

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 15TH OCTOBER 2018 AT 2.00 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, B. Killeavy, J. Leahy, S. Maher, T. McCormack, T. McKeigue, F. Moran, P. Ormond; and L. Quinn
APOLOGIES	Cllr. D. Harvey, M. O'Reilly
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. Hussey, A/D.O.S.; Ms. J. Ryan, A/S.E.; Mr. D. Curran, Divisional Manager I.D.A, Ms. A. Tierney Le-Roux, Head of Regional Development, I.D.A.; Mr. K. Whitelaw, Regional Business Development Manager, Midlands I.D.A.; Ms. S. Dooley, Deputy C.E.O, Irish Rural Link; Ms. E. Burton, Programme Manager, S.E.A.I. and Ms. L. Carbery, C.O.
VOTES OF SYMPATHY	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following: -</p> <p>Mr. Brendan Dolan, Knockowen Road, Tullamore, on the death of his wife Bridie Dolan;</p> <p>Mr. Andy Boland, 11 Moylena, Clara Road, Tullamore, on the death of his son Andrew Boland and his wife Kathleen Boland;</p> <p>Mrs. Mary Byrne, Carrick, Edenderry, on the death of her husband Donal Byrne;</p> <p>Mrs. Berna O'Brien, Aughameelick, Clonbullogue, on the death of her husband Ambrose O'Brien;</p> <p>Mrs. Marian Monagher, Sranure, Cloneygowan, on the death of her husband Paddy Monagher;</p> <p>Ms. Mary Martin, Ashbrook Drive, Birr, on the death of her partner Eamon Pardy;</p> <p>Mrs. Deirdre McGrath, Clonfad, Kinnegad on the death of her father Michael Cully.</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>SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, the members agreed to suspend Standing Orders for the Meeting to allow for a discussion on Bord na Mona. Cllr. E. Dooley advised the members that 30% reduction in production is forecast with a result loss of a minimum of 100 jobs. He also voiced his concerns that if two planning applications for Bord na Mona are unsuccessful this will result in further job losses. As previously requested he proposed a working group consisting of all stakeholders be set up to provide clarification on the timescale of the ceasing of production and to investigate what funding is available. The members agreed with Cllr. Dooley and added that a plan for the future is required. Cllr. Dooley suggested that a delegation seek a meeting with the Minister to raise concerns of the members.</p> <p>In responding Ms. A Delaney advised that there has been no official statement with regard to decrease in production. She informed the members that she has met with Mr. T. Donnellan, Chief Executive Bord na Mona and he informed her that a new strategy for Born Na Mona is being prepared and he has agreed to brief the members. Ms. A. Delaney suggested that the members nominate councillors to meet with the new Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment along with the Chief Executive and members of Management Team. The members agreed to meet within their own groups and nominate members for the delegation to meet with the Minister.</p>
<p>VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS:</p>	<p>Cllr. L. Quinn extended a vote of congratulations to Rhode Senior Football on their third win in a row in the Offaly Senior Football Final on Sunday 16th October 2018. Cllr. J. Leahy extended congratulations to Coolderry on their recent victory in Offaly Senior Hurling Final and to Camross who were victorious in Laois Senior Hurling Final.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Clendennen extended his congratulations on the success of the National Ploughing Championships in Screggan in September. He highlighted the excellent venue it has become, with great roadways to the site and suggested that it could be developed as a national event venue.</p>
<p>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minutes of the In-Committee Meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 10th September 2018; - Minutes of the Special Meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 10th September 2018; - Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 17th September 2018.

<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 16th July 2018;
<p>DRAFT WASTE BYE LAWS - COUNTY OF OFFALY (SEGREGATION, STORAGE AND PRESENTATION OF HOUSEHOLD AND COMMERCIAL WASTE) BYE-LAWS, 2018</p>	<p>Ms. M. Hussey informed the members on the Draft Waste Bye Laws - County of Offaly (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws, 2018. She advised that there are 13 draft Bye Laws and they are required in order to maximise the quality and quantity of household waste and to improve the quality and quantity of recyclable waste to achieve National and EU targets and to improve the environment. She noted that no submissions were received following the public consultation period and requested the member's approval.</p> <p>The members thanked Ms. M. Hussey for the update and raised a number of queries. They queried if the food waste bins would be rolled out to rural areas, the waste operators collection times and their operation in small estates. The progress of the Waste facility in Derrybeg was also raised.</p> <p>Ms. M. Hussey advised that at present brown bins are only being provided in areas of population in excess of 500 households. Environment Staff are going to meet with waste operators to discuss collection times and their responsibility with regard to damage caused to kerbs in smaller estates. She advised that she would revert with an update on the progress in Derrybeg.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue and seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy the members resolved to adopt the County of Offaly (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws, 2018.</p>
<p>IDA PRESENTATION</p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney introduced Mr. Denis Curran, Divisional Manager, Corporate Governance & Legal, EIT and Regional Business Development of the I.D.A. She informed the members that management and LEO staff have been meeting with the Regional Manager on an ongoing basis. Mr D. Curran then provided the members with a comprehensive presentation. He highlighted that all regions have experienced growth and that 60% of jobs have been created outside of Dublin. He noted that I.D.A. works with Enterprise Ireland and the Local LEO offices. He informed the members on the factors that investors are looking for and that Offaly is well placed as it is near motorways, educational centres and has skilled workforce.</p> <p>The members thanked Mr. Curran for his presentation and raised a number of queries. Cllr. T. McCormack stated that balanced growth in the region is required and that investors visit Offaly but are not opting to develop their businesses here. The members noted that Athlone is being promoted as the hub of the Midlands and Offaly is bypassed. It was highlighted that the 1.2% growth in the Midland Region was a poor return. They enquired if extra incentives could be utilised to gain investment</p>

	<p>and what more could be done at a local level. The members also raised concerns with regard to Brexit and future proofing current businesses.</p> <p>Mr. Curran responded to the members queries and advised them that IDA don't market individual counties as this would not be very competitive, that investors want to visit numerous sites and even with grant aid they may choose to invest in other locations. He noted that the IDA are committed to engaging with the Midlands Region, they continuously review the property portfolio and that Brexit may be viewed as an opportunity to develop new markets. He informed the members that a risk assessment is being carried out on small or medium businesses that may be overexposed to the UK market.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney noted the members level of frustration but assured them that Management is working closely with the IDA and that this collaborative approach will hopefully deliver results. She advised of second sites measure at Grand Canal Docks and Axis Business Park.</p>
<p>IPB CAPITAL DISTRIBUTION FUND</p>	<p>Ms. J. Ryan updated the members on the IPB Capital Distribution Fund. She noted that the Area Engineers have met with IPB and identified high frequency claim locations. She informed the members that in 2018, €572,000 has been made available to spend, with 40% allocation to Tullamore Municipal, 30% each to Birr and Edenderry. She noted this money is currently being spent on footpaths in the three Municipal Districts. She advised the members that a further €211,000 will be available each year for the next four years and the allocation would be reviewed each year. Ms. J. Ryan also informed the members that the Winter Maintenance Programme will start on 15th October and is available to view on the Offaly County Council website.</p> <p>The members thanked Ms. Ryan for the update and noted that if claims are reduced then the premiums will also reduce.</p>
<p>OVERDRAFT ACCOMODATION 2019</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley, the members resolved to approve a provision for Overdraft Accommodation for 2019 in the sum of €15million.</p>
<p>IRISH RURAL LINK AND SEAI PRESENTATION</p>	<p>Ms. S. Dooley, Deputy CEO of the Irish Rural Link informed the members of a Pilot scheme being rolled out in Offaly in conjunction with SEAI to promote home energy grants and increase energy efficiency. She then introduced Ms. E. Burton SEAI to provide the members with an overview of the schemes available.</p> <p>Ms. Burton informed the members that there is €80m available in grants to homeowners to improve their homes, that the scheme is now available to landlords and to full time carers living at home. She outlined the two schemes that are available, the Better Energy Homes Grant which is not means tested and the Warmer Homes Grant which is available to people in receipt of social welfare payments. She described the various options such as insulations and heat pumping systems. She</p>

	<p>advised the members on the eligibility criteria for both schemes.</p> <p>The members thanked Ms. S. Dooley and Ms. E. Burton for their presentation and welcomed the grants. They voiced their concerns that contractors escalate their prices to take advantage of the schemes, they queried if the Local Authorities as landlords could avail of any grants and sought clarification on the windows and doors grant timeline.</p> <p>Ms. E. Burton responded to the members queries that it is essential that the works are carried out by a reputable contractor and that the windows and doors grant is time intensive as it is only available where the property is fully insulated. She informed the members that a pilot scheme is being introduced in a Local Authority to carry out works on Local Authority owned properties.</p>
<p>FIRE SERVICES PRESENTATION</p>	<p>Cllr. D. Owens advised the members that the Fire Services Presentation is deferred until the November Monthly Meeting.</p>
<p>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive, drew the members' attention to the monthly management report. She advised that the applications for the Urban & Rural Fund have been submitted. She noted that Banagher has been named as one of ten towns that has been selected for the Governments Residential Occupancy Schemes. She informed the members on the LIS, Winter Maintenance and the current water situation in Dunkerrin, Mountbolus and Croghan.</p> <p>The members thanked the Chief Executive for the comprehensive report and noted the substantial submission for projects under the Urban and Rural Fund. They raised queries on the Tubber Airport Application, the €2.6m assigned to Edenderry, the housing adaptation grants and a tender of €50,000 in housing.</p> <p>Mr. T. Shanahan advised that the application for the airport was to assist the investors in a feasibility study, the funding for Edenderry is for works including the Relief Road in Edenderry, Bog Road and Blundell Park. He confirmed that all the housing adaptation grants would be drawn down before the year end and the tender in housing was not paid out of maintenance funding but a separate funding stream.</p>
<p>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</p>	<p>Cllr. D. Owens Cathaoirleach informed the members that the Corporate Policy Group met earlier that day to consider the various items on the Council agenda. He advised the members that the conferences and training had been agreed. He also advised that the Criminal Justice (Corruption Offences) Act 2018 came into effect on the 30th July 2018. Further briefing will take place on same in due course.</p>

NOTICES OF MOTION	<p>The following motion was proposed by Cllr. T. McCormack, seconded by Cllr. P. Ormond:</p> <p><i>“That Offaly County Council invite Failte Ireland into a council meeting to discuss where County Offaly fit into their overall strategy in both Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands and Ireland’s Ancient East and what has been done to specifically promote Offaly and how they are working our own tourism strategy”</i></p> <p>Cllr. T. McCormack in proposing the motion expressed the view that we need to promote Offaly rather than being incorporated with Hidden Heartlands and Ancient East.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney informed the members that Mr. Paddy Matthews, Head of Operations Irelands Hidden Heartlands will give a presentation at the December Monthly Council Meeting.</p>
COMHDHÁLACHA	<p><u>Training</u></p> <p>AILG Autumn Seminar on Thursday 25th to Friday 26th October, 2018, the Hillgrove Hotel, Monaghan <i>It was agreed Cllr. D. Harvey and F. Moran would attend.</i></p> <p>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 <i>It was agreed no councillor would attend</i></p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. F. Moran, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, 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. E. Fitzpatrick informed the members that the next meeting of the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly will take place on Friday 19 th October. A decision will be made on the public consultation period for the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH **RUNÁÍ**