

**Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Offaly County Council**  
Held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2022 at 3.30 pm, in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road,  
Tullamore and via Zoom

The Meetings Administrator carried out a roll call to confirm attendance

**Present**

Cllr. Frank Moran Cathaoirleach

Cllr. John Carroll	Cllr. John Leahy
Cllr. Clare Claffey	Cllr. Tony McCormack
Cllr. John Clendennen	Cllr. Sean O'Brien
Cllr. Neil Feighery	Cllr. R. McDermott
Cllr. Eamon Dooley	Cllr. Peter Ormond
Cllr. Eddie Fitzpatrick	Cllr. Danny Owens
Cllr. John Foley	Cllr. Liam Quinn
Cllr. Mark Hackett	Cllr. Ken Smollen
Cllr. Declan Harvey	

**Apologies**

Cllr. Noel Cribbin

**Officials in Attendance**

Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S.; Ms. S. Kennedy, D.O.S.; Mr. S. Duclot, D.O.S.; Mr. M. Connolly, H.O.F.; Mr. G. Bruton, Meetings Administrator; Mr. C. Kelly, S.O. and Ms. L. Carbery, C.O.

**Votes of Sympathy**

Votes of Sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:

Ms. Orla Fogarty, Offaly County Council, on the death of her mother Mary Scully;

Ms. Helen Rosney, Offaly County Council, on the death of her father Jim O'Meara;

Ms. Natasha Troy, Offaly County Council, on death of her mother Mary Troy.

The members were advised that a Book of Condolence has been opened at Offaly County Council offices in memory of Vicky Phelan, RIP

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.

## 1. Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. J. Carroll, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Offaly County Council held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

## 2. Minutes for Noting

The members noted the following minutes:

- Minutes of the Climate Action, Environment, Water & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on 26th May 2022
- Minutes of the Land Use, Planning and Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on 14th June 2022
- Minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 16th September 2022

## 3. Planning and Development Act, 2000 as Amended, Part 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as Amended

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. E. Dooley, 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 Leabeg to Lough Boora Visitor Centre Cycle and Walking Link.

## 4. Section 85 Agreement

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, the members resolved to adopt the Section 85 Agreement with Westmeath County Council for the Dublin to Galway Greenway.

## 5. Finance

On the proposal of Cllr. N. Feighery, seconded by Cllr. T. McCormack, the members approved the Overdraft Accommodation 2023, in the amount of €15m.

## 6. Roads – R420 Update

Cllr. F. Moran, Cathaoirleach, advised the members that this agenda item is deferred until the next meeting.

## 7. Just Transition

Mr. S. Duclot, D.O.S. advised the members on the Department's response to their request for an update on Offaly based projects for Strands 1 & 2 of the Just Transition funding, as circulated to the

members on the agenda. He noted that their response outlines the three priorities of the fund; Employment & Enterprise, Training and Community Transitioning Supports. The fund has supported 56 projects, comprising of €22.1m in grant funding, with a further €50m to be mobilised, this has resulted in an estimated 178 direct jobs and 999 indirect jobs.

He advised the members that observations from the Commission are being addressed by the Department and formal adoption of the plan by the European Commission is anticipated by the end of 2022. He noted the draft operational plan is available on the Department website and it supports three priorities: Enhancing and diversifying the economy of the territory, supporting innovative approaches to regeneration and repurposing of land and transitioning to smart and sustainable local mobility.

He noted the process is managed by EMRA and communities and Local Authorities will have time to prepare their submissions for open call at the end of 2023.

The members joined with Cllr. F. Moran in thanking Mr. S. Duclot for all his work, noting he has been pleasure to deal with and they wished him the best in his new role as Director of Services in Tipperary County Council.

Mr. S. Duclot thanked members for their support, kind words and engagement during his time in Offaly County Council.

Ms. A. Delaney joined with the members in thanking him for his dedication and she acknowledged his contribution through the Covid-19 pandemic.

## 8. Monthly Management Report

Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive, brought the members attention to the Monthly Management Report as circulated with the agenda. She invited the members to attend the launch of the book Traditional Architecture in Offaly on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 5pm in the Áras. She welcomed the recent launch of a Climate Action project, Moby Bike Hire in Tullamore, and the launch of the Participation of Women and People of Diversity in Local Government. She informed the members of the new electric vehicle fast charging infrastructure in the Áras carpark and the Machinery Yard in Tullamore.

She welcomed the recent visit of Minister Darragh O'Brien to the opening of new housing projects and the progress of social housing in the county. She advised the members of the Community Forum response in relation to the Ukrainian refugees arriving in Ireland. She highlighted the engagement event in TUS Athlone between TUS & Midland LEOs under the Midlands ICT Cluster and the Learning Gate project with TUS launched on 26<sup>th</sup> October in The Junction. She noted the programme will work towards the provision of Higher Education programs in Offaly. She noted the Arts, Library and Finance services updates in the report for their information.

The members thanked Ms. A. Delaney for her comprehensive report.

## 9. Corporate Policy Group Report

Cllr. F. Moran, Cathaoirleach, advised the members that the council meeting agenda was discussed at the Corporate Policy Group meeting.

## 10. Comhdhálacha / Conferences

No training reported

## 11. Comhfhreagras/ Correspondence

The members noted the correspondence issued with the agenda.

## 12. Any Other Business

Cllr. F. Moran, Cathaoirleach, advised the members that the next meeting is rescheduled to 12<sup>th</sup> December and Christmas dinner will be served at 5pm following the meeting.

Cllr. D. Harvey welcomed the commencement of the building of the Killeigh Community Centre and called on all members to give their support to this important project.

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. F. Moran, the members resolved to write to the Minister for Housing to review the income threshold for Offaly, to bring it in line with neighbouring counties.

Cllr. M. Hackett sought the support of the members for Minister McEntee's gender based violence sub group report.

**MINUTES CONFIRMED:**

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**CATHAOIRLEACH**

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**RUNAÍ**

**12<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

