

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

**COUNCIL MEETING HELD on 11th June, 2015 HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CIVIC OFFICES, DUNGARVAN**

**Item
No.
1**

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES:

Cllr James Tobin Mayor, Cllr Pat Nugent, Cllr Joe Kelly, Cllr. Joe Conway

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. M. Walsh, Chief Executive
Mr. Don Tuohy, Senior Executive Officer, 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, Water and Corporate
Mr. B. O'Kane, Financial Management Accountant
Ms. K. Collins, Project Leader, European Capital of Culture
Mr. E. Ruane, Meetings Administrator
Ms. A. Jacob, Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

A vote of sympathy was expressed to those bereaved by the deaths of:
Denis Sheehan, Joe Loftus, Patrick (Pablo) O'Rourke, William Murphy, Michael Butler, Michael Murphy, Margaret Kennedy, Ann Delaney, Fr. Sean Melody, Patrick Ahearne, Fr. Ray Reidy, Liam Barrett, Nicholas Burke, Maurice Donovan

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

Senior Hurlers and Derek McGrath on the Senior Munster Championship, Roisin Halligan Pride of Ireland 2015 Outstanding Bravery Award, Mo Dunford IFTA Award for lead role in Patricks Day.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the 14th May, 2015 were proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and Cllr Cronin and agreed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Daniels asked that Michael Kelly, Ministerial appointee to be invited to address the Council at the July meeting, on progress on the Technological University status. The Deputy Mayor asked to be associated with this request.

3. PLANNING

Cllr Whelan enquired about wind turbine planning applications in the context of the motion passed at the last Council meeting. L. Power, DOS responded saying that all planning applications submitted must be processed.

Cllr Hearne enquired about unauthorised developments and the Councils procedure in this regard. L. Power, DOS explained that all unauthorised cases are investigated. Cllr O'Ryan enquired about planning for wind farms and asked that the urgency be communicated to the Minister in relation to the issue of new guidelines.

4. Land Disposals

Land disposals as outlined were proposed by Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Geoghegan and agreed.

5. MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Economic Development

Cllr Daniels enquired whether the new owners of Waterford Crystal have indicated their plans for the operation of the plant. CE responded that he had no contact with the purchasers but saw it as positive that they are taking a long term strategic view of the plant. Cllr O'Neill commended the glass exhibition currently open in City Hall. Cllr Mulligan enquired about the number of jobs that have been facilitated by the LEO. L. Power, DOS responded that the numbers can be made available at the end of year. Cllr Fitzgerald asked if some consideration could be given to providing a slipway to launch small vessels in the City. L. Power, DOS stated that there was one at Grannagh and that it would be cost prohibitive to provide one in the City. Cllr Roche welcomed the sale of City Square shopping centre and asked if the New Street owners had made any contact with the Council and what effect it would have if any on the Michael Street development. She also enquired about the plans for the North Quays. The CE stated that the Council would be in contact with the new owners and that the Michael Street development would stand alone. He confirmed that after protracted negotiations on the North Quays the Council are taking ownership of the site and will revert to Council with more details. Cllr Carey asked if fishing boats could be accommodated on the Quay when the dredging work commences in Dunmore East.

Planning

Cllr Daniels enquired about the makeup and function of the forward planning unit. L. Power, DOS explained that the unit is made up of planning officials and that they consider planning policy formulation in regard to the Development Plan and other issues. He also stated that the Council is awaiting the Planning and Development Regional Review guidelines from the Department. Cllr Doocey enquired about An Bord Pleanala decision in relation to the Padre Pio Nursing Home application. Cllr Wyse asked about the proposed Island View housing scheme. Don Tuohy, SEO said he would revert. Cllr O'Donnell concurred with Cllr Doocey in relation to the Padre Pio Nursing Home. CE responded that the legal process has now finished and it can only be restarted by a new or revised planning application being submitted but that the Council will engage with the NRA.

Cllr Hearne raised an issue in relation to first responders calling other emergency services at the scene of accidents. P. Daly, A/DOS said that the first responders normally contact central control in Limerick and that they request additional services if required. Cllr Pratt enquired if the Retained Fire Service crews are up to normal operating levels. P. Daly, A/DOS stated that we have an ongoing process of recruitment in place to deal with vacancies as they arise. Cllr Power also commented on emergency services finding addresses.

Housing

Cllr Reinhardt referred to the 187 homeless and asked if comparison statistics could be shown, in relation to HAP he enquired if we could ask applicants how they sourced the properties and as it is a pilot scheme if the Council reported back to the Minister with issues. D. Tuohy, SEO confirmed that he will provide the comparison figures and that there is ongoing sourcing of landlords and that feedback is given to the Minister on the HAP scheme.

Cllr O'Neill raised the issue of the details of housing allocations being omitted from the report and the Deputy Mayor concurred with this. CE responded that there is a data protection issue in relation to housing allocations but that he had no objection to informing members. Cllr Brennan asked if there was confirmation of grant funding yet. Cllr O'Leary commented on the 184 homeless. D. Tuohy, SEO responded and referred to the updated report issued at the meeting which contained grant allocation details. Cllr Fitzgerald commented on the need for housing in Dunmore East and asked in relation to Irish Water receiving details of tenancies. Cllr Hearne remarked on difficulties contacting Housing staff and said that applicants should be informed of realistic proposals of obtaining an allocation. Cllr Cummins, commented on applicants receiving letters to state that they are on waiting lists for disabled persons grants and asked about the total funding available for Priority 1 cases. D. Tuohy, SEO responded that all Priority 1's will be funded. He also responded to Cllr Fitzgeralds questions stating they will address them. Cllr Quinlan asked for further breakdown on the homeless figures being presented and asked what the average rent and allowances were. Cllr Griffin asked if Council would consider holding a workshop on the HAP scheme. Cllr Geoghegan enquired about progress on the old Cinema site in Dungarvan. Cllr Geoghegan referred to the recent AILG organised training seminar held in Dungarvan in relation to housing and the attendance at same. Cllr Clune remarked on housing applicants experiencing difficulties getting in touch with the Housing Department. D. Tuohy, SEO responded that he was not aware of such difficulties and the CRM system is operating well with built in response times but added that he would be anxious that any contact issues would be brought to the attention of management. In regard to the old Cinema site he said that there was an issue in relation to a bond but that the Council will be on site in the next 10 days. Cllr Hannigan commented on the rent allowance rates in Waterford. Cllr Whelan enquired about the operation of the house painting scheme. D. Tuohy, SEO responded that he will take up rent allowance rates with the Department and that the painting scheme was discussed at the last SPC meeting and a proposal will be issued in relation to it.

Community Services

Cllr O'Neill asked for an update on the Williamstown Golf Course. CE responded that the club house proposals weren't viable and not a priority capital spend. Cllr Hearne commented on the Community Support Officer services and lack of resources. Cllr Wyse raised the reduction in the community grants from €600 to €450 and asked if the Council can redress this. Cllr Mulligan endorsed Cllr Wyse's comments, he also asked if a letter could be issued to the Department of Defence to propose the twinning of the LE James Joyce with the City. The Deputy Mayor supported this request. CE responded that in relation to community grants that no figure was agreed at the budget meeting. Cllr Daniels commented on the local government fund. The CE responded that the Council has been treated extremely fairly in relation to the fund.

Cllr O'Leary enquired about the level of paid fines. Cllr Butler enquired if we were successful in relation to the better energy community scheme grants. Cllr Brennan asked about the supervision of the refuse collection and if the public were fully aware of the new arrangements. F. Galvin, DOS stated that offenders had 40 days to pay a fine and that unpaid fines are pursued through the court, he said that the Council were successful in securing the better energy scheme grants and that bin collection issues should be brought to the attention of the Environmental Department.

Roads

Cllr Roche enquired if there was a traffic management plan for the Dunmore East. P. Daly, A/DOS said there was no plan. Cllr Brazil enquired when would the Durrow to Dungarvan Greenway commence. Cllr Mulligan enquired if there was any funding available for housing and storm development for Dunmore East. Cllr Brennan asked if we could provide disability parking near customer services department in the City. The Deputy Mayor commented that there are plans to provide spaces near the department. P. Daly, A/DOS said that the Greenway will start immediately and that storm damage applicants and grants have been approved.

6. Presentation on European Capital of Culture 2016

A presentation on the European Capital of Culture 2016 bid was delivered by Katherine Collins, Project Leader.

7. Polling Scheme 2015

Polling Scheme 2015 was proposed by Cllr Daniels, seconded by Cllr O'Neill and agreed.

8. Making of Waterford City and County Council (Parks, Playgrounds and Open Spaces) Bye Laws 2015

The Bye Laws as presented were proposed by Cllr Hearne, seconded by Cllr Daniels and agreed.

9. Waterford City and County Council Draft Beach Bye Laws 2015

Cllr O'Sullivan said that camper vans are not dealt with adequately in the byelaws. Cllr O'Neill raised concerns regarding safety and fishing. Cllr Griffin said that designation of camper van parking is beneficial for tourism and should be considered. Cllr O'Sullivan asked if flags could be provided on the beach to designate areas for particular activities. Cllr Hannigan raised the issue of dog fouling and the control of animals. Cllr Fitzgerald raised the issue of camper parking in Dunmore East and asked if jet skis were included. P. Daly, A/DOS introduced the byelaws and the changes. He said that the flags issue can go to the SPC, Control of Dogs Act covers limiting dogs from sections of the beach at various times. He also confirmed that we have staff who are empowered to enforce this and that jet skis are included in the Bye Laws. The Bye Laws were proposed by Cllr Hearne, seconded by Cllr Daniels and agreed.

10. SPC

The following changes to the SPC's were put to the meeting:-

Planning SPC – Cllr O'Ryan – no change
Environment SPC – Cllr Hearne – no change
Economic SPC – Cllr O'Sullivan to be replaced by Cllr Brazil
Housing Culture & Community – Cllr Carey to be replaced by Cllr Pratt
Transportation – Cllr Kelly to be replaced by Cllr O'Neill

These changes require the Housing, Culture and Community SPC to increase its membership from 11 to 12 with Cllr Pratt taking up the additional position. The changes were proposed by Cllr Roche, seconded by Cllr Cronin and agreed.

11. Comeragh Community Development Group

CE presented the report with recommendation to make €75,000 contribution to Comeragh Development Committee. It was proposed by Cllr O'Ryan, seconded by Cllr Butler and agreed.

12. Correspondence

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

13. Notices of Motions

Deferred to next meeting.

12. AOB

Standing Orders having been exceeded the meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____