

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY 2017 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, F. Moran, 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. A. Murray, A/D.O.S; Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S; Ms M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator; Mr. T. Mawe, Financial/Management Accountant; Ms. J. Ryan, A/Senior Engineer; Ms. O. Farrelly, S.O.; Mr. O. Nolan, S.O.; Ms. M. Madden, S.O.; Ms. L. Bennett, S.O.; Ms. F. Clancy, Local Government Auditor; Ms. L. Conroy, Internal Auditor; Ms. E. Hughes, S.S.O; Ms. A. Duffy, C.O.; Mr. D. Egan, A/S.O.; Ms. V. Waters, C.O.; Ms. F. Flaherty, C.O.; Ms. Ciara Bates, Assistant Principal Officer, DAHRRGA; Mr. Declan Levelle, Valuation Office.
VOTES OF SYMPATHY:	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:-</p> <p>Mrs. Carmel Cullinane and Family, Munny, Kilcormac on the death of her husband, Mr. Seamus Cullinane;</p> <p>Mr. Keith Shaw and Ms. Lisa Kelly, New Road, Birr on the death of their son, Mr. Tommy Kelly Shaw;</p> <p>Mrs. Kathleen Murray, Clonmullen, Edenderry on the death of her brother, Mr. John Delaney;</p> <p>Ms. Mary Cowen, Raheen, Clara on the death of her brother, Mr. Noel Cowen;</p> <p>Mr. Daniel Murphy, Sweep Road, Portarlington on the death of his partner, Ms. Vicky Kerry;</p> <p>Mr. Martin Dunne, Patrick Street, Portarlington on the death of his sister, Ms. Elizabeth McCormack;</p> <p>Mrs. Jenny Finlay, Corkhill, Clara on the death of her husband, Mr. Bernard (Brian) Finlay;</p> <p>Ms. Nora Duffy, Ballinlough, Clara on the death of her mother, Mrs. Mary Molloy.</p> <p>The Family of Mr. Conor O' Hagan, Clonakilty, Co. Cork.</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. S. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the January meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore on 16th January 2017.</p>
MINUTES FOR NOTING:	<p>The minutes of the following meetings were noted by the members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 12th December 2016; - Minutes of Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning SPC Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 20/01/16; - Minutes of Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning SPC Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 23/06/16; - Minutes of Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning SPC Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 08/09/16; - Minutes of Environment and Water Services SPC Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 23/03/16; - Minutes of Environment and Water Services SPC Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 18/05/16; - Minutes of Environment and Water Services SPC Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 29/09/16; - Minutes of Roads, Transportation and Emergency Services SPC Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 02/03/16; - Minutes of Roads, Transportation and Emergency Services SPC Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 15/06/16; - Offaly Joint Policing Committee 2016 Annual Report.
SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley, it was agreed by the members to suspend Standing Orders and take <i>Item 10 – Revaluation Briefing</i> in committee.</p>
REVALUATION BRIEFING:	<p>Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that Mr. Declan Levelle, Valuation Office wished to brief the members in committee of the revaluation process that was currently taking place in Offaly. The Cathaoirleach advised that letters will issue from the Valuation Office to ratepayers on Friday, 3rd March 2017 and that Mr. Levelle’s presentation will help inform members so that they are in a position to assist with any ratepayer who may contact them seeking advice and/or clarification.</p> <p>Mr. D. Levelle informed the members that the statutory</p>

	<p>provision for a revaluation of all non-domestic property in Ireland was made under the <i>Valuation Act 2001</i>, as amended by the <i>Valuation (Amendment) Act 2015</i>. He advised that the revaluation will result in a redistribution of the commercial rates liability between ratepayers in the county and that while an individual occupier's rates liability may increase or decrease, the revaluation will not increase the overall commercial rates income of the local authority. He drew the members' attention to a draft letter that will issue to all ratepayers on Friday, 3rd March 2017; to the statutory process; and, to the period for a ratepayer to appeal a valuation.</p> <p>In responding to questions raised Mr. D. Levelle advised that the revised valuations are based on October 2015 market conditions and the rental and trading data at that time. He advised that the Valuation Office had met with Trading groups and Chambers of Commerce. He outlined the grounds on which a ratepayer may appeal to the Valuation Office.</p> <p>In drawing the discussion to a conclusion Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F., reiterated the need for all ratepayers to examine carefully the contents of their Valuation Office letter and informed the meeting that the Revenue Collectors will be available to assist ratepayers with any enquiries they may have. He further advised that clarification would be made available on the Council's website.</p>
	<p>The February Monthly Meeting resumed at 3.20pm.</p>
<p>S. 183 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, AS AMENDED – GAS UTILISATION PROJECT PROPOSED FOR DERRYCLURE, TULLAMORE - LEASE AGREEMENT WITH B9 POWER LIMITED</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn, the members resolved to the lease of lands at Derryclure, Tullamore in accordance with the terms of the S.183 notice dated 9th February 2017, which had previously circulated.</p>
<p>MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION OF BIRR TOWN AND ENVIRONS DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2010-2016:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. P. Ormond, the members resolved to unanimously adopt the material contravention of the <i>Birr Town and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016</i> in accordance with the terms of the planners report dated 9th February 2017, which had previously circulated.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Carroll sought clarification regarding public access to the graveyard and requested that a notice be placed in the vicinity so that people would be aware of the historical nature of the property.</p>
<p>NOMINATION/ELECTION/ APPOINTMENT TO LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (LCDC):</p>	<p>Mr. A. Murray, A/D.O.S. informed the meeting that Cllr. B. Killeavy notified the February meeting of the Offaly Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) that, due to work commitments and therefore difficulty attending meetings, he was resigning from the Committee.</p>

	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. B. Killeavy, seconded by Cllr. S. Maher, the members resolved to appoint Cllr. M. O' Reilly to the LCDC.</p>
ARTS ACT GRANTS 2017:	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. F. Moran, seconded by Cllr, S. Dooley, the members resolved to adopt the 2017 Arts Act Grants, as circulated.</p>
TAKING IN CHARGE OF PRIVATE HOUSING ESTATES:	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. F. Moran, seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan, the members resolved to the taking in charge of private housing estate Kilbride Gardens, Clara, Co. Offaly in accordance with the terms of the notices dated 6th February 2017, as previously circulated.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. N. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribbin, the members resolved to the taking in charge of private housing estates Newberry and Derrybeg, Edenderry, Co. Offaly in accordance with the terms of the notices dated 6th February 2017, as previously circulated.</p>
SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2017:	<p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S. advised that the Service Delivery Plan 2017 was prepared in accordance with the <i>Local Government (Reform) Act 2014</i>. On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll, the members agreed to adopt the Service Delivery Plan 2017, as previously circulated.</p>
NATIONAL BROADBAND PLAN:	<p>The Cathaoirleach invited Ms. Ciara Bates, Assistant Principal Officer, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs to give a presentation on the National Broadband Plan.</p> <p>During the discussion that followed, the members expressed their disappointment at the delay in the rollout of high speed broadband in Offaly. They stressed the importance of broadband for Offaly and in particular for enterprise and education. In responding to questions raised Ms. C. Bates outlined the terms of the procurement process that would ensure that the service was delivered in a timely manner.</p> <p>Mr. R. Bell, Head of I.S., outlined the methodology used to identify the twenty Community Wi-Fi Hubs / Strategic Community Access Hubs for Offaly.</p> <p>The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. C. Bates and Mr. R. Bell for the presentation.</p>
NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK PRESENTATION:	<p>Mr. A. Murray, A/D.O.S. gave a detailed presentation on the <i>National Planning Framework Ireland 2040</i>, noting that this framework will replace the <i>National Spatial Strategy 2002 - 2020</i>.</p> <p>During the ensuing discussion the members acknowledged the importance of retaining the Midlands Gateway Hub of Athlone, Mullingar and Tullamore. It was accepted that the development of the gateway hub, as originally perceived in the <i>National Spatial Strategy 2002 - 2020</i> was impacted upon by the economic downturn, decentralisation programme, and</p>

	<p>the non materialisation of the Midland Innovation Fund.</p> <p>Mr. A. Murray, A/D.O.S. advised that the 16th March 2017 is the closing date for making submissions to the department. He advised that the issues raised by the members would be reflected in this submission. It was agreed to circulate the presentation to the members and that they should forward their comments to Mr. A. Murray, A/D.O.S.</p>
MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive drew the members' attention to the monthly management report which had circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>During the discussion that followed the members, on the proposal of Cllr. S. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy, agreed to re-allocate €50,000, (€75,000 was allocated in the 2017 Budget towards Tullamore's bid to host Fleadh Ceoil na hÉireann), to commence the cycle and walking route in Offaly with a 3.5km stretch from Sragh Road, Tullamore towards Ballycowan Bridge. It was further agreed to re-allocate the balance of these funds, i.e., €25,000, to Corporate buildings.</p>
CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:	<p>Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, Cathaoirleach advised that the Corporate Policy Group met earlier that day to consider the Monthly Council Agenda and to approve the list of conferences and training courses for circulation.</p>
NOTICE OF MOTION:	<p>The following motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Leahy:</p> <p><i>"That Offaly County Council writes to Minister Simon Coveney requesting that he establishes a dedicated unit within his Department to provide affordable housing for people / families that don't qualify for social housing."</i></p> <p>Cllr. J. Leahy proposed that the motion be amended to include 'low income earners'. The amended motion was seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll and agreed by the members.</p>
COMHDHÁLACHA:	<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>ACE Management & Training "2 Day Social Media Training for Councillors" 22nd – 23rd February 2017 Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork <i>It was agreed no Councillor would attend.</i></p> <p>Nearly Zero Energy Building Resource Agency (nZebra) "National nZeb Conference" 2nd March 2017 Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy <i>It was agreed no Councillor would attend.</i></p> <p>Energy Action "Fuel Poverty and Climate Action Conference"</p>

**COMHDHÁLACHA:
(contd)**

Monday 6th March 2017
Croke Park, Dublin
It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

CMG Events
“Social Housing Summit 2017 – Planning, Building & Delivering our social housing needs – legalities you need to be aware of”
Wednesday 8th February 2017
Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin
It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

ACE Management & Training
“2 Day Microsoft Excel Workshop for Councillors”
22nd – 23rd March 2017
Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork
It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

Celtic Conferences
"The Fair Deal Scheme - What's the deal with Nursing Home Care?"
10th - 12th March 2017
The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth
It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

Celtic Conferences
"The Finance Act 2016"
24th - 26th March 2017
The Clonakilty Hotel, CLonakilty, Co. Cork
It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

Dundalk Chamber of Commerce
“Cross Border Tourism Conference 2017 – Learn from the best”
Wednesday 5th April 2017
The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth
It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

The Institute of Professional Training
“Data Protection – FOI and the Councillor”
24th – 26th March 2017
Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny
It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

TRAINING:

Irish Planning Institute: Annual Planning Conference 5th -7th April, Castlecourt Hotel, Westport, Co. Mayo
It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

**COMHDHÁLACHA:
(contd)**

LAMA: 2017 Spring Seminar 28th - 29th April 2017, City North Hotel, Gormanston, Co. Meath
It was agreed no Councillor would attend.

AILG:

February 2017

07/02/2017 Border & Western Region (Cavan – Hotel Kilmore)

11/02/2017 Southern Region (Waterford City – Dooley’s Hotel)

	<p>16/02/2017 Dublin, Eastern & (Athlone – Radisson Blu Hotel) Midlands Region</p> <p>6th & 7th April 2017 AILG Annual Conference</p> <p><u>May 2017</u> 09/05/2017 Dublin, Eastern & Midlands Region (Arklow) 13/05/2017 Border & Western Region (Westport) 18/05/2017 Southern Region (Nenagh)</p> <p><u>June 2017</u> 08/06/2017 Southern Region (Killarney) 10/06/2017 Dublin, Eastern & Midlands Region (Dundalk) 15/06/2017 Border & Western Region (Bundoran)</p> <p><i>It was agreed no Councillor would attend.</i></p>
<p>COMHFHREAGRAS:</p>	<p>The correspondences that issued with the Agenda were noted.</p>
<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</p>	<p><u>Cistercian College, Roscrea</u> Cllr. J. Clendennen expressed his disappointment at the announcement that the Cistercian College, Roscrea is to permanently close after 112 years.</p> <p><u>Tesco Mandate Industrial Action</u> Cllr. S. Dooley offered her support to the Tesco workers who are currently on strike in Tullamore.</p>

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH
RUNAÍ

27th March 2017