

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 19TH NOVEMBER 2018 AT 4.30 P.M.**

PRESENT:	Cllr. D. Owens, 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 L. Quinn
IN ATTENDANCE:	Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S.; Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S.; Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F; Ms. M. Flynn Kenny, Meetings Administrator; Ms. M. Cleary, S.E.O.; Mr. J. Cunningham, E.E.; Mr. E. O'Ceillachair, C.F.O.; Senator J. Dolan and Ms. L. Carbery, C.O.
CONDOLENCES	Cllr. D. Owens, Cathaoirleach joined with the members in extending their condolences to Ms. Anna-Marie Delaney, Chief Executive on the death of her mother Mrs. Mary Delaney.
SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, the members agreed to suspend Standing Orders for the Meeting to allow Senator John Dolan to address the Members.</p> <p>Senator J. Dolan addressed the members on the National Picture for Disability Inclusion. He informed the members that 643,131 in Ireland have a disability and of those 227,965 people are living in rural Ireland. He highlighted the statistics with regard to disabled people's employment, poverty, carers, housing and education. He noted that 11,154 people in Offaly have at least one disability.</p> <p>The members thanked Senator Dolan for his informative presentation.</p>
RESIGNATION OF CLLR. M.O'REILLY FROM OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL	<p>Cllr. D. Owens, Cathaoirleach informed the members that Cllr. M. O'Reilly has given notice of his intention to resign from the Council effective from 17th December 2018. The Cathaoirleach then thanked Cllr. M. O'Reilly for his committed service and wished him every success in his new teaching post in Wicklow.</p> <p>Cllr. B. Killeavy expressed his gratitude to Cllr. M. O'Reilly for his hard work, dedication and courtesy. He recalled how Cllr. M. O'Reilly had joined the party at a very young age and had worked hard and persisted until he was elected in 2014. Cllr. S. Maher thanked Cllr. M. O'Reilly for his commitment, honesty and that it was a pleasure to have worked alongside him.</p>

	<p>Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, on his own behalf and on behalf of Fianna Fáil, thanked Cllr. M. O'Reilly for all his work and commitment. He acknowledged that he had served his county with distinction at all times.</p> <p>Cllr. T. McKeigue, on behalf of the Fine Gael, wished Cllr. M. O'Reilly every success in his new role and noted that it was regretful to lose a young representative on the council.</p> <p>The Edenderry Municipal members recalled how helpful and committed Cllr. M. O'Reilly had been and regretted that he is unable to continue his role in their area.</p> <p>Cllr. M. O'Reilly thanked all the members for their good wishes and kind comments. He advised that it had been a privilege and honour to be a public representative and to represent his area in the Municipal District of Edenderry. He stated that as an Elected Representative he wanted to give his full commitment to his constituents but found with his new teaching post he is unable to do this. He thanked his constituents and Sinn Fein for their support since he joined the party as a young man and with special mention to his Sinn Fein colleagues Cllr. B. Killeavy and Cllr. S. Maher and said that he would continue to be a member of the party. He acknowledged his Municipal District colleges for all the support and assistance they had given him and extended this to all the members of Offaly County Council throughout his years as an elected representative. He thanked the Executive, Management and all the Staff of Offaly County Council for their service and stated that they had always been helpful to him in any of his queries. He also thanked the press, online press and radio for their honest representation of him. He extended his best wishes to the council members in the upcoming local election and any future endeavours.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney, C.E., thanked Cllr. M. O'Reilly for his commitment and courtesy in all his dealings with council staff. On behalf of herself, the management team and staff of Offaly County Council she wished Martin and Shelby good health and success in the future.</p>
<p>VOTES OF SYMPATHY</p>	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following: -</p> <p>Mr. Michael Douglas, Kilmalogue Park, Portarlinton on the death of his mother Mary Douglas.</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 CONGRATULATIONS</p>	<p>Cllr. P. Ormond extended his congratulations to Lough Boora Discovery Park for their win in the prestigious Royal Town Planning Institute Ireland's Best Places competition and to Moneygall Development Association for their win in the Community Tourism Category in the IPB Pride of Place Awards. He thanked the Community & Culture Section for</p>

	<p>their assistance and suggested that the groups be invited to the December Monthly Meeting. Cllr. J. Leahy seconded this proposal and extended congratulations also to Clonbullogue Development association and Acquired Brain Injury Mount Bolus who also represented Offaly at the IPB awards.</p> <p>Cllr. E. Dooley extended his congratulations to Lough Boora and in particular to Mr. Tom Egan and Mr. Don Boyle and recommended that Lough Boora should be developed as a National Park.</p>
<p>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy the members resolved to adopt the Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 15th October 2018.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick and seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue the members resolved to adopt the Minutes of Special Meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 31st October 2018.</p>
<p>MINUTES FOR NOTING:</p>	<p>The members noted:</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 17th September 2018; - Minutes of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Tuesday 8th May 2018.
<p>SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, AS AMENDED- SALE OF SITE NO. 2 CLUNY, FERBANE</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley the members resolved to the Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended- Sale of Site No. 2 Cluny, Ferbane.</p>
<p>FIRE SERVICES PRESENTATION</p>	<p>Mr. E. O’Ceillachair, C.F.O. provided the members with a detailed presentation on the Fire Services. He highlighted the opening of Ferbane Fire Station in 2018 and advised the members that Clara Fire Station is being designed in conjunction with a housing scheme on a site in Raheen, Clara. He drew their attention to plans to develop the Tullamore Training Centre, which is currently providing courses for other Fire services and other agencies. He informed the members that the new development will bring business to both the fire station and to Tullamore with an increased capacity to train 18 people. He advised the members that a new fire appliance funded by the Department would be provided in June 2019 and they had also funded two refurbished tankers. He outlined the statistics for incidences, which are on a downward trend, but he noted that the duration of calls had lengthened. He outlined the programmes for providing smoke alarms, visiting schools and age action and thanked employers and people in the communities for their support. He highlighted that Offaly have the 3rd quickest response rate in Ireland.</p>

	<p>The members thanked him for his informative presentation and noted that the Training Centre would serve as a Centre of Excellence that would provide a good source of revenue in the future. They acknowledged the level of discipline the fire fighters bring to their roles and the need for work life balance. They noted that the proposed fire station at Clara would provide support to both Tullamore and Westmeath.</p>
SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll the members agreed to suspend standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue after 6.00pm,</p>
HOUSING PRESENTATION:	<p>Ms. M. Cleary brought the members attention to the housing presentation. She outlined the numbers on the social housing list, HAP, RAS and homeless presentations. She informed them on the Rebuilding Ireland Offaly Programme 2017-2021 and the stages of the various schemes currently in construction or planning. She informed the members on the Vacant Homes Survey, other housing supports, the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 and the new housing initiatives.</p> <p>Cllr. D. Owens joined the members in thanking Ms. M. Cleary for her detailed presentation and he acknowledged the high number of people that have availed of the Disabled Persons Grants. The members raised queries with regard to the number of people on the HAP Scheme, inaccurate social media uploads and vacant houses.</p> <p>In responding to the member's queries, Mr. T. Shanahan advised that a number of houses had been purchased but the uptake for the repair and lease scheme is low. He noted the focus for vacant homes is within larger towns and acknowledged the issue with social media.</p>
MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive, drew the members' attention to the monthly management report. She advised that a copy of the Draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy has been put on display at the Planning Counter for members of the public to inspect during office hours 5/11/2018 to 23/1/2019 inclusive. She highlighted the lunchtime seminar on preparing for Brexit on Thursday 22nd November 2018, Tullamore Court Hotel. She updated the members on the progress of the Slieve Bloom mountain bike trails, the Edenderry Relief Road, and the Local Improvement Scheme. She acknowledged the generous donation of 2.25 acres by the Franciscan Brothers to allow a seven stage extension to the Kilcoursey Cemetery. She updated the members on the Library programme for Christmas, the on-going work by Local Community Development Committee and the Local Enterprise Office and Arts.</p> <p>The members thanked the Chief Executive for the comprehensive report and Cllr. D. Dolan acknowledged the contribution of the Franciscan Brothers.</p>
CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:	<p>Cllr. D. Owens Cathaoirleach informed the members that the Corporate Policy Group met earlier that day to consider the</p>

	<p>various items on the Council agenda. He advised the members that the conferences and training had been agreed.</p>
<p>NOTICES OF MOTION</p>	<p>The following motion was proposed by Cllr. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy:</p> <p>Cllr. J. Carroll</p> <p><i>“That this Council support the request of the residents living in vicinity of Meenwaun wind farm that the Turbines be switched off between hours of 11.0 pm and 7.0 am when demand for Electricity is low. Operating times can be reviewed when results of recent survey on site are analyzed, published and agreed by all parties affected”</i></p> <p>Mr. T. Shanahan informed the members that the noise monitoring study is on-going and when it is submitted to the Environment section for review, it will then be available for public inspection.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. John Clendennen, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue the member resolved to adopt the motion that:</p> <p><i>“Offaly County Council to ask Minister for Agriculture to re-establish the Beet Industry in Ireland and locate the production plant in Offaly”</i></p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney agreed to write to the Minister.</p>
<p>COMHDHÁLACHA</p>	<p><u>Conferences</u></p> <p>Celtic Conferences 'Approaches in Contemporary River Management' being held at The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork from the 7th to 9th December 2018, €100 plus travel and expenses. <i>It was agreed no member would attend</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences 'EU Cohesion Policy 2014 - 2020' being held at The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth from the 14th to 16th December 2018, €100 plus travel and expenses. <i>It was agreed no member would attend</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences 'Entitlement to Health Services' being held at The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork from the 21st to 23rd December 2018, €100 plus travel and expenses. <i>It was agreed no member would attend</i></p> <p>National Conference: Politics Needs Women, Venue: Convention Centre Dublin, Friday 14 December 2018 All Island Local Authority Forum Study Visit to Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Bellaghy (Mid Ulster District Council), Wednesday 28th November 2018 <i>It was agreed no member would attend</i></p>

	<p>Retrospective Approval was sought for:</p> <p>Cllr. J. Clendennen to attend Module 4 of the 2018 AILG Training Programme on 15th September, Clayton Springs Hotel Cork.</p> <p>Cllrs. N. Bourke, J. Clendennen, E. Fitzpatrick and T. McKeigue to attend the LAMA 2018 AUTUMN TRAINING SEMINAR, 28th & 29th September 2018, The River Island Hotel, Castleisland, Co. Kerry</p> <p>Cllrs. N. Cribbin, E. Fitzpatrick and T. McKeigue to attend Module 5 of the 2018 AILG Training Programme dates and venues: 11th Oct 2018 Dublin, Midland & Eastern Region Longford Arms Hotel, Longford 13th Oct 2018 Border & Western Region Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo 18th Oct 2018 Southern Region Radisson Blu Hotel, Limerick</p> <p>Cllrs. N. Bourke, N. Cribbin, E. Fitzpatrick, P. Ormond and D. Owens to attend AILG Autumn Seminar on Thursday 25th to Friday 26th October, 2018, the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, the members' noted and approved the conferences and training seminars.</p>
COMHFHREAGRAS:	Further correspondence that issued with the Agenda was noted.
ANY OTHER BUSINESS:	Cllr. D. Dolan suggested that the Oireachtas members should be informed of the issue with the rates re-evaluation. Ms. A. Delany agreed to copy the letter to the Minister to each of the Oireachtas members.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED:

_____ **CATHAOIRLEACH**

_____ **RUNAÍ**

17th December 2018