

**COMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL****COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14th January, 2016 HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CIVIC OFFICES, DUNGARVAN****PRESENT:**

Cllr. John Cummins, Mayor	Cllr. Eddie Mulligan
Cllr. Liam Brazil	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Breda Brennan	Cllr. Pat Nugent
Cllr. Mary Butler	Cllr. Seamus O'Donnell
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. Mary Roche
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. James Tobin
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr. Adam Gary Wyse
Cllr. Blaise Hannigan	Cllr. Siobhan Whelan

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. Sean Reinhardt

At the outset of the meeting Cllr Cronin requested a 15 minute adjournment for the Fianna Fail Councillors to dispose of an issue, seconded by Cllr Tobin and agreed by all.

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. P. Daly, A/Director of Services, Roads HR & Emergency Services
Mr. J. Murphy, Head of Finance
Mr. I. Grimes, Director of Services, Housing
Mr. E. Ruane, Meeting Administrator
Ms. A. Jacob, Senior Staff Officer

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of 17th December, 2015 were proposed by Cllr Brazil seconded by Cllr Nugent and agreed. Minutes of Special meeting held on 5th January 2016 were proposed by Cllr Carey, seconded by Cllr Butler and agreed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr O'Neill asked for an update on North Quays. L. Power, DOS said to expect a start at the end of the month with a new company called Loftus Demolition. Cllr Fitzgerald asked when the 1916 Proclamation is to be displayed in the Chamber. Cllr Daniels asked if there had been any response from the Minister Jan O'Sullivan. E. Ruane, said there had been no response as yet but will follow up. Cllr Conway enquired about the flooding issue near the Nursing Home at the Ring Road in Tramore and asked what works had been done to alleviate the problem. P. Daly, A/DOS said he will revert with a report. Cllr Brennan asked for an update on the problems with the pumps on the Link Road, Poleberry. P. Daly, A/DOS said the problem will be resolved in a couple of weeks. Cllr Butler enquired whether any emergency funding had been received for flood damage. P. Daly, A/DOS said that no additional funding had been received. Cllr O'Sullivan enquired about land disposal D629 deferred from last meeting. F. Galvin, DOS said he would be deal with it under land disposals.

3. PLANNING

Planning lists were noted.

4. Land Disposals

F. Galvin, DOS referring to land disposal D629 deferred from the last Plenary meeting said that he had met with the Residents Association and dealt with any queries they had and that the decision to proceed was now up to Council. Cllr O'Neill enquired what is to happen to the Mens Hostel in Lady Lane. Cllr Mulligan said that he had met residents in relation to disposal D629 and they were happy with it and enquired about the lease for café/wine bar at Cathedral Square. L. Power, DOS said that there were no immediate plans for the Hostel yet, but will revert. F. Galvin, DOS said that the Cathedral Square lease is for a wine bar/bistro. Cllr Griffin asked that the lease would comply with Cathedral Square lettings. F. Galvin, DOS said that the tender process resulted in only 2 applications but that the proposed lessees were established retailers. With reference to Disposal 626/627/628 Cllr O'Neill enquired if the Council would get to vet SVP tenancy allocations. Cllr Daniels proposed that the disposal be deferred for one month, seconded by Cllr O'Neill. Cllr O'Sullivan proposed that the disposal proceed, seconded by Cllr Tobin. This was put to the meeting and carried. Cllr Daniels proposal fell.

5. Management Report

Cllr Nugent asked for a breakdown on planning applications increase. Cllr Geoghegan asked what the current position was on the Register of Electors. Cllr Tobin enquired if the relief work done in Fermoy was the cause of Ballyduff flooding so fast. P. Daly, A/DOS said that he would refer the query to the OPW.

F. Galvin, DOS said that the ROE is up to date, there will be a media and advertisement campaign to get people to register and that we are also working on updating the system with Eircodes. Field Workers will be employed over the coming months to carry out this work. L. Power, DOS said that he would revert with statistics on planning applications. Cllr O'Leary said that he was concerned that we had not received any additional grant assistance and that the embargo on recruitment should be lifted. Cllr Pratt enquired about the policy on gritting and salting roads and asked for it to be extended. Cllr Daniels

asked if Field Workers for the ROE will be retained. P. Daly, A/DOS said that the salting routes are on the website but that schools were done by local areas. He also said that there were extra demands on resources because of the floods and that he will ensure the depots are well stocked. The CE said that damage would be remediated regardless of resources but that the agreed workforce plan ensured adequate resources in place and would not be employing extra staff. F. Galvin, DOS said that Field Workers are part-time seasonal and we will continue to engage them on the Register of Electors. Cllr Hearne asked if the policy of housing repairs to front doors could go to the Housing SPC and that the sulkies issue go to the Transportation SPC, he also commented on the path surface in Kilbarry Cemetery. Cllr O'Neill asked that the Minister be approached about a Bike Rental Scheme for Waterford. Cllr Roche asked about receiving information on the LEO in the Management Report, if the Council had met with City Square Developers, that the public consultation be as wide as possible for the Arts Plan and if we will be employing staff for the Capital of Culture project. She also enquired about the Dog Pound and the increase in dogs abandoned recently, an update on affordable housing and said that there are issues with the mobile phone version of the Councils website. I. Grimes, DOS said that housing repairs can be referred to the SPC, the new Tenant Purchase Scheme is imminent and will revert on affordable housing. P. Daly, A/DOS said that the sulkies issue can go to the Transportation SPC and that a cycling strategy for the City is being looked at. F. Galvin, DOS said that he will look into the issue at Kilbarry Cemetery and address any problem and will revert on Dog Pound. The CE said that there will be a team of people in place to deal with the Capital of Culture and additional resources were being provided. L. Power, DOS said that job creation figures are produced nationally and will be available mid year and that he had met with City Square Developers initially and is waiting on them to arrange a follow up meeting. Cllr Conway asked if the antisocial behaviour unit was fit for purpose, asked when Library Service Plan will be ready and a new library for Tramore and raised the issue of dog fouling on the Greenway. Cllr Griffin requested a workshop to deal with housing issues, he mentioned fly tipping in 3 prominent areas and requested installation of CCTV. He also asked if there is a rollout plan for the jet patcher, sweeper and drain cleaner. Cllr Butler called for an advertising campaign to encourage more landlords to sign up for the HAP scheme, gritting of City car parks, flytipping and illegal dumping and if naming and shaming was possible. I. Grimes, DOS said that he could not comment on individual applications, will arrange a workshop on housing and include HAP and any antisocial behaviour should be reported to the Gardai and WCCC. P. Daly, A/DOS said that a new jet patcher will be arriving and a schedule of work will be drawn up and that Councillors should keep in touch with District Engineers re issues arising. He also said that the sweeper has been repaired and will be back out and car parks are gritted and salted. F. Galvin, DOS said that there is a planned campaign on dog fouling, he said that they were aware of the fly tipping areas and are focussing on them, looking at upgrading existing CCTV for more effective monitoring. He said the Council had no capacity to name and shame offenders unless their cases went to court. The CE said that there is no funding available at national level or in the capital programme at present for Tramore library. Cllr Murphy sought clarification on the new allocation policy and requested an update on the Capital of Culture bid for next meeting. The Mayor said that he would put this on the February agenda for the CPG. Cllr Fitzgerald enquired if the calendar of scheduled works for the jet patcher could be made available and enquired about the gully cleaner machine. He also enquired why the level of activity during the storm weather at Dunmore East Fire Station was low compared to Waterford and Tramore Fire Services and he also asked if a detailed report on the Dog Pound could be provided. Cllr Hannigan said that there was a difficulty with housing accommodation in Tramore in relation to HAP. P. Daly, A/DOS said that the schedule for the jet patcher will be provided by District Engineers and that that the fire service calls are operated by a centralised call centre. I. Grimes, DOS said that a choice led letting scheme is being considered and we are awaiting guidelines from the Department. He said that the housing issues in Tramore can be addressed at the planned workshop. F. Galvin, DOS said he would include the Dog Pound in the Management Report next month. The CE said the Library Development Plan would be available in the next couple of months. Cllr Mulligan asked if there is funding available for a drainage solution for Woodstown and raised issues in relation to Winterval, lighting in the City centre at Christmas, parking and layout of Arundel Square and asked if the CE would consider appointing a City Manager. Cllr Whelan referred to the housing crisis and also asked if a HAP applicant is obliged to pay water charges. Cllr Doocey raised issues in relation to the jet patcher, a combi unit for hilly ground and salting of roads. P. Daly, A/DOS confirmed that works at Woodstown are included in proposed works, a report has been sought from Eirtricity on outage in City centre at Christmas and said that the new jet patcher is also a combi unit and another can be hired. We are limited by resources in the amount of

salting that can be done. I. Grimes, DOS said that the tenancy agreement obliges tenants to pay all their household bills. The CE said that there is a liaison City Centre Management Group for the City centre businesses and he is satisfied that it can be made work, he also said that resources were stretched in recent weeks due to weather conditions and that would have impacted on levels of service. Due to the allotted time for the management report having elapsed Cllr O’Ryan and Cllr Power were not given an opportunity to speak. Cllr O’Ryan then left the meeting in protest.

6.Finance

J. Murphy, HOF presented the Audit Report for year ended 31st December 2014 for adoption. Cllr Roche enquired if the Department could cover the budgetary deficit in the context of the amalgamation. J. Murphy, HOF explained that the deficit of €21 million related to both Capital and Revenue as set out in Section 3. The CE said that he was not confident that an appeal to the Department would work. Cllr Whelan referred to the rent arrears and the high level of vacant housing stock. J. Murphy, HOF said that the rents outturn for 2015 would show a slight improvement on 2014. I. Grimes, DOS said that 1% vacancy rate is comparable with the national figures. Cllr Mulligan suggested a presentation from the Audit Committee, this was seconded by Cllr Quinlan. Cllr O’Leary enquired about vacant properties and asked if NAMA have vacant properties in Waterford. J. Murphy, HOF said that the Chair of the Audit Committee prepares a report at the end of March and could do a presentation then. I. Grimes, DOS said he did not have detail on NAMA and will have to revert. Cllr Hearne asked what the Council received from Irish Water in respect of the assets transferred. F. Galvin, DOS said that these assets were fully funded by the Department over the years and came at no cost to the Council. Cllr Roche proposed the adoption of the Audit Report, seconded by Cllr Hannigan and agreed.

7.Annual Service Plans 2016

The CE presented the ASP 2016 and said that it was a significant document and was a template for work for the year ahead and will inform the objectives and targets for the team plans and recommended it for adoption.

Cllr Daniels, raised issues on public lighting and response time from Eirtricity, availability of additional strategic development land, waste management and pay by weight regulation and charges and the transfer of the Williamstown playing pitch to the stakeholders. Cllr Roche suggested that it would be helpful next year to discuss the ASP at a workshop. The Mayor agreed. Cllr Conway agreed and said that the Plan deserved more time and said that enforcement target was encouraging and welcomed Tourism Tramore local engagement. The CE said that the Council is talking to the IDA in relation to strategic development land and will expect to see progress in coming months, there is ongoing engagement with Williamstown stakeholders seeking that they take a co-ordinating role and take over responsibility. F. Galvin, DOS said that considerable resources have been expended on waste enforcement that pay by weight will be mandatory from July this year and that it will be the prerogative of the collectors to decide charging options. P. Daly, A/DOS said that there is a public lighting regional maintenance contract in place and contact numbers available. Cllr Fitzgerald asked what provision the Council has made for repairs to public lighting. Cllr O’Sullivan asked if collectors are obliged to take a compost bin. F. Galvin, DOS said that collectors are obliged to provide a compost service in areas with population greater than 500 but that it is not clear in some rural areas. P. Daly, A/DOS said that the contract covers everything but that issues arise when estates not taken in charge. Cllr Hearne questioned the Council’s role in verifying integrity of weighing scales. Cllr Murphy highlighted the fact that the new customer service number 0761 service is an out of bundle service for some providers and it makes it more expensive for some customers and asked if the Council could write to those providers to get it included. The CE said that he would communicate with providers to do this. F. Galvin, DOS confirmed that weighing mechanisms will be tested by national waste permit office and we check certification as part of our function. The ASP 2016 was proposed by Cllr Tobin, seconded by Cllr Conway and agreed.

8. Community of place

Cllr Roche asked what the Community of Place plan is. L. Power, DOS said that the objective of the Plan is to consult with all communities and to progress initiatives identified to improve things, work as a collective identify needs and align our resources achieve outcomes of mutual benefit. The Mayor encouraged councillors to notify constituents.

9. Correspondence

Letter from Brendan Cummins, Rochester Business Group re a proposal to co-produce a play and commitment to raise €30,000 to fund same seeking assistance was raised. The CPG discussed and recommended award of €6,000 towards these costs which was proposed by Cllr Mulligan, seconded by Cllr O'Neill and agreed.

Cllr Brazil notified the meeting about a Mental Health and Suicide Awareness Conference to be held on 19th & 20th February and urged members and public to attend.

The Mayor proposed a resolution under S75 of Local Government Act 2001 that Waterford City and County Council enter into a formal twinning agreement with the LÉ James Joyce seconded by Cllr O'Sullivan and agreed.

Cllr Tobin commented on the acknowledgement from An Post re representations on district offices.

E. Ruane, SEO informed meeting that a reply had just been received that day which will be included in correspondence in the next meeting. Cllr Brennan looked for an update on the taxi licensing issue.

E. Ruane, SEO said that the Council is awaiting a response.

10. Notice of Motions

None.

11. AOB

E. Ruane, SEO notified the meeting that the Ethics Declaration and Election Expenses returns circulated at the meeting must be completed and returned by the given dates. Cllr Roche asked if the Viking Triangle Trust could be scheduled in for a status report over the next few months for the Plenary meeting.

This concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____