

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 20TH JULY 2015 AT 2.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:	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, D. Owens and L. Quinn.
IN ATTENDANCE:	Ms. C. Byrne, Chief Executive, Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F, Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S, Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S, Mr. M. Daly, S.E.O; Mr. B. Pey, A.O; Ms. A. Walshe, Executive Planner; Mr. G. Bruton, A/Meetings Administrator, Ms. F. Flaherty C.O.
VOTES OF SYMPATHY:	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-</p> <p>Fr. Joe Gallagher P.P., The Clergy and Parish Staff, Parochial House, Tullamore on the death of Very Reverend Fr. Willie Cleary;</p> <p>Rev. Fr. David Carroll & Priests of the Parish, Johns Place, Birr on the death of Reverend Fr. Tony Cahir;</p> <p>The Clergy and Parish Staff, Parochial House, Mucklagh, on the death of Very Reverend John Brogan, Kilskyre and Ballinlough, Kells, Meath / Rahan, Offaly;</p> <p>Mr. John Rigney & Family, The Meelaghans, Tullamore, on the death of his cousin, Mr. Larry Dunne;</p> <p>Mrs. Gretta Foran, Ballinowlart, Clonbullogue, Edenderry on the death of her husband, Sean;</p> <p>Mr. John Foran, Ballinowlart, Clonbullogue, Edenderry on the death of his father, Sean;</p> <p>Mrs. Geraldine Cleary, 12 Presentation Place, Birr on the death of her husband, John;</p> <p>Mr. Michael Kenny & Family, Brendan Street, Birr on the death of his wife, Cora;</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Tom & Nuala Hogan, 128 The Green, Clara on the death of their sister, Brigid;</p> <p>Mr. Michael Power & Family, 89 The Green, Clara on the death of his brother, P.J.;</p> <p>Mr. Noel Conroy, Deerpark, The Island, Ballycumber on the death of his mother, Christina;</p>

	<p>The Chief Executive, on her 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. S. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the June Monthly Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 15th June 2015;</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Owens, seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the Minutes of Annual Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 15th June 2015;</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. P. Ormond, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the Minutes of In-Committee Meeting held with Bord na Móna in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 28th May 2015;</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. F. Moran, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the Minutes of In-Committee Meeting held in Ballinamere Community Centre, Ballinamere, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 18th May 2015.</p>
<p>MINUTES FOR NOTING:</p>	<p>The minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore on 8th June 2015 were noted.</p> <p>Cllr L. Quinn noted the reference in the CPG minutes to the Review of Municipal Districts being carried out and enquired if submissions were still accepted to this survey. The Chief Executive advised that submissions were still accepted.</p>
<p>BRIEFING PRESENTATION ON PHASE 1 OF THE PROPOSED GRAND CANAL GREEN WAY:</p>	<p>Ms A. Walshe, Executive Planner, briefed the members on the proposed Grand Canal Blueway. She noted that the first stage of this project was to develop a 21.5 km walking and cycling route along the Canal from Digby Bridge, near Tullamore, to Lough Boora Discovery Park. She outlined for the members the national context of this project and showed how it linked into to the proposed National / Regional Cycle Network Corridors.</p> <p>She noted that the primary goal of the Project was economic rejuvenation and boosting tourism in the county. She noted that there would be opportunities for local business and enterprises arising from the Project.</p> <p>She advised that the Project would be going for Part VIII Public display in August, following the 8 week period the Project would be brought to the October Council meeting for the member's consideration.</p> <p>The members welcomed the Project and noted its significance for tourism and enterprise in the County. They noted that the Grand Canal was a huge natural resource. The members</p>

<p>BRIEFING PRESENTATION ON PHASE 1 OF THE PROPOSED GRAND CANAL GREEN WAY: (contd)</p>	<p>enquired if there were any proposals to develop the dry canal leading to Kilbeggan, they noted that this would allow a connection between the distillery's in Tullamore and Kilbeggan. It was noted that there was a shortfall in bed capacity in the County which would have to be addressed if full tourism potential of the County was to be exploited. The members queried the cost of the Project and what funding would be available for it. It was noted that Tullamore had strong Angling Tourism based on the Canal at Ballycommon, which had now faded away. The members queried why Waterways Ireland was allowed to re-surface a 2 km stretch of the Canal with large stones, which had made the area impassable. The members queried if the Project would liaise with the Health Promotion Unit of the HSE.</p> <p>In response to the members queries, Ms Walshe, advised that there was no funding in place for the Project, but it was envisaged that the Project would be "Shovel Ready" to present to the Dept for funding. She advised that the estimated cost was in the region of €60,000 per kilometre. She noted that the Council had engaged with the local communities and had addressed any concerns that had been identified. She noted that there was an active community group working on the dry canal to Kilbeggan and this was included as a potential route in the strategy.</p>
<p>DRAFT BURIAL GROUND BYE-LAWS 2015:</p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan A/D.O.S drew the members' attention to the Draft <i>Offaly County Council Burial Ground Bye-Laws 2015</i> that had previously circulated.</p> <p>He informed the members that the Draft Bye-Laws were on public display for a period of one month from 27th May to 29th June 2015, during which 8 submissions were received and subsequent minor changes were made to the document.</p> <p>After a brief discussion, the members welcomed the document and on the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue, the members resolved to adopt the Draft <i>Offaly County Council Burial Ground Bye-Laws 2015</i>, as circulated. It was also agreed to circulate the adopted Bye-Laws to undertakers and stone masonries in County Offaly.</p>
<p>INVITATION TO SISTER CITIES SUMMIT MEETING:</p>	<p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S informed the members that an invitation to the Summit Gathering of United States and Irish Sister Cities as part of the 1916 Irish National Centenary celebrations in Dublin on 22nd – 23rd April 2016 had been received. Members agreed to invite representatives of the Sister cities of Baltimore, Maryland and Chandler, Arizona.</p>
<p>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</p>	<p>The contents of the comprehensive management report that had circulated with the Agenda were noted by the members.</p> <p>Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F. informed the members that The Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012, as amended makes specific provision that elected members of the Local Authority may pass a formal resolution to vary the basic rate of the Local Property Tax for their administrative area by a percentage</p>

<p>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT: (contd)</p>	<p>known as the local adjustment factor. The members may set a local adjustment factor within the range of +/- 15% of the basic rate or may decide not to make any adjustment. It was agreed to meet on 14th September 2015 In-Committee and 21st September to consider the setting of a local adjustment factor for 2016. He advised that this had been advertised and submissions from the public must be received by 28th August 2015.</p> <p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S advised the members that additional funding for Roads had been received from the Department. He noted that further additional funding had been received since the publication of the Monthly Report, the total additional funding received was €2.75 million.</p>
<p>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</p>	<p>Cllr. E. Dooley, Cathaoirleach advised that the Corporate Policy Group met on 20th July 2015 to consider the July Monthly Council Agenda and to approve the list of conferences and training courses for circulation.</p> <p>He informed the members that he had resigned as Chairperson of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee. On the proposal of Cllr. S. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey and agreed by the members, Cllr. F. Moran was nominated to replace Cllr. E. Dooley as chairperson of the SPC.</p>
<p>NOTICES OF MOTION:</p>	<p>(i) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. M. O’ Reilly, seconded by Cllr. B. Killeavy and agreed:</p> <p><i>“This council calls on both the National Ambulance Service and the Minister for Health to improve the ambulance service in County Offaly, in particular, address the unacceptable long call out times that some people in Offaly have had to wait for the arrival of an ambulance in their area.”</i></p> <p>Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick proposed an amendment to the motion as follows:</p> <p><i>“This Council calls on both the Director of the National Ambulance Service and the Minister for Health to improve working conditions and the Ambulance Service in Co. Offaly and in particular address the unacceptable long call out times that patients in Offaly have had to wait for the arrival of an Ambulance or Rapid Response Vehicle due to the shortage of resources and personnel within the NAS. The people of Offaly deserve a first class emergency service and the staff deserve proper facilities and equipment, in particular response vehicles to carry out their duties.”</i></p> <p>The motion was seconded by Cllr. M. O’ Reilly. It was agreed to write to the Minister for Health on behalf of the members. It was also agreed to invite representatives of the National Ambulance Service to attend a meeting with the</p>

<p>NOTICES OF MOTION: (contd)</p>	<p>members.</p> <p>(ii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. C. Nolan, seconded by Cllr. B. Killeavy and agreed by the members:</p> <p><i>"Offaly County Council condemns cut to lone parents allowance and demands that Minister Burton reverse these cuts."</i></p> <p>It was agreed to write to the Minister for Social Protection, Joan Burton on behalf of the members.</p>
<p>COMHDHÁLACHA:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. D. Owens, conferences and training seminars were approved as follows:</p> <p><u>CONFERENCES:</u></p> <p>Celtic Conferences Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork 7th – 9th August 2015 <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>CMG Events The New EU General Data Protection Regulation Conference 2015 Thursday 8th October Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>The Institute of Professional Training Planning; Planning & Development (No. 2) Bill 2014' Office of the Planning Regulator Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal 7th – 9th August 2015 <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences Local Economic & Community Plans The Horse & Jockey Hotel, Co. Tipperary 4th -6th September 2015 <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p><u>TRAINING:</u></p> <p>“The Housing Debate: (Re) Building our Communities through Integrated Working with Local Government” Maynooth University Campus Thursday 10th September 2015 <i>It was agreed Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick would attend.</i></p>
<p>COMHFHREAGRAS:</p>	<p>The correspondences that issued with the Agenda were noted.</p> <p>Noting the response received from Iarnrod Éireann in relation to the downgrading of service at Tullamore Train Station, the members expressed their anger at the reply and it was agreed a to write again and seek a meeting with Irish Rail representatives.</p>

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Rate Rebate Incentive Scheme Update

Cllr. B. Killeavy requested an update on the progress of the scheme. Mr. D. Conlon H.O.F. advised that an update will be given to the members at the In-Committee on 14th September 2015.

Village Post Offices

Cllr. J. Leahy criticised the recent changes on social welfare forms which urges applicants to use financial institutions for receipt of their payments instead of post offices. The members agreed that this would be detrimental to villages in rural Ireland where they rely on this business and the passing footfall.

Irish Water

Cllr. J. Carroll sought clarification on the why some businesses, operating from their homes, were receiving two water bills. Mr. T. Shanahan advised that such businesses received a domestic and commercial bill, the domestic bill was issued by Irish Water and the commercial bill was issued by Offaly County Council on behalf of Irish Water. This was a transitional arrangement.

Disabled Persons Grants

Cllr. J. Carroll raised concerns in relation to funding from the Department of the Environment for Adaptation Grants for People with a Disability, formerly known as Disabled Persons Grants. He noted that that the Department have failed to match funding approved by Offaly County Council for the scheme.

IDA Ireland and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

Cllr D. Harvey suggested that a meeting with the IDA and the members take place to discuss the lack of Foreign Direct Investment in Offaly. Following a lengthy discussion the members agreed to seek a meeting with senior representatives from the IDA.

Chief Executive

The Cathaoirleach advised the members that the members in Kilkenny County Council had accepted the recommendation to appoint Ms. Colette Byrne to the post of Chief Executive with that Council.

The members joined with the Cathaoirleach in congratulating Ms. C. Byrne, Chief Executive on her appointment. They thanked her for her dedication, and acknowledged the dynamic and collaborative approach by which she had worked to develop County Offaly. The members wished Ms. C. Byrne and her family good health and happiness in the future and wished her every success in her new position with Kilkenny County Council.

Ms. C. Byrne responded and thanked the members for their best wishes. She thanked them for their support and positivity and wished them well in the delivery of the projects that had been initiated in the past 12 months. She finished by thanking

	the staff at all levels of the Council for their commitment and hard work.
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This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH **RUNAÍ**

21th September 2015