

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ARAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 25TH MARCH 2013 AT 2.00P.M.**

PRESENT:	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.
IN ATTENDANCE:	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, Mr. D. Mahon, S.E.O., Mr. C. McCarthy, S.E., Ms. S. O' Reilly, Arts Officer, Ms. P. Hughes, A.O., Ms. F. Flaherty C.O.
VOTES OF SYMPATHY:	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-</p> <p>The family of the late Paddy Lowry, Cadamstown</p> <p>Liam Murray, Roscrea on the death of his uncle, Patrick Lowry</p> <p>Margaret Lynch, Kilbride Street, Tullamore on the death of her mother, Mrs. Pender</p> <p>Micahel Daly, Cappincur, Tullamore on the death of his mother Kathleen</p> <p>Teresa Kelly, Curraghavarna, Barna in the death of her husband, George</p> <p>Brian Hogan, Taylors Cross, Banagher on the death of his father J.J.</p> <p>Brian Butler, 27 High Street, Birr on the death of her mother, Gertrude</p> <p>Padraig Grogan, Brocca, Screggan on the death of his brother Joseph</p> <p>Mary Connolly, Ballinrath, Edenderry on the death of her mother, Pauline Walsh</p> <p>Vicky O' Connell, 105 The Sycamores, Edenderry on the death of her husband, Aidan</p> <p>Jacinta Feighery, Coolinarney, Blueball on the death of her mother, Kathleen Daly</p>

	<p>The Committee of the Mid Offaly Housing for the Elderly on the death of their resident, Kathleen Hayes</p> <p>Thomas & Mary O' Connell, St. Marys Road, Edenderry on the death of their son, Aidan</p> <p>Peter Slattery, Toberlaheen, Ballinagar on the death of his mother, May</p> <p>Ann Joyce, Cloneygowan, Tullamore on the death of her mother, Ellen</p> <p>Maureen Flanagan, Cloneyhurke, Portarlinton on the death of her husband, Willie</p> <p>Edward Keogh, Hammerlane, Borness on the death of his wife, Ann Nancy</p> <p>Lucy Stones, Clonfert on the death of her mother, Kathleen Daly</p> <p>Margaret Lynch, Kilbride Street, Tullamore on the death of her mother, Tess Pender</p> <p>May Harte, 36 Connolly Park, Tullamore on the death of her husband, Dinny</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>VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS:</p>	<p>Votes of congratulations were extended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kilcormac Killoughey Senior Hurling Team and their manager Cllr. D. Owens; - Tullamore Rugby Club on winning the Leinster League Division 1 and the A1 Junior Cup; - Niamh Kavanagh from Walsh Island and Irelands Women's Rugby team on winning their first Grand Slam.
<p>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Clendennen and seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, the minutes of the February Monthly Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, on 18th February 2013 were agreed and adopted.</p>
<p>MINUTES FOR NOTING:</p>	<p>The minutes of the following meetings were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 21st January 2013; - Edenderry Area Committee Meeting held on 28th November 2012; - Housing, Social & Cultural Strategic Policy Committee held on 2nd November 2012; - Joint Policing Committee Meeting held on 25th October 2012.
<p>S183 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 - DISPOSAL OF</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. N. Bourke, the members resolved to dispose of leasehold</p>

LEASEHOLD INTEREST IN 0.15HA AT RHODE , CO. OFFALY	interest in 0.15ha at Rhode, Co. Offaly in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 1 st March 2013.
S.183 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST IN 0.806HA AT BELMONT, CO. OFFALY	On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. C. Hanniffy, the members resolved to dispose of freehold interest in 0.806ha at Belmont, Co. Offaly in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 1 st March 2013.
S.183 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 SHANNONBRIDGE TOLLHOUSE LEASE TO SHANNONBRIDGE RENEWAL LIMITED	On the proposal of Cllr. S. Moylan Ryan, seconded by Cllr. C. Hanniffy, the members resolved to the lease of Shannonbridge Tollhouse to Shannonbridge Renewal Ltd in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 8 th March 2013.
S.183 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001. BANAGHER SERVICE BLOCK LEASE TO BANAGHER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION	On the proposal of Cllr. S. Moylan Ryan, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley, the members resolved to the lease of Banagher Service Block to Banagher Development Association in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 8 th March 2013.
S.183 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST IN LANDS AT CLONMINCH, TULLAMORE	On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue, the members resolved to the disposal of freehold interest inlands at Clonminch, Tullamore in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 14 th March 2013.
REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME	<p>Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S., informed the meeting that the <i>Planning and Development Act, 2000</i> made the making of the Development Contribution Scheme a reserved function. He noted that Offaly County Council adopted a Scheme in 2003 which was reviewed in 2008. He noted that the Scheme provided for a contribution, in the sum of €8,000, for a single dwelling and €53.20 per square metre for commercial developments. He advised that the commercial development contribution reduced to €40 per square metre in 2010. Mr. D. Kirrane advised that the Development Contributions provides funds for the Council's Capital Works Programme.</p> <p>Mr. D. Kirrane advised that the Council is commencing a review of the Development Contribution Scheme. He advised that the Council will have regard to the changed economic climate and agreed to issue the <i>Development Contributions Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> to the members. He informed the meeting that the Council will consult the Planning and Economic Development SPC and with third parties including the IDA, Enterprise Ireland etc. He invited the groupings to meet with Planning staff to outline their observations. He advised that it is proposed to table the Draft Scheme at the September monthly meeting for the members' consideration and adoption.</p> <p>The members welcomed the review of the Scheme noting that very few contributions were being received at this time. Cllr. E. Dooley, speaking on behalf of the Fianna Fail</p>

	<p>grouping, advised that they would be seeking a reduction in the development contributions levied and that any waiver scheme introduced must assist with job promotion. Cllr. T. McKeigue acknowledged that the funds received under the Scheme had assisted with significant infrastructural development in the county. He hoped that home owners could be assist in the revised scheme. Cllr. J. Leahy suggested that a consistent approach across the county be adopted.</p> <p>In responding to a question raised by Cllr. D. Dolan, Mr. D. Kirrane advised that Supplementary Scheme for Clara will be reviewed also.</p> <p>The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. P. Ormond in concluding the discussion encouraged all members to meet with the Planning Section over the coming months.</p>
ARTS ACT GRANTS	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. D. Owens the members resolved to adopt the Arts Act Grants as circulated.</p>
ROAD WORKS PROGRAMME 2013	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue the members resolved to adopt the Road Works Programme 2013 as circulated.</p> <p>It was agreed to consider Cllr. M. Buckley’s notice of motion at this time.</p> <p><i>“That Offaly Co Council will prepare a plan in line with the new initiative announced by the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Leo Varadkar, to maintain rural roads by allowing local authorities permission to re-focus Government road funding of 42 million on the upkeep and maintenance of the existing road network.”</i></p> <p>The motion was seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue and agreed. A lengthy discussion ensued. The members welcomed the greater flexibility which is being afforded to the Council, thereby allowing the Council to prioritise roads for repair and maintenance. The members noted with concern that both national and local funding for the road network had reduced significantly in recent years.</p> <p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., in responding to questions raised noted that Circular RLR 3/2013 gives effect to the objective of the motion. It allows the Council to provide a more effective response and achieve greater value for money.</p>
DECLARATION OF A ROAD TO BE A PUBLIC ROAD – SECTION 11 ROADS ACT 1993	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley the members resolved to declare L-02023-1 at Lough Boora to be a Public Road in accordance with the terms of the notice circulated to members on 8th March 2013.</p>
DRAFT MIDLANDS REGIONAL HOMELESS	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. N. Hogan, seconded by Cllr. M. Buckley, the members resolved to adopt the <i>Midlands</i></p>

ACTION PLAN 2013 – 2016	<i>Region Homelessness Action Plan May 2013 - May 2016 as amended and as circulated.</i>
CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:	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. It was agreed that consultants from CFRAM would give a presentation at the April monthly meeting.
NOTICES OF MOTION:	<p>(i) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan, and agreed:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“That this council write to the Minister for Education and Science Mr. Rurái Quinn expressing support for Biorra le Gaeilge in their efforts to establish a Gael Scoil in Birr.”</i></p> <p>(ii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue and agreed:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“That Offaly Co. Council write to Minister Frances Fitzgerald requesting that she explore the possibility of childcare vouchers which is tax efficient and saves families up to one month’s childcare per year.”</i></p> <p>(iii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. S. Moylan Ryan and agreed:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Offaly County Council calls on the government to immediately reinstate the payment of the minor works grant to all primary schools.”</i></p> <p>It was agreed to circulate the motion to all other Councils.</p>
COMHDHÁLACHA:	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. M. Buckley, conferences were approved as follows:</p> <p><i>“Ace Training – Tax Entitlements Seminar 2013” Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth 29th – 31st March 2013</i> It was agreed that no councillors would attend.</p> <p><i>“Integrated Constructed Wetlands – An alternative to standard Waste Water Treatment Plants for Local Authorities Ramada Viking Hotel, Waterford 5th – 7th April 2013</i> It was agreed that no councillors would attend.</p> <p><i>“LAMA Spring Seminar Local Authorities in Ireland; New Challenges – New Opportunities” Ashdown Park Hotel, Gorey 5th – 6th April 2013</i> It was agreed Cllrs. T. McKeigue, E. Fitzpatrick, P.</p>

Clendennon and L. Quinn would attend.

*“Cantillon 2013 - A Forum for Fresh Thinking”
Institute of Technology, Tralee, Co. Kerry
11th – 12th April 2013*

It was agreed that no councillors would attend.

*“Water Services Bill 2013”
Kingsvalley Hotel, Merlin Park, Galway
12th – 13th April 2013*

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

*“The Gathering Ireland 2013 – 11th National Tourism
Conference”*

*The Lord Bagenal Hotel, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow
18th – 20th April 2013*

It was agreed that no councillors would attend.

*“Opening Doors: My Life, My Home – Meeting the housing
needs of people with disability”*

*Rochestown Park Hotel, Rochestown Road, Douglas, Cork
18th – 19th April 2013*

It was agreed that no councillors would attend.

*“Training Seminar for Councillors – Local Government &
the Consumer”*

*Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal
19th – 20th April 2013*

It was agreed that no councillors would attend.

*“Seminar on Media & the Councillor: Social Media and
Traditional Media”*

*Westport Country Lodge Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo
19th – 21st April 2013*

It was agreed Cllr. M. Buckley would attend.

*“Dundalk Chamber of Commerce – Eures Cross Border
Partnership Tourism Conference 2013 Sustainable Tourism
– Practical Ideas for your Business”*

*Ballymascanlon House Hotel, Dundalk
24th April 2013*

It was agreed that no councillors would attend.

*“Annual Planning Conference 2013 – Achieving
Competitiveness & Promoting Innovation – The Future
Role of Planning”*

*Belfast
25th – 26th April 2013*

It was agreed that no councillors would attend.

*“Energy Bridge: Supply Chain Opportunities for Irish
Businesses”*

*Tullamore Court Hotel
Tuesday 30th April 2013*

It was agreed Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick would attend.

COMHFHREAGRAS:	<p><u>SUSI Information Note for VE Committee Members, dated 11th March 2013</u></p> <p>Cllr. T. McLoughlin raised concerns with regard to SUSI. He advised that increased bureaucracy and delays in approving Student Grants had caused serious concerns for numerous applicants and their families. He proposed that the Council write to Mr. R. Quinn T.D., Minister for Education and Science requesting that the issues that arose this year be addressed in advance of the forthcoming academic year. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. J. Butterfield and agreed.</p> <p><u>Notice of Motion adopted by Shannon Town Council</u></p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. M. Buckley the members agreed to support the motion adopted by Shannon Town Council and circulated on 18th February 2013.</p>
ANY OTHER BUSINESS:	<p><u>Slieve Bloom Cycling Track</u></p> <p>Cllr. P. Clendennon sought clarification on the status of the Slieve Bloom Cycling Track. The County Manager advised that the project is being pursued by Offaly and Loais County Councils in partnership with Coillte. He advised that a Steering Group Meeting to progress the Planning Application was being organised.</p>

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH **RUNAÍ**

18th April 2013