

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 16TH JANUARY 2012 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, 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>Maura Gillen, Rathgreedan Lane, Edenderry on the death of her husband, Hugh.</p> <p>Nancy O’Grady & Family, Derrybeg, Killeigh on the death of her husband, Martin.</p> <p>Maisie O’Grady & Family, Castleview Park, Edenderry on the death of her husband, Jimmy.</p> <p>Anthony & Peadar O’Grady, Springfield, Mountlucas, Daingean on the death of their brother, Jimmy.</p> <p>Pat McElduff, Kilarles, Geashill on the death of his father, Tommy.</p> <p>The Farrelly Family, Turraun, Ferbane on the death of their mother, Margaret.</p> <p>Christy Carey, Kilkeeran, Portarlinton on the death of his aunt, Mary.</p> <p>Kay Byrne, Arden Road, Tullamore on the death of her husband, Michael.</p> <p>Tom Daly, Broghal Road, Kilcormac on the death of his mother, Mai.</p> <p>May & Benny Sheridan, Arden Heights, Tullamore on the death of their son-in-law, Hugh.</p> <p>Mrs. Aherne & Family, Burkeshill, Birr on the death of her husband, Tom.</p>

<p>VOTES OF SYMPATHY (cont'd):</p>	<p>John Maher, Derrinduff, Fortel, Birr on the death of his mother, Josie.</p> <p>Michael Campbell, Woodland Park, Birr on the death of his sister, Anne.</p> <p>Jimmy & Betty Morris & Family, Cloncarbon, Birr on the death of their son, Seamus.</p> <p>Bernie McCormack Horan & Family, Cluain Alainn, Curraghavarra, Banagher on the death of her brother, P.J.</p> <p>Catherine & Martin Curley, Creevagh, Shannonbridge, Co Offaly on the death of her brother, Jimmy.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. N. Bourke, the minutes of Offaly County Council's In committee Budget Meeting held on 12th December, 2011 were agreed and adopted.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. G. Plunkett, seconded by Cllr. J. Butterfield, the minutes of Offaly County Council's In committee Budget Meeting held on 19th December, 2011 were agreed and adopted.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Rowland, seconded by Cllr. M. Buckley, the minutes of Offaly County Council's Statutory Budget Meeting held on 19th December, 2011 were agreed and adopted.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, the minutes of Offaly County Council's Monthly Meeting of Offaly County Council held on Monday, 19th December 2011 were agreed and adopted.</p>
<p>MINUTES FOR NOTING:</p>	<p>There were no minutes for noting.</p>
<p>SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2012:</p>	<p>The Schedule of Meetings for 2012 was circulated for the information of the members.</p>
<p>ANNUAL DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:</p>	<p>Mr. S. Murray, DOS drew the members attention to the Annual Declaration of Interests which he advised had to be completed and returned by 31st January 2012.</p>
<p>STATUTORY LAW REVISION BILL:</p>	<p>Mr. D. Hogan, Senior Engineer informed the members that the Environment Section was required to make a submission to the Department on the Statutory Law Revision Bill by 8th December 2011. He was now seeking their comment on the submission and advised the members that their comments would be collated and forwarded to the Department. During the ensuing discussion a number of members spoke in favour of retaining the Dungar Joint Burial Board.</p>

<p>HOUSEHOLD CHARGE:</p>	<p>Mr. D. Conlon, Head of Finance informed the members that the <i>Local Government (Household Charges) Act, 2011</i> set 1st January as the liability date for household charges and 31st March as the date by which this charge must be made.</p> <p>He informed the meeting that, from 2012, the income raised from the Household Charge would replace the Exchequer funding of the Local Government Fund (LGF). He noted that the Exchequer had provided €160m to the LGF in 2011. He circulated a list of Unfinished Housing Estates in County Offaly and noted that these householders qualified for a waiver.</p> <p>In responding to questions raised Mr. D. Kirrane, DOS, advised that the list of Unfinished Housing Estates were determined by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and these estates were identified as Category 3 and 4 on the Department's list of unfinished estates. He clarified that estates not taken in charge by the Council were not deemed as entitling householders to a waiver.</p>
<p>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</p>	<p>Cllr. D. Owens, Cathaoirleach advised that the Corporate Policy Group had considered the significance of the Household Charge replacing the Exchequer contribution to the LGF and the possible implications for the future funding of Local Authorities.</p> <p>The Cathaoirleach advised that the items included on the Council Agenda were considered.</p> <p>Cllr. C. Hanniffy noted that €26m had been provided for the Edenderry / Enfield Road. This news was welcomed by the members.</p>
<p>NOTICES OF MOTION:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn seconded by Cllr. N. Hogan, the members agreed the following motion:</p> <p><i>“That this council calls on the minister for Education and Skills to review and reverse the decision to abolish the Modern language in primary schools initiative.”</i></p>
<p>COMHDHÁLACHA:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley, conferences were approved as follows:</p> <p><i>The Tragic Impacts of Major Flooding and Freezing Spells – An ever increasing problem</i> Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co Donegal 20th – 22nd January 2012 It was agreed that Cllr. E. Dooley would attend.</p> <p><i>The National Disability Strategy</i> Westport Plaza hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co Mayo 27th – 29th January 2012 It was agreed that Cllr. N. Hogan would attend.</p>

<p>COMHDHÁLACHA (cont'd):</p>	<p><i>Building Control (Amendment) Regulations 2009</i> The Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Dublin Road, Galway 3rd – 5th February 2012 It was agreed that Cllr. N. Hogan and Cllr. M. Buckley would attend.</p> <p><i>Mid-West Regional Authority 17th Annual Conference – “Economic Development in the Regions: The Way Forward”</i> Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare 16th – 17th February 2012 It was agreed that Cllr. M. Buckley would attend.</p> <p><i>Mental Health & Suicide Awareness - “Supports & Developments in Mental Health Care”</i> The Park Hotel, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford 24th – 26th February 2012 It was agreed that Cllr. M. Buckley would attend.</p> <p><i>AMAI – Spring Seminar 2012</i> Kilmore Hotel, Cavan 10th/11th February 2012 It was agreed that Cllr. N. Hogan and Cllr. C. Hanniffy would attend.</p> <p>Local Government Reform: Myth or Reality? Renehan Hall, NUI Maynooth 8th March 2012 It was agreed that Cllr. C. Hanniffy would attend.</p>
<p>COMHFHREAGRAS:</p>	<p>The members noted the correspondences received.</p>
<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</p>	<p>Ambulance Service, Edenderry Cllr. N. Bourke acknowledged the contribution the ambulance service provided to the community but highlighted the inadequate facilities that were available to staff at the ambulance base in Edenderry. He suggested that consideration be made to accommodating them in the Fire Station.</p> <p>In responding Mr. F. Heslin, DOS, noted that Offaly County Council was the agency for managing the Fire Service and the Health Service Executive had responsibility for the ambulance service. He informed the meeting that the sharing of services was considered at the pre-design stage of the Fire Station but the HSE had declined the suggestion. Mr. Heslin noted that the Fire Station was not suitable for hosting the ambulance service. He suggested that alternative locations may be found in the town such as Offalia House and vacant industrial units.</p> <p>Representations to Australian Ambassador Cllr. G. Plunkett informed the meeting that Mr. and Mrs. Eugene and Margaret Bolton, Curragh Hill, Ballinagar had placed a memorial plaque in City Place, Cairns in remembrance of their beloved son, Donal, who was tragically killed there on 5th January 2010. However, some time later the plaque was removed by the authorities. This Cllr. G. Plunkett advised has resulted in a great deal of stress for the family.</p>

	<p>Cllr. G. Plunkett proposed that the Council write to the Australian Ambassador and ask for his support for the reinstatement of the plaque and request that he impress on the relevant municipal authorities the urgency and sensitivity of this matter. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. S. Moylan-Ryan and agreed by the members.</p> <p>Fire Services Report In responding to a query raised Mr. F. Heslin, DOS, informed the meeting that a report on the operations of the Fire and Emergency Plan would be prepared for the information of members.</p>
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This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH **RUNAÍ**

20TH FEBRUARY 2012