

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 15TH APRIL 2019 AT 2.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:	Cllr. D. Owens, Cathaoirleach (Presiding), Cllrs. J. Carroll, J. Clendennen, N. Cribbin, A. Davy, 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
IN ATTENDANCE:	Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F.; Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S.; Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S.; Ms. M. Hussey, A/D.O.S.; Mr. T. Mawe, F.M.A.; Ms. M. Flynn Kenny, Meetings Administrator; Ms. C. Clancy, E.L.O. and Ms. L. Carbery, C.O.
APOLOGIES:	Cllr. N. Bourke and B. Killeavy
VOTES OF SYMPATHY:	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following: -</p> <p>Cllr. E. Dooley, Aughaboy, Ferbane on the death of his sister Teresa Molloy;</p> <p>Mr. Ger Bourke, St. Marys Terrace, Shinrone on the death of his wife Jennifer Bourke;</p> <p>Mrs. Bridget Martin, Marian Place, Tullamore on the death of her husband Mick Martin;</p> <p>Mr. Sean Brereton, Main Street, Daingean on the death of his wife Mary Brereton;</p> <p>Mr. Billy Comerford, Brackagh, Walsh Island on the death of his wife Marie Comerford.</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>The Management and members joined with Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick in extending their best wishes to Cllr. N. Bourke for a speedy recovery following a recent operation.</p>

<p>SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn the members agreed to suspend the standing orders to take item no. 8 on the agenda at the start of the meeting - of the 120th Anniversary of the First Local Elections.</p> <p>Cllr. D. Owens, Cathaoirleach noted that the first election held in 1899 elected Henry Egan in as Chairman, a position he held for 10 years and Eamon Murphy was voted in as Chairman in 1920, however he never attended a meeting as he was deported by the British to Argentina. Cllr. T. McKeigue advised the members that a descendant of Henry Egan, Maurice Egan is hosting an event and launching a whiskey in their ancestral home, Acres Hall on the 18th May. Cllr. L. Quinn noted that the minute books are an historical record that should be digitised. The members commemorated the anniversary with a picture taken beside the photos of the past Chairmen/Cathaoirligh.</p>
<p>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. McKeigue, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribbin, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the March meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, on Monday, 25th March 2019.</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 18th February 2019; - Minutes of the Economic, Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 11th December 2018; - Minutes of Environment, Water & Drainage Services Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on 29th November, 2018.
<p>SECTION 183 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, AS AMENDED - DISPOSAL OF INDUSTRIAL SITE NUMBER 5, PORTARLINGTON INDUSTRIAL PARK, BOTLEY LANE PORTARLINGTON, TO MR. PAT QUINN AND MR. JONATHAN WHELAN, PORTARLINGTON</p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan informed the members that following tender procedures, it was now proposed to dispose of site no. 5 Portarlington Industrial Estate.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. J. Foley the members resolved to adopt the Section 183 Local Government Act 2001, as Amended - the Disposal of Industrial Site Number 5, Portarlington Industrial Park, Botley Lane Portarlington, to Mr. Pat Quinn and Mr. Jonathan Whelan, Portarlington.</p>

<p>PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 AS AMENDED, PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 AS AMENDED– PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT KEARNEY’S FIELD, TULLAMORE COUNTY OFFALY</p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan informed the members that two submissions were received, one from Irish Water, with no issues and the second from the Arden Residents. The residents’ concerns related to existing access, noise and traffic disruptions. Mr. Shanahan advised the members that the existing cul de sac would remain, traffic and noise would be managed during the construction period.. The members queried if the area could be tidied up, calming measures put in place and voiced their concerns that more affordable housing is required in the county.</p> <p>Mr. T. Shanahan responded to the members queries that the area would be tidied up, including the playground and that the affordable housing issue would be discussed at the next Housing Strategic Policy Committee meeting.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. T. McCormack the members resolved to adopt the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as Amended, Part 8 of The Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as Amended– Proposed Development at Kearney’s Field, Tullamore County Offaly.</p>
<p>DRAFT ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2018 / OVER EXPENDITURE</p>	<p>Mr. D. Conlon, H.O.F. drew the members’ attention to the reports which had circulated with the agenda. He advised that the Council had an overall surplus €561,413 income over expenditure for the year ended 31st December 2018. He noted that the Council had reduced the accumulated deficit by €3,277,122 during the previous six years and that the Council’s deficit was now €2,505,853. Mr. T. Mawe, Financial Management Accountant outlined the Financial statement and advised the members that overspend shown on Table 1 under service category areas, was recouped from the Department. The members thanked them for their report and requested an update on the outstanding Leisure Centre debt and the rent arrears.</p> <p>Mr. T. Mawe responded to the members that the required monthly loan repayments for the Leisure Centre are being met and that due to continued hard work between Housing and Finance the rent arrears have been reduced to €948,766.</p> <p>Mr. D. Conlon advised the members that the Annual Financial Statement would be presented to the Council for approval when fully audited. He requested the members’ approval of the expenditure over budget as per Section 104 (7) Local Government Act 2001, as amended.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Dolan, seconded by Cllr. T. McKeigue, the members’ resolved to adopt the excess expenditure over budget report as circulated.</p>
<p>DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2018</p>	<p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S. advised the members that the Draft Annual Report 2018 was circulated for their consideration. He noted that the service indicators when finalized will be added to the report.and the members could inform him of any issues they may have with the report. He noted that the final report will be available for adoption at the June Council Meeting.</p>

EXTENSION TO THE LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2016 - 2018

Ms. M. Hussey, A/D.O.S. invited Ms. C. Clancy, Environment Liaison Officer to provide the members with a presentation of a proposed Extension to the Litter Management Plan 2016 – 2018. Ms. C. Clancy outlined the objectives of the plan, including Education and Awareness, she noted that Secondary School participation has increased and the social media is increasingly used to promote litter awareness. She advised the members of the various assistance that is provided to the community groups and other interested parties. She cited the success of the National Spring Cleaning Week and the high level of local participation for example in a recent clean-up of 15 tonnes of rubbish in Kilcormac. Ms. Clancy updated the members on the number of fines and court cases that have been successfully taken and advised that the increase in CCTV cameras have played a major role in this. She outlined the Street Cleaning Programme, the issues of concern such as fly tipping, dog fouling and litter from dashboard dining and highlighted that from national monitoring Offaly is considered moderately littered.

The members thanked Ms. Clancy and the Environment Section for their co-operation and hard work. Ms. Clancy in responding to the members’ queries noted that any areas that need attention would be referred to the municipal district area engineers and that provision of bins and more signage would be examined. She confirmed that due to GDPR, name and shame policy is not possible and that a national plan is being rolled out to survey households with regard to their waste disposal. She advised that court action is hugely expensive and that fines are specified in the Litter Pollution Act. She confirmed that more signage could be supplied for graveyards with litter issues and that rural CCTV is difficult to provide as it can involve a large catchment area and there may not be any electrical provision. Ms. M. Hussey confirmed that the European model of the returning bottles to shops has not been rolled out in Ireland. She acknowledged the good working relationship with Bord na Mona, an Taisce, Tidy Towns, community groups and members of the public.

Ms. A. Delaney confirmed that the Gateway scheme had been discontinued and Mr. T. Shanahan advised that he would revert back to the Municipal District to ensure all vacant positions had been filled.

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen the members agreed to adopt the Extension of the Litter Management Plan 2016-2018.

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:

Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive, drew the members’ attention to the monthly management report. She highlighted the National Community Weekend taking place over 4th-6th May 2019 with the main Offaly event taking place in Lough Boora Parklands on Sunday 5th May 2019. She updated the members on the timelines for the Register of Electors and nominations for the Local Elections. She informed the members that targets for housing are optimistic and that the Local Migrant

	<p>Integration Strategy should be completed by June for adoption by the Council at the July meeting.</p> <p>She advised the members that one application had been submitted for the Sports Partnership and two more may be finalised for the next stage. She updated the members on the joint Irish Waterways project for Tullamore Harbour and that the Tourist Office will open 6 days a week and will be manned by both volunteers and staff. She informed the members that in liaison with IDA an advanced technology site is being developed in the Srah Industrial Estate and provision of remote working offices in the Junction Tullamore, Stream Birr and EHive Edenderry are being further developed. She noted the success of the Tradfest in Tullamore. She advised the members that the requested documentation for Arts Centre had been submitted to the Department and the Tullamore Municipal District members, the Arts Board and a member of the Arts community have been invited to a progress meeting on 25th April. She updated the members on the success of the recent Tourist seminar and on a visit from the National Greenway Scheme to investigate tourism destination towns.</p> <p>The members thanked the Chief Executive for her comprehensive report and welcomed the proposal to develop an advanced technology site with the I.D.A. Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S. confirmed that they would assist in obtaining planning for the site.</p> <p>In responding to the members queries Ms. A. Delaney advised the members that the Arts meeting is not a public meeting, but progress would be reported back at the next council meeting. She stated that a presentation on the progress of the Greenways would be provided at the May meeting. Mr. T. Shanahan informed the members that the visit to Greenways was to investigate tourist attractions available and confirmed that a number of potential linkages such as to the Mountlucas Wind Farm, would form part the application. Mr. F. Heslin responded to the members' concerns about the funding of the Soccer Development Officer, he advised that this is a contract of employment, that it will be monitored and await advice from Sports Ireland.</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 invited the members to the Civic Reception at 6pm celebrating the achievements of the Special Olympics Athletes.</p>
<p>COMHFHREAGRAS:</p>	<p>Cllr. T. McKeigue voiced his support of the Resolution from Westmeath County Council highlighting the damage of spiralling insurance costs to community, volunteer groups and small businesses.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Carroll gave his support to the Kilkenny County Council resolution calling for the correct use of the fada in all State Bodies Irish communications when printing in Irish.</p>

	The correspondences that issued with the Agenda were noted.
ANY OTHER BUSINESS:	On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribbin the members requested a meeting with the HSE to explain cuts to the homecare, respite and other HSE services. In response Ms. A. Delany, C.E. agreed to write to the HSE.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH **RUNAÍ**

20th May 2019