

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER 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 D. Harvey, J. Leahy, S. Maher, T. McCormack, T. McKeigue, F. Moran, M. O'Reilly, P. Ormond; and L. Quinn
APOLOGIES	Cllr. B. Killeavy
IN ATTENDANCE:	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, Meetings Administrator; Mr. T. Mawe, F.M.A.; Ms. M. Cleary, S.E.O.; Mr. J. Cunningham, S.E.E. and Ms. L. Carbery, C.O.
VOTES OF SYMPATHY	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following: -</p> <p>Ms. Ruth McNally, Offaly County Council, on the death of her father Brian McNally;</p> <p>Mr. Alan Murphy, Tullamore Municipal District, on the death of his son Jordan Murphy;</p> <p>Mr. Dennis Gibbons, Offaly County Council, on the death of his father, William Gibbons;</p> <p>Ms. Liz Carbery, Offaly County Council, on the death of her mother, Lily Carbery;</p> <p>Mrs. Maeve Gorry, The Maltings, Birr, on the death of her mother Bessie Fleury;</p> <p>Mrs. Helena Murphy, Shandra, Portarlinton, on the death of her father Michael Moore:</p> <p>Mr. Sean Feery, Geashill, Tullamore, on the death of his brother Paddy Feery;</p> <p>Mrs. Winnie Doyle, Upper Forest, Mountmellick, on the death of her husband Richie Doyle;</p> <p>Mrs. Mary Brady, Montenotte, Cork on the death of her husband Mowbray Bates.</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. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the July meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, on Monday, 16 th July 2018.
MINUTES FOR NOTING:	The members noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Monday 18th June 2018;
SECTION 183, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 AS AMENDED - SALE OF NO. 10 FERBANE BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY PARK, BALLYLIN, FERBANE, CO. OFFALY	Mr. T. Shanahan outlined the Section 183 notice as circulated to the members on 30 th August 2018. Cllr. E. Dooley excused himself from the meeting. On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy and seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll the members resolved to adopt the Section 183, Local Government Act, 2001 as amended - Sale of No. 10 Ferbane Business and Technology Park, Ballylin, Ferbane, Co. Offaly.
SECTION 183, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 AS AMENDED - SALE OF NO. 11 & 12 FERBANE BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY PARK, FERBANE, CO. OFFALY	On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy and seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen the members resolved to adopt the Section 183, Local Government Act, 2001 as amended - Sale of No. 11 & 12 Ferbane Business and Technology Park, Ferbane, Co. Offaly in accordance with the notice circulated to the members on 30 th August 2018.
SECTION 183, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 AS AMENDED -SALE OF 0.0266 HECTARES AT SCREGGAN, MUCKLAGH, CO. OFFALY	On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey and seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue, the members resolved to adopt the Section 183, Local Government Act, 2001 as amended -Sale of 0.0266 hectares at Screggan, Mucklagh, Co. Offaly, in accordance with the notice circulated to members on 3 rd September 2018.
SECTION 183, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 AS AMENDED - LEASE OF LANDS TO EDENDERRY COMMUNITY SKATE PARK	On the proposal of Cllr. N. Cribbin and seconded by Cllr. N. Bourke the members resolved to adopt the Section 183, Local Government Act, 2001 as amended - Lease of lands to Edenderry Community Skate Park, in accordance with the notice circulated to members on the 5 th September 2018.
SECTION 183, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001 AS AMENDED - LEASE OF LANDS TO EDENDERRY CANOE CLUB	On the proposal of Cllr. N. Cribbin and seconded by Cllr. N. Bourke the members resolved to adopt the Section 183, Local Government Act, 2001 as amended - Lease of lands to Edenderry Canoe Club, in accordance with the notice circulated to members on the 5 th September 2018.
NOMINATION OF CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2018	Cllr. E. Dooley informed the members that he proposed to nominate Mr. Sean Gallagher, however as Mr. Gallagher has already achieved his nomination from four Local Authorities he now wished to withdraw his proposal. No further candidates were nominated.

**LOCAL PROPERTY TAX
2019**

Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F., gave a detailed presentation to the members on the Local Property Tax (LPT). He advised that the public consultation period closed on 31st August 2018 and that one submission was received. He provided an overview of the estimated Income and Expenditure for 2019 and informed the members that an increase in the LPT percentage would provide discretionary funds that could be utilised to provide match funding for new schemes that are being introduced by the Government and funding at Municipal District level. Mr. D. Conlon advised the members that 30 appeals had been lodged following recent rates revaluations, 5 appeals have been successful resulting in a loss of income of €50,000. Decision on the remaining 25 appeals is pending. Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F. proposed an increase of 15%, noting the impact this would have for householders in the various property bands. He advised that a 15% increase would provide funding in the sum of €739,000.

Cllr. D. Owens, Cathaoirleach thanked Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F., for his presentation. A lengthy discussion ensued. Cllr. E. Dooley proposed that the LPT be maintained at its current rate. Cllr. D. Dolan seconded the proposal, pointing out that the LPT valuation bands are scheduled to be reviewed in 2019. Cllr. D. Dolan also queried if houses built since 2013 were subject to LPT. Mr. D. Conlon advised that houses built since 2013 are not liable until the next review date, November 2019.

Cllr. T. McKeigue proposed an increase of 10% to the LPT which would provide €500,000 and same should be ring fenced for specific projects. Cllr. L. Quinn. seconded the proposal stressing that it would provide the council with the mandatory 25% match funding required for various new schemes.

Cllr. P. Ormond stated that he supported the motion that LPT remaining the same. Cllr. S. Maher stated that many people are struggling and advised that Sinn Féin supported Cllr. E. Dooley's proposal to maintain the rate at its current level. Cllr. D. Harvey informed the meeting that as the LPT is due to be reviewed in 2019 he was not supporting any increase in the LPT for the coming year.

Cllr. J. Leahy advised the members that smaller Counties than Offaly have increased their LPT. The council have no other mechanism to raise discretionary funding and the government may not be inclined to support Offaly in future schemes if the LPT remains the same. He proposed an increase of 5%.

Mr. S. Murray further informed the members that the discretionary roads funding will no longer be available in 2019.

A roll was called on maintaining the LPT for 2019 as proposed by Cllr. E. Dooley and seconded by Cllr. D. Dolan.

In Favour: Cllrs. N. Bourke; J. Carroll; N. Cribbin; D. Dolan; E. Dooley; E. Fitzpatrick; J. Foley; D. Harvey; S. Maher; T. McCormack; F. Moran; M. O'Reilly; P. Ormond and D. Owens

	<p>Against: J. Clendennen; T. McKeigue; L. Quinn</p> <p>Abstain: Cllr. J. Leahy</p> <p>Absent: Cllr. B. Killeavy</p> <p>Cllr. D. Owens, Cathaoirleach declared the motion passed and the members resolved to maintain the basic rate of LPT for 2019.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. L. Quinn and seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, the members resolved to write to the Department of Finance with regard to the Rates Appeals Process.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. F. Moran the members agreed that a delegation should go to the Department of Transport with regard to the condition of our roads as a result of extreme weather this year and percentage of bog roads in Offaly.. Cllr. N. Cribbin requested that management should make a strong case going forward and the Chief Executive responded that management and road staff have been in contact with the Department on a regular basis seeking additional funding.</p>
<p>MATERIAL CONTRAVENTION OF THE TULLAMORE TOWN & ENVIRONS DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2010-2016 (EXTENDED TO 2020) IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PL2/18/238</p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan informed the members that planning application PL2/18/238 had been amended in line with the issues that members had previously raised. He advised that the application is for three bungalows on previously zoned green space and that the current green space is more than adequate on this site. Cllr. F. Moran queried how long the planning process would take and Mr. T. Shanahan advised that all the preparatory work for the material contravention is complete and awaiting council approval and once granted the planning application is valid for five years.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey and seconded by Cllr. T. McCormack the members unanimously resolved to adopt the Material Contravention of the Tullamore Town & Environs Development Plan 2010-2016 (extended to 2020) in order to facilitate the proposed development PL2/18/238</p>
<p>ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2017</p>	<p>Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F., drew the members' attention to the Annual Financial Statement 2017 which had circulated with the agenda. He noted that the Council's deficit had decreased since 2013 and that the current deficit is €3.1m.</p> <p>Cllr. F. Moran queried the housing loans percentage and Agency Services costs. Cllr. D. Harvey sought clarification on the rent arrears. Mr. Conlon responded there are loans and rent arrears that are long time outstanding and are actively followed up on by council staff. He also confirmed that agency services, refers to payments to other Local Authorities that are providing centralised services on Offaly County Councils behalf, such as my-pay in Laois County Council.</p>

	<p>Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F. presented the Statutory Audit Report 2017. The members noted the contents of the report.</p>
<p>ADOPTION OF DRAFT JOINT LOCAL AREA PLAN FOR PORTARLINGTON 2018-2024</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick and seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn the members resolved to the Adoption of Draft Joint Local Area Plan for Portarlington 2018-2024.</p> <p>Mr. T. Shanahan informed the meeting that the County Development Plan process is on hold until the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy is published.</p>
<p>HOUSING REPORT</p>	<p>Mr. J. Cunningham provided the members with the second presentation in 2018 on housing matters. He outlined the figures for the social housing list, the Housing Assistance Payments and emergency accommodation. He updated the members on the current housing support services, the Rebuilding Ireland targets and the projects that have been delivered or are underway. He also updated the members on other councils support schemes and the Traveller Accommodation Programme.</p> <p>The members thanked him for his detailed presentation and paid tribute to the housing staff in Offaly County Council noting that they have a difficult job. Following a discussion, Mr. J. Cunningham responded to the member's queries.</p> <p>Ms. M Cleary updated the members on a recently announced increase in Housing Aid grants from €1.2m to €1.4m. She noted that there would be pressure to ensure that all works are completed to drawdown funds.</p> <p>Mr. T. Shanahan advised members that staff numbers in the capital section have been increased and that a staff member has been assigned full time to liaise with the housing agencies. He noted the projects are ongoing and the timeline for approval by the Department has improved slightly. Ms. A. Delaney advised that staff recruitment has been ongoing and she stressed the importance of works being completed on the Disabled Grants projects.</p> <p>Cllr. D. Owens, Cathaoirleach, thanked the housing staff for their work and their comprehensive report.</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 closing dates for the Urban & Rural Fund is 27th-28th September. The LIS and CIS schemes are progressing and the Greenway to Rahan is nearly complete. She highlighted the successful illegal dumping case and Mr. S. Murray updated the members that four further cases had been brought to court resulting in successful outcomes. Ms. A. Delaney on responding to member's queries agreed that a report on the figures for illegal dumping would be compiled regularly for the member's information.</p>

	<p>Ms. A. Delaney highlighted the Ploughing Championship taking place in Screggan on 18th to 20th September. She informed the members that the Local Enterprise Office and the Offaly Pavilion would be prominent at the event. She noted that the Entente Florale final is taking place in Tullamore from the 20th September and also pointed out that Irish Landscaping conference is taking place in Tullamore this week, with an International Market in Tullamore on 22nd September.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Clendennen asked for clarification on issues with works taking place on Town and Villages Renewal Schemes particularly in Kinnitty.</p> <p>In responding to the issue on the Town and Villages Scheme Mr. F. Heslin advised that it can take time to complete these schemes and he outlined the issues with the scheme in Kinnitty. He agreed that the Area Engineer would assess the scheme in question and ensure that modifications required would be undertaken, in agreement with the local community.</p> <p>The members thanked the Chief Executive for the comprehensive report.</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.</p>
<p>NOTICES OF MOTION</p>	<p>The following motion was proposed by Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen.</p> <p><i>“That Offaly County Council undertake a complete household survey throughout the County in order to compile an up to date Register of Electors”</i></p> <p>In proposing the motion Cllr. T. McKeigue advised that a lot people who are deceased are still listed on the register A discussion ensure around ways of improving the accuracy of the Register of Electors. Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S. advised that people are advised through advertisements in local papers and secondary schools of their responsibility to register to vote. Mr. Heslin further advised that the Register of Electors is updated as quickly and efficiently as possible with the resources available.</p> <p>The following motion was proposed by Cllr. T. McKeigue seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen.</p> <p><i>“That in order to meet some of the housing needs of people out of home that the Council provide Hostel in Tullamore and not to be depending on other Counties for this service.”</i></p> <p>Cllr. T. McKeigue advised that it was not fair and right that families have to go to another County to avail of homeless</p>

	<p>services and that Offaly County Council should have a hostel facility in Tullamore.</p> <p>Cllr. D. Harvey and Cllr. M. O'Reilly supported the motion. Cllr. M. O'Reilly advised that it is difficult to see a family split over two hostels.</p> <p>In response, Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S. advised the Members that the Council are engaging with Simon on a number of emergency accommodation projects. Also emergency accommodation is accessed on a regional basis, across four counties.</p>
<p>COMHDHÁLACHA</p>	<p><u>Conferences</u></p> <p>The Institute of Professional Training, Your Development Plan and Climate Change, Friday 19th, Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st October 2018, Caseys Hotel Baltimore, West Cork, €145 plus travel and expenses <i>It was agreed no councillor would attend</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences - 'EU Cohesion Policy 2014 - 2020' being held at The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork from the 5th to 7th October 2018, €100 plus travel and expenses. <i>It was agreed no councillor would attend</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences - 'A Practical Guide to Budget 2019' being held at The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth from the 12th to 14th October 2018, €100 plus travel and expenses Irish Planning Institute, Autumn Planning Conference, Gibson Hotel Dublin, 5th October 2018, Non IPI member €300 plus travel and expenses <i>It was agreed no councillor would attend</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences - 'TOWARDS A HARD BREXIT AND ITS CONSEQUENCES' The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, 26th to 28th October 2018, €100 plus travel and expenses <i>It was agreed no councillor would attend</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences - 'Social Media & Effective Time Management' The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth 9th to 11th November 2018, €100 plus travel and expenses <i>It was agreed no councillor would attend</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences - 'Entitlement to Health Services' The Clonakilty Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork 23rd to 25th November 2018, €100 plus travel and expenses <i>It was agreed no councillor would attend</i></p> <p>Leitrim County Council - "Smart Towns and Villages – An Opportunity to Revitalise Rural Ireland" 22nd October 2018, Lough Rynn Castle, Mohill, Co. Leitrim, €75 plus travel and expenses <i>It was agreed no councillor would attend</i></p>

	<p><u>Training</u> LAMA 2018 AUTUMN TRAINING SEMINAR, 28th & 29th September 2018, The River Island Hotel, Castleisland, Co. Kerry <i>It was agreed Cllrs. N. Cribbin, D. Harvey, B. Killeavy, F. Moran and M. O'Reilly would attend</i></p> <p>AILG Module 4, "The new ePlanning (on-line planning applications) & The National Building Management Project - A briefing for Elected Members", 21st Sept 2018, Dublin, Midland & Eastern Region, West County Hotel, Birr, 11th Sept 2018, Border & Western Region, Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, 15th Sept 2018 (Sat), Southern Region, Silver Springs Hotel, Cork <i>It was agreed no councillor would attend</i></p> <p>Retrospective approval was sought for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllrs. E. Fitzpatrick, D. Harvey and F. Moran to attend AILG Module 3 in Crowne Plaza Dundalk on 23rd June 2018; - Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick to attend the LAMA Spring Training Seminar, 6th - 7th April 2018 Central Hotel, Donegal - Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick to attend the MacGill Summer School 2018 in Glenties Donegal on the 24-26 July 2018 - Cllr. P. Ormond to attend AILG Single Public Water Utility in the Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran 27-28th July 2018 <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Clendennen, seconded by Cllr. M. O'Reilly, the members' noted and approved the conferences and training seminars.</p>
COMHFHREAGRAS:	Further correspondence that issued with the Agenda was noted.
ANY OTHER BUSINESS:	<p>Cllr. J. Carroll requested an update on the progress of Wind Farm Monitoring and was advised by Mr. S. Murray that once the report was complete it would be forward to Planning for action if necessary.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney advised the members that Mr. Ken Whitelaw, I.D.A. would be attending the October Monthly Meeting to provide a presentation. Cllr. T. McKeigue suggested that the members should have a programme to present queries to I.D.A.</p> <p>Cllr. D. Owens, Cathaoirleach, informed the members that a Civic Reception for Prof. Peter Gallagher, to acknowledge his contribution to ILOFAR is scheduled after the Monthly Meeting on 15th October 2018.</p>

