

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 23RD MARCH 2015 AT 2.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:	Cllr. S. Dooley, Cathaoirleach (Presiding), Cllrs. N. Bourke, J. Carroll, J. Clendennen, N. Cribbin, D. Dolan, E. 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, Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator, Ms. O. Martin, Head of LEO, Mr. G. Conlon, A.O. Procurement, Mr. C. McCarthy, S.E. Roads, Ms. S. O' Reilly, Arts Officer, Ms. F. Flaherty C.O.
	<p>The members paid tribute to their former colleague Mr. Tom Feighery, a member of Offaly County Council for 30 years, who recently passed away and extended their sympathies to his wife Mary and children Gemma, Conor, Tom and Nessa. As a mark of respect the meeting was adjourned for 15 minutes.</p> <p>The monthly meeting resumed at 2.20p.m.</p>
VOTES OF SYMPATHY:	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-</p> <p>Mrs. Mary Feighery and Family, Freagh, Kilcormac on the death of her husband Mr. Tom Feighery, former MCC;</p> <p>Deputy Charles Flanagan and Family, Mountmellick, Laois on the death of his mother, Mrs. Mai Flanagan;</p> <p>Ms. Colette Byrne, Chief Executive on the death of her brother, Pat Whelan;</p> <p>Mrs. Angela Fay and Family, Clareen, Birr on the death of her husband, John;</p> <p>Mr. Tony Guing, 5 Kileden Lawns, Edenderry on the death of his mother, Maura;</p> <p>Sean Robbins, Kilmucklin, Clara on the death of his brother, Fr. Roger Robbins;</p> <p>Mrs. Eileen Dunne, Clonsast, Bracknagh on the death of her husband, Joe;</p> <p>Mr. Martin Pierce, Kilbeg, Walsh Island on the death of his mother, Mary (May);</p>

<p>VOTES OF SYMPATHY: (contd)</p>	<p>Mrs. Bridie Delaney, Coagh, Killyon, Birr on the death of her husband, Charles;</p> <p>Mr. Eamon Gath, Cadamstown, Kinnitty, Birr on the death of her father, Joe;</p> <p>Mrs. Maura Reddin, Cuba Avenue, Banagher on the death of her husband, Tony;</p> <p>Mrs. Bernie Clear. Cuba Avenue, Banagher on the death of her husband, Michael and;</p> <p>Mrs. Elsie Kingston, Castletown, Fortal, Birr on the death of her husband, George;</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>VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS:</p>	<p>Votes of congratulations were extended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tullamore Tidy Towns Committee who won the Community Achievement Award at the Tullamore and District Chamber Awards 2015; and - Cistercian College, Roscrea who beat Belvedere College in the 2015 Bank of Ireland Leinster Schools Senior Rugby Cup Final. Cllr. P. Ormond's proposal that that the CPG consider if this achievement could be recognised was seconded by Cllr. D. Owens.
<p>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of February Monthly Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 16th February 2015.</p>
<p>MINUTES FOR NOTING:</p>	<p>The minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meetings held in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 9th February 2015 were noted.</p>
<p>S.183 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, AS AMENDED – DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST IN 5.332 AC/ 2.156HA AT SYNGEFIELD, BIRR, CO. OFFALY:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Clendennen, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll, the members resolved to the disposal of freehold interest in lands at Syngefield, Birr in accordance with the terms of the S.183 notice dated 10th March 2015, which had previously circulated.</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>S. 85 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, AS AMENDED - AGREEMENT BETWEEN KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL AND OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL FOR</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan, the members resolved to the agreement between Kildare and Offaly County Council for the Offaly, Carlow, Kilkenny and Laois Bridges Rehabilitation Contract.</p>

BRIDGES REHABILITATION CONTRACT:	
ROAD WORKS PROGRAMME 2015:	On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll, the members resolved to adopt the Road Works Programme 2015 as previously circulated.
LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE UPDATE:	<p>Ms. O. Martin, Head of LEO gave a comprehensive presentation on the role of the Local Enterprise Office and highlighted achievements to date following its integration into Offaly County Council.</p> <p>The members thanked Ms. O. Martin, Head of LEO for her informative presentation and acknowledged the significant work being done to support local enterprises. The establishment of the Economic Forum and the significant grant approvals were welcomed.</p>
PROCUREMENT REPORT:	<p>Mr. G. Conlon, Procurement Officer, gave a detailed presentation to the members in relation to national procurement framework policies and provided an overview of how businesses can register and compete for public sector contracts. He noted the low level of Offaly businesses registered on the etenders.gov.ie and LAQuotes.ie websites.</p> <p>The members thanked Mr. G. Conlon, Procurement Officer for the detailed presentation. It was agreed that the report would be circulated to the members, placed on the Council's website and extracts included in the Local Enterprise Office publications. In responding to questions raised Mr. G. Conlon, Procurement Officer advised that a number of the larger tenders are divided into smaller lots. The members in concluding the discussion agreed to encourage all business to register on the procurement sites.</p>
MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:	Cllr. S. Dooley, Cathaoirleach drew the members' attention to the comprehensive management report that had circulated. Ms. C. Byrne, Chief Executive informed the members that an update from the Local Enterprise Office would be included in the monthly report.
CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:	Cllr. S. Dooley, Cathaoirleach advised that the Corporate Policy Group met on 9 th March 2015 to consider the March Monthly Council Agenda and approve the list of conferences and training courses for circulation.
NOTICES OF MOTION:	<p>i. The following motion was proposed by Cllr .T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen and agreed:</p> <p><i>At present Parking Fines issued by the council's traffic wardens and subsequently not paid and which go to court and upheld the money accruing from those is retained by the state. Offaly County Council calls for a change to allow councils to benefit from this revenue as all the work and expense is born by the council.</i></p>

<p>NOTICES OF MOTION: (contd)</p>	<p>It was agreed to write to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport and circulate the motion to all local authorities.</p> <p>ii. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen and agreed:</p> <p><i>That Offaly County Council calls on the Environment Minister to introduce a Renewal Scheme for both town and village centres.</i></p> <p>It was agreed to write to the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government and circulate the motion to all local authorities.</p> <p>iii. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. M. O'Reilly, seconded by Cllr. B. Killeavy and agreed:</p> <p><i>That this council, recognising the need for safety for children at play in the housing estates in which they live, calls on the Minister for Transport to pass the Road Traffic Amendment Bill 2015 commonly known as Jake's Law, in memory of Jake Brennan, in order to introduce a new mandatory speed limit of 20km specifically for housing estates. The council further commits to writing the Minister on this issue and circulating this letter to all other local authorities in the state for their consideration.</i></p> <p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., advised that the Roads Section is currently surveying estates and collating relevant data. The members agreed to refer the motion to the Transportation and Emergency Services S.P.C. for further discussion.</p> <p>iv. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey and agreed:</p> <p><i>Calls on Offaly County Council to consider a change to the current policy regarding the use of speed tables and ramps in the county to reduce speed in towns and villages.</i></p> <p>It was agreed to refer the matter to the Transportation and Emergency Services S.P.C. for further discussion.</p>
<p>COMHDHÁLACHA:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley, conferences and training seminars were approved as follows:</p> <p><u>CONFERENCES:</u> Celtic Conferences The Finance Act 2014 The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork 10th – 12th April 2015 <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p>

<p>COMHDHÁLACHA: (contd)</p>	<p><u>TRAINING:</u> Dundalk Chamber of Commerce Cross Border Tourism Conference 2015 Crowne Plaza Hotel Dundalk Wednesday 15th April 2015 <i>It was agreed Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick would attend.</i></p> <p>Irish Planning Institute 40th Anniversary National Planning Conference 2015 Clarion Hotel, Cork 16th – 17th April 2015 <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>LAMA Spring Training Seminar Housing Provision Ard Rí House Hotel, Tuam, Co. Galway 10th – 11th April 2015 <i>It was agreed Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, L. Quinn, F. Moran, P. Ormond, N. Bourke, D. Harvey and T. McKeigue would attend.</i></p>
<p>COMHFHREAGRAS:</p>	<p>The correspondences that issued with the Agenda were noted.</p>
<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</p>	<p><u>Irish Water</u> Ms. C. Byrne, Chief Executive drew the members attention to the Irish Water Supply Project Newsletter circulated at the meeting. The members agreed to invite Irish Water to provide an in-committee briefing on the Eastern and Midlands Project. It was noted that the closing date for the receipt of submissions to Irish Water on the Dublin Midland Project is 5th May 2015.</p> <p><u>Local Economic & Community Plan</u> Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S informed the members that a series of public meetings to consider the <i>Local Economic and Community Plan 2015-2021</i> will be held over the coming weeks in various locations throughout the county. He encouraged the members to promote public attendance and participation at these meetings.</p> <p><u>Shane Lowry</u> On the proposal of Cllr. D. Owens, seconded by Cllr. F. Moran, it was agreed to make a presentation to Mr. Shane Lowry on behalf of Offaly County Council to mark the occasion of being the first Offaly person to participate in the US Masters in Augusta.</p> <p><u>Public Lighting in Housing Estates</u> Cllr. M. O’ Reilly sought an update with regard to the taking in charge of housing estates by the council. Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S advised that it is a work in progress and those members who have concerns on individual cases should contact the executive.</p>

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH **RUNAÍ**

20th April 2015