

**COMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING HELD on 10th September, 2015 HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, DUNGARVAN**

**Item
No.
1 (a)**

PRESENT:

Cllr. John Cummins, Mayor	Cllr. Joe Kelly
Cllr. Liam Brazil	Cllr. Eddie Mulligan
Cllr. Mary Butler	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Breda Brennan	Cllr. Pat Nugent
Cllr. John Carey	Cllr. Cha O'Neill
Cllr. Declan Clune	Cllr. Michael J O'Ryan
Cllr. Joe Conway	Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan
Cllr. Tom Cronin	Cllr. Seanie Power
Cllr. Davy Daniels	Cllr. John Pratt
Cllr. Declan Doocey	Cllr. Eamon Quinlan
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. Sean Reinhardt
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan	Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. James Tobin
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr. Siobhán Whelan
Cllr. Blaise Hannigan	Cllr. Adam Gary Wyse

APOLOGIES:

Cllr John O'Leary, Cllr. Cha O'Neill

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. L. Power, Deputy Chief Executive
Mr. E. Ruane, A/Director of Services, Environment, Water and Corporate
Mr. P. Daly, A/Director of Services, Roads HR & Emergency Services
Mr. I. Grimes, Director of Services
Mr. J. Murphy, Head of Finance
Ms. J. Cantwell, City and County Librarian
Mr. R. Moloney, SEO, Environment, Water and Corporate
Ms. A. Jacob, Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services

At the outset of the meeting the Mayor welcomed Mr. Ivan Grimes, Director of Services. Waterford City and Dungarvan were congratulated on the excellent scoring in the IBAL awards.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

Lorraine Lee, Maurice Kiely, Charlie McCarthy, Davey Corcoran, Anna Mahon-Smith nee Hanrahan, John Jackie Martin, Béan De Paor, Liam Hassett, Mick O'Hara, Michael Cuddihy, Mark O'Mahony, Mai Barry.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of 9th July 2015 were proposed by Cllr Doocey, seconded by Cllr Nugent and agreed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Daniels asked for an update on Bolton Street car park. P. Daly, A/DOS responded. Cllr Roche asked for North Quays to be included in Management Report. L. Power, DOS noted and updated the meeting.

3. PLANNING

Cllr Conway asked that a report on collection of contributions be given to future meetings. He also enquired about regulations of Lobbying Act 2015.

4. Land Disposals

Cllr Conway proposed the disposals as listed, seconded by Cllr Cronin and agreed.

5. MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Cllr. Tobin queried when the new Development Contribution Scheme had come into place. Cllr Butler raised the issue of homelessness and whether the turnaround on vacancies could be speeded up. Cllr Roche asked whether there was a need for a festival strategy given the number of festivals being held, with some clashing with each other and enquired about the criteria for festival funding. She also asked about the presentation of the approach to the City from the Kilkenny side. L. Power, DOS responded that a new Development Contribution Scheme had been brought to Council and adopted earlier this year, he also advised that there is a detailed application process for festival funding where the applicants must furnish certain detail to enable assessment and determination of funding award. In response to the concern of multiple festivals taking place on the same weekend, he advised that some festivals are completely independent of Council and the selection of their date is at the discretion of the organisers. J. Cantwell, City & County Librarian addressed the homelessness question stating that there is a difficulty in sourcing property and she confirmed that vacancies are turned around as quickly as possible. R. Moloney, SEO said that the approach to the City would be examined with a view to making improvements. Cllr Geoghegan asked why existing tenants must go through the full application process for housing transfers and said it should be simplified. Cllr Murphy asked for an update on LEO successes and job numbers. Cllr Conway asked for an update on outstanding development contributions and enquired about the current status on the derelict sites register. J. Cantwell, City and County Librarian noted the transfer policy query for response. L. Power, DOS reported on LEO successes to date, outlining that 97 jobs were created by the LEO in 2014 and said that the Council are currently looking at the Derelict Sites Register. However he outlined the difficulty with derelict sites and the array of reasons associated with dereliction, he outlined the executive shared the Councillors concerns regarding dereliction and that the Council were taking all practical steps possible to tackle the issue. Cllr Daniels asked about the makeup of the Forward Planning Unit and the situation with protected structures. Cllr Kelly enquired if extra funding was available to deal with the homeless issues, he also enquired if the Council and Civil Defence had a role in the refugee crisis. Cllr Hannigan asked about housing in Tramore. L. Power, DOS said the Forward Planning Unit is made up of a number of staff and that they are currently comparing our three separate Development Plans, they are looking at what policy areas may need to be aligned. However he pointed out that the formulation of a new development plan or any variation if proposed was strictly a matter for Council. L. Power also said the executive were also looking at the current record of protected structures to see what changes they may recommend. Regarding zoning in Tramore he advised this will be looked at in the context of preparation of the new Development Plan.. J. Cantwell, City and County Librarian responded on housing. P. Daly, A/DOS said that the Council had received no approaches in relation to the refugee crisis. Cllr Nugent asked if the Greenway from Ballinard to Clonea could be widened to 6 feet, he also enquired about Cushcam Cross. Cllr Wyse enquired about the number of carpark and taxi rank spaces throughout the City and also enquired about the non approval of loans. Cllr Quinlan asked about the removal of cut of grass cuttings by contractors. P. Daly, A/DOS said that they will look at widening the stretch from Ballinard to Clonea, he said that the Cushcam was a difficult junction and that the Council are exploring options with the NRA. He said that the objective is to have the same if not more carpark and taxi spaces and he will revert with figures. J. Cantwell, City and County Librarian will revert with housing figures if available. R. Moloney, SEO said that there is no obligation on contractors to remove cut grass as it should be mulched but will review standards for next year. Cllr Hearne enquired whether the obligation was on HAP applicants to find a house. Cllr Clune asked that housing list data be included on the management report, and asked for rates write off and waiver details to be provided. Cllr Fitzgerald asked if the Dunmore East library was in danger of closing, the SEAI insulation grant scheme breakdown between City and Dungarvan and the availability of land for social housing. Cllr Reinhardt asked that the

difficulties with HAP be recorded in the minutes and also enquired how often the housing list is reviewed. J. Murphy, HOF referred the meeting to the revised finance report issued at the meeting in relation to write offs and waivers. J. Cantwell, City and County Librarian, confirmed that the HAP Scheme applicants must find a house and that the Dunmore East library will reopen late September and vacancies will be filled and that the SEAI exact breakdown is unavailable. Cllr Brazil asked why he had received no response from the Council in relation to the issues raised on the two junctions on N25 altered by the NRA. Cllr Mulligan enquired about homeless funding, why the fire service false alarms were so high and why the road transport income was down. Cllr Cronin enquire about Cushcam. P. Daly, A/DOS said that the Council were in ongoing discussion with the NRA in relation to the two junctions, most of the false alarms could be attributed to auto alarms and that the roads income would be average for this time of year. He said that options were being explored for Cushcam but that it will depend on scale of costs and ultimately a decision for Council. J. Cantwell, City and County Librarian said that €90,000 additional funding had been received for homeless and that a new submission is being made for funding to cover B&B accommodation. Cllr Pratt asked when the community will be consulted in relation to the Rural Development Programme and reassurances that the Cappoquin library would not close. L. Power, DOS said that local communities had been met as part of the proposed rural development programme plan formulation process and there would also be further engagement with communities by the Council. J. Cantwell, City and County Librarian said that it was hoped that the library would not close again and that local communities were being consulted on opening times for smaller libraries.

6. Presentation on PPN

Mary Foley O'Hanlon made a presentation to the meeting on the PPN followed by questions from the Councillors on final structure and make up of the new company.

7. Making of Waterford City and County Council Control of Dog Bye-Laws 2015

R. Moloney, SEO presented. Cllr Tobin enquired if the farming organisations had an input into the bye-laws. Cllr Brennan asked how it would improve the dog fouling issue and how many wardens were employed. R. Moloney, SEO said that statutory bodies were notified and that the bye-laws were widely circulated but farming organisations were not consulted directly and that the Council had two dog wardens and 5 on the enforcement team. Cllr Kelly welcomed the bye-laws but noted that the dog fouling is difficult to enforce. Cllr Fitzgerald enquired how dog licence fees are spent issue of reminders and asked if Council could visit the dog pound. R. Moloney, SEO responded that the licence fee is used to fund services and reminders will be issued quarterly. A discussion followed on micro chipping and enforcement. Cllr Brazil asked how can this be enforced. R. Moloney, SEO replied that the law now states it is an offence not to comply. Cllr Hannigan enquired about an increase in dog wardens to cover each district. The bye-laws were proposed by Cllr Hearne, seconded by Cllr Hannigan and agreed.

8. Procedures Committee Report and Recommendations

E. Ruane, A/DOS presented. The following questions were proposed and put to a show of hands:-

- Q1. Extend time of Plenary by 30 minutes to finish at 7.30pm – amendment to proposal to start the meeting at 4.30 was defeated. Proposal to finish at 7.30 pm was carried.
- Q2. Limit the time for the Chief Executives report to 50 minutes and confine to Plenary level topics – proposal carried.
- Q5. Agreed that votes of sympathy and congratulations be dealt with at District Meetings and the Mayor may introduce exceptional cases at Plenary – proposal carried.
- Q7. Plenary Council to be a robed body – defeated by 13 for, 15 against.

9. Nominees to Heritage Forum (3)

3 nominations were sought for the Heritage Forum. Cllr Tobin was proposed by Cllr O’Ryan, seconded by Cllr Butler. Cllr Carey was proposed by Cllr Geoghegan, seconded by Cllr O’Sullivan. Cllr Griffin was proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr Clune. Cllr Doocey was proposed by Cllr Brazil, seconded by Cllr. Power. There being 4 candidates for 3 places a ballot was required to select the candidates. Cllr Doocey stated in the interest of brevity that he would withdraw his name in favour of the 3 remaining candidates. Cllrs Tobin, Carey and Griffin were duly nominated.

10. Town Twinning Approval

Town Twinning grants to St. Herblain and Cadojauc committees were approved.

11. Budget and LPT Meeting Schedules

Noted as per list circulated.

12. Correspondence

Support for the following motions received from Donegal County Council was proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr Carey and agreed.

- i. “For this Council to request that An Taoiseach Enda Kenny to formally ask the US Ambassador to Ireland to include Ireland in the next round of visa waivers for our undocumented Irish, and that this Council contacts all other Councils for request same.”
- ii. “That Donegal County Council request the Department of Marine and Natural Resources to reintroduce Salmon Licenses for those fishermen who did not avail of the Buy Out of same.”

Conferences and training as listed were proposed by Cllr Brazil, seconded by Cllr Kelly and agreed. The Suicidology Conference was also noted and included.

13. Notice of Motions

Cllr Murphy agreed to withdraw his motion in favour of it going to the 1916 Commemoration Committee.

11.AOB

Cllr Fitzgerald asked that the Council write to the Department of Marine and An Taisce to fund the replacement of the Passage East spit light beacon, seconded by Cllr Carey and agreed. Cllr Geoghegan welcomed the placing of the 9/11 memorial from the New York Port Authority in the Council Chamber. Cllr Kelly asked members to support the symposium on crystal in Waterford in WIT on Friday and Saturday 10th & 11th September. Cllr Griffin enquired about funding support for the hot air balloons. L. Power, DOS responded that the 5 year arrangement with the balloon owners had concluded and from a cost benefit analysis, it has been decided not to continue to fund the balloon further. Members were notified of the civic reception for Louise Richardson, Vice Chancellor of Oxford University is to be held on 28th September. Cllr Power welcomed the jobs announcement for South East.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____