

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 17TH JULY 2017 AT 2.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:	Cllr. L. Quinn, Cathaoirleach (Presiding), Cllrs. N. Bourke, J. Carroll, J. Clendennen, N. Cribbin, E. Dooley, S. Dooley, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Foley, D. Harvey, S. Maher, T. McKeigue, F. Moran, P. Ormond and D. Owens.
APOLOGIES:	Cllr. D. Dolan, B. Killeavy, J. Leahy and M. O'Reilly.
IN ATTENDANCE:	Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S; Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S; Mr. D. Conlon; Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S.; Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator; Ms. L. Mitchell, S.E.P.; Ms. C. Hilliard A.O.; Mr. B. Pey, A.O.; Mr. D. Egan S.O.; Ms. B. Maher, E.P.; Mr. D. Meehan, E.P.; L. Carbery C.O.; and Ms. K. O'Keeffe and Ms. C Graham, Pfizer Ireland.
VOTES OF SYMPATHY:	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following: -</p> <p>Mr. Gerry Collins on the death of his wife Mrs. Nina Collins.</p> <p>Mr. Frank Costello on the death of his brother Mr. Michael Costello.</p> <p>Mrs. Ann Corcoran on the death of her husband Mr. James Corcoran.</p> <p>Mrs. Jean Scanlon on the death of her mother Mrs. Sadie Delaney.</p> <p>Mr. Dominic Fleming on the death of his father Mr. Tom Fleming.</p> <p>Mrs. Jennifer Bastic on the death of her husband Mr. Padraig Bastic.</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>
STATEMENT RE BOIL WATER NOTICE	Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., informed the meeting that a Boil Water Notice that had issued on 13 th July and was removed on 16 th July 2017 in respect of the Birr, Banagher and Dunkerrin Public Water Schemes. He acknowledged that the disruption had caused hardship to the community and businesses but stressed that public safety is paramount and that he was satisfied that the appropriate protocols were followed. He reiterated that the water was safe to use.

	<p>A number of the members raised concerns with regard to the testing procedure and requested that a report on the matter be sought from the HSE and Irish Water. The Director of Services agreed to request a report from the various bodies concerned.</p>
SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, the members agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow Ms. Karen O’Keefe, Pfizer Ireland to give a presentation on Healthy Town Programme Tullamore 2017.</p>
PFIZER HEALTHY TOWN PROGRAMME 2017 TULLAMORE:	<p>Ms. Karen O’Keefe, Pfizer Ireland gave an informative presentation detailing the Healthy Town Programme and advised that Pfizer was delighted to be working with Tullamore on this project for 2017.</p> <p>The members thanked Ms. K. O’Keefe for her presentation and welcomed the positive initiative recognising the opportunity this presented for the area. They encouraged the public and local sporting organisations to get involved and to maximise the benefits of the programme.</p>
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. S. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the June meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, on Monday, 19th June 2017.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. D. Owens, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, on Monday, 19th June 2017.</p>
MINUTES FOR NOTING:	<p>The minutes of the Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in St. Brigid’s Social Club, Garryhinch, Portarlinton, Co. Offaly on Monday, 15th May 2017 were noted by the members.</p>
SECTION 183, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, AS AMENDED – SALE OF PRIVATE SITE NO 2 CLUNY FERBANE:	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, the members resolved to the sale of private site No 2 Cluny, Ferbane in accordance with the terms of the Section 183 Notice dated 4th July 2017 which had previously circulated.</p>
SECTION 183, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, AS AMENDED - SALE OF 0.1112 ACRES AT SITE NO. 43, CLUAIN FIA, CLARA, CO OFFALY:	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. F. Moran, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, the members resolved to the sale of 0.1112 acres at site No. 43, Cluain Fia, Clara, Co Offaly in accordance with the terms of the Section 183 Notice dated 5th July 2017 which had previously circulated.</p>
SECTION 183, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, AS AMENDED - DISPOSAL OF LANDS	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribbin, the members resolved to the disposal of lands in Edenderry to Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board</p>

<p>IN EDENDERRY TO LAOIS AND OFFALY EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD:</p>	<p>in accordance with the terms of the Section 183 Notice dated 7th July 2017 which had previously circulated.</p>
<p>SECTION 183, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, AS AMENDED - SALE OF LANDS AT CLONASLEE WATER TREATMENT PLANT:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. D. Owens, the members resolved to the sale of lands at Clonaslee Water Treatment Plant in accordance with the terms of the Section 183 Notice dated 28th June 2017 which had previously circulated.</p>
<p>CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT ON SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED ON THE DRAFT EDENDERRY LOCAL AREA PLAN 2017-2023:</p>	<p>Ms. B Maher, E.P., drew the members' attention to the Chief Executive report on the <i>Draft Edenderry Local Area Plan 2017-2023</i>. She advised that the <i>Draft Edenderry Local Area Plan 2017-2023</i> was placed on public display from 26th April 2017 to 9th June 2017 and that forty-one (41) submissions were received which were classified into five (5) groups in the report. Ms. B Maher, E.P., gave a detailed account of each grouping and the CE responses to the submissions received.</p> <p>Ms. B Maher, E.P., advised that four (4) submissions were received from Prescribed/Environmental Authorities. On the proposal of Cllr. N. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. J. Foley, the members' resolved to adopt the Chief Executive's recommendation.</p> <p>In relation to Roads/Access objectives Ms. B. Maher, E.P., informed the meeting that three (3) submissions were received. Cllr. N. Bourke proposed that in relation to Submission No. 2/05 that the concerns of local residents be considered and proposed that the following two points be added to the Chief Executive's recommendation, namely,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) additional wording with emphasis on residential safety be added to objective MTO3; and 2) new written objective for relief road to north, north east of town. <p>On the proposal of Cllr. N. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. J. Foley, the members resolved to the addition of two points to the Chief Executive's recommendation.</p> <p>Ms. B Maher, E.P., identified the keys points raised in the fourteen (14) submissions received categorised Car Parking Submissions in the Chief Executive's Report. Cllr. N. Bourke proposed that the Chief Executive's response be adopted and proposed that the following points be added, i.e., off street parking applications would be favourably considered; improve accessibility by examining on-street and off-street parking; provision of cycle-ways be included; and pedestrian points of</p>

access be reviewed. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick and the members' resolved to adopt the Chief Executive's recommendation with these provisions.

Ms. B Maher, E.P., advised that fifteen (15) submissions relating to matters of land use zoning were received. She drew the members' attention to the various policies and factors that the members should take into consideration when reviewing these submissions. Ms. B Maher, E.P., outlined the reasons as to why no change from the circulated Draft Local Area Plan should be made. Cllr. Noel Bourke proposed an amendment to submission no. 2/37 to relocate an area (c.1ha) zoned residential from the western side to the south east of the residential zoned area to facilitate a more comprehensive and coherent layout to future development in this area. On the proposal of Cllr. N. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribbin, the members' resolved to adopt the Chief Executive's recommendation with the additional provisions to be included for submission no. 2/37.

Ms. B Maher, E.P., advised that five (5) submissions with a range of specific and mixed topics relating to Arts Centre/Theatre, Edenderry Skatepark, Edenderry GAA, local community facilities and issues, and, town enhancement were received. The members acknowledged the number of positive initiatives outlined and on the proposal of Cllr. N. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribbin, the members' resolved to adopt the Chief Executive's recommendation.

In relation to the submission received, categorised under Other Miscellaneous, the members on the proposal of Cllr. N. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, resolved to adopt the Chief Executive's recommendation.

In relation to Item 5 on the Ordinary meeting of Offaly County Council, i.e., Section 183, Local Government Act, 2001, as amended - Disposal of Lands in Edenderry to Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board as per the notice previously issued the members on the proposal of Cllr. N. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, resolved to rezone the 2.5 acres of land from Business/Employment land use to Public/Community/Educational land use.

On the proposal of Cllr. N. Cribbin, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, the members resolved to make material alterations to the draft *Edenderry Local Area Plan 2017-2023* following consideration by the members of the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received to the draft Local Area Plan and as

	<p>discussed at the meeting of Offaly County Council held on 17th July 2017.</p> <p>In responding to a question raised Ms. B. Maher, E.P., acknowledged the need to refocus development, where possible, within Edenderry Town Centre. She noted that the Retail Strategy can be reviewed in line with the review of the County Development Plan.</p> <p>The members joined with the Cathaoirleach in thanking all the staff involved in the process.</p>
<p>PROPOSED ADDITION TO RECORD OF PROTECTED STRUCTURES OF OFFALY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014-2020, - THE THATCH, CRINKLE:</p>	<p>Ms. B. Maher, E.P., advised that an addition to the list of protected structures is a reserved function, in accordance with <i>Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended</i>.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, the members resolved to the formal addition of the structure, The Thatch, Crinkle to the Record of Protected Structures of the <i>Offaly County Development Plan 2014-2020</i>, having regard to the due process carried out in accordance with the provisions of Sections 54 and 55 of the <i>Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended</i> and as considered and agreed by the members the meeting of Offaly County Council held on 17th July 2017.</p>
<p>NOMINATION/ ELECTION/ APPOINTMENT OFFALY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP:</p>	<p>The members noted the revised elected representatives' numbers to be elected to Offaly Sports Partnership as per the <i>Offaly Sports Partnership Strategic Plan 2016-2020</i>. Cllr. F. Moran proposed that three elected members be appointed to the Offaly Sports Partnership Board, one from each of the Municipal Districts. Cllr. F. Moran proposed that he would withdraw from the Board at this time and that Cllr. D. Owens would represent the Municipal District of Tullamore. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey and agreed.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, the members resolved to appoint Cllr. J. Carroll to the Board of Offaly Sports Partnership.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribbin, the members resolved to appoint Cllr. J. Foley to the Board of Offaly Sports Partnership.</p>
<p>COMMUNITY FACILITIES SCHEME:</p>	<p>Mr. D. Egan, S.O., Community Development provided a concise presentation outlining the Community Facilities Scheme. He drew the members' attention to the listing, circulated at the meeting, of the one hundred and twenty-eight applications received and to the sums each group were being awarded.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Clendennen, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, the members resolved to approve the grant awards as circulated.</p>

<p>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive, drew the members’ attention to the monthly management report which had circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The members thanked the Chief Executive for the comprehensive report.</p>
<p>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</p>	<p>Cllr. L. Quinn, Cathaoirleach advised that the Corporate Policy Group met earlier that day to consider the Monthly Council Meeting Agenda and to approve the list of conferences and training courses for circulation.</p> <p>The Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that the closing date for the receipt of submissions on the Local Property Tax (LPT) is Friday, 25th August 2017. The CPG, he advised, had agreed that meetings would be held to consider the LPT as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPG - Monday, 11th September • Council In-Committee - Monday, 11th September • Monthly Council meeting - Monday, 18th September where decision on LPT will be determined <p>Cllr. L. Quinn, Cathaoirleach advised that the CPG were proposing that a Civic Welcome be held for: The Mayor of Inverell Shire Council (Australia), Cr Paul Harmon and his family; and, also for the Vice Mayor of Chandler, Arizona Kevin Hartke & his wife Lynn Hartke and Ellen Harrington. Chair of Chandler/Tullamore sister cities and Colleen Koll, Board member of Chandler/Tullamore sister cities. The Civic Welcomes will be held in the Municipal District of Tullamore during their visits in July. This was agreed by the members.</p>
<p>NOTICES OF MOTION:</p>	<p>(i) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. S. Maher, seconded by Cllr. J. Foley, and agreed:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“This council calls on the government to bring forward legislation in regard to rising premiums in the car insurance industry.”</i></p> <p>(ii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Clendennen, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue, and agreed:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“That this Council supports the drinks industry and hospitality sector which supports 2,158 jobs in Offaly and is a critical component of our offering to tourists, with tourism spend in Offaly worth €26 million in 2016. This Council backs the ‘Support Your Local’ campaign in calling for a reduction in excise tax on alcohol in budget 2018, in order to support local jobs, the hospitality sector and our local economy”</i></p> <p>(iii) Cllr. J. Clendennen in proposing the motion noted the significant work was being done by Offaly County Council and proposed that this work should be communicated on a timelier basis through social media. The motion was seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue, and agreed:</p>

	<p><i>“That Offaly County Council establish and implement a Consolidated and Modernised Communications Strategy making the necessary provisions to include Social Media Platforms.”</i></p>
<p>COMHDHÁLACHA:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, the members noted and approved the conferences and training seminars as follows:</p> <p><u>CONFERENCES:</u> The Destination Kerry Tourism Forum with Kerry County Council <i>“Working as one on the Wild Atlantic Way – Building Sustainable Communities”</i> The Listowel Arms Hotel, Listowel, Co. Kerry 6th-7th September 2017 <i>It was agreed no Councillor would attend.</i></p> <p><u>TRAINING:</u> <i>LAMA Autumn Training Seminar Autumn</i> Hotel Manila, Clonmel, Co Tipperary 29th-30th September 2017 <i>It was agreed no Councillor would attend.</i></p> <p><u>RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL:</u> Retrospective approval was provided for the attendance of Cllr. J. Clendennen at McGill Summer School conference on 16th to 21st July 2017 in Highlands Hotel, Glenties, Co. Donegal.</p>
<p>COMHFHREAGRAS:</p>	<p>The correspondences that issued with the Agenda were noted.</p>
<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</p>	<p>Resignation of Cllr. S. Dooley from Offaly County Council Cllr. L. Quinn, Cathaoirleach informed the members that he had earlier that day received a letter from Cllr. Sinead Dooley tendering her resignation from Offaly County Council with effect from midnight of 31st August 2017. The Cathaoirleach thanked Cllr. S. Dooley for her committed service and wished her every success in her new role as Assistant CEO with Irish Rural Link. Cllr. L. Quinn, Cathaoirleach, noting that he was elected to Offaly County Council, in 2009, the same time as Sinead, stated that the gender balance in the Council had changed significantly since then.</p> <p>Cllr. P. Ormond, on his own behalf and on behalf of Fianna Fáil, thanked Cllr. S. Dooley for all her work and commitment. He acknowledged that she had served her county with distinction at all times but notably during her term as Cathaoirleach of Tullamore Town Council, Offaly County Council and in her current capacity as Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Tullamore. He noted that given Sinead’s long involvement in politics that it was a sad day for the Fianna Fáil party. He wished Cllr. S. Dooley, her husband Johnny and family the very best for the future.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Clendennon, on behalf of the Fine Gael grouping, wished Cllr. S. Dooley every success in her new role and regretted that it was not feasible for her, under current guidelines, to continue in politics following her appointment.</p>

Cllrs. J. Foley and J. Carroll thanked Cllr. S. Dooley for her amiable disposition and acknowledged that while they may not always have agreed politically that they appreciated her up-front approach.

Ms. A. Delaney, C.E., thanked Cllr. S. Dooley for her direct and clear approach to politics noting that she had served her constituents and county with distinction. On behalf of herself, the management team and staff of Offaly County Council she wished Sinead, Johnny and family good health and success in the future.

Cllr. S. Dooley thanked all the members for their good wishes and kind comments. She advised that it had been a privilege and honour to be a public representative and in particular to be elected Cathaoirleach of Offaly County Council, Cathaoirleach of the former Tullamore Town Council and last month elected Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District of Tullamore. She acknowledged that given her family's long involvement in local politics it had been a difficult and life changing decision for her. She thanked her constituents and Fianna Fail for their support over the years. She observed that members, regardless of their political affiliation, worked to improve their communities. She expressed a wish to see more young people and women to get involved with local politics. Cllr. S. Dooley thanked the Chief Executive and all the staff, both indoors and outdoors, for their work, support and advice throughout her years as an elected representative.

Commemoration Medals for Retained Firefighters

Cllr. F. Moran noted that representatives of the Defence Forces and Reserve Defence Forces were presented with a specially commissioned medal to mark their role in the 2016 centenary year. He noted that the Department of Defence were also to present medals to Civil Defence members. Cllr. F. Moran proposed that Offaly County Council provide a medal to the Retained Firefighters. Cllr. D. Harvey seconded the motion on the basis that it was appropriate to present medals.

Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., advised that the 1916 military decoration was given by the Department of Defence to the Irish Military forces and to Civil Defence. He noted that Firefighters receive long term service awards from Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government and that it should be stressed that Council staff across a number of sections were involved in coordinating 1916 commemoration events. He also advised that the Council had staff, across various departments, who respond to emergencies throughout the year and that it may be inappropriate to single out any group of staff.

A number of members stated their disagreement with the proposal noting that staff and local communities had ensured that the commemorations held throughout Offaly were held in an appropriate and in an apolitical fashion.

	<p>The Cathaoirleach in bringing the discussion to a conclusion agreed to review if other Local Authorities had awarded commemorative medals to their Fire Service personnel and advised that the CPG would review the matter.</p> <p>Traffic Warden, Edenderry Cllr. J. Foley requested that consideration be given to the assignment of a Traffic Warden from Tullamore on a part time basis to Edenderry until such time as the Edenderry position is filled on a fulltime basis. Cllr. T. McKeigue proposed that future General Operatives be trained to undertake Traffic Warden duties in order that future leave arrangements can be addressed. Cllr. L. Quinn, Cathaoirleach noted that the assignment of staff is an executive function. Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., informed the meeting that the post was currently advertised and that it was anticipated that an appointment would be made in the Autumn.</p>
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This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED:

CATHAOIRLEACH

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18th September 2017