

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE
ON MONDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER 2020 AT 2.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:	Cllr. J. Carroll, Cathaoirleach, Cllrs. C. Claffey, J. Clendennen (R), N. Cribbin, E. Dooley, N. Feighery (R), E. Fitzpatrick, J. Foley, M. Hackett (R), D. Harvey, J. Leahy, T. McCormack, R. McDermott, F. Moran (R), S. O'Brien (R), P. Ormond (R), D. Owens (R) and K. Smollen (R).
APOLOGIES	Cllr. L. Quinn
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.; Ms. A. Dillon, A/D.O.S. (R); Mr. G. Bruton, A/ Meetings Administrator; Mr. R. Bell, H.I.S. Deputy B. Cowan, T.D. (R), and Ms. L. Carbery, C.O. (R) <i>[(R) denotes remote access]</i>
VOTES OF SYMPATHY:	<p>Votes of sympathy were unanimously extended to the following:</p> <p>Cllr. J. Leahy was joined by the members in extending their condolences to the Cahill family on the death Adrian Cahill. Cllr. J. Carroll commended his outstanding hurling talent and his outgoing personality.</p> <p>Cllr. D. Harvey and the members extended their condolences to John O'Rourke, late of the Department of Agriculture.</p> <p>Mr. Jackie Cahill & Family, Bulfin Park, Birr on the death of their son Adrian Cahill;</p> <p>Mrs Marie Goretti Glynn O'Rourke, Clonminch Road, Tullamore on the death of her husband John O'Rourke;</p> <p>Mrs. Brigid Mann & Family, Ballylennon, Daingean on the death of her husband Billy Mann;</p> <p>Mr. & Mrs O'Connor, Cloneygowan on the death of their daughter Yvonne O'Connor;</p> <p>Mr. Rory Moore, Offaly County Council on the death of his father Paddy Moore.</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. J. Leahy, seconded by Cllr. J. Foley 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 19 th October 2020.
MINUTES FOR NOTING:	The members noted the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Special Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Friday 11th September 2020 - Minutes of Corporate Policy Group Meeting held in Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Friday 18th September 2020 (copy herewith)
SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSES TO RECTIFY THE BOUNDARY AT GALLEN, FERBANE IN THE NAME OF SIOBHAN MULROONEY	On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy the members resolved to adopt Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, to rectify the boundary at Gallen, Ferbane in the name of Siobhan Mulrooney
SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001, OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSES TO RECTIFY THE BOUNDARY AT CLONMINCH TULLAMORE IN RESPECT OF DIARMUID CARROLL	On the proposal of Cllr. D. Harvey, seconded by Cllr. T. McCormack the members resolved to adopt the Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, to rectify the boundary at Clonminch Tullamore in respect of Diarmuid Carroll.
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 AS AMENDED, PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2001 AS AMENDED FOR PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT BEECHGROVE, BELMONT, COUNTY OFFALY	<p>Ms. S. Kennedy informed the members of the proposed development of 13 houses at Beechgrove, Belmont. She advised the members that this is an extension of the existing estate and will be delivered in two phases of 7 and 6 houses respectively.</p> <p>The members welcomed the proposed development. On the proposal of Cllr. E. Dooley, seconded by Cllr. J. Leahy 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 Beechgrove, Belmont, County Offaly</p>
TAKING IN CHARGE OF PRIVATE HOUSING ESTATES	<p>Ms. A. Dillon drew the member's attention to the proposal to take in charge three housing estates in the Tullamore Municipal District and two in Edenderry Municipal District, in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 and Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.</p> <p>The members welcomed the taking in charge of estates. Cllr. K. Smollen suggested that the communities in these estates may wish to get involved in their upkeep.</p>

	<p>In response Ms. A. Dillon welcomed interest from residents and agreed to assist consultation in regard to maintenance of these estates.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. R. McDermott, seconded by Cllr. J. Foley the members resolved to take in charge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Granary Court, Edenderry, Co Offaly - The Hazel, Tullamore, Co Offaly - Downshire, Edenderry Co Offaly - The Elms, Tullamore, Co Offaly - Armstrong Grove, Clara, Co Offaly
<p>ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2019</p>	<p>Mr. M. Connolly, H.O.F., drew the members' attention to the Annual Financial Statement 2019 which had circulated with the agenda. The members noted the report</p>
<p>STATUTORY AUDIT REPORT 2019</p>	<p>Mr. M. Connolly, H.O.F. presented the Statutory Audit Report 2019. The members noted the contents of the report.</p>
<p>JUST TRANSITION</p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney provided the members with an update on the Just Transition. She advised the members that the restructured Steering Committee met on 7th September and approved the establishment of the working groups. She outlined the groups, consisting of WG1 for education, training and research to work in conjunction with various training and education bodies. WG2 is the Employment Generation Committee working with various enterprise and business bodies to promote job creation. WG3 for Employment Continuity Pathways working with the stakeholders and WG4 Community Assistance Programme and Social Enterprise Interventions working with CARO, LDC and Local Authorities.</p> <p>She advised on the recent staff resources assigned to assist with Offaly Projects, she noted the team would be headed by Ms. Ann Dillon, supported by Mr. Gabriel Conlon.</p> <p>She informed the members of the Phase 1 Midlands Pathway to Transition objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to mitigate redundancies • assess, secure and address peat related assets • to develop community resilience and adaptation • to enhance public sector capacity and regional profile • to realised new opportunities for innovation, investment and research <p>Ms. A. Delaney outlined the EU Territorial Plan which will be underpinned by new legislation. She noted that the EU Commission will soon appoint consultants to develop the plan.</p> <p>The members thanked the Chief Executive for her update and Cllr. D. Owens proposed that a delegation should be formed to meet with Mairead McGuinness and EU MEPS consisting of the Cathaoirleach, Chief Executive, Cllr. E. Dooley and the three Municipal District Chairpersons, seconded by Cllr. T. McCormack. The members discussed the need for a strategic plan</p>

	<p>with emphasis on Offaly, the need for job creation and they queried how many applications had been submitted from Offaly.</p> <p>In response Ms. A. Dillon advised the members that Offaly County Council had submitted five applications and had been asked to rank its top three. There were further applications submitted by Offaly County Council staff - two on behalf of Offaly Innovation and Design Ltd., and one on behalf of Offaly Tourism Marketing Ltd.. A joint application with Laois County Council had been submitted by Laois Co. Council. There were two further applications submitted by Laois County Council on behalf of the four Midland counties of Laois, Offaly, Westmeath and Longford County Councils. Additional applications were submitted directly to the Department of Climate Action by private enterprises, community groups and other public bodies in Offaly. She informed the members that more detail would be provided on successful OCC led applications in due course.</p>
<p>MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT:</p>	<p>Ms. A. Delaney drew the member's attention to the Monthly Management Report. She called on the members and the public to continue to maintain the health guidelines for Covid 19 and to promote shop locally to support local businesses.</p> <p>She updated the members on the Clár programme, the TVR schemes and the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme with Measure 2 and 3 applications being prepared for 30th November. She advised the members that the Roads Programme 2020 is nearly complete and final grant claims are in progress. She updated the members on the Flood Relief works to the Bog Road, Portarlinton, nearing completion and the Tullamore Living River Project.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney informed the members that works have continued in all areas of housing, including the €3.3m Retrofit Programme with work commenced on 8 units. She noted the Part 8 for Beechgrove, Belmont approved at this meeting and that a housing update will be presented to the members at the January 2021 meeting. She highlighted the Community Response Helpline, the LCDC update in October, and congratulated the Music Generation on their shortlisting for the Chambers Ireland Excellence in Local Government Awards 2020.</p> <p>She updated the members of the on-going supports provided by the Local Enterprise Office, highlighting the Micro Enterprise Assistance towards the cost of re-opening or keeping a business operational, trading online vouchers that have been in high demand and Brexit supports. She brought the members attention to broadband and WiFi developments and highlighted the DojoMór a nationwide online coding day for young people, the Stem school programme and the assistance provided to facilitate live church services. She advised the members that Offaly County Council are working with broadband providers, the NBI and the broadband community points rollout. She highlighted the Tullamore WiFi4EU project launched on 8th October and advised that preparation and works on the Birr and Edenderry sites are on-going. She acknowledged the work of the Head of Information</p>

Systems Mr. Ray Bell, his team and the Broadband Officer Ms. Catriona Hilliard.

Ms. A. Delaney advised the members the finance report and the Chief Executive Orders are included for their information and she welcomed the €3.3m from Central Government to offset the loss of rates from the closure of the Shannonbridge Power Station. She acknowledged the support of the elected members and Oireachtas Members in this regard.

Cllr. J. Carroll urged the members and the public to comply with the Covid 19 regulations and he reiterated the importance of shopping locally.

The members thanked the Chief Executive for her comprehensive report and raised queries on delay with the Disabled Persons Grants and they queried if the IDA presentation had been re-scheduled.

They acknowledged the work carried out with broadband and WiFi and the progress on Anti-Social Behaviour.

Cllr. F. Moran queried if any progress had been made on combining the development of the proposed housing estate at Raheen Clara with the Fire Station and the hold up with some of the Town and Village Renewal Schemes. Cllr. D. Owens queried if the housing section would consider utilising the recently announced €6m fast track housing capital funding scheme. Cllr. K. Smollen called for funding for more CCTV to combat illegal dumping. Cllr. J. Clendennen highlighted the need to develop a link from the Slieve Bloom Mountains to Kinnitty Village, in order to build on the success of the development of the trails, as they are drawing a number of visitors to the area and on issues in Shannonbridge with regard to tidying up following TVR works. Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick sought clarification on the timeline for the Portarlinton Flood Relief Works and on the housing needs assessment threshold levels. Cllr. O'Brien suggested free Christmas parking would be beneficial to local businesses and Cllr. N. Feighery requested that the pathway on the greenway at Bracklin Little be cleaned up.

In response Ms. A. Delaney informed the members that due to Covid 19 inspections for disabled persons grants have been held up. The IDA Presentation will be rescheduled and confirmed that no update with regard to the fire station in Clara has yet been received. She acknowledged delays with some TVR schemes due to Covid 19 and the demand for contractors. She advised that extra funding for illegal dumping would be considered and the issues with Shannonbridge and Bracklin Little will be followed up by the Municipal Districts.

Ms. S. Kennedy acknowledged the difficulties with DPGs and advised that resources have been assigned to this area. She informed the members that the Housing Needs Assessment is in the final stages and the criteria and thresholds are set down at Government Level. She advised that the development at Raheen

	<p>in Clara is in the final design stage and that €6m housing capital funding scheme is new and will be investigated.</p> <p>Mr. T. Shanahan advised the members that he will contact Laois County Council for a timeframe on the flood relief at Portarlinton.</p>
CORPORATE POLICY GROUP REPORT:	<p>Cllr. J. Carroll, Cathaoirleach informed the members that the Corporate Policy Group met on 13TH November and discussed agenda items.</p>
NOTICES OF MOTION	<p>On the proposal of Cllr. E. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. Harvey/O'Brien the members resolved to write to Minister Roderick O'Gorman TD Minister for Children, Disability, Equality and Integration, regarding Irish Adopted People who have no automatic rights to access their adoption files seeking information such as Birth Certificates, Health, Heritage and History information which in turn would allow such People access any Hereditary medical conditions.</p> <p>Cllr. C. Claffey brought the motion that Offaly County Council will establish a dedicated derelict and vacant property task force to address the issues of dereliction and vacant properties in the county.</p> <p>A discussion followed with members voicing their support for a focussed approach to dealing with derelict and vacant properties and called for the vacant properties waiver to be reviewed.</p> <p>In response Ms. A. Dillon informed the members that the National Strategy 2018 – 2021 available on www.gov.ie outlines the range of measures to assist in meeting Ireland's housing needs by ensuring that Ireland's existing housing stock is used to the greatest extent possible. She advised the members that significant resources would be required to pursue vacant properties. She pointed out that three CPOs have been brought this year and this could be further built on next year.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney advised the members that it is very desirable to tackle vacant properties but cautioned that it requires a lot of resources, the process is lengthy and has significant legal issues. She proposed to refer this to the Strategic Policy Committee and to bring a report after three months to council.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr. C. Claffey, seconded by Cllr. K. Smollen the members resolved to invite a representative from the Offaly Domestic Violence Support Services to make a presentation to the council in order to facilitate an informed decision on the motion proposed by Cllr. P. Ormond.</p>
COMHDHÁLACHA	<p>AILG Online training webinar for local authority members in conjunction with the OPR on Friday 27th November, 2020 from 10am – 11:30am. Fees are not applicable.</p> <p>The second module will comprise of three webinars commencing on Friday, 27th November. The second and third webinars are</p>

	scheduled for Friday, 22nd January and Friday, 26th February 2021. The members noted the training.
COMHFHREAGRAS	The correspondence was noted.
ANY OTHER BUSINESS:	None

This concluded the business of the meeting.

MINUTES CONFIRMED: _____
CATHAOIRLEACH **RUNAÍ**

21st December 2020