

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 16TH DECEMBER 2013 AT 3.30 P.M.**

PRESENT:	Cllr. S. Moylan-Ryan, Cathaoirleach (Presiding), Cllrs. N. Bourke, M. Buckley, J. Butterfield, J. Carroll, P. Clendennen, D. Dolan, E. Dooley, S. Dooley, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Foley, N. Hogan, J. Leahy, T. McKeigue, T. McLoughlin, P. Ormond, D. Owens, G. Plunkett, L. Quinn and P. Rowland.
APOLOGIES:	Cllr. C. Hanniffy.
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, Ms. F. Flaherty C.O.
VOTES OF SYMPATHY:	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-</p> <p>Mr. G. Bruton, Offaly County Council on the death of his mother, Julie;</p> <p>Mrs. Paschal Fox, Srah, Rahan Road, Tullamore on the death of her sister, Mrs. Kathleen Murphy;</p> <p>Paul Stephenson, Rhode, Co. Offaly on the death of his father, Peter;</p> <p>Brendan Flanagan, Glasshouse, Shandra, Portarlinton on the death of his mother Mrs. Elizabeth Flanagan;</p> <p>Pat Hyland, Cloneygowan, Tullamore on the death of his father, Patsy;</p> <p>Dr. Ger Kidney, Charleville Road, Tullamore on the death of his wife, Maria;</p> <p>Moira O' Loughlin, 42 Hophill Grove, Tullamore on the death of her brother, Charles;</p> <p>Pat O' Connell, Tullamore Town Council on the death of his mother, Teresa;</p> <p>Miriam O' Connor, Aglish, Cappoquin, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford on the death of her husband, Liam.</p>
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:	On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. D. Owens, the minutes of the November monthly meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 18 th November 2013 were agreed and adopted.

	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. S. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, the minutes of the In-Committee Special Meeting of Offaly County Council held on 30th September 2013 were agreed and adopted.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. S. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. P. Clendennen, the minutes of the Special meeting of Offaly County Council for consideration of the pre-draft County Development Plan 2014-2020 held on 30th September 2013 were agreed and adopted.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. P. Clendennen, the minutes of the Special meeting of Offaly County Council for consideration of the pre-draft County Development Plan 2014-2020 held on 3rd October 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 October 2013; - Birr Area Committee Meeting held on 10th September 2013; - Ferbane Area Committee Meeting held on 16th September 2013; - Housing Social & Cultural SPC held on 26th September 2013; - Edenderry Area Committee Meeting held on 19th June 2013.
<p>S183 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST IN 1.08HA AT KYLEBOHER, KILCORMAC TO HOUSING & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES LTD</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley, the members resolved to dispose of freehold interest in 1.08ha at Kyleboher, Kilcormac, Co. Offaly in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 21st November 2013.</p>
<p>JOINT PLAYGROUND POLICY OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL & LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY 2009-2013</p>	<p>Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S. drew the meetings attention to the <i>Joint Playground Policy Offaly County Council & Local Development Company 2009-2013 Review</i> which was circulated with the Agenda. He advised that it was a positive example of how an integrated approach between the Council, Offaly Local Development Company and Community Groups could reap dividends and noted that fifteen facilities were developed at various locations across the county.</p> <p>Mr. D. Mahon, S.E.O. informed the meeting that Offaly County Council had provided €33,966 from Development Contributions, €68,875 from Housing ICR's and €15,000 from the Area Offices towards the development of these facilities. He informed the members that the Council had received notification that funding was been granted for the development of Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) in Mucklagh.</p>

	<p>The members welcomed the report and complemented the various community groups for their endeavours and fundraising. The members' acknowledged the positive approach adopted by the Council and stressed how the development of the facilities had empowered communities.</p>
DISSOLUTION OF JOINT BURIAL BOARDS	<p>Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S. informed the members that the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government had signed, on 26th November, two Ministerial Orders providing for the dissolution of all Joint Burial Boards including those at Dungar and Portarlinton. The Orders, Mr. S. Murray advised, fixes 1st June 2014 as the Transfer Day and Mr. S. Murray advised that on that date all land and property, moneys and liabilities will be transferred to Offaly County Council.</p> <p>The members acknowledged and thanked the work and commitment of the various committees and caretakers.</p>
BUSINESS IN OFFALY VIDEO LAUNCH	<p>Mr. D. Minton, A.O. introduced the <i>Business in Offaly</i> video which he advised will be used to promote Offaly as a place to do business. He advised that the video will be used to promote the county on-line, at conferences and via social media.</p> <p>The members congratulated the Council on the development of the video, acknowledged the need to embrace social media and agreed to circulate it as widely as possible.</p>
WATER SERVICES/IRISH WATER UPDATE	<p>Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S. informed the members that Offaly County Council, along with all other Local Authorities, will continue to deliver water services through a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Irish Water (IW) and in accordance with an agreed Annual Service Plan and budget. He advised that the legislation, to give effect to this change, is currently going through the Oireachtas. He noted that is proposed that the SLAs will be for an initial period of twelve years with interim reviews.</p> <p>Mr. S. Murray advised that in 2014 water services will be 100% funded by IW who will be the Statutory Authority for water services and noted that all major decisions in respect of funding of water services will be approved by IW.</p> <p>Mr. S. Murray drew the members' attention to the letter from Mr. J. Tierney, Managing Director of IW that was circulated with the Council Agenda.</p> <p>The members thanked Mr. S. Murray for his report.</p>
CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:	<p>Cllr. S. Moylan-Ryan, Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that the Draft Budget 2014, Capital Budget 2014-2016 and the December Council Agenda were considered at the Corporate Policy Group meeting held earlier that day. She advised that the list of conferences circulated at the meeting</p>

	<p>were also approved.</p> <p>The Cathaoirleach advised that Mr. D. Kirrane had provided an update with regard to the establishment of the Municipal Districts, noting that the Project Team are currently exploring what services will be delivered by the Municipal Districts. She noted that Mr. D. Kirrane had meet with the Area Councillors in Tullamore and Edenderry and proposed to meet the Birr and Ferbane Area members in the near future. She informed the meeting that the <i>Local Government Reform Bill 2013</i> was currently with the Seanad.</p> <p>Cllr. S. Moylan-Ryan, Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that the Executive had proposed that the meeting scheduled to be held on 20th January 2014 be held instead on Monday, 27th January 2014. This, she advised, would allow the members the opportunity to consider a material contravention, which is currently on public display, to the County Development Plan. On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. G. Plunkett, the members resolved to hold the Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 27th January 2014.</p>
<p>COMHDHÁLACHA:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. S. Dooley, conferences were approved as follows:</p> <p><i>Training Seminar – Improving Road Safety Traffic Management Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo 20th – 21st December 2013</i> It was agreed Cllr. P. Rowland would attend.</p> <p><i>Training Seminar – Crime Prevention through Partnership Blue Haven Hotel, Kinsale, Co. Cork 3rd – 5th January 2014</i> It was agreed no member would attend.</p> <p><i>Training Seminars – Canvassing Tips 2014 Bewleys Hotel, Newlands Cross, Naas Road, Dublin 22 3rd – 5th January 2014</i> It was agreed no member would attend.</p> <p><i>Professional Development Seminar for Councillors – Accessing EU Sports Funding for Irish Communities in Ireland Bunratty Castel Hotel, Bunratty, Co. Clare 10th - 11th January 2014</i> It was agreed no member would attend.</p> <p><i>Training Seminar – Political Reform 2014 Bewleys Hotel, Newlands Cross, Naas Road, Dublin 22 10th – 12th January 2014</i> It was agreed no member would attend.</p> <p><i>Training Seminar - Financing of Local Government – The Critical Issues Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal 10th – 12th January 2014</i> It was agreed no member would attend.</p>

ACE Training Seminar – The Building Control Amendment Regulations 2013

Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

10th – 12th January 2014

It was agreed no member would attend.

Training Seminar – Developing and Supporting Enterprises Locally

The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway

10th – 11th January 2014

It was agreed Cllrs. L. Quinn and N. Bourke would attend.

Training Seminar – Local Government Bill 2013

Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry

17th – 18th January 2014

It was agreed Cllr. L. Quinn would attend.

Training Seminar for Councillors – Local Government Bill 2013

– A political perspective

Carlton Shearwater Hotel, Marina Point, Ballinasloe, Co.

Galway

17th – 18th January 2014

It was agreed no member would attend.

Training Seminar – Volunteering in the Community and the Elected Member

Malton Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry

17th – 19th January 2014

It was agreed Cllr. M. Buckley would attend.

Training Seminar – The Councillor and Irish Water (Water Services Bill No. 2 2013)

Mount Errigal Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

17th – 19th January 2014

It was agreed no member would attend.

Valuation Process for Rating Properties Seminar for Councillors

Scotts Limerick, Ashbourne Avenue, South Circular Road,

Limerick

17th – 18th January 2014

It was agreed no member would attend.

Rural Housing – Planning & Development Design Guidelines

The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth

17th – 19th January 2014

It was agreed Cllr. G. Plunkett would attend.

Training Seminar – Media Skills for Councillors

Clifden Station House Hotel, Clifden, Co. Galway

23rd – 25th January 2014

It was agreed no member would attend.

Training Seminar – Municipal Water – the challenges for Local Authorities

Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal

24th – 26th January 2014

It was agreed no member would attend.

Training Seminar – Local Authorities and Waste Management

Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo

24th – 25th January 2014

	<p>It was agreed no member would attend.</p> <p><i>LAMA Spring Seminar Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan 31st January & 1st February 2014</i></p> <p>It was agreed Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, Cllr E. Fitzpatrick would attend.</p> <p><i>Training Seminar – National Programme of Revaluation of Commercial & Industrial Properties The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway 31st – 1st February 2014</i></p> <p>It was agreed no member would attend.</p> <p><i>Training Seminar – “An Inconvenient Reality” – (1) Eco Energy, Wind Turbine/Pylons (2) Local Govt. Impacts of major flooding and freezing spells Gold Coast Hotel, Ballinacourty, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford 31st January – 2nd February 2014</i></p> <p>It was agreed Cllr. J. Butterfield would attend.</p> <p><i>Mental Health Conference – Supports & Developments in Mental Health Care Dungarvan, Co. Waterford 31st January – 1st February 2014</i></p> <p>It was agreed no member would attend.</p> <p><i>Training Seminar – Hydro Power – How Local Authorities can harness our rivers and streams Kenmare Bay Hotel, Kenmare, Co. Kerry 1st – 3rd February 2014</i></p> <p>It was agreed no member would attend.</p>
<p>COMHFFHREAGRAS:</p>	<p>The correspondences circulated with the Agenda were noted.</p>
<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</p>	<p>Overdraft Accommodation 2014: Mr. D. Conlon, Head of Finance, advised the members that it was necessary to renew Offaly County Council’s overdraft facility of €15.5 million.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn, the members approved a provision for overdraft accommodation for 2014 in the sum of €15.5 million.</p> <p>Birr Courthouse: Cllr. J. Carroll sought clarification on the status of Birr Courthouse, noting that the last Court sitting was being held there today. Mr. P. Gallagher, County Manager advised that the Council had disposed of their interest in the building some years earlier and that the Court Services continued to be the legal owner of the property.</p> <p>In responding to a question raised the County Manager advised that the Edenderry Courthouse was in the Council’s ownership. He advised that following consideration and consultation with the members its future use would be determined at a later date.</p>

Did you know...? 100 Quirky facts about County Offaly:

The members welcomed the publication of the book and complemented all involved with its publication and launch.

County Manager

Cllr. S. Moylan-Ryan, Cathaoirleach congratulated Mr. P. Gallagher on his successful appointment to the position of County Manager with Westmeath County Council. She advised that this was to be his final Ordinary Meeting with Offaly County Council in his capacity as Offaly County Manager.

The members joined with the Cathaoirleach in congratulating Mr. P. Gallagher, County Manager on his appointment. They thanked him for his dedication, and acknowledged the innovative and collaborative approach by which he had worked to develop County Offaly during his term of office. They cited a number of significant developments achieved, notwithstanding the challenging economic times that had prevailed. The members wished Mr. P. Gallagher and his family good health and happiness in the future and wished him every success in his new position.

Mr. P. Gallagher, County Manager thanked the members for their good wishes. He advised that it was an honour and privilege to serve in his home county and in a county where he had served as an elected representative. He thanked the members of the Management Team and all the staff for their commitment and work. He acknowledged the support of the various organisations that he had worked with during his term. He thanked the members of Offaly County Council and the Town Councils for the manner in which they had addressed decisions that had to be made in the challenging economic times, stressing that all had endeavoured to improve the life of the people of Offaly.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED:

_____ **CATHAOIRLEACH**

_____ **RUNAÍ**

27th January 2013