

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ**

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

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

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Cllr. D. Owens, Cathaoirleach (Presiding), Cllrs. N. Bourke, J. Carroll, J. Clendennen, N. Cribbin, D. Dolan, E. Dooley, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Foley D. Harvey, J. Leahy, S. Maher, T. McCormack, T. McKeigue, F. Moran, P. Ormond; and L. Quinn
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Cllr. B. Killeavy and M. O'Reilly
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S.; Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S.; Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S.; Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F; Ms. M. Flynn Kenny, A/Meetings Administrator; Mr. G. Bruton, A.O.; Mr. P. Pilkington, E.E.; Mr. C. Duke, S.A.C.F.O. and Ms. L. Carbery, C.O.
<b>VOTES OF SYMPATHY</b>	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following: -</p> <p>Mrs. Dina Boland, Coolnahiley, Tullamore on the death of her husband John Boland;</p> <p>Mrs. Pauline O'Sullivan, Garryhinch, Portarlinton on the death of her husband James O'Sullivan;</p> <p>Mr. John Molloy, Mill Lane, Eneghan, Walsh Island on the death of his mother Anne Molloy;</p> <p>Mrs. Geraldine Dench, Callery Street, Tullamore on the death of her husband John Dench.</p> <p>Mr. Aidan Flynn, Fingerboard, Tullamore on the death of his wife Olive Flynn.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue the members agreed to suspend the standing orders to hold a five-minute recess as a mark of respect on the passing of Mr. John Dench, staff member of Offaly County Council.</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>
<b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</b>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, 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, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the</p>

	Annual meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, on Monday, 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2018.
<b>MINUTES FOR NOTING:</b>	The members noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018;</li> </ul>
<b>SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, AS AMENDED- SALE OF 0.03057 HECTARES AT BLUNDELL WOOD, EDENDERRY, CO. OFFALY</b>	On the proposal of Cllr. N. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn the members resolved to adopt Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended for the sale of 0.03057 hectares at Blundell Wood, Edenderry, Co. Offaly in accordance with the notice circulated to members dated 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2018.
<b>SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, AS AMENDED - DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST IN 1.7183 ACRES AT KILLANE DRIVE, EDENDERRY, CO. OFFALY</b>	On the proposal of Cllr. J. Foley, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn the members resolved to adopt the Section 183 of the Local Government act 2001, as amended - disposal of Freehold Interest in 1.7183 acres at Killane Drive, Edenderry, Co. Offaly in accordance with the notice circulated to members dated 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2018.
<b>SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, AS AMENDED - DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST IN 3.79 ACRES AT KEARNEY'S FIELD, TULLAMORE, CO. OFFALY</b>	Mr. T. Shanahan briefed the members on the Section 183 for the disposal of freehold interest in 3.79 acres at Kearneys Field, Tullamore.  Cllr. T. McKeigue expressed concern at the lack of progress on housing agency projects and requested a bimonthly update on housing. The members requested that the report should provide a full breakdown and raised queries on the Repair and Lease schemes and DPG. Mr. T. Shanahan responded that approximately 150 units are in progress for completion by 2020. He noted that the response for the Repair and Lease scheme has been very poor but that there are ongoing negotiations with developers for turnkey properties. The Chief Executive advised the members that a staff member has been assigned to housing to speed up the process and that a full housing report would be presented to them at the September meeting with a bi monthly report following on from that.  On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue the members resolved to adopt the Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended for the disposal of Freehold Interest in 3.79 acres at Kearneys Field, Tullamore, Co. Offaly as circulated to the members on 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2018.
<b>SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, AS AMENDED - DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST IN 1.875 ACRES AT CLONMINCH,</b>	On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan the members resolved to the Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended for the disposal of the Freehold Interest in 1.875 acres at Clonminch, Tullamore, Co. Offaly as circulated to the members on 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2018.

<p><b>TULLAMORE, CO. OFFALY</b></p>	
<p><b>WEATHER AND EMERGENCY UPDATE – WARM WEATHER RESPONSE</b></p>	<p>Mr. C. Duke provided the members with a detailed presentation on the recent fires in the Slieve Blooms and other areas of Offaly. He outlined the scale and timeline of the fires and the collaboration of Laois Fire Services, Coillte, the Defence Forces and the Air Corps. He pointed out the necessity of using helicopters in this instance and that for the first time dams were created which allowed quicker response times for the helicopters. He highlighted the need for continued vigilance and the importance of social networks and media to create awareness and he outlined the costs incurred by Offaly Fire Services.</p> <p>The Chief Executive and the members praised the Fire Service and the multi agencies involved for their professional handling of the operation, their use of media and their on-going work in all emergencies.</p> <p>Mr. S. Murray updated the members on the current water situation in Offaly. He noted that water services staff are working tirelessly to maintain water levels and services in the County. Ground water levels are lower than usual at this time of year, consumption of water has increased and rivers are lower than normal. He pointed out that it is a vulnerable situation but holding thanks to careful management of the network. Due to the dry soil conditions and ground movement pipework is being put under additional pressures and leaks are manifesting at an unprecedented rate, these are being responded to in a timely fashion. He stated that through this dry spell water services will continue to prudently manage the network and work closely with Irish Water to minimise the impact. He requested the general public to continue to assist in the conservation of the water supply and advised of the top tips to conserve water.</p> <p>The members thanked Mr. S. Murray for his update. They agreed that water repairs are being carried out quickly, but pointed out that it is not always possible to get through to Irish Water and queried if they provide services seven days a week. They noted that there is no incentive to conserve water and that options such as rain harvesting grants or tax deductions would be beneficial. Mr. S. Murray responded that Irish Water are dealing with thousands of calls and agreed rain harvesting is a good idea.</p>
<p><b>‘SPIRIT LEVEL’: LOUGH REE AND THE MID-SHANNON - A SHARED AMBITION</b></p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan provided the members with a presentation on Spirit Level – Lough Ree and the Mid Shannon Shared Ambition. He noted that this is a collaborative effort with counties Roscommon, Longford and Westmeath to promote midland tourism. These counties work with other agencies Failte Ireland, Waterways Ireland, Bord na Mona and the National Parks and Wildlife to promote and develop the green and blue ways for a connected network.</p> <p>The members thanked Mr. T. Shanahan for his presentation and questioned if this was another tourism brand. Mr. T. Shanahan</p>

	<p>responded that this is not a brand, that it would work as a mechanism to assist funding applications from these agencies and would further promote quiet tourism for the midland region.</p>
<p><b>CFRAM UPDATE</b></p>	<p>Mr. P. Pilkington outlined a presentation to the members on the Catchment based Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme. He highlighted that nine areas in Offaly had been identified for further assessment to aid in prevention, protection and preparedness. He noted that some schemes are currently in progress while others will be included in the next stage.</p> <p>The members thanked Mr. P. Pilkington and welcomed the plan. They commended the works already carried out in Banagher. They queried where the retention wall is in Birr and if College Green Rahan and Shannonharbour are in the plan. Mr. P. Pilkington advised the members of the location of the retention wall which runs from Moore Park to Castle Street and to Mill Island. Mr. S. Murray confirmed that College View is included and that Shannonharbour along with other areas could be dealt with under the OPW minor works Programme.</p>
<p><b>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</b></p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive, drew the members' attention to the monthly management report. She highlighted the two schemes just launched, the New Rural Regeneration &amp; Development Fund with a closing date for the first call for proposals of 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and the Urban Regeneration &amp; Development Fund 2018 with closing date for the receipt of proposals of 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018. She noted that the Rural Fund has a minimum grant of €500k with no maximum and the only town that qualifies for the Urban Fund is Tullamore which will involve the development of Tullamore Harbour in conjunction with Waterways Ireland. She highlighted other funds such as the Climate Action and the Disruptive Technologies Fund. She brought the members attention to the Pride of Place competition with judging on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July. She highlighted Geashills win as Ireland's Best Kept Village.</p> <p>The members voiced their concerns about the tight timeline for the Rural Regeneration Scheme. Cllr. D. Dolan queried if Clara will be included in Stage 2 of the Town and Village Renewal scheme and requested an update on the status of the Ballycumber application. Cllr. F. Moran requested clarification on the roads report with regard to the ploughing and if the National ploughing contributed to the council. Clarification was also sought on the DPGs.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney responded that there a number of projects being considered for the Rural Regeneration Scheme and these will be referred to the members at the municipal districts meetings for their consideration. She invited proposals for this scheme from the members. Mr. S. Murray confirmed that no road works would take place in the week of the ploughing. Mr. T. Shanahan confirmed the additional allocation for DPGs has not yet been approved.</p>

