

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ**

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE  
ON MONDAY, 14TH DECEMBER 2015 AT 2.00 P.M.**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Cllr. E. Dooley, Cathaoirleach (Presiding), Cllrs. N. Bourke, J. Carroll, J. Clendennen, N. Cribbin, D. Dolan, S. Dooley, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Foley, D. Harvey, B. Killeavy, J. Leahy, T. McKeigue, F. Moran, C. Nolan, M. O'Reilly, P. Ormond and D. Owens.
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Cllr. L. Quinn
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Mr. D. Kirrane, Chief Executive; Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F; Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S; Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S; Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S; Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator; Ms. O. Martin, Head of Enterprise; Ms. N. Dowler, Community Forum Support Worker; Ms. C. Hilliard, A.O.; Ms. B. Maher, E.P.; Ms. B. Corbet, A/S.O; Ms. F. Craig, A.S.O; Ms. F. Dunne C.O; Ms. F. Flaherty C.O.
<b>VOTES OF SYMPATHY:</b>	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-</p> <p>Mr. Hugh O'Donoghue, Offaly County Council on the death of his mother, Philomena;</p> <p>Mr. Michael Gavin Snr, New Road, Clara on the death of his brother, Paddy;</p> <p>Mrs. Mary Dunne, Fredericks Street, Clara on the death of her husband, Benny;</p> <p>Mr. John Lawlor, Garryhinch, Portarlinton on the death of his uncle, Eamon;</p> <p>Mrs. Sandra Farrell, Shean, Edenderry on the death of her husband, Ken;</p> <p>Ms. Mary Jennings, Ballyroe, Kilcormac on the death of his sister, Flannan;</p> <p>Mr. Tomas Quinlan, Cullenwaine, Cloughjordan on the death of his father, Dan;</p> <p>Mrs. Betty Egan &amp; Family, Multyfarnham, Westmeath on the death of her husband, John;</p> <p>Mr. Simon Bracken &amp; Family, Esker Meadows, Arden, Tullamore on the death of his brother, Fr. Lorenzo Bracken; and</p>

<p><b>VOTES OF SYMPATHY: (contd)</b></p>	<p>Mr. Frank Hughes &amp; Family, Pearse Park, Tullamore on the death of his wife, Mary (May).</p> <p>The Chief Executive, on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff of the Council joined with the members in these votes of sympathy.</p>
<p><b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the November Monthly Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. S. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. D. Owens, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the Statutory Budget Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2015.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the In-Committee Budget Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015.</p>
<p><b>MINUTES FOR NOTING:</b></p>	<p>The minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015 were noted.</p>
<p><b>SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. P. Ormond, the members agreed to suspend Standing Orders to receive an update on the flooding situation around the Shannon and to get an overview of the recent report issued by Irish Water.</p>
<p><b>FLOODING UPDATE:</b></p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S gave the members an update on the recent flooding in the areas close to the Shannon and in particular the flooding situation in Banagher, Shannonbridge and Shannonharbour. He advised that the water levels were lower than in 2009 but that a number of local roads were closed due to flooding. He advised that the Council are continuing to liaise with an Garda Síochána on road closures. He advised that as flood waters recede the situation with regard to road closures will be assessed and individual roads may reopen as and when it is deemed safe to do so.</p>
<p><b>IRISH WATER UPDATE:</b></p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S drew the members' attention to the Preliminary Options Appraisal Report, published on 26 November 2015, in relation to the Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Regions. The report, he advised, outlines the comprehensive assessment process for the four technically viable options which are under consideration for the new source of water supply. Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S. advised that the report concludes that abstraction and treatment of water at the Parteen Basin reservoir on the Lower Shannon, together with a treated water pipeline, is emerging as the option most likely to provide the best and most widely</p>

	<p>beneficial new source of water supply for the Region.</p> <p>In responding to questions raised Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S advised that the Garryhinch option does not appear to be feasible at this time and that the desalination option, while still remaining viable, benefits a much smaller area and is one and a half times as expensive as the Parteen option.</p> <p>Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S. advised that no definitive route for the proposed pipeline has been agreed but the Appraisal Report shows a large portion of Offaly is traversed by the proposed pipeline. This current period of public consultation, Mr. T. Shanahan noted, concludes on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016.</p> <p>The members thanked Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S. for his comprehensive report and suggested that the Parteen option provides opportunities for Offaly.</p> <p>The members resolved to invite Irish Water to an In Committee meeting of the Council in January 2016 to review the report.</p>
<p><b>RAISING OF LOAN: SECTION 5, HOUSING ACT 1988:</b></p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S drew the members’ attention to the memo which had circulated with the Council agenda. He advised that to date the Council had approved loans totalling €9,834,235 towards the Voluntary Housing Project, Daingean Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S advised that there is a shortfall of €90,149 between the revised Final Budget Cost Approval and the amount of loans approved to date. He recommended to the members’ that the Supplementary Loan No. 2 be increased to meet this shortfall, i.e., €90,149.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, the members approved the increasing of the Supplementary Loan No. 2 by €90,149 for the completion of the Voluntary Housing Project at Daingean Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.</p>
<p><b>S.183 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, AS AMENDED – DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST IN 1.18 ACRES (0.48ha) AT PUTTAGHAN, TULLAMORE:</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue, the members resolved to the disposal of freehold interest in 1.18 acres (0.48ha) of land at Puttaghan, Tullamore in accordance with the terms of the S.183 notice dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015, which had previously circulated.</p>
<p><b>DRAFT LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2016- 2018:</b></p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S informed the meeting that there were no submissions received during the public consultation period.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. F. Moran, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy, the members agreed to adopt the <i>Litter Management Plan 2016-2018</i> which had previously circulated.</p>
<p><b>LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN</b></p>	<p>Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S. informed the meeting that the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) follow from the</p>

<p><b>(LECP):</b></p>	<p>commencement, in June 2014, Part 6 of the Local Government (Reform) Act 2014. He advised that Offaly County Council established the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in October 2014 and that the LECP is one of the LCDC initial areas of work.</p> <p>Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S. noted the comprehensive public consultation process that had taken place and acknowledged the contribution of the elected members, public and SPC members. He advised that funds from the Council's own resources, the SICAP and LEADER programmes, other agency and other emerging funding programmes will enable the delivery of the LECP goals and objectives.</p> <p>Ms. B. Maher, E.P., gave a detailed presentation on the LECP process and the contents of the Plan, noting in particular the Economic and Community high level goals included in the LECP. These goals she advised are supported by specific objectives that will be evaluated and monitored during the lifetime of the LECP.</p> <p>Cllr. E. Dooley, Cathaoirleach thanked all who had participated in developing the LECP.</p> <p>The members resolved on the proposal of Cllr. F. Moran, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, to adopt the <i>Offaly Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021</i> as considered and agreed at the monthly meeting of Offaly County Council on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015.</p>
<p><b>TENNANT PURCHASE SCHEME:</b></p>	<p>Ms. A. Dillon, SEO Housing drew the members attention to the draft leaflet that had circulated, via email, to the members outlining the terms and conditions of the Tenant Purchase Scheme.</p> <p>The members welcomed the Scheme but expressed concerns regarding the number of restrictions that may apply to some householders. Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S., in bringing the debate to a conclusion agreed to circulate the Scheme to the attention of the Council's tenants.</p>
<p><b>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</b></p>	<p>The members noted the comprehensive Management Report that was circulated with the Agenda.</p>
<p><b>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</b></p>	<p>Cllr. E. Dooley, Cathaoirleach advised that the Corporate Policy Group met on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015 to consider the December Monthly Council Agenda and to approve the list of conferences and training courses for circulation.</p> <p>He advised that the CPG were recommending that the Council write to Irish Water and invite them to the January Monthly Council Meeting.</p> <p>Cllr. E. Dooley, Cathaoirleach also drew the members attention to correspondence received from Ms. Anna Marie Delaney advising that she proposed to commence in the post of Chief Executive, Offaly County Council on Monday 1<sup>st</sup></p>

	February 2016.
<b>NOTICES OF MOTION:</b>	<p>(i) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. S. Dooley and seconded by Cllr. D. Owens:</p> <p><i>"Offaly County Council calls on the Minister for Education to introduce as a matter of urgency, a module in National Schools throughout Ireland which would make it compulsory to teach mindfulness and coping mechanisms as part of the school curriculum for all Primary Children and that the necessary teacher training is provided."</i></p> <p>It was agreed to circulate the motion to all councils and to write to Jan O' Sullivan, TD, Minister for Education and Skills, on behalf of the members.</p>
<b>COMHDHÁLACHA:</b>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. S. Dooley, the members noted and approved the conferences and training seminars as follows:</p> <p><b><u>CONFERENCES:</u></b></p> <p>Celtic Conferences  "The Finance Act 2015"  The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth  8<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> January 2016  <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences  "Housing Grants &amp; Schemes"  The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.  22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> January 2016  <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>CMG Events  "Implementing The New EU Data Protection Regulations Conference 2016"  The Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire Hotel, Dublin  Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016  <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>27<sup>th</sup> Colmcille Winter School  Colmcille Heritage Centre, Gartan, Churchhill, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal  26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> February 2016  <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p>
<b>COMHFHREAGRAS:</b>	The correspondences that issued with the Agenda were noted.
<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</b>	None.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**MINUTES CONFIRMED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CATHAOIRLEACH**

**RUNAÍ**

**18<sup>th</sup> January 2015**