

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ**

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE  
ON MONDAY, 17TH JUNE 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, J. Leahy, T. McKeigue, S. Moylan-Ryan, D. Owens, G. Plunkett, L. Quinn, P. Rowland.
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Cllr. T. McLoughlin.
<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. F. Flaherty C.O.
<b>VOTES OF SYMPATHY:</b>	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-</p> <p>Frances Shelly and the extended Shelly Family, Chapel Street, Tullamore on the death of her son Fergus;</p> <p>The Loughnane Family, Birr on the death of Margaret (Madge);</p> <p>Rena Mulligan, Ashfield, Clara on the death of her mother, Kathleen;</p> <p>Mary Cox, Curraghavarna, Banagher on the death of her husband Anthony;</p> <p>Brid Devine, Shannonbridge on the death of her husband Michael;</p> <p>Tommy Tooher, Kinnitty, Birr on the death of his father Peter;</p> <p>Davy Kavanagh, Tullamore Road, Clara on the death of his wife Kathleen;</p> <p>Liz Egan, Ballicknahee, Clara on the death of her husband Martin;</p> <p>Anthony Coughlan, St. Brochans Park, Bracknagh on the death of his brother Joe;</p> <p>Seamus Gorman, Boreness, Garryhinch on the death if his wife Rita;</p> <p>Martin Boland, Coolraven, Cloneygowan on the death if his father Mick;</p>

<p><b>VOTES OF SYMPATHY: (cont'd)</b></p>	<p>Helena Kenny, Annamoe, Portarlinton on the death of her husband Robert;</p> <p>Phil Sherlock, Bracknagh on the death of her mother Sarah Walsh;</p> <p>Andrea Doyle, 52 Shandra Woods, Portarlinton on the death of her father Noel Duggan;</p> <p>Marie Molloy, Barrysbrook, Groghan, Rhode on the death of her father Seamus Doyle;</p> <p>Gerry Walsh, Tinnycross, Tullamore on the death of his sister Margaret Walsh;</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>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Owens, seconded by Cllr. M. Buckley, the minutes of the May Monthly Meeting held in Moneygall Community Centre on 20th May 2013 were agreed and adopted.</p>
<p><b>MINUTES FOR NOTING:</b></p>	<p>The minutes of the following meetings were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 15th April 2013;</li> <li>- Transportation and Emergency Services SPC meeting held on 14th March 2013;</li> <li>- Housing, Social &amp; Cultural SPC meeting held on 21st February 2013.</li> </ul>
<p><b>NOMINATION TO PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPC</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. S. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, the nomination of Richard V. Scally, Ballycommon, Tullamore as the IFA Representative on the Planning, Economic and Local Development SPC was agreed.</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>Cllr. P. Ormond, Cathaoirleach advised that the Corporate Policy Group had reviewed and approved a <i>Policy for the Exhibition Use of the Atrium at Áras an Chontae For Offaly Local Authorities and the Public</i>. He advised that the Arts Section will issue a press release and letters to schools and groups making them aware of this opportunity and informing them of the application process.</p> <p>The Corporate Policy Group, the Cathaoirleach advised, had received notice of the Council's introduction of a summer schedule for Motor Tax opening hours. Mr. D. Conlon, HOF, informed the members that the opening hours for Motor Tax will be 9.30am to 1pm from Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> June to Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2013, both dates</p>

	<p>inclusive. He advised that the revised opening hours were being introduced in order to best manage the service within available resources. In responding to questions raised Mr. D. Conlon advised that 30% complete their applications on-line and he advised that this facility and the post facility will continue to be available to the public.</p> <p>Cllr. P. Ormond, Cathaoirleach advised that the maintenance of public lighting was considered at each of the Area Committee meetings. He drew the members' attention to <i>Circular RW 9/2013 Additional Funding under the Restoration Improvement Programme</i>, which was circulated at the meeting. He advised that €80,000 of the funds provided to Offaly outlined in the report would be allocated to public lighting. In responding to questions raised Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., advised that the energy costs had risen in recent times and that the cost of decoupling services from the ESB and a programme to upgrade the lights to ensure greater efficiencies would be arranged. Cllr. G. Plunkett, Chairperson of the Transportation and Emergency Services SPC advised that the Council had negotiated a favourable maintenance contract and that a county-wide audit of public lighting had commenced.</p>
<p><b>NOTICES OF MOTION:</b></p>	<p>(i) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Butterfield:</p> <p><i>“That Offaly County Council reaffirms its anti-abortion stance and calls on our national legislators not to introduce any legislation which would entail the deliberate killing of unborn children. Also that each member of this Council indicate where they stand on this issue.”</i></p> <p>The motion was not seconded and in accordance with Standing Orders was dropped.</p> <p>(ii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. S. Dooley, and agreed:</p> <p><i>“That Offaly County Councils calls on Minister for Justice and Equality to revamp the Garda Vetting process as the current process is causing major delays for community groups, businesses and individuals.”</i></p> <p>During the ensuing discussion the members noted that the average time to process an application is twelve weeks. Following the discussion Cllr. J. Leahy and Cllr. S. Dooley agreed to the inclusion of the following in the motion:</p> <p><i>“The links between the Court Service and the Garda Vetting Unit should be strengthened”.</i></p> <p>(iii) Cllr. J. Leahy proposed to defer consideration of his second motion until the July monthly meeting. This was agreed by the members.</p>

	<p>(iv) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. C. Hanniffy and agreed by the members:</p> <p><i>“That Offaly Co Council will coordinate the various agencies working on Tourism in the County to ensure that an increase in numbers visiting our county.”</i></p> <p>(v) Cllr. M. Buckley proposed the following motion:</p> <p><i>“That Offaly Co Council will seek a way whereby the vacant houses in the County can be renovated and make them habitable.”</i></p> <p>Cllr. M. Buckley advised that there are currently 1,374 vacant houses in the County, some of which are derelict. She proposed that the Council write to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government seeking financial assistance for people to renovate these houses that may then be used to address the Council’s Housing List. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley and agreed by the members.</p> <p>In responding to concerns raised in respect of Local Authority void properties Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., advised that thirty-three (33) of the Council’s one thousand and twenty seven (1,027) housing stock are currently void. He advised that these were audited and that five are long-term voids and will cost in excess of €250,000 to repair; five require pre-let repairs at a cost of €38,000; one has pyrite issues; and, twenty two are awaiting an allocation of funding of approximately €175,000. Mr. S. Murray advised that he had informed the members at the Annual Budget meeting that the number of void properties would increase as a result of the decrease in Internal Capital Receipts and the decrease in the Housing Maintenance Budget.</p>
<p><b>COMHDHÁLACHA:</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, conferences were approved as follows:</p> <p><i>“Sean MacDiarmada Summer School 2013”</i>  <i>Kiltyclogher, Co. Leitrim</i>  <i>21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2013</i>  It was agreed that Cllr. J. Butterfield would attend.</p> <p><i>“Training Seminar – Sustainable Energy, Sustainable Tourism”</i>  <i>Kenmare Bay Hotel, Kenmare, Co. Kerry</i>  <i>21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2013</i>  It was agreed no member would attend.</p> <p><i>“Water Forum 2013”</i>  <i>Royal College of Physicians, 6 Kildare Street, Dublin 2</i>  <i>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013</i></p>

**COMHDHÁLACHA:  
(cont'd)**

It was agreed no member would attend.

*“Training Seminar for Councillors – Aiding Local Communities in Job Creation”  
Institute of Public Administration, Lansdowne Road,  
Dublin  
26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2013*

It was agreed no member would attend.

*“European Movement Ireland”  
Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork  
28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013*

It was agreed no member would attend.

*“Men & Masters – The Great Lockout of 1913”  
Byrne/Perry Summer School, Gorey Library & Adult Learning Centre, Civic Square, The Avenue, Gorey, Co. Wexford.  
28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013*

It was agreed no member would attend.

*“The Synge Summer School – Irish Dramatists in Conversation”  
Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow  
27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013*

It was agreed no member would attend.

*“Elected Members Training Seminar – Financing current Local Government expenditure programs”  
Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo  
5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> July 2013*

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

*“Training Seminar – Mental Health & Well Being – Coping skills for Elected Members”  
Kenmare Bay Hotel, Kenmare, Co. Kerry  
5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2013*

It was agreed that Cllr. N. Hogan would attend.

*“The Percy French Festival – The French Connection”  
Castlecoote House, Co Roscommon  
10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2013*

It was agreed no member would attend.

*“Training Seminar for Councillors – Local Elections 2014”  
West Cork Hotel, Skibbereen, Co. Cork  
12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> July 2013*

It was agreed no member would attend.

*“Seminar on Drug and Alcohol Abuse”  
Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth  
12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> July 2013*

It was agreed no member would attend.

*“Elected Members Training Seminar – Climate Change*

<p><b>COMHDHÁLACHA:</b> (cont'd)</p>	<p><i>Policy towards 2050”</i> <i>Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo</i> <i>12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> July 2013</i> It was agreed no member would attend.</p> <p><i>“Elected Members Training Seminar - Banking and the Local Economy”</i> <i>Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo</i> <i>26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> July 2013</i> It was agreed that Cllr. N. Hogan would attend.</p> <p><i>“Elected Members Training Seminar- Active Citizenship”</i> <i>The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway</i> <i>29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> July 2013</i> It was agreed no member would attend.</p>
<p><b>COMHFHREAGRAS:</b></p>	<p>The correspondences circulated with the Agenda were noted.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. S. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley the members agreed to write to the Minister for Justice and Equality and the Minister for Finance in support of the motion from Kerry County Council, dated 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Carroll acknowledged and welcomed the contents of the correspondence received from the Department of Social Protection, dated 29<sup>th</sup> May 2013 in relation to part-time fire fighters.</p>
<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</b></p>	<p><b>Sn183 Local Government Act 2001 Notice</b> Cllr. J. Carroll drew the members’ attention to the Sn183 Local Government Act 2001 Notice to members, which issued on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2013, in relation to the lease of circa 64 square meters of green area located at Barrick Street, Crinkle, Birr for 6 years to Crinkle Tidy Villages and Development Association. The members’ noted that it would be formally considered by the members at the July monthly meeting to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2013. The members’ acknowledged that the Executive was proposing the lease and advised that they had no objections to the proposal.</p> <p><b>Disability Funding for Portarlinton</b> Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick requested that the Council seek the reinstatement of Disability Funding for the pedestrian crossing in Portarlinton. Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F., agreed to discuss the matter with the Area Engineer.</p> <p><b>Speed Limit Ballard Roundabout to Mucklagh Roundabout</b> Cllr. T. McKeigue requested that a letter be written to the National Roads Authority seeking that the section of the By-Pass from the Ballard roundabout to the Mucklagh roundabout be increased from 80km/hr to 100km/hour.</p>

	<p>The proposal was seconded by Cllr. M. Buckley and agreed.</p> <p><b>Standing Orders</b></p> <p>Cllr. J. Butterfield requested that the Written Questions submitted by him on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2013 be addressed. Cllr. P. Ormond, Cathaoirleach advised that the Standing Orders did not provide for Written Questions and as a result they were referred to the Area Committee. He noted that Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S. had advised earlier that a response would issue during the week.</p>
<p><b>CLOSING ADDRESS BY CATHAOIRLEACH</b></p>	<p>Cllr. P. Ormond, Cathaoirleach said it had been an honour for him to have served as Cathaoirleach over the last 12 months. He expressed his thanks to the members for the courtesy and co-operation afforded to him during the past year. He thanked his wife Carmel, his children, family and friends for their support.</p> <p>The members, individually and collectively, thanked Cllr. P. Ormond on the professional manner in which he had performed his duties as Cathaoirleach. They acknowledged and thanked him for conducting meetings and all other proceedings in a fair, impartial and courteous manner and had remained approachable to all members throughout the year.</p> <p>The County Manager, on his own behalf and on behalf of the management team and staff, joined with the members in thanking Cllr. P. Ormond for his leadership and commitment in the last 12 months. He thanked Cllr. Ormond and Cllr. L. Quinn, Leas Cathaoirleach, for the courtesy and assistance shown to staff during the year.</p>

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

**15th July 2013**