

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ**

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

**HELD IN ARAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE  
ON MONDAY, 18TH APRIL 2013 AT 2.00P.M.**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Cllr. P. Ormond (Presiding), Cllrs. N. Bourke, M. Buckley, J. Butterfield, J. Carroll, P. Clendennen, D. Dolan, E. Dooley, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Foley, C. Hanniffy, N. Hogan, T. McKeigue, T. McLoughlin J. Leahy, S. Moylan-Ryan, D. Owens, G. Plunkett, L. Quinn and P. Rowland.
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Cllr. S. Dooley
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Mr. P. Gallagher, County Manager, Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S. Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S. Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F., Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator, Ms. L. Moran, Internal Auditor, Mr. P. Scully, Chairman Audit Committee, Mr. A. Murray, Senior Planner, Ms. B. Maher, Executive Planner, Ms. A. Walsh, Executive Planner, Mr. D. Meehan, Executive Planner, Mr. E. Lynch, Assistant Planner, Ms. P. Hughes, A.O., Ms. F. Flaherty C.O.
<b>VOTES OF SYMPATHY:</b>	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-</p> <p>Mrs. Vera Hoey &amp; Family, Ballinatum, Edenderry on the death of her husband, Mickey;</p> <p>The Dillon Family, Gorteen, Killeigh, Tullamore on the death of their aunt Mrs. Molly Morris;</p> <p>Brian Kehoe, Ballydownan, Geashill on the death of his grandfather, Jack;</p> <p>Michael Dunne &amp; Family, Cushina, Portarlinton on the death of his wife, Elizabeth;</p> <p>Finian Daly, Clonsast, Bracknagh on the the death of his sister, Mrs. Alice Todd;</p> <p>Nanto Reynolds, Raheen, Clara on the death of her aunt, Peg Keenan;</p> <p>Kathleen Ryland, Cuba Avenue, Banagher on the death of her husband, Billy;</p> <p>Bobby Ryland, Main Street, Banagher on the death of his brother, Billy;</p> <p>Jimmy Cahill &amp; Family, Belmont on the death of his mother, Maureen;</p>

	<p>Rose Flynn, Roscrea Road, Birr on the death of her son, Maurice;</p> <p>Cyril Hackett, C/O John &amp; Marie Hackett, Ballinvoher, Geashill on the death of his brother, Dominic;</p> <p>Margaret Kelly, 113 Arden View, Tullamore on the death of her sister-in-law, Margaret Duggan;</p> <p>Sr. Veronica Gilsenan, Convent of Mercy, Tullamore on the death of her brother, Matt;</p> <p>Gemma &amp; Rosemary Dunican, 167 Carraig Cluain, Tullamore on the death of her uncle, Fr. Nicholas Dunican;</p> <p>Sam McMorris, Screggan, Tullamore on the death of his uncle, Fr. Nicholas Dunican.</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>
<b>VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS:</b>	<p>Votes of congratulations were extended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tullamore Rugby Club on reaching Senior League status; and</li> <li>- Offaly Football Division 4 on securing promotion and a return to Division 3 of the Allianz Football League for 2014.</li> </ul>
<b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</b>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. M. Buckley, the minutes of the March Monthly Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, on 25th March 2013 were agreed and adopted.</p>
<b>MINUTES FOR NOTING:</b>	<p>The minutes of the following meetings were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2013; and</li> <li>- Transportation &amp; Emergency Services SPC Meeting held on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2012.</li> </ul>
<b>SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:</b>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley, it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow Mr. P. Scully, Chairperson of the Audit Committee and Mr. J. McNamara and Mr. M. O’Gorman, OPW and Mr. I. Blackwell, Jacobs Engineering to make their presentations.</p>
<b>OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2012:</b>	<p>Mr. Peter Scully, Chairperson of the Audit Committee, gave a brief overview of the <i>Audit Committee Annual Report 2012</i> that was circulated in advance of the meeting to the members. He noted that the Internal Auditor works part time in the Finance Area. He advised that having an Internal Auditor working on a part-time basis was not satisfactory but acknowledged that due to reduction in staff levels there was no alternative available.</p> <p>The members acknowledged the work of the Audit Committee and thanked Mr. P. Scully for his comments.</p>

	<p>The members' noted the contents of the <i>Audit Committee Annual Report 2012</i>.</p>
<p><b>CATCHMENT FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT (CFRAM) PRESENTATION:</b></p>	<p>Mr. Iain Blackwell, Jacobs Engineering and Mr. Joseph McNamara, OPW gave a comprehensive presentation on '<i>The National 'CFRAM' (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management) Programme</i>' detailing the river basin districts that are relevant to Offaly.</p> <p>The members thanked the presenters for their informative overview and acknowledged the on-going work being carried out by the Office of Public Works.</p> <p>Mr. Martin O'Gorman, OPW informed the members that the CFRAM, being conducted in accordance with the EU Directive, is the first comprehensive in-depth study. He advised that a more informed and integrated approach will be feasible once all the data is collated. He encouraged the members and local communities, from each of the Areas for Further Assessment (AFA's), to engage with the consultation process and to participate in the upcoming 'Open Days' where local issues and concerns could be raised.</p> <p>In responding to a question raised Mr. M. O'Gorman, OPW advised that some funding is available from the OPW for minor works.</p> <p>In concluding the discussion Cllr. P. Ormond, Cathaoirleach encouraged members to raise local issues with the Council's liaison person, Mr. T. Shanahan, Senior Engineer in advance of the meeting scheduled to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013.</p>
<p><b>MANAGERS REPORT ON PRE-DRAFT PUBLIC CONSULTATION STAGE OF OFFALY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014-2020:</b></p>	<p>Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S., informed the members that the <i>Manager's Report on the Pre-Draft Public Consultation Stage Of Offaly County Development Plan 2014-2020</i>, which had been previously circulated for consideration by the members forms part of the statutory review of the <i>Offaly County Development Plan 2009-2015</i> and the preparation of the new <i>Offaly County Development Plan 2014-2020</i> and in particular the pre-draft public consultation stage of that process.</p> <p>Ms. B. Maher, E.P., drew the members' attention to the eight (8) main sections of the report and the supporting appendices noting in particular the public information meetings that were held. She noted that thirty-six (36) submissions were received within the prescribed period. Ms. B. Maher informed the members that following receipt and consideration of the Manager's Report that the Elected Members must issue directions in accordance with the provisions of Sn. 11(4)(d) &amp; (f) of the Act and that these directions must be received not later than ten (10) weeks after the submission of this report, i.e., 31<sup>st</sup> May 2013.</p> <p>Ms. B. Maher, E.P., noted the submission received from the</p>

	<p>Midland Regional Authority and drew the members' attention to the County Manager's response and recommendation outlined in Section 5 of the circulated report.</p> <p>Ms. B. Maher, E.P. drew the members' attention to the submissions based on topic, detailed in Section 6 of the report. She advised that some are outside the scope of the County Development Plan and where this was the case they were referred to the appropriate Area Engineer.</p> <p>The <i>Offaly County Development Plan 2014-2020</i>, Ms. B. Maher, E.P., advised that the development plan will be in two (2) volumes, namely Volume 1 - Written Statement and Volume 2 – Settlement Plans. She advised that the number of chapters to be included will reduce from twenty (20) to eight (8) and they will focus on key issues for development over the lifetime of the Plan. In accordance with current legislation, Ms. B. Maher noted that a Statement of Compliance with Ministerial Guidelines will be included in the Written Statement.</p> <p>The members thanked Ms. B. Maher, E.P. for her report. During the ensuing discussion the members raised issues relating to Wind Farm applications and stressed the need to prioritise economic development and employment in the <i>Offaly County Development Plan 2014-2020</i>. Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S. advised that there is currently no planning application with Offaly County Council or An Bord Pleanala in respect of Wind Farms in Offaly. He advised that the Council have a Wind Strategy currently in place.</p>
<p><b>TAKING IN CHARGE OF KILMALOGUE PARK HOUSING ESTATE PORTARLINGTON:</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. G. Plunkett, the members resolved to take in charge Kilmalogue Housing Estate, Portarlington in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 and Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended.</p>
<p><b>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</b></p>	<p>Cllr. P. Ormond, Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that the Council Agenda was considered and a list of conferences was approved at the Corporate Policy Group meeting held earlier that day.</p> <p>He informed the members that the Moneygall Development Association Ltd. had issued an invite to Offaly County Council to hold a meeting in their area. On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley the members agreed to hold the May monthly meeting, scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013, in Moneygall Community Centre.</p>
<p><b>NOTICES OF MOTION:</b></p>	<p>(i) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Buckley , seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue, and agreed:</p> <p><i>“That Offaly Co Council will respond to the Mortgage Arrears crisis by preparing an information pack outlining the Council’s role in the Mortgage to Rent scheme.”</i></p>

	<p>Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., advised that the <i>Mortgage To Rent Scheme</i> is a government initiative and that the Guidelines are available on the Council's website.</p> <p>(ii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue, and agreed:</p> <p><i>“That Offaly Co Council will examine the Planning Review 2012 and consider the position of start-up business at a private residence and also extensions to facilitate older relatives living with family.”</i></p> <p>Cllr. M. Buckley suggested that a presentation on the <i>Planning Review 2012</i> be provided at a later date.</p>
<p><b>COMHDHÁLACHA:</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. P. Clendennon, conferences were approved as follows:</p> <p><i>“Training Seminar for Councillors – Local Government and the Consumer”</i>  <i>Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal</i>  <i>19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2013</i>  It was agreed no members would attend.</p> <p><i>“Local Government Reform Conference”</i>  <i>Avon Ri Lakeside Resort, Blessington, Co. Wicklow</i>  <i>25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2013</i>  It was agreed no members would attend.</p> <p><i>“Elected Members Training Seminar – Strengthening the Building Control System”</i>  <i>Westport Plaza Hotel, Castelbar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo</i>  <i>26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> April 2013</i>  It was agreed that Cllr. L. Quinn would attend.</p> <p><i>“Renewable Energy &amp; Energy Management for Local Authorities”</i>  <i>Maldron Hotel, Galway</i>  <i>26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2013</i>  It was agreed that Cllrs. J. Butterfield and C. Hanniffy would attend.</p> <p><i>“Energy Bridge: Supply Chain Opportunities for Irish Businesses”</i>  <i>Tullamore Court Hotel</i>  <i>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013</i>  It was agreed that Cllrs. J. Butterfield and E. Fitzpatrick would attend.</p> <p><i>“Role of Local Authorities in Promoting Sport, Recreation &amp; Literature”</i>  <i>River Island Hotel, Castleisland, Co. Kerry</i>  <i>3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2013</i>  It was agreed no members would attend.</p>

	<p><i>“Nuclear Free Local Authorities Ireland Spring Seminar – Key Energy Issues Affecting Ireland”</i>  <i>Fingal County Hall (North County Dublin), Main Street, Swords</i>  <i>3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013</i>  It was agreed no members would attend.</p> <p><i>“Elected Members Training Seminar – Public Service Agreement 2010-2014”</i>  <i>The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway</i>  <i>3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2013</i>  It was agreed that Cllr. C. Hanniffy would attend.</p> <p><i>“Training Seminar – Countdown to Local Elections 2014”</i>  <i>Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal</i>  <i>3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> May 2013</i>  It was agreed that Cllr. S. Dooley would attend.</p> <p><i>“Elected Members Training Seminar- Flood Risk Assessment”</i>  <i>Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Mayo</i>  <i>10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> May 2013</i>  It was agreed no members would attend.</p> <p><i>“Training Seminar for Councillors – Local Tourism &amp; the Councillor”</i>  <i>The Talbot Hotel, Wexford</i>  <i>10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> May 2013</i>  It was agreed that Cllr. M. Buckley would attend.</p> <p><i>“TGR Seminars – How to access funding for community programmes relevant to Councillors”</i>  <i>Maldron Hotel, Junction 17, M7 Motorway, Portlaoise, Co. Laois</i>  <i>17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2013</i>  It was agreed no members would attend.</p> <p><i>“Rattoo Heritage Society – Annual Environmental &amp; Heritage Conference”</i>  <i>Golf Hotel, Ballybunnion, Co. Kerry</i>  <i>29<sup>th</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013</i>  It was agreed no members would attend.</p>
<p><b>COMHFHREAGRAS:</b></p>	<p>The correspondences circulated with the Agenda were noted.</p>
<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</b></p>	<p><b><u>Closure of Ferbane Dental Clinic</u></b>  Cllr. E. Dooley and Cllr. C. Hanniffy raised concerns regarding the proposed closure of the Dental Clinic in Ferbane. They noted that the Clinic currently provides services to 9 primary schools and approximately 750 pupils in the catchment area. It was agreed to write to Dr. Michael Mulcahy, Principal Dental Surgeon, H.S.E. requesting that the situation be reviewed.</p>

**Local Property Tax**

Cllr. T. McLoughlin voiced his concern over the estimates received by some in Birr for the Local Property Tax. The County Manager advised that the estimates were issued by the Revenue Commissioners Office and not by Offaly County Council.

The County Manager also advised that Offaly's Household Charges collection rate was currently 67%. He advised that the Council will seek that the funds deducted in 2012 be reimbursed should the collection rate rise to 70%.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**MINUTES CONFIRMED:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **CATHAOIRLEACH**

\_\_\_\_\_ **RUNAÍ**

**20th May 2013**