Term Review of Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009 – 2013</i>, which had been circulated with the Agenda. He briefed the members on: the contents of the report; the review process, which involved an extensive consultation period (7 months); and noted the current Traveller Accommodation Programme targets.</p> <p>He advised that following the review it was proposed to make amendments to the programme as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Birr Group Housing – amend the target date for completion of 4 Group Housing Scheme units from 2011 to 2013; and 2. Tullamore Environs – reduce the target of 20 units of traveller specific accommodation to 7 units. <p>He outlined the reasons for the proposals, which were also contained within the report.</p> <p>Mr. Mahon also noted a number of corrections to the figures on page 3 of the document as set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total figure for 2011 to be changed from 13 to 9; • The total figure for 2012 to be changed from 12 to 19; • The total figure for 2013 to be changed from 12 to 16. |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>DRAFT MID TERM REVIEW OF TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2009 – 2013 (cont'd):</p> | <p>On the proposal of Cllr. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue, the members approved the proposed amendments to the <i>Traveller Accommodation Programme 2009-2013</i> as set out in the report.</p> |
| <p>PROPOSED VARIATION NO. 1 TO THE OFFALY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009-2015:</p> | <p>Mr. D. Kirrane, DOS, informed the members that the proposed variation had been published on 7th December 2011 and that the period of public consultation would continue until 16th January 2012. He advised that the variation included the following two proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inclusion of a Core Strategy into the Offaly County Development Plan; and • The removal of the Portarlington Town Plan. <p>Mr. D. Kirrane, DOS, informed the meeting that a draft plan for Portarlington was currently being prepared in conjunction with Laois County Council</p> |
| <p>CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE REVIEW:</p> | <p>Mr. S. Murray, DOS, advised that a meeting had been held with the members of the Council to prepare a response to the Constituency Committee Review, a draft of which was circulated with the Agenda. He advised that the latest date for receipt of submissions was 10th January 2012.</p> <p>The members expressed their satisfaction with letter and thanked all associated with the drafting of same.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll, the members agreed to proceed with the submission.</p> |
| <p>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP MEETING REPORT:</p> | <p>Cllr. D. Owens, Cathaoirleach, advised that the last meeting of the Corporate Policy Group had been held on the 7th December 2011 to discuss the Draft Budget 2012. He advised that no meeting had been held in advance of the December monthly meeting.</p> |
| <p>NOTICES OF MOTION:</p> | <p>(i) On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. P. Clendennen, the members agreed the following motion:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>"That Offaly County Council calls on the Government to implement a complete reappraisal of the Valuation System and allow County Councils to carry out Re-Valuations on small business and also allow scope for self assessments regarding people's turnover."</i></p> <p>Cllr. D. Dolan proposed amending the motion to exclude the following <i>"regarding people's turnover"</i>. Cllr. McKeigue accepted his proposed amendment and the motion was agreed.</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>NOTICES OF MOTION (cont'd):</p> | <p>(ii) Cllr. T. McKeigue proposed and Cllr. L. Quinn seconded the following motion which was agreed by the members: <i>“That Offaly County Council calls on the Minister for the Environment and Local Government to extend the County Development Plan to cover an eight year period the same should apply for Town Plan.”</i></p> <p>(iii) On the proposal of Cllr. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue, the members agreed to the following motion: <i>“That Offaly Local Authorities will have a standardised response to homelessness and that housing applicants can be assessed as speedily as possible.”</i></p> <p>Mr. S. Murray, DOS, said that a standardised approach would be considered at the SPC.</p> <p>(iv) On the proposal of Cllr M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. J. Butterfield, the members agreed the following motion: <i>“That Offaly Council will continue to work in partnership with Voluntary Housing Associations in order to address the housing needs in the area.”</i></p> <p>(v) On the proposal of Cllr J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. T. McLoughlin, the members agreed the following motion: <i>“That this Council calls on the courts service to retain Birr Courthouse as a venue for circuit court sittings.”</i></p> <p>The members expressed their dissatisfaction with the decision and the lack of consultation regarding same.</p> |
| <p>COMHDHÁLACHA:</p> | <p>There were no conferences.</p> |
| <p>COMHFHREAGRAS:</p> | <p>The members noted the correspondences received.</p> |
| <p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</p> | <p><u>Croghan, County Offaly Book</u> The members complimented Ms. A. Pedlow, Dr. John Feehan and his master class in UCD on the publication.</p> <p><u>County Manager</u> The members congratulated Mr. P. Gallagher, County Manager on his graduation with a PhD in Governance.</p> <p><u>Winter Maintenance</u> Cllr. T. McLoughlin requested that the possibility of salt being provided to locals in secluded areas be examined.</p> <p><u>Geashill Garda Station</u> Cllr. G. Plunkett expressed his disgust with the decision of the Minister for Justice to close Geashill Garda Station.</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| ANY OTHER BUSINESS (cont'd): | The Cathaoirleach and the County Manager expressed their thanks to the members, staff, media and members of the public for their support over the past year. |
|---|--|

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED:

_____ **CATHAOIRLEACH**

_____ **RUNAÍ**

16TH JANUARY 2012