

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ**

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE  
ON MONDAY, 21ST MAY 2018 AT 2.00 P.M.**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	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. McCormack, T. McKeigue, F. Moran, M. O'Reilly, P. Ormond and D. Owens.
<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. T. Mawe, Financial Management Accountant Ms. M. Cleary, Meetings Administrator; Mr. M. Daly, S.E.O; Mr. B. Pey, A.O.; Ms. B. Costello Hynes, PPPN Resource Worker and, Ms. L. Carbery, C.O.
<b>VOTES OF SYMPATHY</b>	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following: -</p> <p>Mr. Eddie Buggy, Rosdoohan House, Ballinamona, Durrow, Tullamore, on the death of his wife Anne-Marie Buggy;</p> <p>The Scully family, 2 Clontarf Road, Tullamore, on the death of their mother, Nellie Scully;</p> <p>The Smollen family, Chapel Street, Tullamore, on the death of their father, Timmy Smollen;</p> <p>Phil McGrath, Tara House, Durrow, Tullamore, on the death of her husband Dan McGrath;</p> <p>John Condron, Clonminch, Tullamore, on the death of his father John Condron;</p> <p>Patrick Mangan, Canal Line, Daingean, on the death of his father Richard Mangan;</p> <p>Mr. Tony Cooke, C/O Shinrone Nursing Unit, Shinrone, on the of his brother Noel Cooke;</p> <p>Patrick (Dilly) Regan, Ballyeighter, Banagher, on the death of his wife Pam Regan;</p> <p>Fiona Robbins, 5 River Street, Clara, on the death of her father Joe Sammon;</p> <p>Enda Kennedy, Erryarmstrong, Clara, on the death of his mother Kathleen Kennedy.</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.
<b>VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS</b>	Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick extended a vote of congratulations to Pieta House for the success of the ‘ <i>Darkness into Light</i> ’ walk which was held in a number of locations in Offaly on 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2018.
<b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</b>	On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the April meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, on Monday, 16th April 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 on Monday 26th March 2018;</li> <li>- Minutes of the Economic Development and Planning Strategic Policy Committee held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore on 6th February 2018;</li> <li>- Minutes of the Transportation and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore on 15th February 2018.</li> </ul>
<b>SECTION 85, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, AS AMENDED - AGREEMENT AND ARRANGEMENT WITH LAOIS COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE BRIDGE PARAPET REPLACEMENT WORKS IN PORTARLINGTON</b>	Mr. S. Murray, D.O.S., briefed the members on the proposed Section 85, Local Government Act 2001, as amended. He advised that the agreement and arrangement would empower Laois County Council to carry out the necessary procurement and works for the bridge parapet replacement works in Portarlington.  On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribbin, the members resolved to adopt the Section 85, Local Government Act 2001, as amended agreement and arrangement with Laois County Council for the bridge parapet replacement works in Portarlington.
<b>SECTION 183, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 AS AMENDED FOR THE DISPOSAL OF LAND AT MUCKLAGH, SCREGGAN, COUNTY OFFALY</b>	On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue, the members resolved to adopt the Section 183, Local Government Act 2001, as amended for the disposal of land at Mucklagh, Screggan, County Offaly in accordance with the notice circulated to members dated 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2018.
<b>SECTION 183, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, AS AMENDED FOR THE DISPOSAL OF PRIVATE SITE NO 52 CLUAIN FIA, CLARA</b>	Cathaoirleach, Cllr. L. Quinn advised that this item was deferred to a further meeting of Offaly County Council.
<b>SECTION 183, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001, AS AMENDED</b>	Cathaoirleach, Cllr. L. Quinn advised that this item was deferred to a further meeting of Offaly County Council.

<p><b>FOR THE DISPOSAL OF PRIVATE SITE NO 51 CLUAIN FIA CLARA</b></p>	
<p><b>PART VIII, PLANNING &amp; DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001, AS AMENDED – TULLAMORE COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE</b></p>	<p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S. drew the members’ attention to the Chief Executive’s Report on the Part VIII, Planning &amp; Development Regulations 2001, as amended in relation to Tullamore Community Arts Centre. He outlined the submissions received during the period of public consultation. Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S. advised that the Chief Executive recommended that the development should proceed with modifications, i.e., that at least 20 nesting sites for Swifts be built in accordance with advice from suitably knowledgeable experts on Swift nesting requirements.</p> <p>The members welcomed the progress made in relation to the Tullamore Community Arts Centre and sought an indication on the timeline for the development.</p> <p>In responding to questions raised the Chief Executive advised that the Department had confirmed that €2m Access 2 programme funding was available for the project. However, she advised, that to date no response had been received on the Council’s application for additional funding, noting that an additional €500,000 had been sought. She informed the meeting that additional resources will be required on an on-going basis to meet the day to day operations of the facility. She suggested that an annual Council grant, similar to the grant provided to Birr Theatre, will be required for the facility.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. T. McCormack, the members resolved to adopt the Part VIII, Planning &amp; Development Regulations 2001, as amended for the Tullamore Community Arts Centre as outlined in the Chief Executive’s Report.</p>
<p><b>OFFALY LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE</b></p>	<p>Mr. M. Daly, S.E.O. Community Development, provided the members with a presentation on the work being undertaken by Offaly Local Community Development Committee. He noted the Leader, SICAP and Healthy Ireland programmes and highlighted their progress, actions and future plans.</p> <p>The members thanked Mr. M. Daly, S.E.O., for his comprehensive presentation, acknowledging the work of the LCDC. Cllr. J. Clendennen, Chairperson of Offaly LCDC, acknowledged the significant work programme and initiatives being progressed by the committee.</p> <p>In responding to questions raised Mr. M. Daly, S.E.O., advised that the application process is lengthy and under constant review. However, he advised, that grants when approved are paid to groups within a 10-day period. He acknowledged that currently community groups need to match fund grant awards by 25%. He suggested that community groups examine opportunities to liaise and partner with other agencies to maximise funding opportunities citing Tullamore Tidy Towns Committee who are working with Waterways</p>

	Ireland in relation to the Tullamore River. He agreed to provide the members with a presentation on SICAP.
<p><b>NOMINATION / ELECTION / APPOINTMENT TO OFFALY LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE</b></p>	<p>Mr. M. Daly, S.E.O. Community Development, informed the meeting that the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is required to review its membership every three years and drew the meetings attention to the circulated report. He advised that Cllr. M. O'Reilly had tendered his resignation from the LCDC. On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribbin, the members agreed to the nomination of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick onto the Offaly Local Community Development Committee.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen. the members resolved to appoint Rebekah Keaveny to the LCDC (Environment) PPN and Paul Kennedy to the LCDC (Other Civic Society) to the LCDC.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. F. Moran, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribbin, the members resolved to appoint the PPN nominees to committees as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environment, Water &amp; Drainage SPC: Doloreen Brereton</li> <li>- Economic Development, Enterprise &amp; Planning: John O' Connor</li> <li>- Housing SPC: Annette Meacle and Jacinta Dillon</li> <li>- Sports Partnership - Disability Rep: Lorraine Regan</li> <li>- Midland Regional Drug &amp; Alcohol Taskforce: Lorraine Dormer</li> <li>- Joint Policing Committee: Jane Sims</li> </ul>
<p><b>HEALTHY OFFALY PLAN</b></p>	<p>Mr. B. Pey, A.O. Community Development, provided a comprehensive presentation on the <i>Healthy Offaly Plan 2018 – 2020</i> noting that it supports and complements a series of targeted national health frameworks. He outlined the strategies, priorities and timelines contained in the plan.</p> <p>The members thanked him for his presentation and noted some of the ambitious targets included in the plan. In responding to an enquiry from Cllr. F. Moran that a representative from the Midland Regional Drug &amp; Alcohol Taskforce be included in the membership Mr. B. Pey, A.O. acknowledged that the membership was flexible and would be adapted to the projects being progressed. Mr. B. Pey, A.O. advised that the committee will work with Offaly Comhairle na nÓg.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan, the members resolved to write to the Minister of Health to request that the income arising from the sugar tax be directed to Local Authorities to assist in the implementation of the Healthy Ireland Plan.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. F. Moran, seconded by Cllr. T. McCormack, the members resolved to adopt the <i>Healthy Offaly Plan 2018-2020</i>.</p>

<p><b>AGE FRIENDLY STRATEGY</b></p>	<p>Ms. B. Costello Hynes, Public Participation Network (PPN) Worker, gave a detailed presentation on the <i>Offaly Age Friendly County Strategy 2018-2021</i>, briefing the meeting on some of the fifty-three (53) actions encompassed in the strategy.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive joined with the members in thanking Ms. B. Costello Hynes, PPN Worker, and acknowledged the work involved in developing the multi-agency approach, raising awareness throughout the county and in coordinating and developing new initiatives.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. F. Moran, seconded by Cllr. T. McCormack, the members resolved to adopt the <i>Offaly Age Friendly County Strategy 2018-2021</i>.</p>
<p><b>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</b></p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive, drew the members' attention to the monthly management report noting the various activities across the Council's services in April.</p> <p>During the discussion that ensued Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive responded to a number of enquiries and advised that the Council is still awaiting clarification from the Data Protection Commissioner with regard to Data Controller duties in relation to the Department of Justice and Equality Community CCTV Scheme.</p> <p>The members thanked the Chief Executive for the comprehensive report.</p>
<p><b>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</b></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. He advised that Minister Eoghan Murphy T.D., Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government will officially open Ferbane Fire Station on Monday 28th May.</p>
<p><b>COMHDHÁLACHA:</b></p>	<p><b><u>Training</u></b>          AILG 'in Service' Elected Members - Module 2 Preliminary Notice, May 2018  <i>It was agreed no member would attend</i></p>
<p><b>NOTICES OF MOTION</b></p>	<p>The following motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Clendennen:</p> <p><i>"Offaly County Council establish a Local Representative Committee to meet with Representatives of the HSE on a quarterly basis, to discuss ALL matters relating to health services in Offaly."</i></p> <p>The motion was seconded by Cllr. P. Ormond. During the discussion that followed the members expressing their frustration with the Health Forums and the lack of information being made available. Cllr. J. Clendennen proposed that a county forum, similar to the Joint Policing Committee, be established. Cllr. D. Dolan proposed that the HSE be invited to meet the members at a Council meeting. The proposal to</p>

	<p>invite the HSE to attend a Council meeting was agreed by the members.</p> <p>The following motion was proposed by Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey:</p> <p><i>“In light of the decision by Bord na Móna to cease peat production within the next decade, I call upon this Council to develop an Economic Strategy for the County, to address the employment needs of the workforce, provide training and employment opportunities for those entering the workforce, and protect the economic and social fabric of vulnerable rural communities.”</i></p> <p>Cllr. E. Dooley acknowledged that Bord na Móna was a key employer in the Midlands and in particular in Offaly. He proposed that the Council immediately engage with Bord na Móna to ensure that its transition is managed and to maximise job, tourism and the economic potential for the county. He proposed that the economic gain arising from the development of windfarms on Bord na Móna lands be, in part, redirected to the Council so that it can be used to maximum benefits for the area. During the ensuing discussion the members proposed that the future use of Bord na Móna buildings be examined and that the development of national apprenticeship courses located in these facilities be explored.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive, agreed that the council had a coordinating role to play and that the adopted <i>Offaly Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021</i> contained a number of joint initiatives between Offaly County Council and Bord na Móna. She proposed that other agencies, including Laois Offaly Education and Training Board, Department of Social Protection, Regional Skills Forum, etc. also need to engage to maximise the Steering Groups work. The Chief Executive informed the members that she had sought a meeting with the newly appoint CEO of Bord na Móna, Mr. Tom Donnellan. Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive, informed the meeting that the Bord na Móna economic report was still in draft. She agreed with the members that a joint proposal to the department on a carbon tax initiative would be beneficial. In drawing the discussion to a conclusion the Chief Executive noted a number of joint initiatives currently being pursued by Offaly County Council and Bord na Móna.</p>
<p><b>COMHFHREAGRAS:</b></p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley, the members agreed to support the resolution received on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018 from Carlow County Council.</p> <p>Further correspondence that issued with the Agenda was noted.</p>
<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</b></p>	<p>Cllr. F. Moran noted Offaly County Council’s rating in the recently published Transparency International Ireland’s report. Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive informed the</p>

	meeting that Transparency International Ireland are not a statutory body and that the Council is audited by the Local Government Auditor, Internal Auditor reporting to an external Audit Committee, National Oversight and Audit Committee (NOAC), provides a monthly report to the Council and publishes an Annual Report including the performance indicator report annually.
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This concluded the business of the meeting.

**MINUTES CONFIRMED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CATHAOIRLEACH** **RUNAÍ**