

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ**

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE  
ON MONDAY, 27TH JANUARY 2014 AT 2.00 P.M.**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	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, C. Hanniffy, J. Leahy, T. McKeigue, T. McLoughlin, P. Ormond, G. Plunkett, L. Quinn and P. Rowland.
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Cllr. N. Hogan, Cllr. D. Owens, Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S. and Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Mr. S. Murray, Deputy County Manager, Mr. D. Kirrane D.O.S, Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator, Mr. T. Mawe, Financial Management Accountant, Mr. C. McCarthy, Senior Engineer. Ms. J. Finney, A.O., Ms. F. Flaherty C.O.
<b>VOTES OF SYMPATHY:</b>	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-</p> <p>Cllr. D. Owens, Lugamarla, Mountbolus and family on the death of his mother, Maureen;</p> <p>Padraig O' Grady and the Flattery family, Tullamore on the death of his wife Geraldine;</p> <p>The Fox and Mulhall Families on the death of Eunice Fox;</p> <p>Dr. Brendan Lee and the Lee Family, Cormac Street, Tullamore &amp; Ballyoran, Kilcormac on the death of his mother, Dr. Mary Lee;</p> <p>Justin Kennedy, Ardavaggha, Shinrone, Birr on the death of his wife, Roseann;</p> <p>Ann Cleary &amp; The Cleary Family, Gurteen, Shinrone, Birr on the death of daughter, Roseann;</p> <p>Larry Dunne, C/O St. Carthages Nursing Home, Mucklagh, Tullamore on the death of his wife, Maisie;</p> <p>The Molloy family, Murrough, Rahan on the death of Mrs. Bridget Molloy;</p> <p>The Kaye Family, Urney, Cloneygowan, Co. Offaly on the death of Mrs Kathleen Kaye;</p> <p>Leo Dempsey, Clonbrown, Clonbullogue on the death of his uncle, Donie;</p>

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY:  
(contd)**

Maura Scully, Cloneyhurke, Portarlinton on the death of her sister-in-law, Ann;

Jim Hooks, Patrick Street, Portarlinton on the death of his wife, Pauline;

Sinead Hubble, Midlands 103, Axis Business Park, Tullamore on the death of her father, John;

Tom Walsh, Harbour Walk, Tullamore on the death of his sister, Olivia;

Kathleen Reid, Clonminch Lane, Tullamore on the death of her husband, Matt;

Gerry Conway, Ballydaly, Tullamore on the death of his sister, Maureen Owens;

Mary Murray, Lackabeg, Ballinahown on the death of her father, John J. Hanniffy;

Majella Hayes, Main Street, Moneygall on the death of her father, Jack Stapleton;

Michael Maloney, Mountheaton, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary on the death of his wife, Mary;

Marie O' Hara, Ballycleary, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary on the death of her sister, Sadie Maher;

Diarmuid Fitzgerald, Mountheaton, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary on the death of his father, Dermot;

Michael Murphy, Quakerstown, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary on the death of his wife, Maura;

Yvonne O' Brien, Knockbarron, Kinnitty, Birr on the death of her mother, Kitty Dolan;

Mrs. Kitty Reid & Family, Clonminch Lane, Tullamore on the death of her husband, Matty;

Peter & Anne Kelly, Tullabeg, Clonmacnoise on the death of their son, Paul;

Antoinette Kelly and her son Shane, Tullabeg, Clonmacnoise on the death of her husband, Paul;

Sean Nolan, Deerpark, Cadamstown, Kinnitty on the death of his mother, Philomena;

Gerry Bell, Townsend Street, Birr on the death of his wife, Evelyn;

The Molloy Family, Murrough, Rahan on the death of Mrs. Brigid Molloy.

<b>VOTES OF SYMPATHY: (contd)</b>	<p>The Deputy 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>
<b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</b>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. G. Plunkett, the minutes of the In Committee Budget 2014 meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2013 were agreed and adopted.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. N. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley, the minutes of the December monthly meeting held in Áras An Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2013 were agreed and adopted.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Butterfield, seconded by Cllr. G. Plunkett, the minutes of the Statutory Budget 2014 Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2013 were agreed and adopted.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy, the minutes of Statutory Budget 2014 meeting held in Áras An Chontae, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> December 2013 were agreed and adopted.</p>
<b>MINUTES FOR NOTING:</b>	<p>The minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2013 were noted.</p>
<b>S.34 (6)(A)(III) OF THE PLANNING &amp; DEVELOPMENT ACT, AS AMENDED. MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION BY OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009 – 2015 – MAGNI INDUSTRIES INC., PORTARLINGTON INDUSTRIAL ESTATE:</b>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. G. Plunkett, the members resolved to adopt the material contravention of the <i>Offaly County Development Plan 2009-2015</i> and <i>Portarlington Joint Local Area Plan 2012-2018</i> in order to facilitate the granting of planning permission for the proposed development PL2/13/175, in accordance with the terms of the notice issued.</p>
<b>COUNTY MANAGER REPORT - DRAFT TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2014-2018:</b>	<p>Ms. J. Finney, A.O. Housing drew the members attention to the County Manager’s Report on the <i>Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018</i> noting in particular the submissions received and the amendments made.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Leahy outlined the significant work that is on-going and proposed that the <i>Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018</i> be adopted by the members.</p> <p>Cllr. T. McKeigue, in seconding the proposal, noted the work currently being undertaken by Tullamore Town Council.</p> <p>Cllr. D. Dolan proposed that the references to the provision of a halting site in the Tullamore Municipal District be removed and replaced with the provision of group housing scheme/standard housing. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. S. Dooley.</p>

<p><b>COUNTY MANAGER REPORT - DRAFT TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2014-2018 (cont.):</b></p>	<p>A lengthy discussion ensued during which a number of issues were raised. Mr. S. Murray, Deputy Manager informed the members that they had a legal obligation to adopt the <i>Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018</i> by 30th April 2014. He stressed that the development of a halting site would require full planning permission which, he advised, would as a Part VIII come before the members for full consideration.</p> <p>It was agreed to defer a decision on the matter until after the members had an opportunity to consider the issues further during the afternoon break.</p> <p>Following the resumption of the meeting Cllr. J. Leahy proposed that references to the provision of a halting site in the <i>Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018</i> be removed and replaced with the provision for group housing schemes/standard housing. This was seconded by Cllr. M. Buckley. Mr. S. Murray, Deputy Manager agreed to have the text and relevant data amended as proposed and to place the <i>Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018</i> on the February Council Agenda for the consideration of the members.</p>
<p><b>SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2014:</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy, the Schedule of Meetings 2014, previously circulated, was agreed by the members.</p>
<p><b>ANNUAL DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:</b></p>	<p>Ms. M. Cleary drew the members attention to the Annual Declaration of Interests which she advised had to be completed and returned by 20<sup>th</sup> February 2014.</p>
<p><b>BALLYCUMBER AREA COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2013-2018:</b></p>	<p>Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S. provided a brief overview of the <i>Ballycumber Area Community Action Plan 2013-2018</i>. The members endorsed the plan. It was agreed to have regard to it in the review of the Draft County Development Plan.</p>
<p><b>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</b></p> <p><b>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT (cont.):</b></p>	<p>Cllr. S. Moylan-Ryan, Cathaoirleach reported on the Corporate Policy Group meeting. She advised that the Corporate Policy Group had considered the Council Agenda and approved the conference list.</p> <p>The Cathaoirleach advised that Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S. had provided an update on the Municipal Districts noting that he proposed to meet all the members, at their next Area Committee meeting, to outline the services that will be delivered at Municipal District level.</p>
<p><b>NOTICES OF MOTION:</b></p>	<p>(i) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Buckley:</p> <p><i>“That Offaly County Council will write the Minister for Finance to review the Bankruptcy regulations and adjust them to reflect the seriousness of the offence and the affect of their debtors.”</i></p>

**NOTICES OF MOTION(contd):**

Cllr. M. Buckley noted that a ‘*Debtors Guide to Bankruptcy*’ was recently published and so withdrew the motion.

- (ii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. P. Clendennen and agreed by the members:

*"That distressed borrowers whose houses are being repossessed because of "unsustainability" be put on the housing list"*

During the discussion that followed Mr. S. Murray, Deputy Manager noted that the *Scheme for Letting Priorities* was considered by the members in May 2013 and provisions were included to assist distressed borrowers. He noted in particular that, in line with S.I No. 321 of 2011, the Housing Authority may carry out a needs assessment even though the household may remain the legal owners of the property at that point in time (i.e. legal proceedings to repossess may not yet have been instituted by the lender).

- (iii) The members agreed to take the following two motions, proposed by Cllr. T. McKeigue and Cllr. S. Dooley, respectively together:

*"That Offaly County Council meet with the I.D.A. to get an overview of where we are at regards attracting new industry, and to explore all avenues to enhance employment prospects in the County"*

and

*"That Offaly County Council through our LEO compile a database of our Diaspora across the globe who have connections with Offaly with a view to the promotion of Offaly as a key destination for Development, Investment and Tourism."*

Cllr. C. Hanniffy in seconding both motions recommended that the Council should arrange to examine how Offaly is performing at a regional level. A number of members noted the significant infrastructural, educational and other advancements made in the County over recent times. The members agreed that arrangements should be made to showcase what Offaly has to offer and that this should be prepared prior to meeting with the I.D.A.

The members acknowledged the need to support indigenous businesses in the county noting that they are valuable employers.

- (iv) The following motion submitted by Cllrs. D.

<p><b>NOTICES OF MOTION(contd):</b></p>	<p>Owens, seconded by Cllrs. E. Dooley, P. Ormond, S. Moylan-Ryan, P. Rowland, E. Fitzpatrick, N. Bourke, G. Plunkett, T. McLoughlin and J. Leahy. In proposing the motion at the meeting Cllr. E. Dooley expressed his concerns with changes to the eligibility thresholds. The motion was seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick:</p> <p><i>“That Offaly County Council calls on the Government to reverse its decision to bring in reductions to the eligibility age and income thresholds to the most vulnerable members of our community, in the areas of housing adaptation grant for people with a disability, housing aid for older people and the mobility aid grants.”</i></p> <p>(v) In proposing the motion Cllr. S. Dooley suggested that it may be a worthwhile initiative for a Secondary School Transition Year project:</p> <p><i>“On this the year of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Cumann Na mBán, I call on Offaly County Council to arrange an appropriate commemoration to recognise the role of women in Irish Life and those women of Cumann na mBán who played such a vital role in the struggle for Independence.”</i></p> <p>Cllr. M. Buckley seconded the motion and Cllr. C. Hanniffy in supporting the motion suggested that the Corporate Policy Group consider how the Council could develop an initiative to support the motion. This was agreed by the members.</p>
<p><b>COMHDHÁLACHA:</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. P. Clendennen, conferences were approved as follows:</p> <p><i>LAMA Spring Seminar Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan 31<sup>st</sup> January &amp; 1<sup>st</sup> February 2014</i> It was agreed Cllrs. N. Bourke, P. Ormond, M. Buckley, E. Dooley and P. Clendennen would attend.</p> <p><i>Budget 2014 – A review of Items Confirmed &amp; Measures not yet Announced The Park Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014</i> It was agreed no member would attend.</p> <p><i>Cross Border Economic Development and the Border Development Zone Concept Cavan Crystal Hotel, Cavan 30<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> January 2014</i> It was agreed no member would attend.</p>

**COMHDHÁLACHA (contd):**

*Hydro Power – How Local Authorities can harness our rivers and streams*

*Kenmare Bay Hotel, Kenmare, Co. Kerry*

*31<sup>st</sup> January – 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2014*

It was agreed no member would attend.

*Training Seminar - Good Governance of Community, Voluntary & Charitable Organisation in Ireland*

*The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth*

*31<sup>st</sup> January – 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2014*

It was agreed no member would attend.

*Training Seminar - Combatting the fear of crime*

*Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal*

*7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2014*

It was agreed no member would attend.

*Training Seminar – Keeping Communities Safe Fire Safety*

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

*Mayo*

*7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2014*

It was agreed Cllrs. P. Clendennen and M. Buckley would attend.

*Training Seminar – Powers of Local Authorities to stem anti-social behaviour*

*Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry*

*14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2014*

It was agreed Cllr. P. Clendennen would attend.

*Planning Permission – The process and the Elected Member*

*Midway (Maldron) Hotel, Portlaoise, Co. Laois*

*14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2014*

It was agreed no member would attend.

*Training Seminar – From Ballot Box to the Council Chamber*

*Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal*

*14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2014*

It was agreed no member would attend.

*AMAI – Spring Seminar*

*Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran, Co. Donegal*

*14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2014*

It was agreed Cllrs. E. Fitzpatrick, M. Buckley, C. Hanniffy and J. Carroll would attend.

**COMHFHREAGRAS:**

The correspondences circulated with the Agenda were noted.

Mr. D. Kirrane D.O.S. drew the members attention to the circular letter received from the Department Environment, Community and Local Government in relation to the Review of the 2006 Wind Energy Developments Guidelines and he informed the members that there would be a briefing at the February Council Meeting.

