

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 16TH MAY 2011 AT 2.00 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, 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. D. Conlon, H.O.F., Mr. H. O'Donoghue, Head of I.S., Mr. D. Mahon, S.E.O., Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator, Ms. S. Morgan, Midland Regional Authority and Ms. N. Troy, C.O.

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. T. McLoughlin.

**VOTES OF
SYMPATHY:**

Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-

Mr. Michael Duffy, Offaly County Council staff member on the death of his mother, Eileen.

Mr. John Dench, Offaly County Council staff member and his family on the death of his mother-in-law, Elizabeth Geoghegan.

Mrs. Maria Geoghegan, Acontha, Durrow, Tullamore on the death of her husband, Larry.

Mr. John Dunne & Family, Killurin, Tullamore on the death of his mother, Ann.

Mr. Anthony Reynolds, Cloneygowan on the death of his wife, Deirdre.

Mrs. Margaret Murphy, No. 23 St. Patricks Tce., Portarlinton on the death of her husband, James.

Ms. Gemma Hyland, Derrybeg, Tullamore on the death of her father, Michael.

The Mahon Family, Pike Road, Eanaghan, Walsh Island on the death of their father, Tom.

Rev. Mather & Community, Presentation Convent, Killina, Rahan, Tullamore on the death of Sister Vincent.

Mrs. Bernadette Keegan, Corr, Ballinahown, Athlone on the death of her mother, Bridget.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY (cont'd):

Mrs. Anne Dermody, Coole, Fortal, Birr on the death of her mother, Mary Bridget.

Mrs. Irena de Clair, Kinnitty, Birr on the death of her sister, Lutica Bhadeuri

Mr. Paddy Murphy, Kilmaine, Fortal on the death of his brother, Kieran.

Mrs. Patty Murphy & Family, Coolagarry, Walsh Island on the death of her husband, Kieran.

Mrs. Bernadette Byrne, Gloster, Lusmagh, Birr on the death of her mother, Delia Whelan.

Mr. Tom Rigney, Cuscallow, Banagher on the death of his father, Kieran.

Mr. Billy Murray, Fancroft, Roscrea, Co Tipperary on the death of his brother, Joe.

Sarah & Sean Dench, 7 Callery Street, Tullamore on the death of their grandmother, Elizabeth.

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.

VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS:

A vote of congratulations was extended to:

- Cllr. N. Hogan on her recent engagement.
- Mr. F. Heslin, DOS, on the birth of his son.
- All the staff involved in the successful Engage with Architecture project.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley, the minutes of Offaly County Council's Monthly Meeting held on 18th April were agreed and adopted.

MINUTES FOR NOTING:

The following minutes were noted:

- Minutes of Edenderry Area Committee held on 20th January 2011

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:

President of the United States of America, Barack Obama and First Lady, Michelle Obama's visit to Moneygall, Co. Offaly on 23rd May, 2011:

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. D. Owens, the members agreed to suspend Standing Orders to record formally their welcome for the forthcoming visit of the President of the United States of America, Barack Obama and the First Lady, Michelle Obama, to Moneygall, Co. Offaly. It was acknowledged that the President's visit was an official visit rather than a state visit and that the President was going to Moneygall to meet the local community and members of his extended family.

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. D.

**SUSPENSION OF
STANDING ORDERS
(cont'd):**

Owens, the members agreed to accord a Civic Welcome to the President and First Lady. To mark the occasion, the Council also decided to present gifts with Offaly themes to President and Mrs. Obama.

Cllr. P. Ormond paid tribute to the community of Moneygall and to the Council on the excellent work being done in preparation for the visit. It was acknowledged that this was an honour for the county and was an event of historic significance. It was also recognised that the President's visit and the associated media attention would provide a unique opportunity to highlight Offaly's attractions as a tourist destination.

Farm Inspections:

Cllr. J. Carroll proposed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the members to discuss the issue of farming inspections, which he felt were intrusive. Following a brief discussion it was agreed that the relevant council staff would meet the councillors to discuss the matter.

**SECTION 183 – DISPOSAL
OF LAND AT SITE NO. 10
KYLEBEG, BANAGHER:**

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Moylan-Ryan, seconded by Cllr. C. Hanniffy the members approved of the disposal of land at Site No.10, Kylebeg, Banagher in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 18th April 2011.

**SCHEME OF LETTING
PRIORITIES:**

Mr. D. Mahon, SEO, drew the meetings attention to the proposed amendment to *Offaly County Council Scheme of Letting Priorities for Social Housing Accommodation 2011*. He informed the members that the adoption of the revised Scheme of Letting Priorities was a reserved function. The changes were required by regulation to be included in the Scheme by 12th June 2011. The main changes included:

- All references to the Housing Act, 1988 and other related pre-2009 legislation were to be removed and replaced by s.22, Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2009 and Social Housing Allocation Regulations, 2011.
- The Scheme must cover all dwellings owned or under the control of the Council (including leased and RAS dwellings) and dwellings provided by approved housing bodies with Exchequer funding.
- The Scheme must make specific provision for dwellings reserved for specific purposes including allocations to particular classes of persons, those transferring from other forms of social housing support and for particular forms of tenure.

Mr. D. Mahon advised as follows:

- A minimum of 10% of all new developments will be set aside for applicants from homeless, elderly, single applicants, travelling community and applicants requiring purpose built dwellings;
- RAS tenants may apply for a transfer if they satisfy the transfer application criteria;
- Two refusal of housing offers in a twelve month period

**SCHEME OF LETTING
PRIORITIES (Cont'd):**

- will result in an applicant forfeiting their place on the waiting list for a further twelve month period;
- The Council may designate properties for Choice Based Letting;
 - The current approach with regard to time on the housing list applies.

Mr. Mahon, in responding to queries advised that the Minister had indicated that a uniform approach based on 'time on the list' may replace the current point system approach. He advised that RAS tenants are considered to be receiving adequate housing support. He noted that under the new scheme RAS tenants will remain on the social housing list and time in RAS tenancy will be considered as time on the waiting list.

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll, the members adopted the *Offaly County Council Scheme of Letting Priorities for Social Housing Accommodation 2011*. It was agreed that the Housing, Social and Cultural SPC should examine the concerns raised by the members.

ANNUAL REPORT 2010:

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy the Annual Report 2010 was adopted.

**RURAL BROADBAND
SCHEME PROGRAMME:**

Ms. Sarah Morgan, MRA, gave an informative presentation to the members on the Rural Broadband Scheme Programme. She advised that the objective of the scheme was to make broadband available to those who are currently unable to access broadband. She briefed the members on the background of the scheme, the role of the RBS Steering Group, the features of the scheme, identification and verification of the applicants, the roll out of the service and the timelines for submitting applications. Ms. Morgan advised that it is expected that the scheme will be rolled out in 2012.

The members thanked Ms. Morgan for her presentation.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS:

(a) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Leahy. Buckley and seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue:

"That Offaly County Council write to the Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairi Quinn requesting a reversal in the government's decision to withdraw the services of the resource teachers for travellers, the visiting teachers for travellers and Rural Coordinators from rural schools".

Following discussions, it was agreed to separate the motion into two - one requesting the Minister to reverse the decision with regard to resource teachers for travellers; and secondly, a separate motion requesting the Minister to reverse the decision with regard to the withdrawal of Rural Co-ordinators from Rural Schools.

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

(b) Cllr. D. Dolan proposed the following motion, which was seconded by Cllr. N. Bourke:

“That Offaly County Council calls on the Minister for Health and the HSE to reverse the HSE decision to reduce the Ambulance service based at the Tullamore Regional Hospital”

A discussion ensued and Cllr. N. Bourke proposed amending the motion to include the request for an expansion of the Edenderry ambulance service. This proposal was rejected by Cllr. Dolan, who requested that the motion be issued as is, to ensure that the response would be specific to his motion. Therefore, it was agreed to send the following motion separately:

“That Offaly County Council write to the Minister for Health and to the HSE to request that the Ambulance Service in Edenderry be expanded to meet the demands of the increased population in Edenderry, and also to request the provision of adequate accommodation for the ambulance crew”.

Cllr. T. McKeigue advised the meeting that he would raise the issue at the next meeting of the H.S.E. forum and request a meeting with the members.

(c) On the proposal of Cllr. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue the council approved the following motion:

“That Offaly County Council write to the Minister for the Environment requesting a review of the criteria for Community Employment Schemes”

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

“That Offaly County Council reconvene the Disability Forum which was set up as part of the Barcelona Agreement”

(e) Cllr. J. Carroll proposed the motion which was seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan and agreed:

“That this Council write to the Chief Superintendent seeking a review of procedure for the issuing of PSV Licences in Offaly”.

COMHDHÁLACHA:

The following conferences were proposed by Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, and agreed by the members:

Tipperary Peace Convention
Tipperary Town

COMHDHÁLACHA
(cont'd):

Ballykisteen Hotel & Golf Resort
Limerick Junction
5th June 2011

It was agreed that Cllr. C. Hanniffy would attend.

Byrne Perry Summer School
17th Byrne/Perry Summer School
Gorey Co. Wexford.
24th/26th June 2011.

It was agreed that Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick would attend.

Sean MacDiarmada Summer School 2011
Kilclogher, Co. Leitrim
17th/19th June 2011.

It was agreed that Cllr. J. Butterfield would attend.

COMHFREAGRAS:

The correspondences were noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

There were no items under Any Other Business

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED:

CATHAOIRLEACH

RUNAÍ

20th JUNE 2011