

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 16TH SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 2.00P.M.**

PRESENT:	Cllrs S. Moylan-Ryan, Cathaoirleach(Presiding), C. Hanniffy, Leas 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, P. Ormond, D. Owens, G. Plunkett, L. Quinn and P. Rowland.
APOLOGIES:	Cllr. T. McLoughlin.
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., Ms. M. Stuart, County Librarian, Mr. E. O' Ceilleachair, Chief Fire Officer, Ms. S. O' Reilly, Arts Officer.
STANDING ORDERS	Cllr. C. Hanniffy, Leas Cathaoirleach, informed the meeting that Cllr. S. Moylan-Ryan, Cathaoirleach was delayed at a family funeral and accordingly, in line with Standing Orders, she would Chair the start of the meeting.
VOTES OF SYMPATHY:	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-</p> <p>Fiona McCabe, OCC & family on the death of her father, John McCormack;</p> <p>Jackie Finney, OCC & family on the death of her father, Noel;</p> <p>Peter Guing, Cloncrane Road, Clonbullogue, Edenderry on the death of his father, Joe;</p> <p>Breda Kelly, Ballymooney, Geashill on the death of her father, Joe Roe;</p> <p>Roseanne Keane, Church Road, Tullamore on the death of her mother, Rita Hogan;</p> <p>Aine Smyth & family, Raheen Road, Tullamore on the death of her husband, Robert Smyth;</p> <p>Percy & Phil Clendennen, Kinnitty, Birr on the death of their nephew, Brian Grennan;</p> <p>Will Fennelly, Clonminch, Tullamore on the death of his sister, Mary Thorne;</p>

<p>VOTES OF SYMPATHY: (cont'd)</p>	<p>Kathleen & Lily Byrne, Arden Road, Tullamore on the death of their sister, Sr. Therese Byrne;</p> <p>Paul Spain & Family, Clonaderrig, Ballinahown on the death of his wife, Mary;</p> <p>Margaret Kelly, Ashmount View, Cloneygowan, Tullamore on the death of her parents, Elisabeth & James Comerford;</p> <p>Ellie Bagnall, Killelley, Geashill on the death of her mother, Myra Parke;</p> <p>Aiden Hennessy & Family, Bishopswood, Portarlinton on the death of her husband, Noel;</p> <p>The Green Family, Assumpta Terrace, Gracefield, Portarlinton on the death of Marian Byrne;</p> <p>Mick McGuinness, 57 St. Josephs Terrace, Portarlinton on the death of his wife, Carmel;</p> <p>The O' Meara Family, Cree, Fortal, Birr on the death of Michael O' Meara;</p> <p>John Grennan, Rath, Birr on the death of his father, Brian;</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>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. P. Rowland, the minutes of July Monthly Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 15th July 2013 were agreed and adopted.</p>
<p>MINUTES FOR NOTING:</p>	<p>The minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 17th June 2013 were noted.</p>
<p>S.183 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 – DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST IN 0.42 HA AT SCHOOL LANE, EDENDERRY TO THE HSE</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. N. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. N. Hogan, the members resolved to the disposal of freehold interest in 0.42ha at School Lane, Edenderry to the HSE in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 30th July 2013.</p>
<p>LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 2001 PART VIII – PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT KYLEBEG, BANAGHER, CO. OFFALY</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Clendennen, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy, the members resolved to adopt the Local Government (Planning & Development) Regulations 2001 (Part VIII) – Housing Development, i.e., the provision of a total of 26 no. dwellings at Kylebeg, Banagher, Co. Offaly in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 26th August 2013.</p>
<p>ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2012</p>	<p>Mr. D. Conlon H.O.F. informed the members that the <i>Annual Financial Statement 2012</i> was an audited copy of the draft they had received earlier in the year.</p>

	The members noted the <i>Annual Financial Statement 2012</i> .
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDIT REPORT 2012	<p>Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F. drew the members' attention to the <i>Local Government Audit Report 2012</i>.</p> <p>In responding to questions raised Mr. D. Conlon advised that issues between the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in relation to the Land Aggregation applications were on-going. However, the Council are endeavouring to have the matter resolved as quickly as possible.</p> <p>Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F. informed the meeting that the Council had appointed a Procurement Officer. He noted that the County Enterprise Board are holding Information Briefings for suppliers/contractors in relation to applying for Public Service contracts and encouraged as many suppliers as possible to attend.</p> <p>The members noted the <i>Local Government Audit Report 2012</i>.</p>
STANDING ORDERS	Cllr. S. Moylan-Ryan, Cathaoirleach joined the meeting and in accordance with Standing Orders took the Chair.
QUARTER 2 OUT-TURN	<p>Mr. D. Conlon, Head of Finance, drew the members' attention to the Quarter 2, i.e., to 30th June 2013, financial report which was circulated at the meeting. He advised that the report was in the format required by the Department.</p> <p>Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F. advised that the actual overall deficit at 30th June 2013 was €377,352. He advised that public lighting and water services were the main areas of over-expenditure. He noted that savings had been achieved in the area of pensions and stressed that each service area monitors their income and expenditure on an on-going basis.</p> <p>A lengthy discussion ensued. A number of members sought clarification on the over-expenditure and stressed the importance of addressing the matter before the end of 2013. Cllr. D. Dolan sought clarification on the Council's overall deficit. In responding to questions raised the County Manager reiterated that the financial situation is receiving priority attention by the Executive and that all budgets are reviewed in an effort to minimise non-essential expenditure. The Head of Finance advised that further reports will be presented to the members at future meetings.</p>
OFFALY NOISE ACTION PLAN 2013-2018	On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. C. Hanniffy, the <i>Offaly Noise Action Plan 2013-2018</i> was agreed and adopted by the members, as required by legislation.
SPECIAL MEETING TO CONSIDER DRAFT OFFALY	Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S. informed the members that the <i>Pre-Draft Offaly County Development Plan 2014-2020</i> must be

<p>COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014-2020</p>	<p>adopted by 3rd October 2013. Accordingly he advised that the Corporate Policy Group had suggested that an In-Committee meeting, to consider the <i>Pre-Draft Offaly County Development Plan 2014-2020</i>, be held at 11am on Monday, 30th September 2013, followed by a Special Meeting at 2pm on Monday 30th September. On the proposal of Cllr. S. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, this was agreed by the members.</p>
<p>ARTS PRESENTATION</p>	<p>Ms. S. O’ Reilly, Arts Officer, gave a comprehensive presentation on Arts & Culture in Offaly, highlighting in particular the Music Generation Programme, FilmOffaly and the proposed Arts Centre in Tullamore. Ms. S. O’Reilly informed the meeting that the Arts industry in Offaly is increasing and outlined the economic benefits for the county.</p> <p>The members thanked Ms. O’ Reilly for such an informative presentation and complimented her and the Arts Office on their continued good work noting the limited funding available.</p>
<p>FIRE SERVICES UPDATE</p>	<p>Mr. E. O’ Ceilleachair, Chief Fire Officer, gave a comprehensive presentation on the Fire Service focusing on: operational statistics and performance; financial outputs; and, fire prevention. He also provided an overview of the proposed reform of the Fire Service as outlined in the national policy document ‘<i>Keeping Communities Safe</i>’.</p> <p>The members thanked Mr. E. O’Ceilleachair for the report. They welcomed the response time of the Offaly Fire Service noting that, of the Fire Authorities operating a retained service, Offaly Fire Service reported the highest percentage of fire calls attended in less than ten minutes and the second lowest percentage attendance at fire calls in more than twenty minutes. The members also welcomed the overall reduction in the number of call-outs.</p> <p>The members expressed concern in relation to the amalgamation of Offaly and Laois Fire Services to form one single shared Fire & Civil Protection Service. Mr. E. O’Ceilleachair clarified that a number of areas were still under discussion and that he would keep the members appraised of developments.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. M. Buckley, the members agreed to write and acknowledge the Fire Fighters in the Ferbane and Clara Fire Brigades who are, at their own expense, responding to cardiac arrest calls in their areas.</p>
<p>DRAFT NATIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARY STRATEGY</p>	<p>Ms. M. Stuart, County Librarian, gave an overview of the new <i>National Draft Strategy for Public Libraries 2013-2017</i>. She advised that the draft strategy is currently out to public consultation and submissions can be made at any library or sent electronically or by post to Library</p>

	<p>Development, LGMA.</p> <p>Ms. M. Stuart informed the meeting that the three overarching national policy themes included in the strategy are economic, social and cultural. She advised that the current capital program for libraries provides funds in the sum of €1m in 2014 and €1m in 2015. She welcomed the commitment included in the strategy to try and secure funding for a new building program.</p> <p>Ms. M. Stuart gave a brief overview of the library service in Offaly noting that 61 actions contained in the <i>Offaly Library Development Plan 2010-2014</i> were 80% achieved.</p> <p>The members thanked Ms. M. Stuart for her presentation and congratulated her and the library staff on the increase in the number of library users. In responding to questions raised Ms. M. Stuart advised that a staff member was assigned to examine and provide a co-ordinated approach with regard to literacy.</p>
<p>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</p>	<p>Cllr. S. Moylan-Ryan, 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. S. Moylan-Ryan, Cathaoirleach invited the County Manager to give an update with regard to <i>Putting People First</i> and the establishment of Municipal Districts. Mr. P. Gallagher, County Manager informed the meeting that the Department had met with the County and City Managers Association to outline the Government's policy document, <i>Putting People First</i>. He advised that a National Advisory Group is established and that the Department are currently drafting the legislation to give effect to issues contained in <i>Putting People First</i>.</p> <p>The County Manager advised that he had established an in-house committee to oversee the transition to the Municipal Districts and that the team will be chaired by Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S. He noted the importance of communication during the transition phase. The members thanked the Manager for his update and agreed to include Municipal Districts Update as a standing item on future agendas.</p>
<p>NOTICES OF MOTION:</p>	<p>(i) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. J. Butterfield, and agreed:</p> <p><i>“That Offaly County Council calls on the Minister for Education Ruairi Quinn to put in place a mechanism that will reduce the time taken to recheck Leaving Cert papers”</i></p> <p>(ii) Following a discussion Cllr. J. Leahy agreed to amend the wording of the motion which was then seconded by</p>

	<p>Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick and agreed by the members:</p> <p><i>“That Offaly County Council calls on the Minister for Education to review the state-funded school transport schemes to take account the catchment area rather than the closest school policy, which is causing pupils to be denied transport to secondary schools that have a link to their area”.</i></p> <p>(iii) The motion proposed by Cllr. G. Plunkett was deferred until the October meeting.</p>
<p>COMHDHÁLACHA:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. D. Owens, conferences were approved as follows:</p> <p><i>“ICSH National Social Housing Conference Whites Hotel, Wexford. 18th - 19th September 2013 It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p><i>“Rattoo Heritage Society – Annual Environmental, Cultural and Heritage Conference & Training Seminar for Elected Members” The Golf Hotel, Ballybunion, Co. Kerry 18th – 21st September 2013 It was agreed Cllr. S. Dooley would attend.</i></p> <p><i>Epilepsy Ireland National Conference 2013 “Exploring Epilepsy: Health & Lifestyle Issues” Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. 21st September 2013 It was agreed Cllr. M. Buckley would attend.</i></p> <p><i>“Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Act 2013” Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry 20th -21st September 2013 It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p><i>“Community Mental Health & the Elected Member” Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. 20th – 22nd September 2013 It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p><i>“The Seanchai – A Decade of Commemoration 1913-1923 – The Role of Local Authorities” St. Johns Theatre & Arts Centre, Listowel, Co. Kerry 26th -27th September 2013 It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p><i>“The Life and Times of Michael Collins” Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork. 27th – 29th September 2013 It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p><i>“Greystones Town Council 2013 Autumn Seminar – Local Government – A New Dawn?” Charlesland Golf & Country Club Hotel, Greystones, Co.</i></p>

**COMHDHÁLACHA:
(cont'd)**

Wicklow
27th September – 29th September 2013
It was agreed no member would attend.

“Community Leisure and Recreation: The Council’s role”
Talbot Hotel, Wexford.
27th – 28th September 2013
It was agreed no member would attend.

“Poverty in Ireland Today - Overview of contemporary facts and figures”
Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty, Co. Clare.
27th – 28th September 2013
It was agreed no member would attend.

“Pathways to work 2013”
The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway
27th – 28th September 2013
It was agreed no member would attend.

“2013 La Touche Legacy Seminar (Celebrating 25 years) - Local Government - A new Dawn”
Charlesland Golf & Country Club Hotel, Greystones, Co. Wicklow
27th – 29th September 2013
It was agreed no member would attend.

“How the Elected Member can help combat crime”
Quality Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
27th – 29th September 2013
It was agreed no member would attend.

“Community Living for Older People”
The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway.
4th – 5th October, 2013
It was agreed Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick & Cllr. N. Bourke would attend.

“LAMA Autumn Seminar 2013 – Local Authorities Driving Economic Development”
The Falls Hotel, Ennistymon, Co. Clare
11th – 12th October 2013
It was agreed Cllrs. N. Bourke, P. Clendennen, S. Dooley, T. McKeigue and N. Hogan would attend.

“Federation for Victim Assistance – Communities – Coping with Crime & Trauma”
Riverside Park Hotel & Leisure Club, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
11th – 12th October 2013
It was agreed no member would attend.

“Councillor Seminar and Professional Development Day – 50 Ways to access funding for community programmes relevant to Councillors”
Bunratty Castle Hotel, Bunratty, Co. Clare
11th – 12th October 2013
It was agreed Cllr. J. Butterfield would attend.

<p>COMHDHÁLACHA: (cont'd)</p>	<p><i>“Preventing and Reducing Alcohol Related Harm” Westport Plaza Hotel, Castlebar Street, Westport, Co. Mayo. 18th – 19th October 2013 It was agreed Cllr. M. Buckley would attend.</i></p> <p><i>“Local Government and Enterprise Development” The Holyrood Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal 18th – 19th October 2013 It was agreed Cllr. C. Hanniffy would attend. “Supporting Enterprise in the community” The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway. 25th – 26th October 2013. It was agreed Cllr. C. Hanniffy would attend.</i></p> <p><i>“AMAI - 101st Annual Conference” Inchydoney Lodge & Spa, Clonakilty, Co. Cork 12th – 14th September 2013 Retrospective approval for Cllr. P. Ormond to attend was approved.</i></p>
<p>COMHFHREAGRAS:</p>	<p>The correspondences circulated with the Agenda were noted.</p> <p>Cllr. S. Dooley drew the members attention to correspondence received from Kerry County Council in relation to Higher Education Grant Scheme 2013 and the Student Universal Support Scheme Ireland (SUSI). On the proposal of Cllr. S. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. M. Buckley, the members to support the motion.</p> <p>Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick made reference to correspondence received from the Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine concerning the proposed closure of the Department offices in Tullamore.</p>
<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</p>	<p><u>Offaly Ladies Football Team</u> The members joined with Cllr. S. Dooley in wishing the Offaly Ladies Football Team every success in the All Ireland final in Croke Park on Sunday, 29th September 2013.</p>

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED: _____

CATHAOIRLEACH

RUNAÍ

21st October 2013