

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

**COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2016 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL,  
WATERFORD**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr. John O'Leary Deputy Mayor	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Liam Brazil	Cllr. Ray Murphy
Cllr. Breda Brennan	Cllr. Pat Nugent
Cllr. John Carey	Cllr. Sean Reinhardt
Cllr. Declan Clune	Cllr. Michael J O'Ryan
Cllr. Joe Conway	Cllr. Cha O' Neill
Cllr. Tom Cronin	Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan
Cllr. David Daniels	Cllr. Seanie Power
Cllr. Declan Doocey	Cllr. John Pratt
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. James Tobin
Cllr. Blaise Hannigan	Cllr. Adam Gary Wyse
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr. Siobhan Whelan
Cllr. Eddie Mulligan	

**APOLOGIES:**

Cllr John Cummins Mayor, Cllr Damien Geoghegan, Cllr Joe Kelly, Cllr. Eamon Quinlan

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr. M. Walsh, Chief Executive  
Mr. P. Daly, A/Director of Services, Roads HR & Emergency Services  
Mr M. Quinn, Director of Services  
Mr. J. Murphy, Head of Finance  
Mr. F. Galvin, Director of Services, Environment, Water and Corporate  
Mr. I. Grimes, Director of Services, Housing  
Mr. B. Duggan, Senior Executive Officer  
Mr. E. Ruane, Meetings Administrator  
Ms. C. Hartley, Administrative Officer

**Congratulations**

At the outset the Deputy Mayor welcomed Cllr Ray Murphy to his first Plenary meeting. He also said it was proposed to go into Committee at 6.45pm to hear report on the European City of Culture Three Sisters bid preparation. Cllr Pratt asked that in the event of motions not being reached at that stage that his motion No. 2 be heard. The meeting agreed.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> March were proposed by Cllr Nugent, seconded by Cllr Carey and agreed.

Cllr O'Sullivan asked that her apology at the Special Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> March meeting be recorded. Cllr Fitzgerald asked that the recorded vote on Item 7, in the meeting of the 10<sup>th</sup> March regarding the wearing of robes be listed:-

The following Councillors (20) voted in Favour of the wearing of robes - J. Cummins Mayor, Cllr Brazil, Cllr Carey, Cllr Clune, Cllr Conway, Cllr Doocey, Cllr Geoghegan, Cllr Hannigan, Cllr Hearne, Cllr Kelly, Cllr Mulligan, Cllr Nugent, Cllr O'Leary, Cllr O'Neill, Cllr O'Sullivan, Cllr Power, Cllr Pratt, Cllr Reinhardt, Cllr Roche, Cllr Wyse.

The following Councillors (10) voted Against the wearing of robes – Cllr Brennan, Cllr Cronin, Cllr Fitzgerald, Cllr Griffin, Cllr J. Murphy, Cllr O'Donnell, Cllr O'Ryan, Cllr Quinlan, Cllr Tobin, Cllr Whelan.

## **2. Matters Arising**

Cllr Roche requested an update on the Boundary Commission report. I Grimes, DOS replied that the Boundary Committee had requested additional time beyond 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2016. The report is expected in May.

Cllr Roche also requested an update on requests for IDA and Enterprise Ireland to address the Plenary Council. E Ruane, SEO replied that the IDA had confirmed they would address the June plenary and EI have yet to confirm for the May Plenary meeting.

## **3. Planning**

(a) Planning lists were noted.

## **4. Land Disposals**

Disposals as per list were proposed by Cllr Brazil, seconded by Cllr O'Neill and agreed.

## **5. Management Report**

Cllr O Sullivan asked for figures of units to be upgraded under the SEAI scheme and she welcomed the scheme funding, and commended the work to date on the Greenway. Cllr O'Sullivan also proposed that the members of the Plenary Council accept the extension of the Retail Fit Out grant scheme to Tramore Town as proposed by the Tramore Town Centre Management Group. Cllr MJ O 'Ryan requested that the Council show leniency on the collection of outstanding Development Charges.

Cllr O'Neill asked for an update on motion to extend the Outer Ring Road from Farronshoneen to Passage Cross and also to look at possibility of a vehicular flyover at the Tramore Road roundabout and voiced concern about the roundabout at the Railway Station.

I.Grimes, DOS replied there was no update on the numbers funded under the SEAI scheme. P Daly, A/DOS replied that the report on the Outer Ring Road was still at procurement stage and the request for a road traffic survey at Tramore Road will be added into the tender documents.

Cllr Tobin asked how many applications are with the DECLG to build new housing units, what is the timeframe for the new Waterford City and County Development Plan and what is the value of outstanding Development Charges.

Cllr Power supported Cllr O 'Ryan's request for leniency for payments of outstanding Development Charges. M Walsh, Chief Executive replied that €3m is owed in outstanding Development Charges and €2m of those relate to one off houses.

Cllr Brazil stated that in relation to Development Charges the Council had failed in the past in not collecting these charges. He commended the Greenway meeting in Dungarvan on the 13<sup>th</sup> April.

Cllr O Sullivan asked for a reply to her proposal that the Retail Fit Out grant scheme be rolled out to Tramore. Cllr Roche queried the process as the item was listed under AOB and an email had been circulated to all members the day before the Plenary meeting. Cllr O'Sullivan clarified that she and Cllr Griffin are the Council representatives on the TTCMG and as the item was listed in the Management report she was bringing it up under this item. Cllr Mulligan asked that the item be deferred as he wanted the proposal to be discussed at the Economic SPC as he had concerns about the scheme. Cllr O Sullivan refused to withdraw the proposal and it was seconded by Cllr Hannigan.

Cllr Tobin asked why the proposal was not agreed at the Metropolitan meeting and M Walsh, CE clarified that due to financial implication it is proper to Plenary. Cllr Tobin proposed an amendment to bring the issue to Plenary for agreement and Cllr Cronin seconded.. The amendment was put to the floor and with a vote of 9 for and 15 against, the amendment was declared lost. The original motion was put to the floor and with a vote of 16 for and 4 against, the motion was carried.

Cllr Brennan asked if there were plans to extend the Waterford Greenway to Tramore, was there a reply to the Ministers office on taxi vehicle testing, is it possible for dredging of Scotch Quay to take place, and when will the new dog waste bins be installed.

Cllr Nugent commended all on the work to date and raised safety concerns about embankments and the bridge on the Knock to Dungarvan stretch of the Greenway and parking issues along the route.

Cllr Roche asked for an update on Economic Development Unit staff changes, updated timelines on SDZ and Urban Renewal works. P Daly, A/DOS replied that an extension of the Greenway to Tramore had been considered but not developed. I. Grimes, DOS will revert with figures on housing starts requested from DECLG and M. Walsh, CE replied that a National Planning Framework and Regional Guidelines are awaited prior to beginning a new Development Plan process and that is expected to be underway by year end and that the Greenway safety issues will be looked at. M Walsh, CE will supply a timeline for the SDZ and Public Realm works. B Duggan, SEO said staff changes at the Economic Development Unit will be circulated once finalised. F Galvin, DOS replied that 36 new dog waste bins will be delivered and installed, there are no plans to dredge Scotch Quay as there would be stability concerns of the quay walls amongst others. B Duggan, SEO said that there was no reply received to two letters to the Department regarding taxi vehicle testing. Cllr Reinhardt asked have the Council written to DECLG to outline the crisis in homelessness, and requested an update on Choice Based Letting. Cllr Fitzgerald asked what is Council involvement in Eir network upgrades and the fear it was causing among the elderly, he agreed with the tree planting programme in Cheekpoint, what is Council role in IW use of water meters and an update on sewerage reinstatement work at Cheekpoint. Cllr Daniels asked for an update on the Tenant Purchase Scheme and clarification on the exemption of bungalows from the scheme, he asked who are the Southern Region Waste Management Office and what is their mandate, he also enquired about the roundabout sponsorship scheme.

I. Grimes, DOS replied that the Council is in correspondence with the DECLG regarding the housing supply and homelessness situation and finalising a submission on HAP, exemptions do apply in the Tenant Purchase Scheme so as to protect current housing stock for future need and bungalows in high density areas are exempt. He expected Choice Based Letting to be introduced in the autumn.

F. Galvin, DOS replied that the trees removed in Cheekpoint were removed from private property, there is a commitment from Government that water meters will not be in use until 2019 and the resurfacing at Cheekpoint will take place later this year.

F Galvin, DOS stated that the Council is part of the Southern Region Waste Management Group and by-laws will still come before the members for adoption, and clarified that the Roundabout Sponsorship scheme will be advertised in the next 2 -3 weeks.

Cllr Griffin asked could we prepare a FAQ sheet prior to the introduction of pay by weight, could we concentrate the roundabout scheme on those approaching the airport and will community groups have a role in the dog waste bins

Cllr Clune asked if there is a safety risk where the Suir Valley Railway and the Greenway run parallel, safety at slipways around the coast, for a public update on the fire safety issue at Ceol Na Mara, and an update on Three Sisters, European Capital of Culture bid. Cllr Hearne asked about the AHBs liasing on allocations.

F Galvin, DOS said that waste collection providers will publicise their own services and costs but he said there isn't a role for community groups in dog waste bins at present. P. Daly, A/DOS said that the RSA was consulted on the Greenway Suir Valley Railway question and it was not an issue and the installation of intercoms is being looked at and signage will be installed to warn people about safety on slipways. He

clarified that the Council can provide engineering assistance to the private homeowners at Ceol Na Mara but there is no grant scheme. I. Grimes, DOS stated that when implementing the housing led approach to housing people leaving homelessness that less vetting and more support is the approach taken. Cllr Wyse asked can we work with VLM to retain services at Waterford Airport.

Cllr Murphy asked if windows and doors are replaced when subject to criminal damage, for an update on the footpath programme and is the jet patcher suitable for urban areas. Cllr Doocey said some fire stations use training exercises to wash slipways. Cllr Hannigan requested an update on a pedestrian crossing at Clarinwood/Ballinacarnane Woods roundabout. M Walsh, CE replied that there is engagement between Council and Airport Management and expects an update next week. I. Grimes, DOS replied that the policy regarding replacement windows and doors was agreed at Housing SPC. P Daly, A/DOS stated the jet patcher is not suitable for urban areas and that funding for two roundabouts in Tramore had been sought and one approved. The plan is to move the existing one to a more suitable location and seek funding for a second one also.

## **6. Finance Audit report**

- (a) Audit Committee Charter proposed by Cllr Daniels, seconded by Cllr O'Neill and agreed.
- (b) Audit Committee Draft Work Programme proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr Daniels and agreed.
- (c) Audit Committee Report to Council on 2014 AFS and Local Government Auditors Report – noted.
- (d) Audit Committee Annual Report 2015 – noted.

## **7. Arts grants**

M. Quinn, DOS presented and allocations recommended in the report were proposed by Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Brennan and agreed. Cllr Hannigan raised the issue of Children's Group Link application. B. Duggan, SEO responded.

## **8. Correspondence**

Correspondence and training listed were proposed by Cllr Cronin, seconded by Cllr Doocey and agreed.

## **9. Notice of Motions**

As per standing orders the following motion was taken first.

- 2. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. John Pratt, seconded by Cllr Nugent and was carried on a show of hands.

"The members of Waterford City and County Council call on the Minister for Health to reverse the decision to locate the National Children's Hospital at St. James's Hospital and instead to locate the new Children's Hospital for all the children of Ireland at Connolly Hospital in Blanchardstown. The Connolly site offers 145 acres, vast space for expansion, easier access for the children of County Waterford and extensive parking. The co-location with Connolly Hospital and the new Rotunda Maternity Hospital will result in better clinical outcomes. It will be cheaper and faster to build than on the St. James's site."

**Reg. No. 43** (dated 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2016)

1. The following motion in the names of Cllr. Michael J. O' Ryan, Cllr. Liam Brazil, Cllr. Declan Clune, Cllr. John O' Leary, Cllr. Seanie Power and Cllr. Ray Murphy, was proposed by Cllr M.J. O'Ryan, seconded by Cllr Brennan and agreed.

"That this Council calls on the Dept. of Social Protection to increase its range of interaction with the Post Office Network instead of decreasing it to ensure its survival, especially in rural areas."

**Reg. No. 42** (dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2016)

It was agreed that this motion should be forwarded to all local authorities.

3. **The following motion was proposed by Cllr. James Tobin, seconded by Cllr Cronin and agreed.**

"We the members of Waterford City and County Council request that the Department of Finance make a grant available to those who wish to install burglar alarms."

**Reg. No. 44** (dated 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2016)

4. **In the absence of the proposer Cllr. Lola O' Sullivan the following motion fell.**

"That Waterford City and County Council provide signage informing tourists on the entrance to Waterford that we have a Gealtacht in the county."

**Reg. No. 45** (dated 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2016)

#### **1. AOB**

E. Ruane, Meetings Administrator reminded Councillors of the 1916/2016 Celebrations in Waterford and Dungarvan on Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> April and urged attendance. He also reminded Councillors of arrangements for the Seanad Elections Ballot. Cllr O'Neill gave details of the Mayors' Ball on the 7<sup>th</sup> May. The Council then adjourned into Committee to hear a report on the Europe Capital of Culture bid from M. Quinn, DOS and Katherine Collins and Emma Haran from the Three Sisters Bid team.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_