

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 19TH OCTOBER 2015 AT 2.00 P.M.**

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| 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, C. Nolan, M. O'Reilly, P. Ormond, D. Owens and L. Quinn. |
| APOLOGIES: | Cllr. F. Moran |
| IN ATTENDANCE: | Mr. D. Kirrane, Chief Executive; Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F; Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S; Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S; Mr. M. Daly, A/D.O.S; Ms. A. Dillon, S.E.O; Mr. J. Cunningham, E.E.; Ms. B. Corbet, A/S.O; Mr. D. Meehan, E.P.; Ms. R. McKenna, Senior Executive Architect; Ms. C. Clancy, Environmental Liaison Officer; Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator; Ms. F. Flaherty C.O. |
| VOTES OF SYMPATHY: | <p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-</p> <p>The Family of the late Adam Mangan, Barnaboy, Daingean, Co. Offaly;</p> <p>The Family of the late Johnathon Egan, Tinnahinch, Rosenallis, Co. Laois;</p> <p>The Family of the late Pdraig Moran, formerly of Gurteen, Tubber, Co. Offaly;</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs. Tom & Mary Lawton, St. Marys Road, Edenderry on the death of their daughter, Marie;</p> <p>Ms. Mariena Corcoran, Dalgan, Geashill on the death of her father, Sonny Daly;</p> <p>Mr. Matt Dempsey, Kinnitty, Birr on the death of his brother Noel;</p> <p>The Reilly Family, Sragh Road, Tullamore on the death of Chris Reilly;</p> <p>Mrs. Nora Farrington, O' Molloy Street, Tullamore on the death of her husband, Christy and;</p> <p>Mrs. Sharon Hayes, O' Molloy Street, Tullamore on the death of her mother, Laura Heffernan</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> |

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| <p>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</p> | <p>On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. D. Owens, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the September Monthly Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 21st September 2015.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. S. Dooley, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the In-Committee Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 14th September 2015.</p> |
| <p>MINUTES FOR NOTING:</p> | <p>The minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 20th July 2015 were noted.</p> |
| <p>S.183 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, AS AMENDED - DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST IN 2 ACRES AT KYLEBEG, BANAGHER, CO. OFFALY</p> | <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, the members resolved to dispose of the freehold interest in land at Kylebeg, Banagher, Co. Offaly in accordance with the terms of the S.183 notice dated 7th October 2015.</p> |
| <p>PART VIII PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 AS AMENDED – PROPOSED PROVISION OF A PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OVER THE CAMCOR RIVER AT BRIDGE STREET, BIRR</p> | <p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S. directed the members’ attention to the report which had circulated with the Agenda. He advised that one submission in support of the Part VIII was received. Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S. recommended that the works be progressed as outlined in the report.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, the members resolved to adopt the Part VIII, the provision of a pedestrian bridge over the Camcor River at Bridge Street, Birr, Co Offaly, in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 13th October 2015.</p> |
| <p>PART VIII PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 AS AMENDED – PROPOSED IMPROVED ROAD ACCESS FROM WILMER ROAD TO MILL STREET, BIRR INCLUDING IMPROVED PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE ACCESS</p> | <p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S. directed the members’ attention to the report that had circulated with the agenda. He recommended that the Part VIII be adopted.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, the members resolved to adopt the Part VIII proposal in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 14th October 2015, i.e., to proceed with the proposed road access works from Wilmer Road to Mill Street, Birr, including improved pedestrian and cycle access.</p> |
| <p>PART VIII OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 AS AMENDED – PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT BLUNDELL PARK, EDENDERRY</p> | <p>Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S. directed the members’ attention to the report which circulated with the agenda. Mr. D. Meehan, Executive Planner, noted the public consultation period and informed the members that nine submissions and observations were received; three from prescribed bodies and six from other parties. He provided an overview of each of the submissions and observations received and outlined the Council’s response in relation to the concerns raised. He recommended proceeding with the proposed development taking into consideration the submissions and observations received.</p> |

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| <p>PART VIII OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 AS AMENDED – PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT BLUNDELL PARK, EDENDERRY (contd)</p> | <p>Cllr. L. Quinn, in proposing the adoption of the Part VIII welcomed the development of housing units in Edenderry. He suggested that the development of the site, including the lease of lands to the Pitch and Putt Club, would enhance the town and surrounding area.</p> <p>Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick seconded the proposal. He acknowledged that the Council had consulted widely with the local community.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Foley proposed that the lease between Offaly County Council and the Edenderry Pitch and Putt Club be reviewed to allow for the timeframe for commencing works on the pitch and putt course be extended beyond the stated three years. This proposal was seconded by Cllrs. N. Bourke and N. Cribben. Cllr. N. Bourke requested that funding for the redesign of the pitch and putt facilities be examined.</p> <p>Mr. D. Kirrane, Chief Executive, in responding, agreed to review the issues raised in relation to the Pitch and Putt Club lease agreement.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn and seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick the members resolved to adopt the Part VIII proposed development at Blundell Park, Edenderry in accordance with the terms of the notice dated 14th October 2015.</p> |
| <p>ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2014</p> | <p>Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F. drew the members’ attention to the Annual Financial Statement 2014 as circulated.</p> |
| <p>STATUTORY AUDIT REPORT 2014</p> | <p>Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F. advised the members that the Statutory Audit Report 2014 was reviewed by the Audit Committee.</p> <p>In responding to questions raised Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F., advised that the report provided for the amalgamation of Offaly County Council and the former Town Councils and also the transfer of Water and Sewerage functions to Irish Water.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan the members agreed to write to the Minister of the Environment, Community and Local Government requesting that Irish Water be treated in a similar manner to other utility companies and businesses and be subject to Commercial Rates.</p> |
| <p>OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION 2016</p> | <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll, the members approved a provision for Overdraft Accommodation for 2016 in the sum of €13.5million.</p> |
| <p>DATE FOR STATUTORY BUDGET 2016 MEETING</p> | <p>The members agreed to meet as follows to discuss the Draft Budget 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2pm, Monday 16th November 2015: In-Committee Meeting - 2pm, Monday 23rd November 2015: Statutory Budget Meeting |

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| <p>DATE FOR STATUTORY BUDGET 2016 MEETING (contd)</p> | <p>Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F., informed the meeting that the Valuation Office is commencing a valuation of properties in Offaly in November 2015. Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F., outlined the process and stressed the importance of all stakeholders engaging with it. It was agreed to invite the Valuation Office to give a presentation to the members.</p> |
| <p>DATE FOR ORDINARY NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING 2015</p> | <p>The members agreed to suspend Offaly County Council's Standing Orders and to hold the November Monthly Meeting on Monday 23rd November 2015, immediately following the Statutory Budget meeting.</p> |
| <p>DRAFT LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2016-2018</p> | <p>Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S. drew the members' attention to the Draft Litter Management Plan which had circulated with the Council Agenda. He advised that this was the first Litter Management Plan that addressed the whole county. The members welcomed the Draft Litter Management Plan 2016-2018 and agreed for it to be placed for public consultation.</p> |
| <p>HOUSING REPORT</p> | <p>Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S. welcomed the opportunity to brief the members on housing issues in County Offaly. Ms. A. Dillon, S.E.O. Housing gave a comprehensive presentation detailing the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demand for Social Housing Supports - Housing Strategy Targets for Offaly - Management of the Housing Stock - Social Inclusion Housing Measures - The Current Operating Context <p>Mr. J. Cunningham, E.E. Housing provided an overview on the status of the Council's housing stock.</p> <p>The Cathaoirleach thanked the Housing staff for their detailed and comprehensive presentation and invited comment and questions from the members. A lengthy discussion ensued during which the following issues were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rent collection rates and the manner that rent arrears are being addressed; - The housing waiting list and the rent allowance that is payable; - Increased inspection regime; - Housing Adaptation Grants, Mobility Aid Grants and Housing Aid for Older People; - Number, time and cost of voids – it was noted that the Department had recently committed funds to address long term voids. As a result all properties that had become void in 2014 would be returned to occupancy in 2015. It was accepted that as a large portion of the Council's stock is pre-1980 that they require significant remedial works to ensure that they are fit to re-let; - Homelessness and the number of children in Emergency Accommodation; - Offaly's Housing Capital Programme and the collaboration and partnership approach that is being fostered with Approved Housing Bodies to achieve these targets; - Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 and the challenges in meeting the needs of the Travelling Community; |

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| <p>HOUSING REPORT (contd)</p> | <p>Mr. D. Kirrane, Chief Executive, acknowledged that there has been a massive increase in housing activity over the previous eighteen months and reminded the members that the Council's overall staff complement had reduced by 27% in recent years. He welcomed the debate on the various matters raised and agreed to prioritise the Capital Programme and addressing the length of time that houses are vacant.</p> <p>The members joined with the Cathaoirleach in thanking the Housing staff for the information and insight into the issues that are being addressed.</p> |
| <p>ASSOCIATION OF IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT STANDING ORDERS</p> | <p>The content of the correspondence received from the Association of Irish Local Government in relation to the amendment to their Standing Orders was noted by the members.</p> |
| <p>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</p> | <p>The members noted the comprehensive Management Report that was circulated with the Agenda.</p> |
| <p>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</p> | <p>Cllr. E. Dooley, Cathaoirleach advised that the Corporate Policy Group met on 19th October 2015 to consider the October Monthly Council Agenda and to approve the list of conferences and training courses for circulation.</p> <p>Cllr. E. Dooley, Cathaoirleach advised that the CPG had approved the protocol whereby the Cathaoirleach, following consultation with the Executive, could open a Book of Condolences where it was deemed appropriate. This was agreed by the members.</p> <p>The Cathaoirleach advised that the CPG had considered and were recommending to the Plenary Council that the Offaly County Council's Standing Orders be suspended and that the December Ordinary Council meeting be held on Monday, 14th December 2015. The members agreed the change of meeting date.</p> |
| <p>NOTICES OF MOTION:</p> | <p>(i) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. C. Nolan and seconded by Cllr. M. O' Reilly:</p> <p><i>"We call on Minister Alan Kelly to release planning guidelines on wind turbines without further delay."</i></p> <p>Cllr. J. Leahy proposed that the following wording be added to Cllr. C. Nolan's motion:</p> <p><i>".. and to introduce a moratorium on planning applications for wind turbines until such guidelines are released."</i></p> <p>Cllr. C. Nolan agreed to the proposed amendment. The members agreed that the motion be forwarded to the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government.</p> |

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| <p>NOTICES OF MOTION: (contd)</p> | <p>(ii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. C. Nolan, seconded by Cllr. M. O’ Reilly and agreed:</p> <p><i>“The congress charter for fair conditions at work seeks a societal consensus as to what constitutes fair conditions of employment. The charter identifies 5 principles which as a minimum, should be respected by every employer: a living wage, fair hours of work, the right to representation and collective bargaining, to be treated with dignity when at work and fair public procurement. This council supports and advocates the implementation of the congress charter for fair conditions at work.”</i></p> <p>(iii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen and agreed:</p> <p><i>“That Offaly County Council looks at the possibility of Co-Operative housing at suitable locations in the county.”</i></p> |
| <p>COMHDHÁLACHA:</p> | <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Clendennen, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy, conferences and training seminars were approved as follows:</p> <p><u>CONFERENCES:</u></p> <p>Celtic Conferences “Consumer Rights Bill – Landmark reform of Consumer Law” The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork 6th – 8th November 2015 <i>It was agreed that Cllrs. E. Dooley, S. Dooley and D. Owens would attend.</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences “Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015” Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth 20th – 22nd November 2015 <i>It was agreed that no member would attend.</i></p> <p>Esperanza Enterprises “Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015” The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway 20th – 21st November 2015 <i>It was agreed that no member would attend.</i></p> <p>Esperanza Enterprises “Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015” 27th – 28th November 2015 The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway <i>It was agreed that no member would attend.</i></p> <p>Esperanza Enterprises “The Town Renewal Plan” 11th – 12th December 2015 The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway <i>It was agreed that no member would attend.</i></p> |

