

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ**

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE  
ON MONDAY, 20TH JUNE 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, J. Leahy, S. Maher, T. McKeigue, F. Moran, M. O'Reilly, P. Ormond, D. Owens and L. Quinn.
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Cllr. B. Killeavy
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr.; Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S; Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S; Mr. A. Murray, A/D.O.S; Mr. T. Mawe, A/H.o.F.; Mr. G. Bruton, A/Meetings Administrator; Mr. T. Shanahan, Senior Engineer; Ms. F. Flaherty C.O.; Ms. B. Corbet C.O.; Ms. F. Dunne C.O.; Ms. D. Doyle C.O.; Mr. J. Dench, C.O.; Ms. Mary Dooley, Mr. Adrian Hogan
<b>VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS:</b>	<p>The members extended their congratulations and best wishes to the following people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Pat Smullen, jockey, on winning the Epsom Derby</li><li>• Ms. Grainne Walsh on her recent win at the World Women's Elite Championships in boxing.</li><li>• Mr. Shane Lowry on winning joint second place in the USGA Open.</li><li>• Mr. Mark Clendennen, Applied Concepts, an Offaly based manufacturer on winning the top prize at the National Enterprise Awards 2016.</li></ul> <p>The members noted that the sports men and women of Offaly were excellent ambassadors for the County on the national and international stage and helped raise the tourism profile of the County. The members agreed to write a note of congratulations to Shane Lowry on his success. The members suggested that the CPG should give consideration to establishing a Sports and Community Awards Scheme.</p> <p>The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr Adrian Hogan to the Chamber; he advised the members that Mr. Hogan was a retired member from Limerick. To mark the centenary of 1916 he had decided to attend a meeting of each County Council across the country, throughout the year. He noted that this meeting was the 21<sup>st</sup> Council meeting Mr. Hogan had attended in 2016 to date.</p>
<b>VOTES OF SYMPATHY:</b>	Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-

<p><b>VOTES OF SYMPATHY: (cont'd)</b></p>	<p>Ms. Trisha Mulpeter, St. Oliver's Estate, Geashill on the death of her father, Mr. Ambrose Hickey;</p> <p>Mr. Peter Ryan &amp; Family, Arden View, Tullamore on the death of his mother Mary (Mollie); and</p> <p>Mr. Rory O' Connor &amp; Family, Church Road, Tullamore on the death of his mother, Kathleen.</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><b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. S. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the May Monthly Meeting held in Ferbane Heritage Centre, Ferbane, Co. Offaly on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016.</p>
<p><b>MINUTES FOR NOTING:</b></p>	<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 on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016;</p>
<p><b>NOMINATION /ELECTION TO STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES:</b></p>	<p>Mr. E. Dooley drew the members attention to correspondence received from Chambers Ireland on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016, advising that Mr. Tony Flanagan will replace Mr. Niall Mulligan as their nominee on the Environment, Water and Drainage Services Strategic Policy Committee.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. S. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, the members agreed to the ratification of Mr. Tony Flanagan.</p>
<p><b>ANNUAL REPORT 2015:</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn, the members resolved to adopt the Annual Report 2015 as previously circulated. The Chief Executive noted that the final draft included details of the Performance Indicators for Offaly County Council.</p>
<p><b>PUBLIC LIGHTING PRESENTATION:</b></p>	<p>This item was deferred until the July Monthly Council meeting.</p>
<p><b>INTRODUCTION OF PAY BY WEIGHT FOR HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION:</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach the members agreed to take the Motion in the name of Cllr S. Maher under this Agenda item. The motion was seconded by Cllr. M. O'Reilly.</p> <p>Cllrs. Maher and O'Reilly spoke on the motion. The Cathaoirleach noted that there were national developments in relation to this proposal. In the discussion on the motion the members supported the motion; they noted that it was important that the minister responsible was made aware of the views of the Council on this issue. The members noted that the waste operators were proposing to introduce service charges and this would impose greater expense on householders. The members expressed concern that these higher charges could led to greater incidents of fly-tipping and domestic waste being disposed of in litter bins in the towns</p>

<p><b>INTRODUCTION OF PAY BY WEIGHT FOR HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION:</b> (cont'd)</p>	<p>and villages of the county.</p> <p>Mr. S. Murray addressed the meeting; he noted that the concept behind the Pay by Weight proposals was the “<i>Polluter Pays Principle</i>”. He advised that Offaly County Council had ceased waste collection operations approximately 20 years ago. He noted that there was no charge for collection of the Recycle bins. He concluded by noting that the Council and executive would have to await the national developments in this area.</p> <p>The members agreed to write to the relevant minister and advise him of their concerns in relation to the Pay by Weight Proposals.</p>
<p><b>DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, TOURISM &amp; SPORT – SEVERE WEATHER ALLOCATIONS (TRANCHE 2):</b></p>	<p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S informed the meeting that Offaly County Council had received €200,000 from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport under the severe weather allocation 2nd tranche for costs associated with repairing roads and implementing preventative measures resulting from the recent flooding in December 2015 and January 2016.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr J. Clendennen, seconded by Cllr J. Leahy, the members agreed to allocate the Tranche 2 funding for works to be carried out on the Banagher to Lusmagh Road.</p> <p>The members expressed their incredulity at the level of funding received, noting that it would not be sufficient to complete the works at Lusmagh. They noted that there were other areas in the County that had been affected by the flooding also and funding would be required to deal with these areas.</p> <p>It was agreed to write to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport on behalf of the members to seek additional funding for works.</p> <p>Cllr. Sinead Dooley suggested if funding was not received a deputation to Minister Shane Ross should be organised through Offaly Fine Gael TD and Minister of State at the Department of Health, Marcella Corcoran Kennedy.</p>
<p><b>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</b></p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive drew the members’ attention to the monthly management report as circulated. She advised the members that a Civic Welcome would be held in Aras an Chontae on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 6pm to mark the occasion of the National Conference of the Irish United Nations Veterans Association being held in Tullamore.</p> <p>She also advised that the Tullamore Academy Chamber Choir would hold a special fundraising performance on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 7pm in Aras an Chontae. The Academy Chamber Choir has been chosen to represent Ireland in Germany in July at the <i>Interationaler Chorwettbewerb</i> - a prestigious choral competition held every two years in Miltenberg, Germany. Only six choirs from around the world have been chosen to represent their country and this is the first time in the competition's history that Ireland has been</p>

<p><b>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</b> (cont'd)</p>	<p>represented.</p> <p>She advised that Minister of State, Damien English, T.D. was scheduled to launch the My Open Library Initiative and the Summer Stars Reading Programme in the Central Library, Tullamore on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June.</p> <p>The members welcomed the comprehensive management report. They extended best wished to Ballycommon, Kilcormac and Ferbane Food Campus in the upcoming IPB Pride of Place 2016 Competition.</p> <p>In response to a query from Cllr. J. Carroll, Ms. A.M. Delaney advised that a marketing consultant had been appointed to Offaly Tourism Ltd. to provide of a range of marketing, development and co-ordination services to further the marketing and promotion of tourism in Offaly. She advised that it was proposed to present a draft Strategy to the AGM of the Tourism Group, scheduled for 20th July 2016.</p> <p>Mr. T. Mawe, Financial/Management Accountant addressed the members wishing to clarify the position regarding some recent press reporting about Local Authority deficits and rate collection.</p> <p>He noted that in some national press reporting there was an inference that poor rate collection practices are leading to deficits on its Local Authority Revenue Accounts. This is not the case in Offaly, as the Revenue Collection team continue to work with all ratepayers to facilitate prompt payments of rates. He advised that the continued co-operation of ratepayers in this regard is very much appreciated.</p> <p>Of the 31 counties listed in the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) performance indicators for 2014 Offaly ranks 4<sup>th</sup> with a collection percentage of 82%. The Offaly 2014 % collection rate of 82% is 10% above the 2014 national average of 72%. The Draft AFS % collection rate for 2015 which was presented to members in April showed collection rate of 85% - a 3% increase over 2014.</p> <p>Mr. T. Mawe confirmed that the increase collection of 2015 had carried on into the early months of 2016.</p> <p>The members thanked Mr. Mawe for the clarification.</p> <p>Cllr F. Moran sought clarification on the Anti-Social Behaviour complaints recorded in the Housing Report. He also noted the increase in the number of Maintenance Complaints lodged and queried if this increase was related to quality of materials used in repair of Council houses. The Chief Executive advised she would investigate these issues and revert to Cllr. Moran.</p>
<p><b>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</b></p>	<p>Cllr. E. Dooley, Cathaoirleach advised that the Corporate Policy Group met on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016 to consider the Monthly Council Agenda and to approve the list of conferences and training courses for circulation.</p>

<p><b>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</b> (cont'd)</p>	<p>Cllr. T. McKeigue advised that the Environment, Water and Drainage Services SPC, agreed on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016, that a recommendation be sent to the full Council in relation to annual funding of €5000 for conservation works at important burial ground sites in Offaly. On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue, the members agreed to increase the proposed funding for this initiative to €10,000. The meeting resolved to recommend to the Head of Finance that he make provision for this sum in the 2017 Budget Estimates.</p>
<p><b>NOTICES OF MOTION:</b></p>	<p>i. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. S. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen and agreed by the members: Cllr. S. Dooley and the members welcomed Ms. Mary Dooley, Animal Rights Activist to the chamber.</p> <p><i>"That this Council, in the interests of animal welfare, ban all wild animal acts in Circuses on Public Land in Offaly."</i></p> <p>ii. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. S. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. D. Owens and agreed by the members:</p> <p><i>"That Offaly County Council prepare a plan for Tullamore Town to make it a Disability Friendly Town and to submit this plan to the relevant Departments for funding to undertake the necessary works to achieve this."</i></p> <p>Cllr. S. Dooley advised the members that she had spoken directly with Minister Mary Mitchell O' Connor when she visited Tullamore recently with regards to accessibility of footpaths and pedestrian areas. Cllr Dooley proposed that Offaly County Council should nominate Tullamore as a pilot for the proposed Disability Town project. It was agreed to write to the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in this regard. The Chief Executive advised that Disabled Access would be reviewed as part of the Tullamore Street Enhancement Project.</p> <p>iii. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. S. Maher, seconded by Cllr. M. O' Reilly and agreed by the members:</p> <p><i>"That this Council calls on the government to re-examine its policy regarding the introduction of pay by weight bin charges."</i></p> <p>It was agreed to write to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government on behalf of the members.</p>

