

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

**COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17th December, 2015 HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CITY HALL, THE MALL, WATERFORD**

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. Siobhán Whelan

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. M. Walsh, Chief Executive
Mr. L. Power, Director of Services, Economic Development and Planning
Mr. F. Galvin, Director of Services, Environment, Water and Corporate
Mr. M. Quinn, Director of Services, Housing, Community and Culture
Mr. P. Daly, A/Director of Services, Roads HR & Emergency Services
Mr. J. Murphy, Head of Finance
Mr. I. Grimes, Director of Services
Ms. J. Cantwell, City and County Librarian
Mr. E. Ruane, Meeting Administrator
Ms. A. Jacob, Senior Staff Officer

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of 12th November 2015 were proposed by Cllr Carey, seconded by Cllr Daniels and agreed.
Minutes of Annual Budget meeting 26th November 2015 were proposed by Cllr Butler seconded by Cllr Brazil and agreed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Mulligan enquired about the breakdown of consultant fees and asked about a commencement date for the Part VIII Public Realm. J. Murphy, DOS said that he would forward the information on fees. L. Power, DOS said there should be some movement on the public realm in January/February. Cllr Roche enquired if a planning meeting for City Square development had taken place. The CE confirmed that meeting had not yet taken place. Cllr Joe Conway referred to his query on outstanding development charges and the differences in figures supplied. L. Power, DOS gave an update and said figures now reflect the true position. Cllr O'Neill enquired about the North Quays project commencement. L. Power, DOS confirmed that it would go ahead in January. Cllr Daniels asked for an update on WIT upgrading. The Mayor responded and said that we are awaiting the results of the review. Cllr Daniels proposed that the Council ask for a meeting with Jan O'Sullivan, Minister for Education and Skills, seconded by Cllr O'Neill and agreed.

3. PLANNING

(a) Planning lists were noted.

4. Land Disposals

Cllr Joe Conway excused himself from the meeting declaring his interest as a former board member relating to the proposed land disposal D625 to Tramore Voluntary Housing Association Ltd. Cllr Mulligan proposed that disposal D629 at Island Point, The Pines, Ballinakill be put back for one month to allow further consultation. Cllr Fitzgerald supported Cllr Mulligan on his proposal which was agreed. F. Galvin, DOS agreed that the issue was complex and was happy to postpone the item. Cllr Hannigan asked that fees on D625 Tramore Voluntary Housing Association be waived. F. Galvin, DOS confirmed that we won't levy costs until deal is completed and funding will be in place. The listed disposals with the exception of D629 above were proposed by Cllr O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr Hannigan and agreed. Cllr Conway then rejoined the meeting.

5. MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Cllr Tobin enquired about the recently announced planning regulations for change of use exemptions in relation to the Clonea Strand Hotel. Cllr Mulligan asked for a breakdown on planning application numbers, he also enquired if Councillors will be consulted in relation to the roads programme for 2016. He asked about the development of a small marina at Mount Congreve, if a Blueway could be considered for river, complimented Winterval organisers and thanked the Arts Officer for recent tour of facilities. The CE said a planning warning notice had been issued and explained the effect of the recent planning changes on the Clonea Strand Hotel, will look at options for Mount Congreve and revert to Council in the new year. He said the capital programme is demanding and the Greenway is a priority. L. Power, DOS said that there is a 7% increase in planning and he will provide a breakdown on the types of application. He also stated that he does not see a Blueway as a prospect at present. Cllr Geoghegan stated as unacceptable the approach taken by the Department in relation to new exempted development at the Clonea Strand Hotel. Cllr O'Leary asked for clarification on how criminal convictions are treated in relation to Tenant Purchase applications and enquired about the fire service false alarms. Cllr Reinhardt asked about the high number of housing allocation refusals and suggested a choice based system similar to those in use in other local authorities and the holding of a workshop on ASB and other policies. The Mayor said that he had written to the Minister for a meeting in relation to the Clonea Strand Hotel. M. Quinn, DOS said he would be happy to hold a workshop, in relation to criminal convictions he said that they would have to be serious but that the Department would provide clarification. He also said that a choice based online allocation option was being considered for the new year. P. Daly, A/DOS said that not all false alarms were malicious, most were either accidental or mechanical malfunction and as the fire service in the City is full time there are no extra costs.

Cllr O'Neill enquired how false alarms are policed. Cllr Daniels enquired about the waste enforcement steering committee and asked for an update on the new pay by weight scheme. Cllr Nugent said he supported Cllr Geoghegan on the Clonea Strand Hotel as it is unsuitable for refugees. Cllr Butler referred to the recent weather conditions and wearing on roads and asked if there will be any additional funding from Government and also asked about the turnaround for the HAP scheme.

M. Quinn, DOS said HAP time turnaround is short if the application is complete. F. Galvin, DOS said that there will be a phasing in of the new pay by weight scheme for all collectors by July 2016 and the Council will have a policing role in this. P. Daly, A/DOS said all malicious false alarms are passed on to Gardai and that the Council have applied for extra funding for roads damaged by weather. Cllr Fitzgerald enquired about the retained fire fighters recruitment criteria. Cllr Hearne enquired if the TPS applicants are being investigated by CAB and complimented the success of the flood alleviation measures. Cllr Brennan concurred with Cllr Hearne but enquired why Poleberry flooded. P. Daly, A/DOS responded that there were no changes in the retained fire fighter recruitment criteria and that panels were in place to deal with vacancies. He said that the flooding on the Poleberry link road was unexpected and the pumps on site are being investigated. Cllr Griffin supported Cllr Reinhardt and asked if the Council could be provided with out of hours emergency contact numbers. Cllr Conway asked what powers the Council have in relation to building sites where work has ceased. Cllr O'Ryan asked for an update on why the Comeragh West did not get road signs and asked if the Council could be given a presentation on flood emergency responses. P. Daly, A/DOS said that our Customer Services Desks are kept updated on personnel available to deal with flood issues and a list of emergency numbers is published on the website. He also said that the Council has powers to deal with unfinished building sites and will check out the signage issue in the Comeragh West area. Cllr Quinlan asked if the Council could be briefed when grants are issued.

6. Roads

P. Daly, A/DOS set out the proposed procedure for appeals to temporary closure of public road decisions which is required to update our current procedures. Cllr Geoghegan proposed the procedure, seconded by Cllr O'Neill and approved.

7. Adoption of Annual Report 2014

Cllr Tobin proposed the adoption of the Annual Report 2014, seconded by Cllr Geoghegan and agreed.

8. 2016 Presentation

Jane Cantwell, City and County Librarian in the absence through illness of the Chairman Ger Crotty presented the report of the 2016 Commemorative Committee and outlined the 3 options proposed. After discussion option 2 "a single Monolith of cut stone in an open space like the Peoples Park with a ceremonial area" was the preference of the majority of the Council and it was agreed to proceed with this proposal.

9. Nominees to Waterford Institute of Technology Community Liaison Committee (2)

E. Ruane, SEO outlined this item and looked for nominees. Cllr Murphy, seconded by Cllr Cummins proposed Cllr O'Sullivan and Cllr Geoghegan. Cllr Griffin proposed Cllr Hearne and Cllr Brennan. As there were 3 nominees proposed a decision to revert to the Committee to secure 3 places was agreed by all.

10. Correspondence

Training and conferences as listed were proposed by Cllr Reinhardt, seconded by Cllr Geoghegan and agreed.

11. Notice of Motions

None.

12. AOB

Cllr Doocey asked that drivers of large vehicles show courtesy to other road users particularly in floods. Cllr O’Ryan sought clarification on emergency procedures in place. CE confirmed that there is a Major Emergency Plan in place with all of the other relevant agencies and that the priority is clear and efficient communication to the public including the Council. Cllr Carey welcomed the work on the dredging in Passage East.

Cllr Fitzgerald supported Cllr Carey’s comments and enquired if a new contact list could be distributed to the Council. F. Galvin, DOS confirmed that an updated list will be circulated. Cllr Murphy asked if the 1916 Proclamation could be displayed in the Council Chamber. Cllr O’Neill raised the imminent redundancies announced by Waterford Stanley and asked if the Minister could be approached to intervene. CE said that the appropriate agency is the IDA for this matter. Cllr Power informed the meeting that the IFA text alert system had been launched recently to combat rural crime. Mayor thanked the Council for their work in 2015 and the CE and Management Team and the media and wished everyone a happy Christmas.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____