

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ**

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE  
ON MONDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 2.00 P.M.**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Cllr. J. Carroll, Cathaoirleach, Cllrs. C. Claffey, J. Clendennen, N. Cribbin, E. Dooley, N. Feighery, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Foley, M. Hackett, D. Harvey, J. Leahy, T. McCormack, R. McDermott, S. O'Brien, P. Ormond, D. Owens, L. Quinn (R) and K. Smollen.
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Cllr. F. Moran
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S.; Ms. S. Kennedy, D.O.S.; Mr. M. Connolly, H.O.F.; Ms. A. Dillon, A/D.O.S; Mr. G. Bruton, Meetings Administrator; Mr. R. Bell, H.I.S.; Mr. J. Cunningham, S.E.E. (R); and Ms. L. Carbery, C.O.  <i>[(R) denotes remote access]</i>
<b>VOTES OF SYMPATHY:</b>	Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following: -  The members joined Cllr. J. Carroll in their sympathy to the family of John Hume and paid tribute to him as one of the most important figures of the Northern Ireland peace process.  They expressed their sympathy to the family of Mary Cowan, noting her family's role in local and national politics.  They joined Cllr. J. Carroll in expressing their sympathy to the family of Offaly jockey Pat Smullen. and commended his competitive spirit and how he coped with his illness.  Cllr. D. Harvey called for a recess to remember the passing of Offaly County Engineer Mr. William Wall and commended his commitment and service to the Council.  Mr. Joe Duffy, Healy Street, Tullamore on the death of his sister Anna Dunne;  Mr. Ambrose O'Gorman, Moylena, Tullamore on the death of his brother Garry O'Gorman;  Ms. Catherine Casey, Annabrack, Blueball, Tullamore on the death of her sister Marie Conroy;

	<p>Mr. Andrew Fingleton, Shandra, Portarlinton on the death of his wife Eileen Fingleton:</p> <p>Ms. Bridget Nee, St. Cormacs Park, Kilcormac on the death of her sister Eileen Fingleton;</p> <p>Mr. Billy Comerford, Scrub Road, Walsh Island on the death of his son Tomás Comerford;</p> <p>Mr. Mike Daly, 3 Armstrong Grove, Claraon the death of his father Dan Daly</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>
<b>CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</b>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. T. McCormack the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribbin the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the Special Meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras and Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2020.</p>
<b>MINUTES FOR NOTING:</b>	<p>The members noted the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020;</li> <li>- Minutes of Land Use, Planning and Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020;</li> <li>- Minutes of Land Use, Planning and Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020;</li> <li>- Minutes of Climate Action, Environment, Water and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>LOCAL PROPERTY TAX 2021</b>	<p>Mr. M. Connolly provided the members with a detailed presentation on the options for the Local Property Tax 2021. He advised the members that to maintain the 2021 LPT rate at 2020 levels over the remaining years of the Council would generate €3.7m over the lifetime of the Council potentially leveraging overall funding in the amount of approximately €18.5m over this time period. He stated that this additional funding could be used for capital infrastructure, urban and rural regeneration and other projects of scale across the county. He noted that the availability of match funding is critical for the future development of Offaly's towns and villages. He outlined the funding model and the challenges if the current LPT is not maintained. He drew the member's attention to the current revenue account deficit, the low rates income buoyancy and the decline in other income lines all of which would reduce Offaly County Council's ability to provide match funding allowing us to avail of national funded schemes.</p>

He noted that this decision on LPT is a reserved function reviewed each year and that any additional income generated is ring fenced for match funded projects with a progress report on these LPT funded projects presented to the members each year. He updated the members on the 2020 LPT funded projects, including Birr Destination Town (€650k), Edenderry Masterplan, including Library and Link Road (€696k) and Tullamore Street Enhancement (€1,150m). He further advised the members that over €100k has been committed to a fund for Just Transition Projects for the most impacted communities in Offaly by the national decarbonisation agenda. He advised the members on the required statutory information and on the effects of variation on LPT on households.

Mr. M. Connolly advised the members that determining the 2021 LPT variation is a key decision point in the drafting of the 2021 budget and as it is clear from the current budgetary outlook for 2021 that resources are going to be very stretched to maintain the current level of services within the county for 2021. Maintaining the 2020 LPT rate in 2021 for Offaly would provide much needed match funding for capital projects in the County.

The members thanked him for his presentation and many members agreed that the extra income from the previous year's increase has provided some very welcome discretionary funding. They noted that this increase has provided match funding to progress projects and they hoped that many areas in the county will benefit over the term of the council. They agreed that the allocation for Just Transition is a wise decision.

Cllr. S. O'Brien voiced his objection to retaining the increase noting that the LPT is being reviewed nationally and this may see a further increase putting more pressure on families to pay this tax. He stated that the government should be funding these projects. Cllr. K. Smollen voiced his concern for the extra pressure on families already struggling, they may have lost their jobs due to Covid 19 and many business owners now out of business will find it difficult to pay the LPT.

In response Mr. M. Connolly agreed that the LPT is being reviewed nationally and there is no confirmation currently if this will be increased. He confirmed that if increased this will not come into effect until 2022.

A roll was called on reducing the LPT for 2021 by 15% as proposed by Cllr. S. O'Brien and seconded by Cllr. K. Smollen.

In favour: Cllrs. S. O'Brien and K. Smollen

Against: Cllrs. J. Carroll, C. Claffey, J. Clendennen, N. Cribbin, E. Dooley, N. Feighery, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Foley, M. Hackett, D. Harvey, J. Leahy, T. McCormack, R. McDermott, P. Ormond and D. Owens.

Absent: Cllrs. F. Moran and L. Quinn

Cllr. J. Carroll, Cathaoirleach declared the motion defeated.

	<p>A roll was called on maintaining the Local Property Tax for 2021 at 2020 levels as proposed by Cllr. E. Dooley and seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy</p> <p>In favour: Cllrs. J. Carroll, C. Claffey, J. Clendennen, N. Cribbin, E. Dooley, N. Feighery, E. Fitzpatrick, J. Foley, M. Hackett, D. Harvey, J. Leahy, T. McCormack, R. McDermott, P. Ormond and D. Owens.</p> <p>Against: Cllrs. S. O'Brien and K. Smollen</p> <p>Absent: Cllrs. F. Moran and L. Quinn</p> <p>Cllr. J. Carroll, Cathaoirleach, declared the motion successful and the members resolved to maintain the variation to the local property tax adjustment factor applied in 2020 for 2021.</p> <p>The members of Offaly County Council resolved to maintain the variation to the Local Property Tax adjustment factor applied in 2020 for 2021 meaning the Local Property Tax charged to households across Offaly would be maintained at the same level in 2021 as it was in 2020.</p>
<p><b>SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSES TO DISPOSE OF 1.0 ACRE OF LAND AT CLONMINCH, TULLAMORE TO VERVOS CAPITAL LTD, BUSHFIELD HOUSE, 57 BUSHFIELD SQUARE, PHILIPSBURGH AVENUE, FAIRVIEW, DUBLIN 3</b></p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan informed the members of the Section 183 to dispose of 1.0 acre of land at Clonminch to Vervos Capital Ltd, in the amount of €70,0000 for land beside the ESB substation to provide battery storage, subject to planning permission.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. McCormack, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, the members resolved to adopt Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, to dispose of 1.0 acre of land at Clonminch, Tullamore to Vervos Capital Ltd, Bushfield House, 57 Bushfield Square, Philipsburgh Avenue, Fairview, Dublin 3 as per the notice circulated on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020.</p>
<p><b>SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001, OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSES TO DISPOSE OF 0.932 ACRES OF LAND AT THE DISUSED RESERVOIR SITE AT RAHEEN, CLARA TO DEAN AND LORRAINE WYNNE</b></p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan informed the members of the Section 183 to dispose of 0.932 acres of land at the disused reservoir site at Raheen Clara in the amount of €45,000 to Dean and Lorraine Wynne.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. D. Owens, seconded by Cllr. N. Feighery, the members resolved to adopt Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, to dispose of 0.932 acres of land at the disused reservoir site at Raheen, Clara to Dean and Lorraine Wynne, as per the notice circulated on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020.</p>

<p><b>SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001, OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSES TO COMPLETE THE LEASE OF SYNGEFIELD HOUSE AND LANDS TOTALING 1.808HA (4.47AC) TO MATTHEW DEMPSEY AND SARAH DEMPSEY OF 300 KILDARE ROAD, CRUMLIN, DUBLIN</b></p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan informed the members of the Section 183 to complete the Lease of Syngesfield House and Lands totalling 1.808 Ha to Matthew and Sarah Dempsey, in the amount of €243,535.76.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen the members resolved to adopt Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, to complete the Lease of Syngesfield House and Lands totalling 1.808Ha (4.47Ac) to Matthew Dempsey and Sarah Dempsey of 300 Kildare Road, Crumlin, Dublin as per notice circulated on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020.</p>
<p><b>SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001, OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSES TO DISPOSE OF DISUSED WATER TOWER AT CLONMINCH TO AIDAN GARRY</b></p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan advised the members of the Section 183 to dispose of the Disused Water Tower at Clonminch to Aidan Garry in the amount of €28,000.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. N. Feighery, seconded by Cllr. S. O’Brien, the members resolved to adopt Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, to dispose of Disused Water Tower at Clonminch to Aidan Garry as per notice circulated on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020.</p>
<p><b>SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001, OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSES TO DISPOSE OF 0.006 ACRES OF LAND WHICH IS PART OF THE RECTORY LAND AT GLEBE STREET, BIRR IN THE TOWNLAND OF TOWNPARKS TO MR. JOHN LOUGHNANE</b></p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan advised the members of the Section 183 to dispose of 0.006 acres at the Rectory, Glebe Street to Mr. John Loughnane, in the amount of €1,000.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, the members resolved to adopt Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, to dispose of 0.006 Acres of Land which is part of the Rectory Land at Glebe Street, Birr in the townland of Townparks to Mr. John Loughnane as per notice circulated on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020.</p>
<p><b>SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001, OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSES THE BOUNDARY RECTIFICATION AT RAHEEN, CLARA, CO. OFFALY IN RESPECT OF MARY PRICE</b></p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S. advised the members of the Section 183 to rectify the boundary of 0.0286 acres and 0.55 acres at Raheen, Clara to Mary Price.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. K. Smollen, seconded by Cllr. S. O’Brien, the members resolved to adopt Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, for the Boundary Rectification at Raheen, Clara, Co. Offaly in respect of Mary Price as per the notice circulated on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.</p>

<p><b>SECTION 85 AGREEMENT BETWEEN OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL WITH TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL - R445 CYCLEWAY PROVISION</b></p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S. brought the members attention to the Section 85 Agreement between Offaly County Council with Tipperary County Council - R445 Cycleway provision, noting that all design and construction will be carried out by Tipperary County Council as Lead Authority.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley the members resolved to adopt the Section 85 Agreement between Offaly County Council and Tipperary County Council – R445 Cycleway Provision.</p>
<p><b>PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 AS AMENDED, PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 AS AMENDED, FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF BIRR DISTRIBUTOR ROAD</b></p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S. brought the members attention to the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as Amended, Part 8 of The Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as Amended, for the proposed development of Birr Distributor Road. He advised that the proposed development is to create a road link between Tullamore Road (N52) at Woodlands to the Birr to Banagher road at Cappaneale (R439).</p> <p>The members welcomed the Part 8 noting that it should alleviate traffic issues in that area and queried the timeline. The members noted that this proposal would allow for industrial / business development in this area, and they noted the timeliness of the IDA presentation scheduled for the October Monthly meeting.</p> <p>Mr. T. Shanahan responded that this is the Site Investigation Stage, with works planned to commence in 2022.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. P. Ormond the members resolved to adopt the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as Amended, Part 8 of The Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as Amended, for the proposed development of Birr Distributor Road</p>
<p><b>PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 AS AMENDED, PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 AS AMENDED, PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT CIRCULAR ROAD, DAINGEAN</b></p>	<p>Ms. S. Kennedy provided the members with an overview on the Part 8 proposed development at Circular Road Daingean. She outlined the proposed location, the 9 housing units including one single story accessible dwelling and associated development works.</p> <p>The members welcomed the proposed development.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. R. McDermott 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 Circular Road, Daingean.</p>
<p><b>JUST TRANSITION</b></p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney provided the members with an update on the Just Transition advising them of the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> September attended by the Just Transition Commissioner, Department Officials and the Regional Transition Team. She advised the members on the Strand 1 approval of 16 applications. She noted that a cross government implementation plan will be drafted. She confirmed €3.3m has been allocated to Offaly for the Deep Retrofit Scheme.</p>

	<p>The members thanked Ms. A. Delaney for her report, they expressed their disappointment that 4 more counties have been added to the Just Transition region. They raised queries on the impact on the county, the options for West Offaly Power, funding for black spot areas and where the Retrofit funding will be invested in the county.</p> <p>In response to the member’s queries, Ms. A. Delaney confirmed that the IDA will attend the October Council meeting to update the members on their new strategy. She advised the members that at the meeting with Minister Ryan they emphasised the loss of jobs and the huge impact on Offaly, all issues were discussed in detail. She informed the members that an integrated land use plan is required.</p> <p>Ms. S. Kennedy advised the members that the Deep Retrofit programme will be progressed in bundles of 40 Units with varying costs, averaging approximately €25k per unit. She advised the members that the programme is for social housing only and that a grant system is being developed for private houses. Mr. J. Cunningham updated the members on the programme, noting the first bundle will concentrate on the oldest houses, costs are subject to the condition of the property and that surveying is currently being carried out.</p>
<p><b>ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POLICY</b></p>	<p>Ms. S. Kennedy provided the members with a comprehensive report on the Anti-Social Behaviour Policy. She noted that it has been presented to the members at SPC, Tullamore MD, JPC and the housing sub-committee and is a reserved function for the members to adopt. She thanked the members of the housing sub-committee for their input. She informed the members that a key objective of Offaly County Council’s Corporate Plan 2019-2024 is to promote and build sustainable communities. This will be delivered by improving estate management, engaging and fostering tenant participation and, working with other agencies and stakeholders, to develop a sense of ownership, pride of place and allow all to live without conduct that violates the basic rights of another person or behaviour that is considered to be disruptive to others. She noted that internal procedures will be reviewed and a full range of initiatives will be introduced to bring the policy into action. She informed the members that three compulsory purchase orders have been approved for derelict properties. She updated the members on a pilot scheme that will be further rolled out to other estates.</p> <p>The members thanked Ms. S. Kennedy for her report and commended the staff and acknowledged that the majority of tenants are very good. They also acknowledged the work of the housing sub-committee and of the co-operation between the different stakeholders involved.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. T. McCormack, seconded by Cllr. S. O’Brien the members resolved to adopt the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2020 – 2026.</p>

<p><b>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</b></p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney drew the member’s attention to the July/August Monthly Management Report. She advised the members that the Draft Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027 is on public display until 7<sup>th</sup> October. She updated the members on the July Jobs Stimulus Plan announced by Government on 23rd July with Offaly receiving an allocation of €827,500 to complete 28 projects in the County. The funding will support Offaly County Council’s response to Covid-19 challenges with improved walking and cycling infrastructure and changes to traffic management arrangements to facilitate the reallocation of overall road space to improve facilities and safety for pedestrians and cyclists. She informed the members of the Rural Regeneration for the Banagher Regeneration Project in the amount of €395,250 to design the redevelopment of an existing vacant building into a library, digital hub and other enterprise uses, to refurbish the existing Marina area, public realm works to Central Square and Main Street and a masterplan for the derelict Royal Shannon Hotel. She highlighted the allocation of €272,500 to complete 9 projects for measures relating to the impact of climate change on the road network.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney updated the members on illegal dumping, Tullamore Low Smoke Zone and on the new waste water grant scheme. She welcomed the commencement of the survey work by the National Broadband Plan and the Part 8 for housing in Belmont and Moneygall. She drew the member’s attention to the statistics for the Covid 19 community response helpline and updated them on the LCDC on going activities. She highlighted the long list of events with the Arts Office and the success of Culture Night on 18<sup>th</sup> September. She updated the members on the advertising campaign undertaken in June and July by the Tourism Office and the visit by Nationwide aired on 27th July on RTE.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney informed the members of the various support and schemes provided by the Local Enterprise Office noting the success of the online voucher system and she invited more applications from businesses for the Re-start Plus grant.</p> <p>The members thanked her for her comprehensive report and noted that the Re-start Plus grant has been well promoted.</p>
<p><b>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</b></p>	<p>Cllr. J. Carroll, Cathaoirleach informed the members that the Corporate Policy Group met on 18<sup>th</sup> September and discussed agenda items and the policy to refund members fees for level 6 courses undertaken by members to assist them in their role as Local Representatives. He noted the Council Meeting Agenda was also discussed.</p>
<p><b>NOTICES OF MOTION</b></p>	<p>Cllr. P. Ormond deferred his motion at this time.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. C. Claffey the members resolved to adopt the motion that in November 2019, a motion which called for the right to Personal Assistance Service (PAS) was supported in Dáil Eireann. We are now calling on the Councillors in Offaly to support this Motion. The Motion passed in Dáil Eireann on the 19<sup>th</sup> November and as such reaffirms that the PAS, which supports disabled people to live independent lives, should be legislated for as a right.</p>



