

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 21ST NOVEMBER 2016 AT 3.30 P.M.**

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| 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, M. O'Reilly, P. Ormond D. Owens and L. Quinn. |
| IN ATTENDANCE: | Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F.; Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S; Mr. D. Kirrane, D.O.S; Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S; Mr. G. Bruton, A/Meetings Administrator; Mr. D. Meehan, E.P.; Mr. D. Grennan, S.E.E.; Mr. A. Murray, S.P.; Ms. B. Maher, E.P.; Ms. A. Dillon, SEO; Ms. F. Flaherty, C.O. |
| APOLOGIES: | Cllr. F. Moran |
| VOTES OF SYMPATHY: | <p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-</p> <p>Cllr. F. Moran on the death of his aunt;</p> <p>Cllr. J. Foley on the death of his aunt;</p> <p>The family of Mr. Paddy Collins, Muiniagh, Clara Rd., Tullamore;</p> <p>The family of Mr. Vincent Clarke, Arden Heights, Tullamore;</p> <p>Mr. Brendan Holmes, Raheen, Clara on the death of his mother, Mrs. Kathleen Holmes;</p> <p>Mr. Ron Allen, Rathmore, Portarlinton on the death of his mother, Mrs. Bridget Allen;</p> <p>Mr. Pdraig Hurley, Cloneyquinn, Portarlinton on the death of his mother, Mrs. Eileen Hurley;</p> <p>Mr. John Guinan, Avondale Estate, Gracefield, Portarlinton on the death of his father, Mr. Paddy Guinan;</p> <p>Mr. Danny Byrne; Hammerlane. The Bourness, Mountmellick on the death of his wife, Mrs. Angela Byrne;</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> |

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| SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS: | On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn, it was agreed by the members to suspend standing orders in order to allow the monthly meeting continue past 6pm. |
| SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS: | <p>On the proposal of Cllr. S. Dooley, seconded by Cllr.T. McKeigue, it was agreed by the members to suspend standing orders to discuss a motion brought forward by Cllr. S. Dooley on behalf of the Housing Policy, Social and Cultural Services Strategic Policy Committee.</p> <p>Cllr Dooley addressed the meeting, she advised that the SPC acknowledged the publication, by the Minister, of the General Scheme of the Housing Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2016 in order to introduce emergency measures to help fast track the delivery of housing units. While welcoming the proposed provisions of the Bill, the SPC has grave concerns with proposals contained in Part 2 of the Bill in relation to the setting up of a Strategic Housing Division within An Bord Pleanála. She advised that the SPC noted that the objective of this particular proposal is to fast-track planning applications for residential developments of 100+ units. Planning and the planned provision of housing has always been a key function of the local authority planning system and any move, no matter how temporary, would be viewed by the Members of this Council and the SPC as further dilution of the role of the local authority.</p> <p>The Member resolved to write to Minister Coveney to outline their concerns with this proposal.</p> |
| CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: | On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. S. Dooley, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the October meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore on 17 th October 2016. |
| MINUTES FOR NOTING: | The minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 19 th September 2016 were noted. |
| NOMINATION/ELECTION TO OFFALY LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY: | <p>Mr D. Kirrane, D.O.S., briefed the members on this agenda item.</p> <p>The members agreed that the following members would represent the Council on the board of the Company:</p> <p>Cllr. J. Carroll (Birr Area) Cllr. S. Dooley (Tullamore Area) Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick (Edenderry Area)</p> |
| LOCAL GOVERNMENT (PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT) REGULATIONS 2001 AS AMENDED - PART VIII: Installation of demountable dwelling at Crinkill, Birr | <p>Mr S. Murray, D.O.S., briefed the members on the Part VIII proposals.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr, J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy, the members approved the Part VIII.</p> |

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| <p>TAKING IN CHARGE OF ESTATES:</p> | <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, the members agreed to the taking in charge of the following estates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cluain Abhainn, Clara • Westwood Grove & Park, Clara • Abbey Court, Clara • Clonowan, Kilcormac |
| <p>UPDATE ON THE DRAFT EDENDERRY LOCAL AREA PLAN 2017-2023:</p> | <p>Mr. D. Kirrane drew the members’ attention to the Draft Edenderry Local Area Plan 2017-2023 as circulated. He advised that the period for submissions was now open and that the closing date for receipt of written submissions or observations by the Forward Planning Department was the 10th January 2017.</p> |
| <p>SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:</p> | <p>On the proposal of Cllr. S. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, it was agreed by the members to suspend standing orders in order to discuss a motion brought forward by Cllr. S. Dooley on behalf of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee.</p> <p>Ms. B. Maher drew the members attention to the document circulated to the members which set out the proposed re-wording of eligibility criteria for SSP19 of the Offaly County Development Plan 2014 - 2020.</p> <p>After a lengthy discussion, the members noted that this was a complex issue. Some of the members noted that there was a need to define “functional need” in the policy and further clarification was required on some of the eligibility criteria mentioned in the policy. Concern was expressed that the policy could be too proscriptive.</p> <p>Mr D. Kirrane, D.O.S., responded and advised the members that the Planning Section would review the policy, having regard for the members concerns and comments. He advised that a further amended Policy would be presented to the members at the December Monthly Meeting.</p> |
| <p>PROPOSAL TO REVISE ADMINISTRATION OF HOUSING GRANTS:</p> | <p>Mr S. Murray drew the members attention to the draft proposals to revise administration of Housing Grants, which had been circulated to the members.</p> <p>Cllr P. Ormond, Cathaoirleach of the Housing SPC, briefed the members on the proposed changes to the administration of the Grants. He noted that the focus in the Scheme would be on the mid-range grants (€4,000 to €6,000). He advised that the current system of categorisation would be discontinued and in future all applications would be given equal priority. He noted that Grants would continue to be available to terminally ill persons, and bigger grants would be available for use in emergency cases. He noted that the outstanding 22 applications for 2016 would be funded by the additional allocation of €60,000 agreed by the members at the 2017 Budget Meeting. He advised that the SPC would review the Scheme and present an update report to the Council at the</p> |

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| <p>PROPOSAL TO REVISE ADMINISTRATION OF HOUSING GRANTS: (contd)</p> | <p>June / July meeting.</p> <p>The members discussed the proposals; all the members indicated their support for the proposed changes to the Scheme. They acknowledged the work carried out under the existing scheme and noted the matching funding available from Central Government. They noted that any works carried out should be suitable to the individual applicants requirements, and that local building contractor should be used where possible.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr D. Harvey, the members resolved to adopt the proposals to revise administration of Housing Grants</p> |
| <p>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</p> | <p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive drew the members’ attention to the monthly management report as circulated.</p> <p>She noted the salient points of the Report. She reminded members that the film “<i>Documenting Offaly 2016 Commemorations</i>” would be screened in the Tullamore cinema on Thursday 1st December. She also noted the Irish Water had launched the fourth public consultation phase of the Eastern and Midlands Regional Water Supply Scheme.</p> |
| <p>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</p> | <p>Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, Cathaoirleach advised that the Corporate Policy Group met on 21st November 2016 to consider the Statutory Budget Meeting Agenda, the Monthly Council Agenda and to approve the list of conferences and training courses for circulation.</p> |
| <p>NOTICES OF MOTION:</p> | <p>1. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. S. Maher, seconded by Cllr. B. Killeavy, and agreed by the members:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"This council calls on the government to commit to a promise of funding for rural post offices and help advance its services especially rural communities."</i></p> <p>2. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. S. Dooley (on behalf of Cllr. F. Moran), seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy, and agreed by the members:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"That Offaly County Council write to the Minister responsible to ensure that a report commissioned by an Post and the Irish Postmasters Union in 2013 and carried out by Grant Thornton be implemented without delay."</i></p> <p>It was agreed to forward the motion to the Minister for Communications on behalf of the members.</p> <p>3. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, and agreed by the members:</p> |

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| <p>NOTICES OF MOTION: (contd)</p> | <p><i>"That Offaly County Council calls on the Minister for Justice and the government to amend the legislation to allow Garda to work in the Force until they reach the age of 65 and bring them into line with other Public sector workers, this is also the norm in other European country's Police Forces."</i></p> <p>It was agreed to forward the motion to the Minister for Justice and Equality on behalf of the members.</p> <p>4. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, and agreed by the members:</p> <p><i>"Offaly County Council: - Notes the failure of the current capitation model to meet the most basic needs of primary schools. - Calls on the Department of Education and Skills to put a system of capitation in place that meets the funding needs of all schools therefore ceasing a need for fundraising and parental contributions which are at present required to keep schools adequately funded. - Advises that the Department put on hold the announcement of further educational initiatives until it firstly deals with the basic shortfall of funding which exists as a result of the current capitation model within primary education."</i></p> <p>It was agreed to forward the motion to the Minister for Education and Skills on behalf of the members.</p> |
| <p>COMHDHÁLACHA:</p> | <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll, the members noted and approved the conferences and training seminars as follows:</p> <p><u>CONFERENCES:</u></p> <p>Celtic Conferences "First Time Home Buyer Mortgage – Getting on the Property Ladder" The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork 25th – 27th November 2016 <i>It was agreed no Councillor would attend.</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences "A Practical Guide to Budget 2017" The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork 2nd – 4th December 2016 <i>It was agreed no Councillor would attend.</i></p> <p>ACE Management & Training "Microsoft Powerpoint Training for Councillors" The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork 7th – 8th December 2016 <i>It was agreed no Councillor would attend.</i></p> |

**COMHDHÁLACHA:
(contd)**

Superior Training
“Rebuilding Ireland – Action Plan for Housing & Homelessness”
The Milrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford
9th – 10th December 2016
It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

Celtic Conferences
“Brexit – The Economic Consequences for Ireland”
The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth
9th – 11th December 2016
It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

Esperanza Enterprises
“Living with Dementia in Ireland”
The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway
9th – 10th December 2016
It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

ACE Management & Training
“Microsoft Excel Intermediate Training for Councillors”
The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork
16th – 17th December 2016
It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

Esperanza Enterprises
“Community Development Achieving Social Inclusion,
Reconciliation & Equality”
The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway
9th – 10th December 2016
It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

Esperanza Enterprises
“Local Authorities & Waste Management”
The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway
13th – 14th January 2017
It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

Esperanza Enterprises
“Supporting Safer Communities”
The Connacht Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway
20th – 21st January 2017
It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

Nuclear Free Local Authorities
Annual Policy Seminar
Dublin City Hall
Friday 25th November 2016
It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

TRAINING:

AILG Service' Members Training Module 6 November 2016 -
Regional Assemblies & their role with Local Authorities & The
Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2016 - A Briefing for
Elected Members
19th November 2016, Mid, Eastern & Dublin Region, Red Cow
Moran's Hotel, Dublin
24th November 2016, Border & Western Region, Shearwater Hotel,
Ballinasloe, Galway
*It was agreed Councillors E. Fitzpatrick, D. Harvey and F.
Moran would attend.*

