

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY 18TH JANUARY 2021 AT 2.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:	Cllr. J. Carroll, Cathaoirleach, 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), L. Quinn (R) and K. Smollen (R).
IN ATTENDANCE:	Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S. (R); Ms. S. Kennedy, D.O.S. (R); Mr. M. Connolly, H.O.F. (R); Ms. A. Dillon, A/D.O.S. (R); Ms. M. Cleary S.E.O.(R); Mr. J. Cunningham S.E.E. (R); Mr. E. Fennell, S.E.O.; Mr. G. Bruton, A/ Meetings Administrator (R); Mr. R. Bell, H.I.S. and Ms. L. Carbery, C.O. (R)
VOTES OF SYMPATHY:	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:</p> <p>The Enright Family, Fr. Paul Murphy Street, Edenderry on the death of their father Joe Enright.</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>
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:	On the proposal of Cllr. P. Ormond, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy, 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 21 st December 2020.
MINUTES FOR NOTING:	<p>The members noted the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Friday 13th November 2020;• Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Budget Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Tuesday 17th November 2020.
SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001, OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL	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 disused water tower Clonminch to Garry Plant and Tool Hire Ltd. in the amount of €28,000.

<p>PROPOSES TO DISPOSE OF DISUSED WATER TOWER CLONMINCH TO GARRY PLANT AND TOOL HIRE LTD</p>	
<p>SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001, OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSES A DEED OF RECTIFICATION IN RESPECT OF DIARMUID CARROLL AND NIAMH CARROLL</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. N. Feighery, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey the members resolved to adopt Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, for a Deed of Rectification in respect of Diarmuid Carroll and Niamh Carroll at Clonminch Tullamore.</p>
<p>SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2001, OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSES TO DISPOSE OF DISUSED WATER TOWER PUMP HOUSE AT CLONCON TO DYMPNA KEELEY</p>	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. M. Hackett, seconded by Cllr. D. Harvey, the members resolved to adopt Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Offaly County Council to dispose of disused water tower pump house at Cloncon to Dympna Keeley, in the amount of €10,000.</p>
<p>PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 AS AMENDED, PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 AS AMENDED FOR PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT MOUNTBOLUS (TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME) , CO. OFFALY</p>	<p>Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S. drew the member’s attention to the proposed development under the Mountbolus Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2019 & 2020 to carry out street enhancement works in the village of Mountbolus.</p> <p>The members welcomed the development and noted that it is a great opportunity for the village. On the proposal of Cllr. D. Owens, seconded by Cllr. N. Feighery, 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 Proposed Development at Mountbolus (Town and Village Renewal Scheme), Co. Offaly.</p>
<p>DRAFT SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2021</p>	<p>Mr. M. Connolly, H.O.F. informed the members that it is a requirement of Section 134a of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended by the Local Government Act 2014) to prepare an Annual Service Delivery Plan. This plan outlines the services intended to be provided by the Council for the year ahead.</p> <p>Cllr. S. O’Brien requested that the Council would use every opportunity to build houses in 2021. He also requested that the Council would increase the housing maintenance allocation in 2021 if more funding becomes available.</p> <p>In response Ms. A. Delaney Chief Executive informed the members that the budget for maintenance is agreed by the</p>

	<p>members at budget meeting. S. Kennedy D.O.S. advised the members that acquisitions allocation is dependent on the Department and agreed to request more funding in this area.</p> <p>Ms. S. Kennedy agreed to use every opportunity to directly build new houses.</p>
COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS AMENDMENT (SUPPLEMENTARY STANDING ORDERS)	It was agreed to defer this agenda item to the February Council meeting.
COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS AMENDMENT (FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCIES)	It was agreed to defer this agenda item to the February Council meeting.
DRAFT SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS	On the proposal of Cllr. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. J. Clendennen the members resolved to adopt the Draft Schedule of Meetings for 2021.
DRAFT DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME	<p>Ms. A. Dillon drew the member's attention to the Chief Executive's Report on the Draft Development Contribution Scheme. She noted that it was on public display up to 18th December 2020 and that three submissions were received.</p> <p>Submission 1 She advised the members that the submission from the IFA opposes any increase in development contributions for Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry or Equestrian Activities. The Chief Executive recommends no changes as agriculture development is a business that places demands on infrastructure. Members agreed not to amend the draft Scheme.</p> <p>Submission 2 Ms. A. Dillon informed the members of the Department of Education submission to reflect the new Department Title, this was noted and agreed. Members agreed to amend the draft to reflect the new title of the Department as per the submission.</p> <p>Submission 3 Ms. A. Dillon advised the members of the submission from Cllr. M. Hackett to align the Development Contributions with inflation. She noted that this had already been recommended to the SPC and to the Special Meeting of Offaly County Council which considered the pre-display draft in November 2020 but members the rejected the recommendation. The Executive made the same recommendation in response to this submission on the draft scheme. Cllr. Hackett spoke in support of his submission to amend the draft. Members agreed not to amend the draft Scheme.</p>

	<p>On the proposal of J. Leahy, seconded by F. Moran, the members resolved, in accordance with Section 48(8) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), to make the Development Contribution Scheme for Co. Offaly, 2021-2025 as was placed on public display in November 2020, subject to the one no. amendment recommended by the Chief Executive in relation to submission no. 2, Department of Further and Higher Education, Research Innovation and Science.</p>
<p>NOMINATION TO THE BOARD OF OFFALY TOURISM MARKETING</p>	<p>Ms. A. Dillon advised the members that due to the retirement of Mr. T. McKeigue a position has become available on the Offaly Tourism Marketing Board.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. N. Feighery, seconded by Cllr. L. Quinn the members appointed Cllr. J. Clendennen to the Offaly Tourism Marketing Board.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney advised the members that a tourism report will be provided to the members at the March County Council meeting.</p>
<p>HOUSING PRESENTATION</p>	<p>Ms. S. Kennedy introducing the presentation, noted that many of the Housing services and supports were deemed essential throughout Covid-19. She advised that services continued to be provided in line with Covid-19 restrictions and in accordance with agreed Health & Safety Standard Operational Procedures. She acknowledged that it had been a challenging year but drew the members' attention to the positive progress that had been made across many of the Housing delivery programmes: housing allocations completed were similar to 2019; a number of Part 8's had received Council approval during the year; departmental approval was received for a number of turnkey developments across the county; and, the joint initiative between Sofia Housing and Midlands Simon Community in acquiring Clonamore Hotel that is now being developed, with the support of Offaly County Council and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, as an enhanced center for the provision of supported accommodation for homeless people was to be welcomed. She acknowledged the various challenges experienced by the construction service during the various lockdowns and their impact of housing delivery and the delivery of the housing grant programme. She welcomed the adoption of the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy by the members in September 2020.</p> <p>Ms. M. Cleary provided a detailed presentation on the Housing Programmes and Services. She provided a statistical report noting the numbers seeking and receiving various social housing supports. She informed the meeting that there were 367 new homes in the pipeline for delivery over the coming 3 years via a combination of Council build; Approved Housing Body delivery; and, turnkey developments. She noted that €3.3m was awarded to Offaly for the Retrofit programme and that 145 Council houses will receive enhancements under this programme.</p>

	<p>The members welcomed the Housing report. They sought clarification with regard to the housing delivery programme; the possibility of continuing the acquisition programme; and, the roll-out of the Retrofit Programme. They welcomed the development of supported homeless accommodation and the significant capital programme that was being developed.</p> <p>In responding to questions raised Ms. S. Kennedy, D.O.S., advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Retrofit funding of €3.3m is for Offaly County Council houses only and that Housing are engaging with SEAI to raise awareness of the grants they can provide for private houses; - Anti-social behaviour was a challenge but the establishment of the interagency committee under the aegis of the JPC, the adoption of the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy by the elected members; and, the proposed utilization of CCTV would provide supports in addressing this issue; - Housing Grant applications, for private and Local Authority owned dwellings, had increased during 2020 and had Covid-19 restrictions had impacted on works; - In addressing vacant homes Housing were progressing the CPO process in respect of 3 houses and an application for funding for their refurbishment has been submitted to the department; - Noting that TUSLA are the lead body in relation to Domestic Violence Support Services she assured members that Housing have continued to engage with Offaly Domestic Violence Support Services throughout the year; - The Residential Tenancies Board should be contacted if seeking clarification on evictions during the various level of Covid-19 restrictions. <p>In drawing the discussion to a conclusion the Cathaoirleach, on his own behalf and on behalf of the members, thanked the Director of Services and all the staff in Housing for their work during the year. He also welcomed the regular updates by Housing staff to the Municipal Districts throughout the year.</p>
<p>JUST TRANSITION</p>	<p>Ms. A. Dillon brought the members attention to the announcement by Bord na Mona to end all peat harvesting and she noted they have advised staff of the move to the restoration programme. She brought the members attention to an issue with Strand 2 and the concern about complexity of the process due to some projects being subject to state aid rules. She advised the members that the Department have extended the deadline to 29th January and have offered individual consultation.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Carroll informed the members that more information and discussion is required and as the timeline for the meeting has been reached a Special meeting will be required to complete the agenda items and to invite Mr. K. Mulvey, Just Transition Commissioner to the meeting.</p>

	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. S. O'Brien, the members resolved to hold a Special meeting on Monday 25th January 2021.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Carroll adjourned the meeting.</p>
--	--

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH **RUNAÍ**

15th February 2021