

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

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

PRESENT:	Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, Cathaoirleach (Presiding), Cllrs. N. Bourke, J. Carroll, J. Clendennen, N. Cribbin, D. Dolan, E. Dooley, S. Dooley, J. Foley, D. Harvey, B. Killeavy, J. Leahy, S. Maher, T. McKeigue, F. Moran, M. O'Reilly, P. Ormond and D. Owens
APOLOGIES:	Cllr. L. Quinn
IN ATTENDANCE:	Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. D. Conlon, HoF; Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S; Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S; Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S; Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator; Mr. R. Bell, A/Head of I.S.; Ms. A. Dillon SEO; Mr. W. Ryan, EE; Ms. F. Flaherty, C.O.
VOTES OF SYMPATHY:	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-</p> <p>Mr. Thomas Freer & Family, Clara Road, Tullamore on the death of his sister, Christine;</p> <p>Mr. Michael Bracken & Family, St. Martin's, Arden Road, Tullamore on the death of his wife, Margaret; and</p> <p>The Family of Mr. Jim Flanagan, Cloonagh, Tullamore.</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>
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. F. Moran, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the June Monthly Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 20th June 2016.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. S. Dooley, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 20th June 2016.</p>
MINUTES FOR NOTING:	<p>The following minutes were noted by the members:</p> <p>- Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Tullamore, Co. Offaly held on 16th May 2016.</p>

<p>S183 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, AS AMENDED:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy, the members resolved to the disposal of freehold interest in lands at Curraghavarna and Portavolla in accordance with the terms of the S.183, Local Government Act 2001 Notice dated 7th July 2016, which had previously circulated.</p>
<p>‘DEADSUREAPP’ – PUBLIC LIGHTING PRESENTATION:</p>	<p>Mr. W. Ryan, E.E. gave a detailed presentation on the new interactive method, ‘<i>deadsureapp</i>’, which allows members of the public to report online issues in relation to street lighting. He advised that since the introduction of the app, response time for repairing public lights had reduced.</p> <p>The members thanked Mr. Ryan for his presentation and welcomed the online resource. In responding to questions raised Mr. W. Ryan, E.E. informed the meeting that due to the lack of resources no additional public lighting had been installed since 2012. He agreed to explore why some lights in Cluain Fia, Clara were decommissioned. He advised that retro-fitted LED’s are installed to current public lighting standards and this, on occasion, can result in a reduction in the intensity of lighting.</p> <p>Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, Cathaoirleach proposal to take Cllr. J. Clendennen’s motion in relation to public lighting following the presentation was seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue and agreed by the members.</p> <p>The following motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Clendennen and seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"That Offaly County Council commits the necessary resources over the duration of this council to the upgrading of ALL public lighting in Offaly to energy efficient LED Lighting."</i></p> <p>The members acknowledged that LED lights provide great safety for communities at a much lesser cost. They requested that the cost of upgrading public lights to LED should be re-examined and that a multi-annual plan is developed. This, they suggested, would allow the members consider at budget meetings, if savings can be achieved and that these savings be ring-fenced for future works. It was suggested that the initial capital costs may be outweighed by the savings accrued.</p> <p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., informed the meeting that an inventory of public lighting in Offaly had been commissioned. He advised that the last estimate for upgrading was approximately €2.1 million. He advised that a national committee is currently reviewing the national position.</p>
<p>BROADBAND PRESENTATION:</p>	<p>Mr. R. Bell, Acting Head of I.S., provided a comprehensive presentation on the status of broadband in Offaly. He advised that the National Broadband Strategy proposes that 85% of Ireland’s premises will have high-speed broadband by 2018, with 100% coverage by 2020.</p> <p>The members thanked Mr. R. Bell for his informative</p>

<p>BROADBAND PRESENTATION: (contd)</p>	<p>presentation. They expressed their disappointment with the level of connections to the MANS and with mobile and internet access in a number of areas of the county. The members suggested that COMREG, Commissioner for Communications Regulation, should actively enforce all regulations as the lack of telecommunications was impacting on all sectors of society, including education, small businesses, tourism, farming, etc.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Clendennen proposal was seconded by Cllr P. Ormond, and it was agreed to write to the Minister and outline the difficulties being experienced in Offaly.</p>
<p>COMMUNITY AWARD SCHEME:</p>	<p>Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S., drew the members' attention to the Community Award Scheme and outlined the six categories for award. He proposed that a budget of €8,000 be made available for the scheme and that the award ceremony would be held in November 2016.</p> <p>The members welcomed the scheme. Cllr. S. Dooley's proposal to include a 'Special Achievements Award' was seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy and agreed.</p>
<p>LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE:</p>	<p>Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S., informed the members that the LCDC, Offaly Co. Co. and OLDC contract for Local Development Strategy / LEADER funding was signed at a national LDS / LEADER on 8th July. He advised €8m was made available to Offaly and that grants will be made available for projects developed in accordance with the Local Development Strategy. He anticipated that the initial call for funds will be made in September. Mr. D. Kirrane clarified that Offaly Local Development Company, OLDC, will process the applications on behalf of Offaly LCDC, and that Offaly LCDC will have responsibility for approving the project grants.</p>
<p>2017 BUDGET / LOCAL PROPERTY TAX SCHEDULE:</p>	<p>Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F., advised that the statutory advertisement in relation to the Local Property Tax (LPT) will be advertised in the local press later this week. He advised that the closing date for submissions is 26th August 2016.</p> <p>The Head of Finance outlined the information that must be considered by the members before they adopt the LPT for 2017. It was agreed to meet In Committee on Monday 12th September 2016 to consider if the LPT should be amended within the approved parameters, i.e., +/- 15%. A decision on the 2017 LPT for Offaly will be made at the September Council meeting, scheduled to be held on 19th September 2016.</p> <p>Following the discussion Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F., agreed to provide information on the implications of an adjustment on the householder and for the Local Authority on the Council's website. He agreed to prepare a report on the rent arrears, development levy contribution arrears and an update on the projects where funds were ring-fenced for in 2016.</p>

<p>OIREACHTAS COMMITTEE REPORT ON HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS:</p>	<p>Mr. S. Murray drew the members' attention to the circulated report. He advised that the Government's Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness was scheduled to be released later in the week. He advised that the report reflected the Council's Social Housing Plan and that the Council is progressing the purchase of a number of houses.</p> <p>At the Cathaoirleach's request the members agreed to consider Cllr. J. Leahy's Notice of Motion at that time. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll.</p> <p><i>"In light of the high refusal rate for one off builds across the country, Offaly County Council calls on the Minister with responsibility for Planning:</i></p> <p><i>To put in place a plan which encourages the build of one off houses in our rural communities.</i></p> <p><i>That this plan would be presented to the Oireachtas committee with responsibility for planning issues no later than December 2016.</i></p> <p><i>- That the members of this committee would then draft legislation which would purposefully weaken the influence of EU policy on planning guidelines in the countryside for one off housing specifically and in turn strengthen the right of thousands of our people to be granted their desire to build their family homes in our rural communities.</i></p> <p><i>- That planners would then be made aware of the relevant legislative changes with the view to allowing more one off builds and in turn the revitalisation of our rural landscape."</i></p> <p>A lengthy discussion ensued. It was agreed that the issues raised in Cllr. J. Leahy's motion could be considered during the Review of the County Development Plan. Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S., advised that a report on SSP18 and SSP19 was being prepared for the SPC. He also noted that a decision from the EU Court of Justice is pending and that this may have implications for the County Development Plan. Cllr. J. Leahy agreed to withdraw the proposal to forward the motion to members of the Oireachtas until the internal reports are finalised.</p>
<p>HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT MINISTERIAL ORDER:</p>	<p>Mr. S. Murray advised that the Council is required to complete a Housing Needs Assessment by 21st September 2016 and annually thereafter.</p> <p>During the discussion that followed a number of members raised concern with regard to the duplication of information being submitted and suggested that an annual Housing Needs Assessment may not be the best use of resources.</p>

<p>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive drew the members' attention to the monthly management report as circulated. She extended a sincere word of thanks to all involved in the preparation for the Entente Florale Competition noting in particular the Tidy Town Committee, Chamber of Commerce, Staff of the Municipal District and Community Development, local community and residents of Tullamore.</p> <p>The Chief Executive also acknowledged the significant contribution of the communities who entered the Pride of Place competition.</p> <p>The members joined with her in these words of thanks and acknowledged the great community effort that had taken place.</p> <p>The Chief Executive noted her disappointment that Offaly had failed to secure funding for the development of greenway and blueway trails. It was noted that the Executive and Cathaoirleach meet with the Oireachtas Members from the constituency on an annual basis. It was agreed that this matter should be addressed at the next meeting which will be held in September.</p>
<p>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</p>	<p>Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, Cathaoirleach advised that the Corporate Policy Group met on 18th July 2016 to consider the Monthly Council Agenda and to approve the list of conferences and training courses for circulation. It was agreed to open a Book of Condolence for the victims of the Nice Terror Attack.</p> <p>It was also agreed to invite the Argentine Ambassador to Ireland to the launch of the <i>One Family: Many Visions</i> exhibition scheduled for Tuesday, 23rd August.</p>
<p>NOTICES OF MOTION:</p>	<p>Cllr. E, Fitzpatrick, Cathaoirleach noted that two of the motions had previously been addressed and invited Cllr J. Clendennen to outline his Motion.</p> <p>(i) Cllr. J. Clendennen proposed the motion below which was seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue and agreed by the members:</p> <p><i>"That Offaly County Council request that the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport, Shane Ross, retains the Sports Capital Grants Programme for 2016."</i></p>
<p>COMHDHÁLACHA:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, the members noted and approved the conferences and training seminars as follows:</p> <p><u>CONFERENCES:</u></p> <p>Celtic Conferences "Brexit – The Economic Consequences for Ireland" The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork 5th - 7th August 2016</p>

<p>COMHDHÁLACHA: (contd)</p>	<p><i>It was agreed no Councillor would attend.</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences “Local Economic & Community Plans” The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork 26th - 28th August 2016 <i>It was agreed no Councillor would attend.</i></p> <p>Douglas Hyde Conference 2016 “Telling Tales of Revolution” Northern & Western Regional Assembly Conference Room, The Aquare, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon 21st July 2016 <i>It was agreed no Councillor would attend.</i></p> <p><u>TRAINING:</u></p> <p>LAMA 2016 Autumn Seminar 30th September & 1st October 2016, Westlodge Hotel, Bantry, Co. Cork <i>It was agreed Cllr. T. McKeigue and Cllr. N. Cribbin would attend.</i></p> <p><i>Retrospective approval is sought for the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attendance of Cllr. D. Owens at the LAMA Spring Training 2016 Seminar at the Sligo Park Hotel, 1st – 2nd April 2016; - Attendance of Cllr. N. Bourke, J. Carroll, E. Fitzpatrick, L. Quinn and J. Clendennen at the AILG Annual Conference at the Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, 5th - 6th May 2016; - Attendance of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick at AILG Training Day on 10th May 2016 at the Arklow Bay Hotel. - Attendance of Cllr. P. Ormond at AILG Training Day on 14th June 2016 in Ennistymon; - Attendance of Cllr. N. Cribbin at AILG Training Day on 18th June 2016 in Dundalk; - Attendance of Cllr. J. Clendennen at The 36th Annual McGill Summer School in Glenties, Donegal on 16th - 22nd July 2016.
<p>COMHFHREAGRAS:</p>	<p>The correspondences that issued with the Agenda were noted.</p>
<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. S. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, it was agreed by the members to invite the National Paediatric Children’s Hospital Development Board to give a presentation at the September 2016 Monthly Meeting.</p>

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH
RUNAÍ