

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN BALLINAMERE COMMUNITY CENTRE, BALLINAMERE,
TULLAMORE ON MONDAY, 18TH MAY 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. A. Dillon, SEO; Ms. R. McKenna, SE Architect; Mr. T. Mawe, Financial/Management Accountant; Mr. J. Cunningham, E.E.; Mr. B. Pey, A.O.; Mr. G. Bruton, A.O.; Ms. F. Flaherty C.O.
	Cllr. S. Dooley, Cathaoirleach welcomed the elected members and members of the public to Ballinamere Community Centre for the May Monthly Meeting of Offaly County Council and thanked the Ballinamere Hall Committee for hosting the meeting. She also thanked Sirrocco's and the Esker Hills Golf Club for providing lunch.
VOTES OF SYMPATHY:	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-</p> <p>Mr. Frank Heslin & Family, Director of Services, O.C.C on the death of his mother, Kitty;</p> <p>Mr. Seamus Walshe & Family, Water Services, O.C.C on the death of his father, Michael;</p> <p>Mrs. Elizabeth McCormack, Coolraven, Cloneygowan, Tullamore on the death of her father, Martin Dunne;</p> <p>Mr. Michael Dunne, Cloneyquinn, Portarlington on the death of his uncle, Ned;</p> <p>Ms. Karen McDonagh, 7 Oak View, Kilcoursey, Clara on the death of her father, Joe Stanley;</p> <p>Mrs. Bernadette Brady, 6 JKL Street, Edenderry on the death of her husband, Mick;</p> <p>Mr. John Costelloe, Ballyfore, Edenderry on the death of his wife, Monica;</p> <p>Mrs. Marian Deegan, Derrinboy, Kilcormac on the death of her husband, Joe;</p> <p>Mrs. Margaret Brophy, Lacaroe, Cadamstown, Birr on the death of her husband, Timmy;</p>

<p>VOTES OF SYMPATHY: (contd)</p>	<p>The Family of the Late Catriona Byrne, Lann Elo, Clontarf Road, Tullamore on the death of Ms. Byrne;</p> <p>Mr. Brendan Collins, Clara Road, Tullamore on the death of her father, Tadgh (Tim Joe).</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. D. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. F. Moran, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the April Monthly Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore on 20th April 2015.</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 in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore on 13th April 2015; - Housing, Social & Cultural Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on the 28th January 2015.
<p>ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2014/OVER-EXPENDITURE</p>	<p>Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F. drew the members' attention to the Draft <i>Unaudited Annual Financial Statement, Offaly County Council for the Year Ended 31st December 2014</i>, which was circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy, the members resolved to approve and adopt the over expenditure for 2014 in the sum of €9,422,091.</p>
<p>ANNUAL REPORT 2014</p>	<p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S. drew the members' attention to the <i>Annual Report 2014</i> which was circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan, the members resolved to adopt the <i>Annual Report 2014</i>, as circulated.</p>
<p>DRAFT OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL 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>The members welcomed the document and on the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick the members resolved that the Draft <i>Offaly County Council Burial Ground Bye-Laws 2015</i>, as circulated, be placed for public consultation.</p>
<p>UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT BLUNDELL WOOD: HOUSING AND PARK DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F., informed the meeting that the proposed development at Blundell Wood was a plan for the overall area and would incorporate thirty three social houses, pitch and putt course, skate park, playground and further landscaping and planting. He advised that the proposed scheme would provide amenities to the extended community and improve access from the park to the town and also to and from the canal. Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F., advised that the Council had consulted with a number of interested groups and that two public information meetings were held.</p>

<p>UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT BLUNDELL WOOD: HOUSING AND PARK DEVELOPMENT: (contd)</p>	<p>Ms. R. McKenna, Senior Architect gave a detailed presentation of the proposed works.</p> <p>During the ensuing discussion the members welcomed and supported the overall proposal, acknowledging the utilisation of land within the town. The high numbers on the Housing Waiting List for Edenderry was noted.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribben, the members agreed to progress the proposed plan via the Part VIII planning process.</p>
<p>HOUSING SERVICES UPDATE</p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S., gave a comprehensive housing update with particular reference to the National Housing Strategy and the introduction of the Housing Assistance Payment scheme. He advised that there are three pillars, two phases and five work streams contained in the strategy and outlined the three pillars as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pillar 1: Provision of new social housing supply; - Pillar 2: Providing housing supports through the private rented sector; and - Pillar 3: Reform - creating more flexible and responsive social housing supports. <p>The Strategy, he advised, provided for the provision of 75 housing units in Offaly up until 2020. He acknowledged that there are currently in excess of 1900 householders on the Council's Housing List.</p> <p>During the lengthy discussion that followed the members noted that the Housing List is increasing rapidly and raised their concerns with regard to the lack of supply of suitable accommodation to rent in the county. Concerns in relation to: the Capital funding of €13.9m to 2017; Housing Assistance Programme; the increase in house repossessions; and, the length that council houses are void were expressed by a number of members.</p> <p>In responding to questions raised Mr. T. Shanahan A/D.O.S. advised that: Limerick City & County Council will make all Housing Assistance payments directly to landlords nationally; the Council are actively examining unfinished housing estates, in-fill accommodation and acquisitions; all householders on rent supplement will transfer to the Housing Assistance Programme; accommodation sourced via approved housing bodies are part of the Council's allocated target of 75 units; the Council are developing schemes having regard to the needs identified on the Housing List and to ensure that Schemes are ready should further departmental funding become available; it is anticipated to significantly increase the number of housing inspections being held; and, that the availability of funds can delay the time it can take to address voids. Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S. advised that the Council are currently carrying out a rent review for all tenants.</p>

<p>OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE POLICY</p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S. advised that the <i>Offaly County Council Local Authority Housing Management And Maintenance Policy</i>, developed by the SPC, outlined the policy being implemented throughout the county following the restructuring of Housing Services. He advised that the Council currently has in excess of 1,800 houses and that, the policy sets a target of an average of 60 days to return vacant units to use gain.</p> <p>Cllr. P. Ormond, Chairperson of the Housing, Social and Cultural SPC in proposing the Policy for adoption noted that it provided for an increase in inspections and that it clearly outlined the responsibilities of tenants and landlord. The proposal to adopt the <i>Offaly County Council Local Authority Housing Management And Maintenance Policy</i> was seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey and approved by the members.</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>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</p>	<p>Cllr. S. Dooley, Cathaoirleach advised that the Corporate Policy Group met on 11th May 2015 to consider the May Monthly Council Agenda and approve the list of conferences and training courses for circulation.</p> <p>She reminded members that an In-Committee Meeting was scheduled for Thursday 28th in Aras an Chontae, Tullamore.</p>
<p>NOTICES OF MOTION:</p>	<p>(i) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan and agreed:</p> <p><i>“That this council makes a submission at buildingstandards@environ.ie recommending the removal of the "one off" house and domestic extensions from the compulsory certification system introduced last year and now being reviewed by Minister Kelly.”</i></p> <p>It was agreed to write to the Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government.</p> <p>(ii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. F. Moran, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey and agreed.</p> <p><i>“I call on Offaly County Council and my fellow Councillors to convince the Taoiseach and the Minister for Defence to reinstate the 4th Western Brigade to Custume Barrack’s Athlone”</i></p>

<p>COMHDHÁLACHA:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribbin, conferences and training seminars were approved as follows:</p> <p><u>CONFERENCES:</u></p> <p>Celtic Conferences The New Companies Act 2014 Horse and Jockey Hotel, Co. Tipperary 15th – 17th May 2015 <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>21st Byrne Perry Summer School “Glorious Forever? Regional Perspectives on the 1916 Rising” Gorey Library & Adult Learning Centre, Civic Square, The Avenue, Gorey, Co. Wexford 26th – 28th June 2015 <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences EU Support Programmes for Irish Regions The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork 5th -7th June 2015 <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>Superior Training Seminar for Councillors Recent Legal Developments and their effects on Local Government’s Economic Functions Milrace House Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford 5th – 6th June 2015 <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>Superior Training Seminar for Councillors Recent legal developments and their effects on Local Government’s Economic Functions Park House Hotel, Main Street, Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford 12th – 13th June 2015 <i>It was agreed Cllr. F. Moran would attend.</i></p> <p><u>TRAINING:</u></p> <p>Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) Local Community Development & LCDC’s – A New Role for Local Authorities 21st May 2015 – Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise <i>It was agreed Cllr. P. Ormond would attend.</i></p> <p>Dept. of Public Expenditure and Reform, Northern & Western Regional Assembly, Southern Regional Assembly and Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly INTERREG Information Seminar – Funding opportunities available to Irish Organisations for the 2014-2020 EU funding period. Tullamore Court Hotel 11th June 2015 <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p>
<p>COMHFHREAGRAS:</p>	<p>The correspondences that issued with the Agenda were noted.</p>

