

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 16TH APRIL 2018 AT 2.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:	Cllr. L. Quinn, Cathaoirleach (Presiding), Cllrs. N. Bourke, J. Carroll, J. Clendennen, N. Cribbin, D. Dolan, E. Dooley, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Foley D. Harvey, J. Leahy, T. McKeigue, F. Moran and P. Ormond.
IN ATTENDANCE:	Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F.; Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S.; Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S.; Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S.; Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator; Mr. T. Mawe, Financial Management Accountant; Ms. M. Brady, Arts Officer; Ms. M. Hussey, S.E.; Mr. J. Cunningham, S.E.E.; and, Ms. L. Carbery, C.O.
APOLOGIES	Cllrs. B. Killeavy, S. Maher, T. McCormack, M. O'Reilly and D. Owens.
SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:	On the proposal of Cllr. J. Clendennen, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribbin, the members agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow for a discussion on the closure of MIDOC in Birr and Edenderry.
MIDOC	<p>Cllr. J. Clendennen expressed his concern with regard to the closure of the MIDOC service in Birr and Edenderry. During the discussion that followed the members expressed their disappointment that the HSE had failed to communicate this reduction in service to the public. They noted the large attendance at the public meeting been held in Birr and the concerns expressed by the public that the closure would severely affect these communities. The distance from the north and south of the county to Tullamore will, they noted, result in increased delays in getting medical attention and will ultimately result in additional pressure being made on the ambulance service.</p> <p>Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick advised that the abolition of the MIDOC service in Offaly had not been raised at the Regional Health Forum, Dublin-Mid-Leinster Committee meetings.</p> <p>Cllr. L. Quinn, Cathaoirleach noted that a meeting with the HSE and elected members was convened for the following day, 17th April, and advised that they will seek access to the independent review being cited as the reason for the closure.</p> <p>In drawing the discussion to a conclusion the members called for the MIDOC service to be re-instated and that quarterly meetings be held with the HSE.</p>

<p>VOTES OF SYMPATHY</p>	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following: -</p> <p>Mrs. Teresa Kelly, 33 Beechmount Avenue, Clara, on the death of her son, Kevin Kelly;</p> <p>Mrs. Jody Troy, Birr Road, Kilcormac, on the death of her nephew Pat Troy;</p> <p>Mrs. Bridie Fitzpatrick, 16 Garran an Chaisleain, Kilcoursey, Clara on the death of her daughter, Mary Fitzpatrick;</p> <p>Mrs. Tanya Tracey, 2 Kilmanaghan Lodge, Clara on the death of her mother, Jenny Finlay;</p> <p>Mrs. Maureen Mahon, Walsh Island, on the death of her sister in law, Kathleen Mahon; and,</p> <p>Mrs. Louise O’ Donovan, Garryhinch Portarlinton, on the death of her brother, Rody Phelan.</p> <p>The Chief Executive, on her own behalf and on behalf of the staff of Offaly County Council, joined with the members in these votes of sympathy.</p>
<p>VOTES OF CONGRATULATION</p>	<p>Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick extended a vote of congratulations to Pieta House on the launch of their facility in Athlone. He wished the local committees throughout Offaly every success with their flagship fundraising event ‘<i>Darkness into Light</i>’ which will be held on 12th May 2018.</p>
<p>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the March meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, on Monday, 26th March 2018.</p>
<p>MINUTES FOR NOTING:</p>	<p>The members noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Monday, 19th February 2018; and - Minutes of the Housing Policy, Social and Cultural Services Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on November 30th 2017.
<p>TAKING IN CHARGE OF PRIVATE HOUSING ESTATES AT BALLINCUR PARK, KINNITTY AND KILMANAGHAN LODGE, CLARA</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Clendennen, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, the members resolved to the Taking in Charge of the Private Housing Estates at Ballincur Park, Kinnitty and Kilmanaghan Lodge, Clara.</p> <p>In responding to a question raised Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S., outlined the progress being made with regard to a number of other estates.</p>
<p>DRAFT ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2017 / OVEREXPENDITURE</p>	<p>Mr. T. Mawe, Financial Management Accountant, drew the members’ attention to the reports which had circulated with the agenda. He advised that the Council had an overall surplus €553,782 income over expenditure for the year ended 31st</p>

	<p>December 2017. He advised that in 2017 the gross excess expenditure over budget was €10,152,413 which was counterbalanced by recoupments, contra income, additional unbudgeted income and cost savings to give the net surplus in 2017 of €553,782. He requested the members' approval of the expenditure over budget as per Section 104 (7) Local Government Act 2001, as amended.</p> <p>Mr. T. Mawe, Financial Management Accountant, advised that the Council had reduced the accumulated deficit by €2,725,074 during the previous five years and that the Council's deficit was now €3,058,002. He proposed that it was positive that the Council had achieved the target deficit reduction in 2017 and achieved the accumulated reduction to date.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribbin, the members' resolved to adopt the excess expenditure over budget report as circulated.</p>
<p>COUNTY OFFALY ARTS STRATEGY INSPIRE-IMAGINE-INVOLVE 2018-2022</p>	<p>Ms. M. Brady, Arts Officer give a detailed presentation to the members on the <i>County Arts Strategy Inspire-Imagine-Involve 2018-2022</i>. She drew the members' attention to two key areas that will be prioritised during the coming years, namely, focusing on youth and the development of Lough Boora Sculpture Park. She highlighted the success of a number of Arts projects including Film Offaly, Music Generation, various local festivals and the Creative Ireland programme.</p> <p>The members thanked Ms. Brady, Arts Officer for her presentation and acknowledged the significant support that the Arts Section provided to local communities and to local artists. The members welcomed the progress achieved and the engagement with Bord na Móna in securing the future development of Lough Boora and proposed that the Council continue to liaise closely with local communities. The members acknowledged the economic benefit of the various arts projects and welcomed the support provided.</p> <p>In responding to questions raised Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., advised that Part VIII planning process would be commencing in respect of the proposed Tullamore Arts Centre in the coming weeks.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive, informed the members that Mr. Tom Donnellan was recently appointed as Chief Executive, Bord na Móna and that she looked forward to working with Bord na Móna. She acknowledged the extensive Arts Programme and acknowledged the work of the staff in the Arts Section.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, the members resolved to adopt the <i>County Arts Strategy Inspire-Imagine-Involve 2018-2022</i>.</p> <p>In drawing the discussion to a conclusion Cllr. L. Quinn, Cathaoirleach acknowledged the number of arts events that had</p>

	<p>taken place during his term as Cathaoirleach and acknowledged the diversity of arts events being held throughout the county.</p>
DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2017	<p>Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator, drew the members' attention to the draft <i>Annual Report 2017</i>. She advised that the Service Indicators, currently being compiled, will be incorporated into the final report which will be presented to the members for their consideration and adoption at the June Council meeting.</p>
MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive, drew the members' attention to the monthly management report. She noted that the Portarlington Joint Local Area Plan is on public display until 8th May and that public consultation on the Grand Canal Phase 2 concludes on 30th April. Alluding to the Changing Places presentation, received from Inclusion Ireland at the December Council meeting, the Chief Executive advised that a facility will be located at the primary care center in Tullamore and that the council continues to liaise with the HSE to identify suitable locations in Birr and Edenderry.</p> <p>During the discussion that ensued the members sought an update on the proposed surface of the greenways, the prosecution of litter fines, progress on installing LED public lighting and the implications of GDPR for the Council.</p> <p>The members thanked the Chief Executive for the comprehensive report.</p>
CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:	<p>Cllr. L. Quinn, Cathaoirleach advised that he was unable to attend the Corporate Group Policy meeting held earlier that morning, which was chaired by Leas Cathaoirleach, Cllr. J. Clendennen.</p> <p>Cllr. L. Quinn, Cathaoirleach, advised that the Corporate Policy Group supported the Municipal District of Tullamore proposal to hold a Civic Reception to mark the occasion of Coláiste Choilm, Tullamore winning the Post Primary B All Ireland Hurling Championship 2018. On the proposal of Cllr. D. Owens, seconded by Cllr. F. Moran, the members resolved that the Municipal District of Tullamore should host the reception.</p> <p>The Cathaoirleach advised that Minister E. Murphy, T.D., will officially open Ferbane Fire Station on 28th May 2018.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. N. Cribbin, seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan, the members resolved to hold the next Monthly Council Meeting of Offaly County Council in Rhode on 21st May 2018.</p>
COMHDHÁLACHA:	<p><u>Retrospective Approval</u></p> <p>The members, on the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. P. Ormond, retrospectively approved the attendance of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllrs. N. Bourke, P. Ormond, F. Moran, D. Harvey, E. Fitzpatrick, B. Killeavy and M. O'Reilly at the LAMA Spring Training Seminar, 6th - 7th April 2018 in the Central Hotel, Donegal;

