

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 21ST FEBRUARY 2011 AT 2.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. C. Hanniffy.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. P. Gallagher, County Manager, Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S., Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F., Mr. D. Mahon, A/D.O.S., Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator, and Ms. R. Dillon, C.O.

**VOTES OF
SYMPATHY:**

Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-

Pat Pilkington, Elmville, Springfield Road, Birr on the death of his mother, Mary.

Mary Harrington, Ballyegan, Birr on the death of her husband, P.J.

Patricia Murphy, Ballinamere, Tullamore on the death of her mother, Margaret.

The O'Brien Family, School Road, Crinkle, Birr on the death of their father, Michael.

Brendan O'Brien, Glendaniel, Tullamore on the death of his father, Batty.

Ann McGlinchey, Pearce Park, Tullamore on the death of her father, Oliver.

Biddy Kavanagh, Cloncollig, Tullamore on the death of her husband, Luke.

Moya Lawless, Clonminch, Tullamore on the death of her husband, Tom.

Patrick Murphy & Family, Kilmaine, Fortal, Birr on the death of his sister, Madge.

Joe Connolly & Family, The Leap, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary on the death of his husband, Michael.

Daryl Lowry, Ballincur Park, Kinnitty, Birr on the death of his mother, Teresa.

Johnny Culleton, Newtown, Ballybritt, Roscrea, Co Tipperary on the death of his mother, Mary.

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. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn, the minutes of Offaly County Council's January Monthly Meeting held on 17th January 2011 were agreed and adopted.

MINUTES FOR NOTING:

The following minutes were noted:

- Minutes of Environment Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 6th October 2010;
- Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 13th December, 2010.

SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001: SITE NO. 10 KYLEBEG, BANAGHER, CO. OFFALY:

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Moylan-Ryan, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley the members agreed the Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 for Site No. 10 at Kylebeg, Banagher, Co. Offaly.

SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001: KILLANE, EDENDERRY, CO. OFFALY:

On the proposal of Cllr. N. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. N. Hogan the members agreed the Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 for the disposal of lands at Killane, Edenderry, Co. Offaly to the Department of Education and Skills.

The members welcomed the provision of land for the development of a primary school, stating that the current temporary accommodation was unsuitable. The members also expressed concern with regard to the concentration of schools in the area and requested that a traffic plan be considered.

In responding to questions Mr. D. Mahon, A/D.O.S., advised that the sale of the lands was subject to planning permission and to agreement in relation to final specifications and cost of the access road. The capital funds arising from the sale, he advised, will be offset in the first instance against the Council's €8m housing debt. A provision for necessary road improvement works at the junctions will also be made.

In responding to Cllr. J. Foley's proposal to use the proceeds of the sale to re-open the Fire Stations the County Manager reiterated Mr. D. Mahon's remarks in relation to the assignment of the proceeds of the sale. The Manager stressed that the funds realised on completion of the sale would be capital in nature, and accordingly could not be used to fund the council's revenue costs, e.g. in the Fire Service. Cllr. Foley said he would forward a question on the matter to the Meetings Administrator for response at the next meeting.

**TAKE OVER OF
KINNEFAD AND
CUSHINA GROUP
WATER SCHEMES:**

On the proposal of Cllr. N. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick the members agreed the takeover of:

- Kinnefad Group Water Scheme (Rhode PWS), and
- Cushina Group Water Scheme (Walsh Island).

**CIRCULARS FIN.
01.A/2011 AND FIN.
01.B/2011 –
IMF/EU REPORTING
REQUIREMENTS AND
SECURED
BORROWINGS:**

Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F., drew the members' attention to the Circulars which were circulated with the Agenda. He advised the members that the Annual Financial Statement (AFS) was the Council's annual statutory financial report to the Department.

Mr. D. Conlon informed the members that Circular Fin. 01.A/2011 requires the Council, including the Town Councils, to make quarterly reports to the Department. These reports, which relate to revenue expenditure, capital account balances and debt collection, will be collated nationally and submitted to the DoEHLG for onward reporting to the Department of Finance, IMF, European Commission and ECB.

Mr. D. Conlon advised that Circular Fin. 01.B/2011 requires the Council, including the Town Councils, to attain prior approval from the Department of Finance in relation to the borrowing of any money and/or if the Council proposes to put any asset as security on a loan.

Mr. Conlon informed the members that the quarterly financial reports to the members would be provided in the format required by the Circulars.

The members expressed their dissatisfaction with regard to the increase in work for staff and the over regulation by the DEHLG and the Department of Finance, and the requirement to report the Council's financial affairs to the IMF and European bodies.

ROADS GRANTS 2011

Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., drew the members' attention to the 2011 National, Regional and Local Roads allocations which were circulated in advance of the meeting. He informed the members that the allocation for Non National Roads would be discussed at the Area Committee meetings and that a full report would be prepared for the March monthly meeting.

**ENGAGING WITH
ARCHITECTURE
SCHEME**

Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S., informed the meeting that Offaly County Council had received a grant in the sum of €20,000 from the DEHLG in relation to an 'Engaging with Architecture Scheme'. The Scheme, a joint venture between the DEHLG and the Arts Council, aims to promote a greater engagement of architecture. Mr. D. Kirrane advised that the Council propose to open an architectural centre in Tullamore for the month of May and that a number of exhibitions, public talks on architecture including talks on the county's heritage and protected structures and a number of family orientated activities will be delivered from the venue. Mr. Kirrane informed the meeting that the Scheme will be a collaborative approach

between the Planning, Architecture, Heritage and Arts Sections of the Council and that staff from the Design Hub will also participate in the Scheme.

The members welcomed the initiative.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

(a) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue and agreed by the members:

“That Offaly County Council highlights the need for urgent legislation to protect elderly and disabled people to ensure that prosecution could be obtained for wilful neglect of a vulnerable person.”

It was agreed to write to the Minister with responsibility and to circulate the motion to other Councils.

(b) Cllr. M. Buckley proposed the following motion, which was seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue, and agreed:

“That Offaly County Council write to the VHI and request an explanation on the outrageous and unaffordable hikes in premiums.”

COMHDHÁLACHA:

The following conferences were agreed by the members:

Carlow 9th National Tourism Conference
The Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow 3rd/5th March 2011
It was agreed that Cllr. M. Buckley would attend.

Planning & Development (Amendment Act 2010)
Athlone I.T. 15th April 2011
It was agreed that Cllr. J. Butterfield would attend.

LAMA Spring Seminar
Fairways Hotel, Dundalk 29th/30th April 2011
It was agreed that Cllrs. M. Buckley, P. Clendennen, T. McKeigue and J. Butterfield would attend.

In responding to a question Cllr. B. Cowen, Cathaoirleach advised that he would not be travelling to New York for St. Patrick's Day.

COMHFREAGRAS:

The correspondences were noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Public Lighting:

In responding to a question from Cllr. T. McLoughlin Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., informed the members that the Council was finalising a new contract regarding the maintenance of public lighting. He advised that the contractor proposed to have repairs completed in the coming weeks.

Business Development Programme:

Cllr. M. Buckley who also attended the award ceremony, joined with Cllr. N. Bourke, in congratulating all who had completed the Programme and who were awarded their

certificates earlier in the day.

Dáil Election:

The members joined with the Cathaoirleach in extending good wishes to all council members standing for election to Dáil Éireann on 25th February 2011.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED:

CATHAOIRLEACH

RUNAÍ

21st MARCH 2011