

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ**

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

**HELD IN ARAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE  
ON MONDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 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, S. 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>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Mr. P. Gallagher, County Manager, Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F., Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S. Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S. Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator, Mr. T. Shanahan, S.E.; Mr. D. Mahon S.E.O Housing, Ms. F. Flaherty C.O.
<b>VOTES OF SYMPATHY:</b>	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-</p> <p>The family of Cllr. Pat Bowe, Chairman of Mountmellick Town Council and Member of Laois County Council.</p> <p>The family of Jim McNamara, former councillor of Birr Town Council and Offaly County Council.</p> <p>Mrs. Margaret Coughlan, Ballincur, Kinnitty, Birr on the death of her mother Mary Hayes.</p> <p>Brenda O' Connell, Sharavogue, Birr on the death of her daughter Kathleen O' Connell.</p> <p>Paul Brummell, 11 Cappaneale Park, Birr on the death of his brother Tony Brumell.</p> <p>Robin Frizzell, Kilkeeran, Portarlinton on the death of his brother Norman Frizzell.</p> <p>Michael Harte, Ballymullan, Daingean on the death of his brother John Harte.</p> <p>Michael Lenihan Snr, Clonearl, Daingean on the death of his sister Margaret Scally.</p> <p>Peter Maloney, No. 6 Church View, Patrick Street, Portarlinton on the death of his father Liam Maloney.</p> <p>Marion Brearton, No. 3 Beechwood, Bracknagh on the death of her father Joe Condron.</p> <p>Mrs. Helen Hayes, Mucklagh, Tullamore on the death of her brother Tom Foran.</p>

<p><b>VOTES OF SYMPATHY: (cont'd)</b></p>	<p>Mrs. Mary Flynn &amp; Family, Charleville Road, Tullamore on the death of her husband Ted Flynn.</p> <p>Robert &amp; Hazel Cox, Annagarvey, Tullamore on the death of their mother Phyllis and their father Robert Cox.</p> <p>Mr. Sean Scully, Ballyteague, Ballycommon, Tullamore on the death of his mother Peg Scully.</p> <p>Mrs. Patricia Dunne &amp; Family, Killurin, Tullamore on the death of her husband Oliver Dunne.</p> <p>Frances Dunne, Church Road, Clara on the death of her brother Barney McGrath.</p> <p>Georgina Tracey, 23 The Green, Clara on the death of her mother Prim Digan.</p> <p>Grace O' Dea, Kildangan, Tullamore on the death of her mother Dympna O' Dea.</p> <p>Mons. Sean Heany, Parochial House, Tullamore on the death of his mother Mrs. Heany.</p> <p>Mrs. Pauline Hughes &amp; Family on the death of her husband Ambrose Hughes.</p> <p>Rev. Fr. Johnny McEvoy, Mucklagh and Joe McEvoy, Kilcappa, Cloneygowan on the death of their mother Mrs. Mary McEvoy.</p> <p>Teresa McGee, Ballycowan, Tullamore on the death of her mother Lilly Buckley.</p> <p>Benny Sheridan, Arden Heights, Tullamore on the death of his sister Carmel.</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><b>VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS:</b></p>	<p>Votes of congratulations were extended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tullamore Rugby Club on winning Division 1A First League Title.</li> </ul>
<p><b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Owens seconded by Cllr. J. Butterfield the minutes of the In-Committee Budget Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 were agreed and adopted.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy and seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley the minutes of the Statutory Budget Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 were agreed and adopted.</p>

<p><b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</b> (cont'd)</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. M. Buckley and seconded by Cllr. S. Dooley, the minutes of the December Monthly Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 were agreed and adopted.</p>
<p><b>TAKING IN CHARGE OF PRIVATE HOUSING ESTATE AT MEADOW COURT, DAINGEAN:</b></p>	<p>Mr. D. Kirrane, DOS informed the meeting that the Taking in Charge of Meadow Court, Daingean was advertised as required. He advised that no submissions were received. On the proposal of Cllr. N. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy the members resolved to the Taking In Charge of private Housing Estate at Meadow Court, Daingean.</p> <p>Mr. D. Kirrane informed the members that the function of taking estates in charge was reassigned from the Roads and Infrastructure Section to Planning and Economic Development Section.</p>
<p><b>ANNUAL DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:</b></p>	<p>Mr. Sean Murray DOS drew the members' attention to the requirement in legislation to complete the Annual Declarations of Interest that were circulated earlier.</p>
<p><b>DRAFT HOUSING GRANT SCHEMES 2013:</b></p>	<p>Mr. D. Mahon, SEO Housing drew the members' attention to the Draft Housing Grant Scheme 2013. He outlined the proposals that were included in the Scheme. He recommended that essential work only be done and that the maximum Housing Adaption Grant be reduced to €30,000; maximum Housing Aid for Older People be reduced to €6,500; and maximum Mobility Aid Grants be reduced to €4,000. In order to ascertain the true number of applicants on the waiting list he recommended that all applicants be contacted. In an effort to target grant assistance at those most in need, the Scheme Mr. D. Mahon advised recommended be restricted to those with gross incomes up to €30,000.</p> <p>Cllr. N. Hogan, Chairperson of the Housing, Social &amp; Cultural SPC in proposing the Housing Grant Scheme 2013 advised that the SPC had sought to maximise the number of grants having regard to the reduced budget allocation. Cllr. C. Hanniffy, in seconding the proposal, requested that the Scheme be reviewed in twelve (12) months. The members' resolved to adopt the Housing Grant Scheme 2013 subject to the inclusion of the review period and the members agreed that applicants approved for a grant under the Scheme that no subsequent application for an additional grant will be accepted for a period of five years.</p>
<p><b>EVALUATION OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE MIDLANDS REGION:</b></p>	<p>Mr. S. Murray, DOS informed the meeting that the <i>Waste Management Plan for the Midlands Region 2005-2010</i> was adopted in February 2006 and was extended in 2011 to cover the period up to 1<sup>st</sup> February 2014. He advised that following the transposing of regulations, SI 126/2011, of the Waste Framework Directive that there was a requirement to evaluate existing Waste Management Plans by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012.</p>

<p><b>EVALUATION OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE MIDLANDS REGION:</b> (cont'd)</p>	<p>Mr. S. Murray, DOS, advised that following an extensive evaluation of the <i>Waste Management Plan for the Midlands Region 2005-2010</i> and having regard to the relevant waste legislation and new policy document, 'A <i>Resource Opportunity – Waste Management Policy in Ireland</i>', that the current plan will have to be replaced. He advised that the current plan will remain in place until the new plan is in place.</p>
<p><b>SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2013:</b></p>	<p>The members noted the Schedule of Meetings circulated with the Council agenda. Cllr. P. Ormond, Cathaoirleach recommended that the Transportation and Emergency S.P.C. agreed their meetings schedule at their first meeting in March 2013.</p>
<p><b>LOCAL ELECTORAL AREA BOUNDARY COMMITTEE SUBMISSION:</b></p>	<p>Cllr. P. Ormond, Cathaoirleach drew the members' attention to the Draft Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee Submission which was circulated, by email, to the members the previous week. On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. C. Hanniffy, the members agreed to the submission.</p> <p>The Cathaoirleach advised that the closing date for the receipt of submissions was Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2013 and that individual members or groups could make their own submission.</p>
<p><b>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</b></p>	<p>Cllr. P. Ormond, Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that e-meetings were considered. He advised that a business case was being developed and that this item would remain on the agenda.</p> <p>The Cathaoirleach congratulated all involved in preparing events for 'The Gathering 2013'. He congratulated the three (3) successful flagship events which had received €25,000 collectively and the thirty-seven (37) community events which received funding. Mr. P. Gallagher, County Manager thanked Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances for their funding initiative and in attaining matching funding from the Department. The members' welcomed the announcement and agreed that the number and schedule of events were impressive.</p> <p>Cllr. P. Ormond, Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that Minister. P. Hogan, TD would officially open Tullamore Library on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm.</p>
<p><b>NOTICES OF MOTION:</b></p>	<p>(i) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. G. Plunkett and agreed: <i>"That Offaly County Council supports the recommendations in the Retail Ireland report 'Tacking the Black Market and Retail Crime' which sets out proposals to protect legitimate retailers from the activity of criminal gangs involved in the smuggling of cigarettes, fuel and counterfeit goods, which according to the report costs the taxpayer €860million per annum."</i></p>

	<p>It was agreed to invite Mr. Tony Hickey former Head of the Criminal Assets Bureau to attend Joint Policing Committee meeting.</p>
<p><b>COMHDHÁLACHA:</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. M. Buckley, conferences were approved as follows:</p> <p><i>“Elected Members Training Seminar: Policy &amp; Legal Issues relation to Developing Wind Energy”</i>  Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo  25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> January 2013  It was agreed Cllr. L. Quinn would attend.</p> <p><i>“Debt Solutions- The new Personal Insolvency Legislation”</i>  Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork  25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2013  It was agreed that Cllr. D. Owens and Cllr. G. Plunkett would attend.</p> <p><i>“Domestic Water Meters for Ireland: Implications for Irish Communities and Business”</i>  Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty, Co. Clare  1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2013  It was agreed Cllr. M. Buckley would attend.</p> <p><i>“Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland Spring Seminar 2013”</i>  AMAI House, 63 Ormond St, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary  15<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> February 2013  It was agreed Cllrs. P. Clendennon, C. Hanniffy and E. Fitzpatrick would attend.</p>
<p><b>COMHFHREAGRAS:</b></p>	
<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</b></p>	<p><b>Edenderry District Court:</b>  Cllr. N. Bourke proposed that the Council write to the Circuit and District Court Operations requesting that the Edenderry District Court remains open. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. J. Foley and agreed by the members. The members also agreed, on the proposal of Cllr. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. T. McLoughlin, to write in support of Birr District Court.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. N. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. J. Foley the members agreed to write to Minister of Justice to ascertain when the refurbishment works at Edenderry Garda Station would be commenced.</p> <p><b>Irish Water:</b>  Cllr. T. McLoughlin noted that Irish Water had advertised for senior positions. He requested that they be invited to a meeting of the Council. The County Manager informed the meeting that a bill establishing Irish Water on a statutory basis and with functions to deal with water metering was</p>

<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</b> <b>(cont'd)</b>	currently with the Houses of the Oireachtas.He advised that a consultative forum, at national level, to consider staff concerns was established. It was agreed to include an update on Irish Water on the next agenda.  <b>Household Charge:</b> The County Manager advised that Offaly's Household Charges collection rate was currently 64%. He thanked all who had paid the charge and advised the members that should the collection rate rise to 65% that he would seek that the funds deducted in 2012 be reimbursed to the Council.
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This concluded the business of the meeting.

**MINUTES CONFIRMED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CATHAOIRLEACH** **RUNAÍ**

**18<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2013**