

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 15TH JANUARY 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, B. Killeavy, J. Leahy, S. Maher, T. McKeigue, F. Moran, M. O'Reilly, P. Ormond and D. Owens.
IN ATTENDANCE:	Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S.; Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F; Mr. T. Shanahan, A/D.O.S.; Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator; Mr. A. Murray, S.P.; and Ms. L. Carbery, C.O..
APOLOGIES	Cllr. T. McCormack.
SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS	<p>Cllr. T. McKeigue expressed a vote of sympathy to the family former Offaly County Council and Tullamore Town Council member Mr. Vincent Wynters. On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, the members resolved to suspend Standing Orders to allow for a short adjournment in his memory.</p> <p>The meeting resumed at 2.10pm.</p>
VOTES OF SYMPATHY:	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following: -</p> <p>Mrs. Bernie Wynter, Carrigohour, Clonminch, Tullamore on the death of her husband Mr. Vincent Wynter;</p> <p>Ms. Agnes Bolger, Ballyduff South, Geashill, on the death of her father Mr. Joe Rigney;</p> <p>Mrs. Brigid Rigney, Circular Road, Daingean on the death of her husband Mr. Joe Rigney;</p> <p>The Johnson Family, Daingean Road, Tullamore on the death of their father, Mr. Gabriel Johnson;</p> <p>The Wyer Family, Ballinamere, Tullamore, on the death of their son Mr. Liam Wyer;</p> <p>The Hynes Family, 9 Silverdale, Kilcoursey, Clara, on the death of their son Mr. P.J. Hynes;</p> <p>Mr. Philip Barron, Mucklagh, Tullamore, on the death of his brother Mr. P.J. Barron;</p>

	<p>Mr. Peter Dunne, Knock, Daingean, on the death of his brother Mr. Eddie Dunne;</p> <p>Mr. Paul Cummins, Assumption Road, Edenderry, on the death of his father Mr. Tommy Cummins;</p> <p>Mr. Patrick O'Meara, Fortal, Birr, on the death of his wife Mrs. Elizabeth O'Meara;</p> <p>Mr. Pat Fleming, New Road, Clara, on the death of his son Mr. Patrick Fleming Jnr.; and,</p> <p>Mr. John Dunne, Ballinagar, Tullamore, on the death of his brother Mr. Eddie Dunne.</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>
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:	On the proposal of Cllr. D. Owens, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the December meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, on Monday, 18 th December 2017.
MINUTES FOR NOTING:	<p>The following minutes 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 Monday, 13th November 2017; and - Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Monday, 20th November 2017.
DRAFT SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2018	The members noted the Schedule of Meetings for 2018 which had circulated with the agenda.
SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2018	<p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S., drew the members' attention to the <i>Service Delivery Plan 2018</i>, which had circulated with the agenda. He informed the meeting that the Plan preparation of an annual Service Delivery Plan is provided for on a statutory basis in the <i>Local Government Reform Act 2014</i>.</p> <p>The Director of Services advised that the Service Delivery Plan for 2018 identifies the various services that the Council propose to provide in the year ahead and that it takes account of, and is consistent with, <i>Budget 2018</i>, which was adopted by the members on 20th November 2017 and the objectives in the Offaly County Council's <i>Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019</i>.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. P. Ormond, the members adopted the <i>Service Delivery Plan 2018</i>.</p>
UPDATE REPORT ON THE GRAND CANAL GREENWAY AND THE	Mr. A. Murray, S.P., drew the members' attention to <i>Connecting People Connecting Places – A Strategy for Walking and Cycling in Offaly</i> and provided a comprehensive update on progress to date. He noted the works completed and

<p>SLIEVE BLOOM CYCLEWAY</p>	<p>the recent funding received, i.e., €350,000 from Local Improvement Scheme and €200,000 from the Rural Recreation Scheme.</p> <p>The members' thanked Mr. A. Murray, S.P., for his detailed update and complemented all involved in the programme. In responding to questions raised Mr. A. Murray, S.P., advised that it is proposed to commence the Part VIII Planning and Development process for the development of the canal way from Digby Bridge, Tullamore to Edenderry in the coming weeks. He advised that one side of the canal will be developed and where feasible it will be done to the highest standard in an effort to reduce future maintenance costs. He acknowledged that consultation with local communities to encourage the development of services along the route will be critical. The members agreed that the walking route provides a unique product and is a good counter-balance to the developed coastal routes.</p> <p>Mr. A. Murray, S.P., informed the meeting that it is hoped to appoint a contractor to commence the Slieve Bloom Mountain Bike Trail in March 2018. The €1m Rural Recreation Scheme funding will be matched by €452,000 from Offaly and Laois County Councils. He advised that the Council is working with Coillte in an effort to develop a connection from the route to Kinnitty village.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive, acknowledged the priority and the funding provided by the members, at both Council and Municipal District level, towards these projects. She advised that the Outdoor Recreation Plan, to be launched soon, has provided an indicative cost of €10m but costs, she cautioned, will vary having regard to road finishes, services and availability of land and amenities. She proposed that the projects will be a catalyst for economic development in towns and villages and ensured the members' that the Local Enterprise Office staff will provide help and assistance, where possible.</p> <p>Cllr. E. Dooley raised concerns regarding the future of Bord na Móna in Offaly. In responding the Chief Executive agreed to review the possibility of establishing an interagency committee to explore options available and the possibility of gaining European funding for employment supports in the county.</p>
<p>ANNUAL DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</p>	<p>The Cathaoirleach noted that the declarations had issued to members and requested that the Annual Declaration of Interests be returned to Corporate Services by the 31st January 2018.</p>
<p>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive drew the members' attention to the monthly management report.</p> <p>During the discussion that followed the members welcomed the success of the Healthy Ireland and recent Offaly Sports Partnership projects.</p>

	<p>In responding to questions raised the Chief Executive advised that a meeting is being arranged with Josepha Madigan TD., Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, in relation to the Tullamore Arts Centre and that work had commenced on preparing the Part VIII Planning and Development application.</p> <p>The Chief Executive advised that a meeting of the Offaly Joint Policing Committee Steering Group will meet in the coming weeks to examine the issues raised by members in relation to the Department of Justice and Equality Community CCTV Scheme.</p> <p>It was agreed to include an update on housing acquisitions and vacant houses in Offaly in the Housing Report, to be provided at the February Council meeting.</p> <p>Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., informed the meeting that Data Protection legislation prohibited the introduction of Name and Shame polices in relation to littering.</p>
<p>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</p>	<p>Cllr. L. Quinn, Cathaoirleach informed the members that the Corporate Policy Group met earlier that day to consider the various items on the Council agenda.</p>
<p>COMHDHÁLACHA:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, the members noted and approved the conferences and training seminars as follows:</p> <p><u>Conferences</u></p> <p>'EU Cohesion Policy 2014 - 2020' The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth 2nd to 4th February 2018 <i>It was agreed no Councillor would attend.</i></p> <p>'Nursing Homes Support Scheme' The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork 16th to 18th February 2018 <i>It was agreed no Councillor would attend.</i></p> <p>'Housing Provision in Ireland' The Colmcille Heritage Centre, Gartan, Churchhill, Letterkenny, Co Donegal 23rd and 24th February 2018 <i>It was agreed no Councillor would attend.</i></p> <p>RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL:</p> <p>Retrospective approval was approved for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr. M. O'Reilly for attending 'The Finance Act 2017' in The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth from 5th to 7th January 2018; and, - Cllrs. F. Moran and D. Harvey for attending 'Entitlement to Health Services' in The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork from 19th to 21st January 2018.

COMHFHREAGRAS:	<p>The correspondences that issued with the Agenda were noted.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. J. Foley, the members' agreed to support the motion received from Kildare County Council, dated 14th December 2017, regarding Portlaoise hospital.</p>
ANY OTHER BUSINESS:	<p>In responding to Cllr. M. O'Reilly comment on the poor state of many of the county's roads, Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., acknowledged that following the prolonged wet weather over recent months' roads throughout the county had deteriorated significantly. He advised that the Council is addressing the matter as far as possible and within the resources available to it.</p> <p>The members congratulated Mr. T. Shanahan on his recent appointment to the Director of Services position.</p>

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED:

CATHAOIRLEACH

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