

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ**

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE  
ON MONDAY, 18TH JANUARY 2016 AT 2.00 P.M.**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	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
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Cllr. F. Moran
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Mr. D. Kirrane, Chief Executive; Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F; Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S; Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S; Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S; Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator; Ms. A. Dillon, S.E.O; Ms. J. Finney. A.O.; Mr. J. Cunningham, E.E.; Ms. B. Corbet, A/S.O; Ms. F. Flaherty C.O.; Mr. C. Connolly. Crime Prevention Executive, IFA;
<b>VOTES OF SYMPATHY:</b>	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-</p> <p>Mrs. Trudy Cushen &amp; Family, Raheen, Clara on the death of her husband, Sean;</p> <p>Mr. Pat Doolan &amp; Family, Tinnymuck, Tubber, Moate, Co. Westmeath on the death of his mother, Elizabeth;</p> <p>Mrs. Mary O' Connell, St. Marys Road, Edenderry on the death of her husband, Thomas;</p> <p>Mrs. BK Dunne, St. Patricks Road, Edenderry on the death of her mother, Mary (Molly);</p> <p>The Family of the Late Mr. Seamus Murphy, 160 Arden View, Tullamore;</p> <p>Mr. &amp; Mrs. James &amp; Ann Gorman, Mill Lane, Enaghan, Walsh Island on the death of their son, John;</p> <p>Mr. Aidan Dunne, Cloneyquinn, Portarlinton on the death of his mother, Kathleen;</p> <p>Mr. Patrick Gorry, Ballykane, Geashill on the death of his mother, Julia;</p> <p>Mrs. Mary Kelly, 92 O' Molloy Street, Tullamore on the death of her brother, Joe;</p> <p>Mrs. Mary Teresa Lynch &amp; Family, Rahan Road, Tullamore on the death of her husband, Hugh; and</p>

<b>VOTES OF SYMPATHY: (contd)</b>	<p>Mrs. Marian McMahon &amp; Family, 79 Whitehall Estate, Tullamore on the death of her husband, Kevin.</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>
<b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</b>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the December Monthly Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015.</p>
<b>MINUTES FOR NOTING:</b>	<p>The minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were noted.</p>
<b>SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:</b>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. S. Dooley, the members agreed to suspend Standing Orders to receive a presentation from Mr. Colin Connolly, Rural Crime Prevention Executive for the Irish Farmers Association.</p>
<b>RURAL CRIME PREVENTION PRESENTATION:</b>	<p>Mr. Colin Connolly, Rural Crime Prevention Executive for the Irish Farmers Association (I.F.A) gave a detailed presentation on a new initiative “Theftstop”. He advised that the programme was developed by the I.F.A. in association with An Garda Síochána and aimed to reduce and help counteract the theft of property in rural areas.</p> <p>The members acknowledged that theft was a concern for the community and welcomed the initiative. They thanked Mr. C. Connolly for the presentation and wished him well with the project.</p>
<b>ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY:</b>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, the members resolved to adopt the <i>Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2015</i> as previously circulated.</p>
<b>RENT ARREARS POLICY:</b>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy, the members resolved to adopt the <i>Rent Arrears Policy 2015</i> for Offaly County Council as circulated with the agenda.</p>
<b>HOUSING SERVICES 2015 REVIEW:</b>	<p>Ms. A. Dillon, S.E.O. Housing, presented the members with a comprehensive review of the Housing Services for 2015, detailing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No. of approved social housing applications</li> <li>- No. of allocations and HAP tenancies</li> <li>- No. of assessment interviews carried out monthly</li> <li>- No. of new homeless presentations in 2015</li> <li>- Social Housing Strategy targets</li> <li>- No. of vacant houses returned to use</li> <li>- Local Authority stock improvements</li> <li>- No. of housing maintenance calls received in 2015</li> <li>- No. of private housing grants paid in 2015</li> <li>- Details of rent collection and outstanding arrears</li> </ul> <p>The members’ thanked Ms. A. Dillon for her detailed presentation. During the ensuing discussion Ms. A. Dillon</p>

	clarified a number of issues raised by the members.
<b>ANNUAL DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:</b>	Ms. M. Cleary drew the members' attention to the Annual Declaration of Interests, which she advised had to be completed and returned by 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2016.
<b>FLOODING SITUATION UPDATE:</b>	<p>Mr. E. Dooley, Cathaoirleach noted that the members had received a comprehensive update with regard to the flooding situation during the Special Meeting which was held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016.</p> <p>Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S. informed the members that the flooding had peaked on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016. He advised that the waters had receded since that date but that a number of dwellings and roads remained flooded.</p> <p>Mr. F. Heslin advised that estimates of the cost to repair the damages caused by the inclement weather was submitted to the Department. He advised that it was not feasible to fully estimate the costs until the water had fully receded and a full evaluation could be completed.</p> <p>It was agreed that the members would liaise with their relevant Engineer to ensure that all roads damaged by the inclement weather were included in the estimate of costs. It was agreed that the estimates would be reviewed by the members prior to submitting the final sum to the Department.</p>
<b>DRAFT SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:</b>	On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. S. Dooley, the Schedule of Meetings for 2016 was agreed by the members.
<b>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</b>	The members noted the comprehensive Management Report that was circulated with the Agenda. There were no matters arising.
<b>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</b>	Cllr. E. Dooley, Cathaoirleach advised that the Corporate Policy Group met on 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2016 to consider the January Monthly Council Agenda and to approve the list of conferences and training courses for circulation.
<b>COMHDHÁLACHA:</b>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy, the members noted and approved the conferences and training seminars as follows:</p> <p><b><u>CONFERENCES:</u></b>  Esperanza Enterprises  Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 – Purchase of Local Authority Houses by Tenants  The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway  5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2016  <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences  EU Cohesion Policy 2014 – 2020  The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork  5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> February 2016  <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p>

<p><b>COMHDHÁLACHA:</b> (contd)</p>	<p>Esperanza Enterprises Integrated Roads and Planning Policy The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2016 <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>ACE Management &amp; Training Microsoft Excel Workshop for Councillors The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016 <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences Auditing and Governance in Local Government The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2016 <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>Colmcille Heritage Trust 27th Colmcille Winter School Democratic Government - and its survival? 26th - 27th February 2016 <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>Cllr. Liam Brazil, Waterford City &amp; County Council Mental Health Conference 19th - 20th February 2016: Park Hotel, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p><b><u>TRAINING:</u></b> Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) Training Programme – Councils and Public Safety Bloomfield House, Mullingar Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016 <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p> <p>Co-Operation Ireland &amp; Department of the Environment, Community &amp; Local Government "Local Authorities Building Stronger Communities - the Role of Philanthropy and Alternative Funding Initiatives" Thursday 25th February 2016 Dublin Castle <i>It was agreed no member would attend.</i></p>
<p><b>COMHFHREAGRAS:</b></p>	<p>The correspondences that issued with the Agenda were noted.</p>
<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</b></p>	<p>None.</p>

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**MINUTES CONFIRMED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CATHAOIRLEACH**
**RUNAÍ**

15<sup>th</sup> February 2015