

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING  
OF OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE  
ON MONDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2021 AT 4.00 P.M.**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Cllr. J. Carroll, Cathaoirleach (R), Cllrs. C. Claffey (R), J. Clendennen (R), N. Cribbin (R), E. Dooley (R), N. Feighery (R), E. Fitzpatrick (R), J. Foley (R), M. Hackett (R), D. Harvey (R), J. Leahy (R), T. McCormack (R), R. McDermott (R), F. Moran (R), S. O'Brien (R), P. Ormond (R), D. Owens (R) and K. Smollen (R)
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Cllr. L. Quinn
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S. (R); Ms. S. Kennedy, D.O.S. (R); Mr. S. Duclot (R); Mr. M. Connolly, H.O.F.; Mr. E. Fennell, S.E.O.; Mr. G. Bruton, Meetings Administrator; Mr. R. Bell, H.of I.S. and Ms. L. Carbery, C.O. (R)
	<p>Cllr. J. Carroll, Cathaoirleach opened the meeting as gaeilge and thanked the Members and the Executive for their co-operation and support over the past twelve months.</p> <p>He acknowledged the difficult year with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and the sacrifices endured by the public. He welcomed the Community Recognition awards and congratulated all who contributed. He expressed his hope that his tree planting initiative will be seen as symbol of respect for all families affected by Covid-19. He acknowledged the work in ensuring the primary role of Offaly County Council was achieved with the challenges of services being delivered behind closed doors and via remote working. He acknowledged the management of the funding/initiatives to assist businesses in such unprecedented times, and the leadership provided by Community Response Forum in bringing agencies together to assist the community. He highlighted the achievement of progressing the County Development Plan in the challenging Covid-19 environment, and he thanked the public, the forward planning section, the members and management for developing a plan suitable for this county.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Carroll highlighted the members concern with regard to the shortage of housing across the county and commended the ongoing work in towns and villages. He expressed concern that the waiting list does not seem to shrink and that unsuitable living conditions may exist in some circumstances. The need to continue to seek more resources from the Government was to be stressed.</p> <p>He highlighted the success in securing funding for our towns and villages from the RDF, UDF, and the additional Government funding secured to support the development of the greenways, and historic buildings. He commended the</p>

	<p>members for the difficult decision taken to maintain the LPT Rates at 2020 levels.</p> <p>He informed the members of the challenge in the delivery of a balanced budget following lobbying to the Department to provide the shortfall that arose from the Shannonbridge Power Station and Bord na Mona closures. He emphasised that it is incumbent on members to continue to seek a long term solution for the effects of de-carbonisation on the county. He stressed that Just Transition (JT) is Offaly County Council's greatest challenge and the need to highlight at every opportunity that the county has suffered the most of all the Midland counties as a result of the de-carbonisation agenda. He expressed his hope that the Government will learn lessons from the issues with the Strand 1 and Strand 2 JT application process and the burden on communities to provide match funding. He sought transparency with regard to the soon to be announced EU Territorial Plan. He noted his regret that due to Covid-19 he was unable to host a meeting in his own locality.</p> <p>Cllr. E. Dooley, on behalf of Fianna Fáil, commended Cllr. J. Carroll on a job well done, noting that chairing remote meetings was a difficult task. He thanked the Cathaoirleach for keeping him fully informed as Leas Cathaoirleach and said he should be proud of his contribution to the county. He noted that Cllr. Carroll had served the communities affected by Just Transition very well. He wished him and his wife Carmel good health and happiness.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Leahy expressed his honour at proposing Cllr. Carroll as Cathaoirleach, in 2020, and congratulated him for his work in a difficult and challenging year. He commended his collaboration with the Department of Health and the Just Transition Commissioner, his work on delivering the budget and his guidance through the County Development Plan.</p> <p>Cllr. N. Feighery behalf of Fine Gael, congratulated Cllr. Carroll on his work throughout the year, citing his fairness, impartiality and pragmatic level of leadership.</p> <p>The members added their gratitude and congratulations to Cllr. Carroll.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive, on her own behalf and on behalf of the staff, joined with the members in thanking Cllr. Carroll for his co-operation and assistance through a tough year and noted his strong leadership.</p>
<p><b>ELECTION OF CATHAOIRLEACH:</b></p>	<p>Cllr. J. Carroll sought nominations for Cathaoirleach.</p> <p>In proposing Cllr. D. Harvey for Cathaoirleach, Cllr. F. Moran stated that Cllr. Harvey had the ability and experience for the position of Cathaoirleach. Cllr. D. Owens seconded the proposal.</p> <p>There being no other nominations, Cllr. J. Carroll deemed Cllr. D. Harvey elected Cathaoirleach for the coming year.</p>

