

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ**

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE  
ON MONDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2019 AT 4.30 P.M.**

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>PRESENT:</b>                 | Cllr. P. Ormond, Cathaoirleach, 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, F. Moran, S. O'Brien, L. Quinn and K. Smollen  |
| <b>APOLOGIES</b>                | Cllr. D. Owens  |
| <b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>           | Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S.; Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S.; Mr. E. O'Ceilleachair, A/D.O.S.; Mr. T. Mawe, A/H.O.F.; Ms. M. Flynn Kenny, Meetings Administrator and Ms. L. Carbery, C.O.  |
| <b>VOTES OF SYMPATHY:</b>       | <p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following: -</p> <p>Cllr. Danny Owens, Lugmarla, Mountbolus, Tullamore on the death of his uncle Sean Conway;</p> <p>Mr and Mrs. Fergal and Frances Clancy, 3 Pine Villa, Portarlinton on the death of their son Evan Clancy;</p> <p>Ms. Fiona Clancy, Offaly County Council on the death of her father, Noel Clancy;</p> <p>Mrs. Sharon Slattery, St Josephs Terrace, Portarlinton on the death of her father, Ollie Evans;</p> <p>Mrs. Kathleen Williams, Castleview Park, Edenderry on the death of her husband Sam Williams.</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> | On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribbin, the members resolved to adopt the minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Offaly County Council held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2019  |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>MINUTES FOR NOTING:</b>                  | <p>The members noted –</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 Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019</li> </ul>  |
| <b>SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS</b>        | <p>On the proposal of Cllr. R. McDermott, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick. The members resolved to suspend standing orders in order to take the filling of the casual vacancy as the first agenda item.</p>  |
| <b>FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY</b>            | <p>Cllr. P. Ormond, Cathaoirleach paid tribute to Senator Pippa Hackett on her recent election to Seanad Éireann.</p> <p>Ms. M. Flynn Kenny, Meetings Administrator informed the members that that a casual vacancy had arisen in the membership of Offaly County Council following the election of Ms. Pippa Hackett to Seanad Éireann. She outlined the procedure for the filling of the casual vacancy as prescribed in the Local Government Act 2001, as amended and in the Council’s Standing Orders.</p> <p>Ms. M. Flynn Kenny informed the meeting that a nomination had been received from the political party which had caused the casual vacancy to arise, i.e., Green Party. She informed the meeting that Mr. Mark Hackett had been selected by the Green Party to fill the vacancy and acknowledged that Mr. M. Hackett had provided his written consent to the nomination.</p> <p>Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick proposed that Mr. M. Hackett be co-opted onto the Council. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn. The members welcomed Cllr. M. Hackett to the Council and wished him well and congratulated Senator Pippa Hackett on her election to the Seanad. Cllr. M. Hackett thanked the members for their good wishes, paid tribute to Senator Pippa Hackett, only the second Senator from Offaly and advised that he looked forward to working with the members and executive.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive joined with the members in welcoming Cllr. M. Hackett to the council and congratulated Senator Pippa Hackett on her appointment to the Seanad.</p> |
| <b>ELECTION/APPOINTMENT /NOMINATION TO:</b> | <p>Ms. M. Flynn Kenny, Meeting Administrator informed the meeting that following the resignation of former member Senator Pippa Hackett that an appointment to the following committees was now are required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Laois &amp; Offaly Education and Training Board</li> <li>ii. Rural Water Monitoring Committee</li> <li>iii. Joint Policing Committee</li> <li>iv. Community, Cultural and Emergency Services SPC</li> <li>v. Climate Action, Environment, Water and Transportation SPC</li> </ul> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. M. Hackett, seconded by Cllr. K. Smollen, Cllr. S. O’Brien was nominated for the Laois Offaly Education Training Board.</p>   |

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | <p>On the proposal of Cllr. R. McDermott, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy, Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick was nominated for the Laois Offaly Education Training Board.</p> <p>Ms. M. Flynn Kenny informed the members that a roll call would be required, requesting the members to state their preference:</p> <p>The result of the ballot was as follows, voting in favour of Cllr. S. O'Brien were Cllr. C. Claffey, J. Foley, M. Hackett, S. O'Brien and K. Smollen.</p> <p>Voting in favour of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick were Cllrs. J. Carroll, J. Clendennen, N. Cribbin, E. Dooley, N. Feighery, E. Fitzpatrick, D. Harvey, J. Leahy, R. McDermott, F. Moran, P. Ormond and L. Quinn. Apologies from Cllrs. T. McCormack and D. Owens.</p> <p>Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick was deemed appointed to Laois Offaly Education Training Board.</p> <p>Cllr. S. O'Brien expressed his disappointment at not receiving a nomination to LOETB bearing in mind of his background in training.</p> <p>Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick thanked his proposer and seconder and noted that he had experience of working on the LOETB.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick the members resolved to appoint Cllr. M Hackett to Rural Water Monitoring Committee, Joint Policing Committee, Community, Cultural and Emergency Services SPC and Climate Action, Environment, Water and Transportation SPC</p> |
| <p><b>SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001, OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSES TO LEASE THE OLD COUNCIL OFFICE, JOHN'S HALL, JOHN'S PLACE, BIRR, CO. OFFALY TO IRISH HERITAGE SCHOOL, T/A THE IRISH ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD SCHOOL</b></p> | <p>On the proposal of Cllr. J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen, the members resolved to the Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001. Offaly County Council proposes to lease the Old Council Office, John's Hall, John's Place, Birr, Co. Offaly to Irish Heritage School, T/A The Irish Archaeology Field School.</p>  |
| <p><b>SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001, OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSES TO DISPOSE OF INDUSTRIAL SITE NUMBER 5, PORTARLINGTON INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, BOTLEY LANE PORTARLINGTON</b></p>  | <p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribbin the members resolved to the Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001. Offaly County Council proposes to dispose of Industrial Site Number 5, Portarlinton Industrial Estate, Botley Lane Portarlinton to Mr. Jonathan Whelan.</p>  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2019-2024</b></p>  | <p>Mr. F. Heslin, D.O.S. informed the members the Draft Corporate Plan will be brought to the members at the December meeting and to contact him or Ms. A. Dillon to request any changes. Cllr. J. Leahy requested an update to his party affiliation.</p>   |
| <p><b>REGIONAL TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE</b></p> | <p>Ms. A. Delaney updated the members on the Regional Transition Team. She advised the members of the next meeting due to take place on 29th November and that the recently appointed Just Commissioner Dr. Kieran Mulvey has been invited to the meeting. She informed the members that an update had been provided to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Climate Action the previous week involving all the relevant bodies.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney advised the members of the recent budget announcement for Just Transition Fund of €11M (including the €5M pledged by the ESB) targeted at the Midlands to support retraining and reskilling workers, assist local communities, and businesses in the low carbon transition. Also an Additional €5M to National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) for bog rehabilitation and €20m Midlands Deep Retrofit Housing Programme. She informed the members that the Country Team will be visiting in the New year and that the grant for technical assistance has been received. She advised of the engagement with National Economic and Social Council on the development of a Framework for Action for Transition to a Low Carbon, Digital Future. She informed the members on the implementation of the Explore initiative for former Bord na Mona staff, a programme designed at upskilling older employees in manufacturing, in areas such as digital skills, personal development and preparation for change. The programme was delivered by ETBs following funding application by Regional Skills Forum and was very well received by the participants. She highlighted the AIT &amp; Regional Skills Forum delivering Springboard + for skills to advance programmes for those leaving Bord na Mona through Voluntary Redundancy. She also noted that the ETBs have developed bespoke courses for Nearly Zero Energy Building Standards &amp; Deep Retrofit Programmes. She advised that ETBs and Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection are currently undertaking on-site skills audits in the region, in Blackwater and Mount Dillon, with a view to developing bespoke training courses for destination employment sectors. She informed the members that Bord na Mona &amp; Offaly County Council are undertaking a feasibility study to develop Lough Boora Discovery Park into an Eco Tourism destination of national and international significance. The Midlands has recently established a Midlands Network of Co-working Facilities comprising of over 20 facilities, which can provide flexible working solutions, and is exploring opportunities to provide additional enterprise space in impacted bog communities as facilities become vacant. This is delivering on the Midland Regional Enterprise Plan and contributes to the Enterprise Ireland Powering the Regions policy to provide 600 spaces in the Midland Region.</p> |

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <p>The members thanked the Chief Executive for her update and voiced their concerns with regard the suitability of the training available to Bord na Mona workers, the funding towards the de-commissioning of Shannonbridge, the regional aspect of the just transition team and the level of grants for deep retrofitting.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr. E. Dooley that the Council invite Dr. Kieran Mulvey to a Council meeting to explain how the transition fund will operate. Cllr. L. Quinn seconded the proposal and suggested that the Members consider submitting relevant questions in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney advised that the Minister had requested the Transition Team focus on the region and advised that the report provided to the Oireachtas would be circulated to all members for their information.</p>  |
| <p><b>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</b></p> | <p>Ms. A. Delaney drew the member’s attention to the October monthly management report. She advised the members that the Chief Executive report is currently being prepared in relation to the 46 no. submissions that were received as part of the pre-draft public consultation stage of the review of the Offaly County Development Plan, in accordance with legislative requirements, the elected members will receive the report by 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019. She proposed to hold an In-committee meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> December to outline the process of the Development Plan to the members and to collate all queries raised by them and report back in January. She informed the members of the progress of the National Greenways and of the RRDF funding received for Edenderry in the amount of €522k to construct a link road from Granary Court to Fairgreen. She advised the members that funding for 5 towns and villages in the Town and Village Renewal Scheme has been approved in the amount of €700k. She advised the members that a full review of derelict sites is underway, starting in Tullamore. She outlined the progress on the social housing sites in Blundell Wood and Chancery due for completion in early 2020. She updated the members on the major emergency exercise that took place on the 16th October in Tullamore. She noted the Draft Offaly Migrant Integration Strategy 2019-2023 is currently being finalised following its presentation to members of the LCDC and to the Community, Cultural &amp; Emergency Services SPC with the final version of to be presented to the members at the December Council meeting. She informed the members that the Polar Express will once again take place with events in all 8 libraries around the county starting on Thursday 28th November in Clara Library and finishing the county tour in Daingean Community Hall on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December and that the largest-ever programme of events for National Women’s Enterprise Day took place on 17<sup>th</sup> October.</p> <p>Cllr. P. Ormond, Cathaoirleach, joined with the members in thanking the Chief Executive for her comprehensive report and agreed to the In-Committee meeting for the County Development plan on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.</p> |

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:</b> | Cllr. P. Ormond, Cathaoirleach informed the members that the Corporate Policy Group met earlier that day and discussed the budget and approved conferences and training.   |
| <b>NOTICES OF MOTION:</b>             | Cllr. F. Moran agreed to defer his notices of motion until the December meeting to facilitate the presentation to the Midlands United Powerchair Football team members for their bronze medal win with Team Ireland at the EPFA Nations Cup 2019, Finland.   |
| <b>COMHDHÁLACHA</b>                   | <p><u>Conferences</u><br/>Irish Social Welfare System, 6th to 9th December 2019, O'Donovan's Hotel, Main Street, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, €100 plus travel and expenses<br/><i>It was agreed no member would attend</i></p> <p>First-Time Home Buyers Incentive, 13th to 15th December 2019, Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth, €100 plus travel and expenses<br/><i>It was agreed no member would attend</i></p> <p><u>Training</u><br/>Module 5 of the 2019 AILG “Elected Members Training Programme” will take place in November on the following dates and venues.<br/>Thursday, 21st November 2019: Hudson Bay Hotel, Athlone<br/><i>It was agreed Cllrs. E. Fitzpatrick D. Harvey and F. Moran would attend</i></p> <p>Saturday, 23rd November 2019: Radisson Blu Hotel, Little Island, Cork<br/><i>It was agreed Cllr. S. O’Brien would attend</i></p> <p>Celtic Conferences, Emerging Threats and Persistent Conservation Challenges for Freshwater Biodiversity, 8th to 10th November 2019, O'Donovan's Hotel, Main St., Clonakilty, Co. Cork, €100 plus travel and expenses;<br/><i>It was agreed no member would attend</i></p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, the members’ noted and approved the conferences and training seminars.</p> |
| <b>COMHFHREAGRAS</b>                  | Cllr. P. Ormond highlighted to the members the correspondence received from Senator P. Hackett and further correspondence that issued with the agenda were noted.  |
| <b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</b>            | None discussed   |

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**MINUTES CONFIRMED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CATHAOIRLEACH** **RUNAÍ**