

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 24TH MARCH 2014 AT 2.00 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, C. Hanniffy, N. Hogan J. Leahy, T. McKeigue, T. McLoughlin, P. Ormond, D. Owens, G. Plunkett and L. Quinn.
IN ATTENDANCE:	Mr. S. Murray, County Manager, Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F, Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S, Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator, Ms. S. O' Reilly, Arts Officer, Mr. B. Pey, A.O., Mr. C. McCarthy, Senior Engineer, Mr. A. O' Connor, County Veterinary Officer, Ms. F. Flaherty C.O.
APOLOGIES	Cllr. P. Rowland
VOTES OF SYMPATHY:	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-</p> <p>Eileen Brady, Finter, Killeigh on the death of her husband, John;</p> <p>Attracta Brady, Cloncon, Tullamore on the death of her father, John;</p> <p>Beatrice Foley & family, Athlone Road, Ferbane on the death of her husband, Kieran;</p> <p>Oliver Kennedy, Coolderry, Birr on the death of his brother Rev. Fr. Christopher Kennedy;</p> <p>Fergus & Ann Byrne, Ballydownan, Geashill on the death of their son, Matthew;</p> <p>Ollie Donahue, Coologe, Daingean on the death of his brother, John;</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Paddy Molloy & family, Ballyduff, Tullamore on the death of their son, Nicholas;</p> <p>Maura Wrafter, Ballyduff, Tullamore on the death of her daughter, Madeline McHugh;</p> <p>Mary Kelly, Annagh, Ballykeenan, Athlone on the death of her mother, Gretta Ryan;</p> <p>Carmel Hogan, Main Street, Shinrone, Birr on the death of her husband, Tom;</p>

<p>VOTES OF SYMPATHY: (contd)</p>	<p>Mary Rock, 36 The Green, Clara on the death of her husband, Gerry;</p> <p>John Lowe, Brendan Street, Clara on the death of his wife Mary;</p> <p>Margaret Hynes, Killurin, Tullamore on the death of her father, George Dunne;</p> <p>John Dream Ballykilmurray, Tullamore on the death of his sister, Julia Corcoran;</p> <p>Rita McGuinness & family, Cadamstown, Birr on the death of her husband, Patsy;</p> <p>John & Catherine Casey & family, Ballinsragh, Killeigh on the death of their son, Mark.</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>Cllr. J. Carroll advised that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th February 2014 in relation to Cllr. D. Dolan's submission on the Yellow River Wind Development Project should read that "<i>Cllr. D. Dolan's submission was seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll.</i>" On the proposal of Cllr. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. M. Buckley, this amendment was agreed.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. S. Dooley, the amended minutes of the February monthly meeting held in Áras An Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 17th February 2014 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 27th January 2014; - Minutes of Planning & Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee held in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore on 7th October 2013; - Planning & Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee held in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore on 4th November 2013; and - Minutes of meeting of Birr Area Committee held on 12th November 2013.
<p>NOMINATION TO: (A) LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE</p>	<p>Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S informed the members of the requirement under the <i>Local Government (Reform) Act 2014</i> to establish a Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in each Local Authority.</p> <p>Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S. noted that the membership of the LCDC is currently restricted to fifteen (15) members, i.e., three (3) elected members, CEO of the Council or his/her representative, three (3) state agency nominees, and eight (8) private sector nominees. The LCDC will, he proposed,</p>

<p>NOMINATION TO: (B) LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (contd)</p>	<p>improve the delivery of services throughout the county, and should result in greater efficiencies and effectiveness being achieved. He informed the members that nominations were received from some of the bodies and requested that, in accordance with the Department guidelines, the members nominate three members of the Corporate Policy Group to the LCDC.</p> <p>A lengthy decision ensued on the merits of proceeding with the pilot LCDC in Offaly in advance of the Local Elections.</p> <p>Following the discussion Cllr. E. Dooley proposal was seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan and the members resolved to appoint Cllrs. S. Dooley, J. Leahy and N. Hogan to the LCDC.</p>
<p>SECTION 183 NOTICE – DISPOSAL OF LAND AT CLARA ROAD, TULLAMORE</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. S. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. J. Butterfield, the members resolved to the disposal of land at Clara Road, Tullamore in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 4th March 2014.</p>
<p>ARTS ACT GRANTS</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, the members resolved to adopt the Arts Act Grants as circulated.</p>
<p>ROAD WORKS PROGRAMME 2014</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. G. Plunkett, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, the Road Works Programme 2014 was agreed and adopted by the members.</p> <p>Cllr. G. Plunkett welcomed the national fund allocation which was made available to address damage arising from the recent flooding.</p> <p>Cllr. C. Hanniffy welcomed the €90,000 grant allocated to Offaly County Council for a once-off Public Area Enhancement Scheme.</p>
<p>CONTROL OF HORSES BYE-LAWS</p>	<p>Mr. S. Murray D.O.S directed the members’ attention to the <i>Offaly Local Authorities Control of Horses Bye-Laws 2014</i>, which was circulated with the Agenda.</p> <p>Mr. B. Pey, A.O., Environment advised that the Draft Bye-Laws would replace the current 1998 Bye-Laws.</p> <p>Mr. A. O’Connor, County Veterinary Officer advised that two (2) submissions were received during the consultation period. He gave a brief outline of the submissions and the County Manager’s response to each submission.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, the members resolved to adopt the <i>Offaly Local Authorities Control of Horses Bye-Laws 2014</i>, as circulated.</p>
<p>MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS</p>	<p>Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S. gave a brief overview of the changes that will be implemented as a result of the <i>Local Government (Reform) Act, 2014</i>, noting the pending abolition of the Town Councils and the establishment of Municipal Districts.</p>

<p>MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS (cont'd)</p>	<p>Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S. advised that the four (4) Local Electoral Areas in Offaly are reduced to three (3) Local Electoral Areas. They will be known as Municipal Districts, i.e. Municipal District of Birr, Municipal District of Edenderry and Municipal District of Tullamore. The numbers of Councillors will reduce from 21 to 19, with 6 members each in the Birr and Edenderry areas and 7 members in the Tullamore area.</p> <p>Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S. advised that frontline services e.g. street cleaning, public lighting and roadworks will continue to be provided from each of the Municipal District offices and throughout the library network. Services such as rates, housing applications, rental payments etc. will be administered centrally by Offaly County Council. Some of these changes will be implemented in the coming months, i.e., Housing Applications can be lodged at any of the offices but from the end of March these will be assessed by the Housing Section in Áras an Chontae. Housing allocations, he noted, will continue to be made by the Town Councils until 1st June 2014. Thereafter housing allocations will be determined centrally.</p> <p>Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S. advised that staff were appraised of these changes and that the re-assignment of staff will commence in the coming weeks.</p> <p>The members joined with the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. S. Moylan-Ryan in thanking Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S. for his briefing.</p>
<p>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</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>NOTICES OF MOTION:</p>	<p>(i) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Butterfield, seconded by Cllr. D. Owens and agreed by the members:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“That this Council call on the National Roads Authority to provide traffic calming on the road at Durrow Abbey Entrance so that this National Treasure can realise its full potential.”</i></p> <p>The meeting noted that Mr. B. Hayes, TD had recently visited Durrow Abbey and he had proposed that a meeting of the relevant parties would be convened.</p> <p>(ii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy and agreed by the members:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“That Offaly County Council will write to Minister Richard Bruton to explore tax reform proposals to help new start-up companies.”</i></p>

<p>NOTICES OF MOTION: (cont'd)</p>	<p>(iii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. M. Buckley, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy and agreed by the members:</p> <p><i>“That Offaly County Council write to the Minister for Health requesting additional resources for front line mental health services and to establish a committee on mental health and suicide to address the issue of suicide and raise awareness on positive mental health.”</i></p>
<p>COMHDHÁLACHA:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. C. Hanniffy, seconded by Cllr. G. Plunkett, conferences were approved as follows:</p> <p><i>Water Fluoridation in Ireland – The Facts The Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise, Co. Laois 28th – 30th March 2014 It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p><i>An overview of the Local Property Tax Bewley’s Hotel, Newlands Cross, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 28th – 30th March 2014 It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p><i>Alcohol Forum – Alcohol’s Harm to Others National Conference Centre, Dublin 2nd April 2014 It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p><i>Carlow Tourism National Conference The Talbot Hotel, Portlaoise Road, Carlow Town 3rd – 5th April 2014 It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p><i>Retirement Planning for Councillors Fairways Hotel, Dublin Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth 4th – 5th April 2014 It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p><i>Training Seminar - Planning is more than Policy The Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise, Co. Laois 4th – 6th April 2014 It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p><i>West Cork Tourism Seminar on Internet Marketing Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, West Cork 4th – 6th April 2014 It was agreed Cllr. G. Plunkett would attend.</i></p> <p><i>National Planning Conference – 50 Years of Planning: Time to lead change and plan for growth Limerick Strand Hotel 10th – 11th April 2014 It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p>

COMHDHÁLACHA (contd):

*National Register of Health Services Provider Identifiers
The Connacht Hotel, Old Dublin Road, Galway City
11th – 12th April 2014*

It was agreed no member would attend.

*Training Seminar – Introduction to Community Tourism
Talbot Hotel, Wexford
11th – 12th April 2014*

It was agreed no member would attend.

*Training Seminar – Environmental & Cost Effective
Solutions to Waste Water Treatment
Ramada Viking Hotel, Waterford
11th – 13th April 2014*

It was agreed no member would attend.

*Training Seminar – The Local Government Arts Service
Clybaun Hotel, Knocknacarra, Galway
12th – 13th April 2014*

It was agreed no member would attend.

*Training Seminar – Crime & its impact on quality of life
Quality Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry
18th – 19th April 2014*

It was agreed no member would attend.

*Training Seminar – 5 Week Countdown to Local Election
2014 - A Ballot Box to Council Chamber Module
Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
18th – 20th April 2014*

It was agreed no member would attend.

*Chambers of Commerce Building Business
The Celtic Ross Hotel, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork
18th – 20th April 2014*

It was agreed no member would attend.

*Social Clauses in Public Procurement
Westport Plaza Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo
25th – 26th April 2014*

It was agreed no member would attend.

*Training Seminar – The Elected Member, the Environment &
the Community
The Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise, Co. Laois
25th – 27th April 2014*

It was agreed no member would attend.

*5th Annual Laurentic Conference - Technology, People and
the Ocean
Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, Co. Donegal
2nd May 2014*

It was agreed no member would attend.

