

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY 2016 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, D. Harvey, B. Killeavy, T. McKeigue, F. Moran, C. Nolan, M. O'Reilly, P. Ormond, D. Owens and L. Quinn
APOLOGIES:	Cllrs. J. Leahy and J. Foley
IN ATTENDANCE:	Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F; Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S; Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S; Mr. D. Kurrane D.O.S; Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator; Mr. C. McCarthy, Senior Engineer; Ms. S. O'Reilly, Arts Officer; Ms. B. Corbet, A/S.O; Ms. F. Flaherty C.O.; Ms. M. Burke, C.O.
WELCOME:	<p>Cllr. E. Dooley, Cathaoirleach opened the meeting by officially welcoming, Ms. Anna Marie Delaney to the post of Chief Executive for Offaly County Council. The members joined with the Cathaoirleach in welcoming Ms. A. Delaney and expressed their best wishes to her for a long and successful term as Chief Executive.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive thanked the members for their warm welcome and informed the meeting that she looked forward to working with the members and the staff in the best interests of the people of Offaly and towards their common goal of improving services in Offaly.</p>
VOTES OF SYMPATHY:	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-</p> <p>Mrs. Mary Theresa Lynch and Family, Rahan Road, Tullamore on the death of her husband, Hugh;</p> <p>Mrs. Anne Reid, Galbally, Shinrone, Birr on the death of her husband, Frank;</p> <p>Mr. John Murphy, Emmet Square, Birr on the death of his father, Babe Murphy;</p> <p>Ms. Anne O' Callaghan Rowan, 18 Moorepark Street, Birr on the death of her mother, Sheila;</p> <p>Mr. Ger Loughlin, 56 Fr. Paul Murphy Street, Edenderry on the death of his mother, Bridget;</p> <p>Mrs. Angela Sheridan, Church Street, Clara on the death of her sister, Mary Ward;</p>

<p>VOTES OF SYMPATHY: (contd)</p>	<p>Mr. Ger Plunkett, Quarrymount, Killeigh on the death of his father, Jim; and</p> <p>Mrs. Josephine Kelly & Family, Roadhouse, Tullamore on the death of her husband, Patrick Joseph.</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. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the January Monthly Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 18th January 2016.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Owens, seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the In Committee Meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore on Monday, 18th January 2016.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. N. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. S. Dooley, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the Special Meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore on Monday, 16th January 2016.</p>
<p>MINUTES FOR NOTING:</p>	<p>The minutes of the following meetings were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 15th December 2015; - Minutes of Housing, Social & Cultural Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 28th January 2015 ; - Minutes of Housing, Social & Cultural Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Wednesday the 24th June 2015; and - Minutes of Housing, Social & Cultural Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Wednesday the 22nd of April 2015.
<p>S.183 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, AS AMENDED – DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST IN 2AC/0.81HA AT KYLEBEG, BANAGHER, CO. OFFALY</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, the members resolved to the disposal of freehold interest in 2ac/0.81ha at Kylebeg, Banagher, Co. Offaly in accordance with the terms of the S.183 notice dated 3rd February 2016, which had previously circulated.</p>

<p>S.183 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, AS AMENDED – DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST IN 2 PRIVATE SITES AT BRACKNAGH, CO. OFFALY</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn, the members resolved to the disposal of freehold interest in 2 private sites at Bracknagh, Co. Offaly in accordance with the terms of the S.183 notice dated 3rd February 2016, which had previously circulated.</p>
<p>S.183 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, AS AMENDED – DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST IN A HOUSE IN OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL’S OWNERSHIP AT 212 ARDAN VIEW, TULLAMORE</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue seconded by Cllr. S. Dooley, the members resolved to the disposal of freehold interest in a house in Offaly County Council’s ownership at 212 Ardan View, Tullamore, Co. Offaly in accordance with the terms of the S.183 notice dated 3rd February 2016, which had previously circulated.</p>
<p>ARTS ACT GRANTS 2016</p>	<p>Ms. M. Cleary, S.E.O. advised that the increase in funding, approved by the members, for Art Act Grants was welcome. She informed the meeting that forty one applications were received and that it was proposed to fund thirty six projects. In proposing the adoption of the grants Cllr. S. Dooley welcomed the increase in applications and noted that a number of high quality projects reflected the themes of the centenary year. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan and adopted by the members.</p>
<p>FLOODING SITUATION UPDATE</p>	<p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., informed the meeting that the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport had sought a submission by 5th February on the costs associated with repairing roads and implementing preventative measures resulting from the recent flooding in December 2015 and January 2016. He acknowledged that the tight timeframe did not afford him the opportunity to meet with the members to consider the submission in advance of forwarding it to the Department. However, he advised, that a supplementary report could be made by 29th April 2016 and therefore requested that the members advise their respective area engineer of any other roads that should be included. He advised that Offaly County Council had submitted a claim for €3,044,301.69.</p> <p>During the ensuing discussion the members raised concerns regarding the deteriorating condition of many of the county and regional roads. They acknowledged that securing the funding for addressing the damage caused by the inclement weather was a priority and acknowledged that the <i>2016 - 2018 Multi Annual Restoration Improvement Programme</i>, considered at the Municipal Districts meetings the previous week, would need to be revisited if the funding did not materialise. The need to support Local Improvement Schemes was stressed.</p> <p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., in responding advised that he would take the members’ concerns into account and arrange to notify them as soon as funding is announced. He advised that any</p>

<p>FLOODING SITUATION UPDATE (Cont'd)</p>	<p>changes required to the <i>Multi Annual Restoration Improvement Programme</i> would be brought to the members for their consideration and approval. It was agreed to circulate to the members a copy of the submission made to the Department.</p> <p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., noted that Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport are working together on developing signage for tourist routes and that he would raise the members' concerns that priority should be given to repairs and restoration work on tourist routes.</p>
<p>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive drew the members' attention to the monthly management report noting the significant highlights, including, funding received for development of a new library in Edenderry; multi-annual road programme funding; Departmental approval for the Local Community Development Strategy; the introduction of free library services; local enterprise week; Irish Water's announcement on signing a contract for watermain rehabilitation projects in Kilcormac and Edenderry; and the inclusion of Tullamore in the international Entente-Florale competition. She noted that the Offaly 100, centenary commemoration event will be held in Tullamore on Sunday, 20th March and advised that further details and a press release will issue.</p> <p>The members welcomed the comprehensive Management Report. In responding to questions raised the Chief Executive advised that resources determine the level of library services that can be delivered and that a funding application for the upgrade of the Clara Fire Brigade was submitted to the Department but that it was not included in the Department's current five year capital programme. Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S., advised that the Department's approval of the Local Development Strategy will result in LEADER funding being made available in the coming weeks. The members agreed to invite Mr. Brendan O'Loughlin, CEO of Offaly Local Development Committee to give a presentation at the March monthly meeting.</p>
<p>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</p>	<p>Cllr. E. Dooley, Cathaoirleach advised that the Corporate Policy Group met on 15th February 2016 to consider the Monthly Council Agenda and to approve the list of conferences and training courses for circulation.</p>
<p>NOTICES OF MOTION:</p>	<p>(i) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. C. Nolan, seconded by Cllr. B. Killeavy and agreed:</p> <p><i>"That Offaly County Council call for a meeting with IDA representatives in order to highlight the urgent need for job creation in our county."</i></p> <p>During the discussion that followed members raised concerns regarding the possibility of losing forty six jobs in Menarys Retail Department Store, Tullamore and it was agreed that every effort should be made to save these</p>

<p>NOTICES OF MOTION: (Cont'd)</p>	<p>jobs. The establishment, by the Local Enterprise Office, of an Outreach Clinic in Banagher was welcomed by the members and they agreed to invite Mr. Paul Veale, Regional Business Development Manager, IDA to provide a briefing to the members at the March Council meeting.</p> <p>(ii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. C. Nolan, seconded by Cllr. M. O'Reilly and agreed:</p> <p><i>"Offaly County Council calls on the next elected government to apply for the EU Solidarity fund on behalf of communities which have been badly affected by recent flooding."</i></p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. C. Nolan, it was agreed to invite the Midlands-North-West Members of the European Parliament to meet with the members.</p>
<p>COMHDHÁLACHA:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. S. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn, the members noted and approved the conferences and training seminars as follows:</p> <p>Celtic Conferences "“Housing Grants & Schemes” The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth 18th – 20th March 2016 <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>Wexford County Council "“The 1916 Annual Conference” Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy Saturday 5th March 2016 <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences "“The Finance Act 2015” The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork <i>It was agreed Cllr. L. Quinn would attend.</i></p> <p>Irish Planning Institute's National Planning Conference 2016 14th - 15th April 2016 Shearson Hotel, Athlone <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p><u>TRAINING:</u></p> <p>Local Authority Members Association (LAMA) Spring Training Seminar 1st – 2nd April 2016 Sligo Park Hotel, Pearse Road, Sligo <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p>
<p>COMHFHREAGRAS:</p>	<p>The correspondences that issued with the Agenda were noted.</p>

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The members joined with Cllr. T. McKeigue in wishing all candidates well in the up-coming Dáil Elections.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED:

_____ **CATHAOIRLEACH**

_____ **RUNAÍ**

21st March 2016