

**COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ**

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
FOR OFFALY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**HELD IN ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, CHARLEVILLE ROAD, TULLAMORE  
ON MONDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 AT 2.00 P.M.**

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| <b>PRESENT:</b>         | <p>Cllr. J. Carroll, Cathaoirleach, Cllrs. C. Claffey (R), J. Clendennen, N. Cribbin, E. Dooley (R), N. Feighery (R), E. Fitzpatrick (R), J. Foley (R), M. Hackett, D. Harvey, J. Leahy, T. McCormack, R. McDermott (R), F. Moran (R), S. O'Brien, P. Ormond (R), D. Owens, L. Quinn (R) and K. Smollen (R) Denotes remotely</p>  |
| <b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>   | <p>Ms. A. Delaney, Chief Executive; Mr. T. Shanahan, D.O.S.; Ms. S. Kennedy, D.O.S.; Mr. M. Connolly, H.O.F.; Ms. A. Dillon, A/D.O.S., Mr. G. Bruton, Meetings Administrator, Mr. G. Conlon, A/S.E.O. and Ms. L.Carbery, C.O.<br/>ESB (R) – Mr. Jim Murray and Mr. Senan Colleran,</p>  |
|                         | <p>Cllr. J. Carroll, Cathaoirleach opened the meeting and welcomed the recent funding announced in the amount of €3.5m by Minister Burke to assist with the loss of rates revenue from the impending closure of Shannonbridge Power Plant. He thanked the Chief Executive, Head of Finance, the members and the Oireachtas members for their efforts in highlighting the need for funding.</p> <p>Ms. A. Delaney joined with the Cathaoirleach and members in welcoming the funding and she acknowledged the efforts and support of the Council and Oireachtas members. She noted that this will assist in balancing the budget for 2021 but continued efforts will be made for a full package for the next number of years.</p>  |
| <b>ESB PRESENTATION</b> | <p>Mr. Jim Murray provided the members with a presentation detailing the history of the Shannonbridge Power Plant beginning in 2005. He advised the members that the PSO licence expired in 2019 and an ESB Planning application to switch to biomass was rejected by an Bord Pleanála. He noted that the ESB have looked at various options and they have concluded that none are commercially viable. He gave the members an overview of the site outlining the various other stakeholders land packages and he pointed out that the building is really a protective structure around the boiler and as such the building has no other viable use.</p> <p>He advised the members that as the PSO licence has expired production has to cease at the end of 2020 and all employees that wish to remain will be offered alternative positions. He informed the members that the plan going forward is to review and explore the sale of assets and under planning, site</p> |

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|   | <p>remediation must be completed by the end of 2022. He referenced their OJEU notice for expressions of interest to demolish the building and chimney noting that this is very specialised work. He advised the members that the ESB would investigate other uses for the brown field site including wind and solar generation, synchronised compensator, battery storage and flexible generator uses.</p> <p>In responding to his presentation Cllr. E. Dooley requested that the ESB work with Offaly County Council and other stakeholders to provide a package for the West Offaly area. He requested that the ESB look at partnerships with Community Gain Funding, Bord na Mona and other stakeholders. He also requested that the ESB apply to extend their de-commissioning period to 36 months to allow them to explore other options. Cllr. J. Leahy joined with other members in requesting a better financial package than the current offer of €5m. The members also raised concerns for the employment opportunities available to the workers, they highlighted the responsibility the ESB have to the community and the area and queried if the building could be used for other purposes.</p> <p>In responding to the members concerns Mr. J. Murray stated that significant community and stakeholder engagement has already taken place. He noted that the ESB contribution has been mutually beneficial to all parties over the year, he reiterated their commitment to the Just Transition and that the €5m fund is significant. He highlighted the issues facing the ESB with changes in the environment and the challenging energy market. He advised the members that the ESB have ongoing activities in Offaly and that a number of the roles offered to employees will provide career, promotional and personal benefits to them. He stated that regretfully the site has no further purpose.</p> <p>Cllr. E. Dooley stated that if the ESB are successful in recouping some of the €5m through the PSO they should then reallocate some of it to the Council.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Carroll acknowledged the contribution of the ESB over the years, but reiterated that there is a lot of frustration and further engagement is required.</p> |                       |        |
| <p><b>DRAFT DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS</b></p> | <p>Mr. G. Conlon provided the members with a presentation on their submissions, highlighting that the development contributions for commercial and residential have not been increased in 6 years and agricultural in 10 years.</p> <p>The following changes were made to the Draft development Contribution Scheme at the meeting.</p> <p>Residential Charges<br/> <b>Table 1 (Urban Areas)</b><br/> On the proposal of Cllr Ormond and seconded by Cllr. McCormack the following amendments</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Amenity / Open Spaces</td> <td style="text-align: right;">€1,000</td> </tr> </table>   | Amenity / Open Spaces | €1,000 |
| Amenity / Open Spaces                         | €1,000   |                       |        |

Roads / Infrastructure €2,010  
Surface water €1,000

**Table 1A (All other areas)**

Amenity / Open Spaces €1,000  
Roads / Infrastructure €2,010

On the proposal of Cllr Quinn and seconded by Cllr Clendennen the following amendments

**Table 1 (Urban Areas)**

Amenity / Open Spaces €1,000  
Roads / Infrastructure €2,010

**Table 1A (All other areas)**

Amenity / Open Spaces €1,000  
Roads / Infrastructure €2,010

Following discussion it was agreed that the Surface water charge would be included in this proposal for Urban Areas in the sum of €1,000.

These charges were formally adopted.

**Commercial / Industrial** category of development

On the proposal of Cllr Ormond and seconded by Cllr Harvey.

**Table 1 (Urban Areas)**

Amenity / Open Spaces €5 per m2  
Roads / Infrastructure €10 per m2  
Surface water €3 per m2

**Table 1A (All other areas)**

Amenity / Open Spaces €5 per m2  
Roads / Infrastructure €10 per m2

No other proposals were made in this category and were deemed adopted

**Agricultural Charges.**

On the proposal of Cllr Fitzpatrick and seconded by Cllr Ormond the following amendment

The existing Exemption rate of 500m2 would remain unchanged and the rate per m2 thereafter would be amended to €3.00 per m2.

No other proposals were made in this category and was deemed adopted.

**Data Centres.**

On the proposal of Cllr. Quinn and seconded by Cllr. Clendennen the following amendment

Data Centres would be charged at a rate of €31 per m2. No other proposals were made in this category and was deemed adopted.

**Wind Farms**

Prior to the meeting the Elected Members has entered submissions requesting a change to €15,000 per MW. Cllr. Moran, Cllr. Fitzpatrick and Cllr. Quinn.

On the proposal of Cllr. Ormond and Seconded by Cllr. Harvey the following amendments

- Tip Height of turbine 50-175 metre height range €15,000 per MW

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|                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tip Height of turbine &gt; 175 metre height range<br/>€20,000 per MW</li> </ul> <p>Where a company enters into an arrangement with a community to develop a part community owned wind farm a 10% exemption will apply to contribution levy.<br/>The proposal was deemed acceptable to all and was formally adopted.</p> <p><b>Renewable Energy installations including Solar farms</b><br/>On the proposal of Cllr. Ormond and seconded by Cllr. Owens the following amendment was made<br/>Charge to be increased to €12,000 per MW for all installations</p> |
| <b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS:</b> |   |

This concluded the business of the meeting.

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

**21<sup>st</sup> December 2020**