

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

COUNCIL MEETING HELD on 13th November, 2014

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES:

Cllr. J. Murphy
Cllr. M. Roche
Cllr. S. O'Donnell
Cllr. J. Pratt
Cllr. J. Kelly

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. M. Walsh, Chief Executive
Mr. J. Murphy, Head of Finance
Mr. M. Quinn, Director of Service Housing, Community & Culture
Mr. P. Daly, A/Director of Service Roads HR & Emergency Services
Mr. L. Power, Director of Service Economic Development
Mr. F. Galvin, Director of Service Environment and Water
Mr. B. White, Director of Service Planning & Corporate Affairs
Mr. E. Ruane, Meetings Administrator

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

A vote of sympathy was expressed to those bereaved by the deaths of:

Maurice Downey
Jimmy and Kathleen Cuddihy
Matty Acheson
Ruth Ahearn
John Enright
Joe Walsh
Quinlan Family

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of meeting held on 9th October 2014 (amended to show Cllr. Hearne in attendance instead of Cllr. Clune) were proposed by Cllr. Carey seconded by Cllr. O'Leary and agreed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. O'Neill raised the proposed meeting with the Airport Chairman it was confirmed that this would take place at the December Plenary meeting.

Cllr. Hearne enquired regarding the proposed meeting with the Board of WIT and was informed that the request had been sent to WIT.

The Mayor commented on the recent visit by Jan O'Sullivan, Minister for Education to schools in the area and the lack of an invitation to him or acknowledgement of his position as Mayor. Cllr. Geoghegan and Cllr. O'Neill concurred supporting these comments. It was agreed that the Department of Education be written to regarding this matter.

3. Planning

L. Power, DOS reported on the completion of the process re Winterval. Proposed by Cllr. Cummins and seconded by Cllr. Wyse and agreed.

4. Land Disposals

Cllr. M. J. O'Ryan proposed, seconded by Cllr. O'Leary, and agreed that the land disposals as listed be approved.

5. Monthly Management Report

Cllr. Geoghegan welcomed the arrival of the Tech Mahindra to Waterford with Cllr. O'Ryan concurring.

Cllr. Daniels referred to the River Suir Heritage Audit and requested that this include Johns River.

Cllr. Cummins raised the issues of Lacken Wood and Carriganard. He referred to the Déise Greenway and asked when the Kilmeaden/Bilberry section will commence. He also enquired if funding for the middle section had been secured. He also raised the issue of funding for flood relief.

Cllr. Fitzgerald raised unfinished estates and in particular the Airfield Point Estate.

Cllr. Hearne supported Cllr. Daniels request for the inclusion of John's River in the Heritage Audit.

Cllr. Nugent asked when the Ballinroad to Durrow line would commence.

Cllr. Carey enquired about flood relief in Passage.

P. Daly A/DoS stated that the Greenway Kilmeaden start was imminent and he had no confirmation of funding for the Kilmeaden-Durrow section. He confirmed that the complete works design and costings were done for flood relief in Passage.

B. White DOS said he would revert to the Council on Lacken Wood and Carriganard.

F.Galvin DOS reported that Flood Relief Scheme is ongoing and will be completed by Spring 2015. He was also trying to reduce pollution in John's River and that some work was carried out on the bridges.

Cllr. Mulligan queried the finance collections level in comparison to last year.

Cllr. Brennan referred to the introduction of pine marten boxes she stated that the repairs to the City Wall should be continued and inquired when repairs to Kilmurrin will be carried out .

Cllr. Hannigan requested that all rents be kept at the same level.

Cllr. O'Neill requested that the Noel Browne Plaza be cleaned.

P. Daly DOS stated that Kilmeaden-Durrow line will be finished next year and coastal works being finished by the end of the year.

J. Murphy HOF said that he expected the % collection of rates to be in the high 80's.

B. White, DOS said that transition year students would be welcome to become involved with mammals in the environment.

M. Quinn DOS confirmed that rents will stay unchanged until the new Scheme emerges in July 2015.

Cllr. Butler complimented the operation of the Community Support Officers scheme

Cllr. O'Leary asked if there was any update received from the Department on the Tenant Purchase Scheme.

6. Corporate Plan

CE presented the Corporate Plan to the members and suggested a review in 6 – 9 months. The Plan will be published on website and will be translated into Irish. He stated that he will prioritise progress reports on high level objectives and that job creation was a priority of the Plan.

The Mayor recommended and asked the members to endorse the Plan.

The adoption of the Plan was proposed by Cllr. Carey seconded by Cllr. Geoghegan and agreed.

Councillors welcomed the Plan and some questions were raised about the Airport, the Copper Coast Eco Park, Age Friendly aspects and the Ring of Waterford.

7. Nomination to other Bodies

Joint Policing Committee (15 members):

Acceptance of the recommendation of M. Quinn DOS of 7th November 2014 in relation to the 15 members to be nominated to the JPC was proposed by Cllr. Geoghegan seconded by Cllr. Cummins and agreed.

Healthy Cities Steering Committee (1 member)

Cllr. O'Leary was proposed by Cllr. Wyse seconded by Cllr. Mulligan and agreed.

Comhairle na nÓg Steering Committee (5 members)

Cllr. Pratt was proposed by Cllr. Geoghegan seconded by Cllr. Cummins

Cllr. Brazil was proposed by Cllr. Doocey seconded by Cllr. Butler

Cllr. Wyse was proposed by Cllr. Butler seconded by Cllr. Mulligan

Cllr. Whelan was proposed by Cllr. Fitzgerald seconded by Cllr. Hearne

Cllr. Mulligan was proposed by Cllr. O'Leary seconded by Cllr. Butler

With no more nominations received the above five members were agreed as the nominees.

8. SPC's

B. White DoS presented a report on the final makeup of the 5 SPC'S which was agreed.

9. Correspondence

Noted.

Conferences contained in the circulated list were proposed by Cllr. Geoghegan seconded by Cllr. O'Neill and agreed.

10. Notices of Motions

The following motion in the name of Cllr Mulligan was withdrawn at his own request.

"In recognition of the continued difficult economic circumstances faced in Waterford City and County, I propose that the Metropolitan District Councillors and those in the wider county hand back their free car parking passes to show commonality with the people of Waterford in terms of the cost and difficulty of parking in and around the City Centre."

Reg. No. 14 (Referred from Metropolitan Meeting -Reg No. 3 dated 8th September 2014)

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Brennan seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald and agreed.

"That Waterford City & County Council supports The Carers Association call on the Minister for Social Protection to amend the Social Welfare Bill to make provision for the restoration of the Respite Care Grant".

Reg. No. 15 (dated 30th October, 2014)

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Clune and seconded by Cllr. Whelan.

"That Waterford City & County Council calls on the Government to;

- Immediately reverse domestic water charges which are an unfair and unjust double charge being forced on already struggling households.
- Stop the roll out of metering and redirect the €539m loan finance from the National Pension Reserve Fund towards fixing the massive leakage problems and interruption to supply.
- Recognise that Irish Water is not fit for purpose since it is unaccountable to the Minister and therefore to the Oireachtas and the citizens of this State.
- Prevent Irish Water from any further excessive spending of taxpayer's money, including the proposed further €35m on the use of external consultants in 2015.
- Listen to the widespread public anger that exists towards this Government and Irish Water by the Irish people, who are now rightly organising and mobilising in protest and opposition to these water charges through the Right2Water public campaign which includes activists, citizens, community groups, political parties and trade unions.

Reg. No. 16 (dated 30th October, 2014)

Cllrs. Hearne, Reinhardt, Conway and Hannigan spoke in support of the motion.

Cllr. Geoghegan proposed the following amendment to this motion which was seconded by Cllr. O’Ryan

“That Waterford City and County Council acknowledges that Irish Water in its current state is not fit for purpose and calls on the Government to immediately bring clarity regarding the future of Uisce Eireann in relation to ability to pay, pricing structure and metering, allocation of allowances, quality of service and future ownership.”

The Mayor then put the amendment to the meeting and in a recorded Vote -15 for

(Cllrs Brazil, Butler, Carey, Cronin, Cummins, Doocey, Geoghegan, Mulligan, Nugent, O’Leary, O’Ryan, Power, Quinlan, Tobin, Wyse)

11 against

(Cllrs Brennan, Clune, Conway, Daniels, Fitzgerald, Griffin, Hannigan, Hearne, O’Neill, Reinhardt, Whelan).

The amendment was carried.

At this point a person in the public gallery disrupted the meeting by shouting abuse at members, he refused to obey a direction by the Mayor to cease the abuse and resume his seat or leave the meeting. As he failed to comply, at this point the Mayor suspended the remainder of the business of the meeting and brought it to a close.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____