

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

**COUNCIL MEETING HELD on 9th July, 2015 HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
CITY HALL, WATERFORD**

**Item  
No.  
1**

**PRESENT:**

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

**APOLOGIES:**

Cllr John Cummins, Cllr. Davy Daniels, Cllr. Damien Geoghegan,  
Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan,

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr. M. Walsh, Chief Executive  
Mr. F. Galvin, Director of Service Environment, Water and Corporate  
Mr. M. Quinn, Director of Service, Housing, Community & Culture  
Mr. P. Daly, A/Director of Service Roads HR & Emergency Services  
Mr. J. Murphy, Head of Finance  
Mr. B. Duggan, A/Director of Service, Economic Development & Planning  
Ms. L. Grant, Economic Development Officer  
Mr. V. O'Shea, Administrative Officer, Housing Community & Culture  
Mr. E. Ruane, Meetings Administrator  
Ms. A. Jacob, Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services

At the outset of the meeting the Deputy Mayor proposed a suspension of Standing Orders to convey the sympathy of the Council to the families of Val Doonican, Freeman of Waterford City who passed away last week and to David Houlihan, nephew of Pat Nugent's wife Eileen who died tragically in Thailand. Seconded by Cllr Roche and agreed. The meeting then stood adjourned for five minutes.

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

Michael Mannix, Mary Molloy, Humphrey O'Sullivan, Dolly Power, Kevin Dunphy O'Shea, Trevor Griffin.

**VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

The Promenade Festival Tramore Committee and Volunteers, Waterford Council of Trade Unions on right to water motion, Comhairle na nÓg on recent mental health event, Greek

## **1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Cllr Roche asked for minutes to be corrected to record her question on a traffic management plan for Dunmore East and not Dunmore Road. Cllr Fitzgerald asked that minutes be amended in relation to the Beach Bye Laws on jet skis. Cllr Reinhardt asked that his request for the HAP quarterly report to the Minister to be issued to Council be recorded. Cllr Conway asked that attendance be amended to reflect his absence as notified.

Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015 were proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr O’Ryan and agreed. Annual General Meeting Minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> June were proposed by Cllr O’Neill, seconded by Cllr Hearne and agreed.

## **2. MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr Reinhardt asked for an update on HAP applicants sourcing properties. M. Quinn, DOS responded that he had no further update. Cllr Pratt asked if the retained fire fighter vacancy in Lismore was to be advertised. P. Daly, A/DOS said that the vacancy will be advertised as usual. Cllr Wyse asked for an update on Island View housing proposal. M. Quinn, DOS responded that the Island View housing proposal was not proceeding. Cllr Roche asked for an update on north quays. The CE confirmed that the Council was still in discussions with contractors.

## **3. PLANNING**

Cllr Butler expressed her disappointment at the recent grant of planning permission for wind turbine at Portlaw. The CE responded that individual planning applications cannot be discussed at Council meetings. Cllr O’Ryan enquired if the Council had received any response from the Minister in regard to the motion issued on wind farms. E. Ruane responded no. Cllr Hannigan asked if Council were aware of the reason for suspension of building works at Queen of Peace nursing home in Tramore. Cllr Power also commented on the granting of permission for the wind turbine in Portlaw. Cllr Mulligan enquired about warning notices issued recently to local businesses from the Planning Department and asked can informal intervention take place before issue of warnings. Cllr Griffin commented on planning granted for wind turbine. Cllr O’Neill proposed a workshop on planning and this was agreed. Cllr Hearne enquired about bus parking when the OPW take over the coach park at Bolton Street. Cllr Conway also commented on the suspension of works on the Queen of Peace Nursing Home in Tramore. Cllr Doocey enquired about St. Mary’s Abbey Glencairn renovations. Cllr Fitzgerald raised the issue of planning requirements for reinstatement of thatched dwellings and insurance issues.

## **4. Land Disposals**

Cllr Kelly enquired about a land swap at Faha. F. Galvin, DOS stated this was to enable site access and that it was a quid pro quo transaction. It was proposed by Cllr Brazil, seconded by Cllr Carey and agreed.

## **5. Procedural Committee**

The proposal contained in CPG report of 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015 in relation to the constitution of the Procedures Committee was proposed by Cllr O’Neill. Cllr O’Ryan proposed the following amendment “that the committee be made up of 1. former sitting Mayor(s) of the newly amalgamated Waterford City and County Council. 2. Sitting Chairs of the SPC’s. 3. one member of each political grouping 4. the current Mayor as Chair. The amendment was seconded by Cllr Tobin and agreed. Cllr O’Neill withdrew the original motion in favour of the amendment. The amendment was then carried.

## **6. MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

The Mayor requested that the monthly management report would have a 40 minute time limit as recommended by CPG. This was proposed by Cllr Carey, seconded by Cllr Pratt and agreed.

## **Economic Development**

Cllr Roche requested that year on year figures be included in further economic reports.

## **Planning**

Cllr Tobin enquired in relation to forward planning would any proposed changes be brought to Council. CE responded stating that we are awaiting regional planning guidelines but preparatory work is ongoing and that Council will get first sight of plan. Cllr Roche enquired how the statistics for planning application granted compare nationally. She also enquired about further development of Cathedral Square to enhance and animate the area and also asked that future management reports include the boundary extension application update.

The CE replied that the granting statistics are average, he said that units will become available in Cathedral Square which will enhance the area and that the Council involvement in the boundary extension has yet to be decided by the Boundary Commission. Cllr Kelly asked how can the public get advice on exempted developments which are causing problems. The CE stated that that the Council have no function in respect of exempted developments and where issues arise they are a civil matter. Cllr Mulligan commented on Cathedral Square and Summer in the City as events occurring.

## **Roads**

Cllr Brazil raised concerns in relation to road markings at Downeys Cross Leamybrien Junction and Gavaleesh Junction. Cllr Nugent raised a question in relation to the road at Ballinroad. P. Daly, A/DOS, said that the NRA is upgrading road markings at present and Council has no input in national design but concerns can be conveyed to the NRA and Coiscairn is being examined. Cllr Roche asked if consideration could be given to review the parking charges to apply the same rates for Dungarvan and City. Cllr Mulligan raised the question of bus parking on the Mall to facilitate Waterford Crystal. Cllr Carey enquired about traffic calming at Woodstown. P. Daly, A/DOS stated that level of parking charges were for District Council decision. He also stated that he will discuss parking with businesses on the Mall. Cllr Butler enquired when the council will get to review speed limits. Cllr Hannigan raised the traffic problems at the Abbey Road/Ferrybank junction. Cllr Kelly raised the cycle lane in Mayors Walk. P. Daly, A/DOS will be reviewing speed limits in the next few weeks, Abbey Road funding for traffic lights had been received and work will commence. The Cycle lanes are part of the overall traffic management proposal for the inner city urban renewal and consultations will take place. Cllrs Hearne and Fitzgerald raised the issue of Bolton Street carpark. P. Daly, A/DOS confirmed that the Bolton Street carpark will close. Cllr Wyse suggested a phased closure.

## **Emergency Services**

None.

## **Housing**

Cllr Reinhardt asked for details of HAP figures, comparative figures on homeless, reports from Council to Minister and asked if the Department of Social Protection get a report. Cllr Pratt asked how the decision is made in choosing houses for insulation work. Cllr Kelly asked what was the difficulty in finding RAS units and asked if the increase in homelessness was related to reposessions. Cllr Murphy enquired about the shared ownership scheme and if there was a mechanism in place to exit the rental aspect of the scheme. Cllr O'Neill asked if refurbishment of houses can be carried out while occupied. Cllr Griffin raised an issue in relation to customer response from housing office. Cllr Hearne queried the number of houses in the planned Larchville development. Cllr Fitzgerald raised the lack of land for housing in the City east ward. M. Quinn, DOS responded that HAP figures 50% are new 50% transfers, homeless comparison will be included, LA's have made known concern of rent limits to the Department, provision of insulation is based on the age of the house and RAS unit supply is a problem mainly because of the 12% discount is difficult to achieve. He also stated that homelessness has increased over the last 12 months and additional funding had been sought to deal with this matter. He also stated that in relation to refurbishment that it would not be appropriate to have a tenant in situ while work was carried out but will look at this issue. Cllr Clune asked that the management report order be rotated as Finance has not been reached on for the last few meetings.

J. Murphy, HOF stated that the Department is due to come back to Council in relation to shared ownership by the end of the summer.

Having exceeded 40 minutes on this item the Deputy Mayor moved to item no. 7.

#### **7. LECF**

L. Grant and V. OShea presented the report to Council. The Plan was proposed by Cllr Brazil, seconded by Cllr Carey and agreed.

#### **8. Approval of Part VIII**

Part VIII was proposed by Cllr Brazil, seconded by Cllr Ryan and agreed.

#### **9. Correspondence**

Conferences, receptions and funeral attendance contained in this item was proposed by Cllr Pratt, seconded by Cllr Cronin and agreed.

Standing orders having been exceeded at this stage Cllr O’Ryan proposed an extension of 15 minutes, seconded by Cllr Clune and agreed.

#### **10. Motions**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr Clune, seconded by Cllr Hearne and a recorded vote was requested

1. “That Waterford City & County Council calls on the Government to:

- Immediately cease domestic water charges which are an unjust double charge and are more about privatisation rather than conservation;
- Immediately stop the installation of water meters across the Country;
- Recognise that Irish Water is not fit for purpose and it should be abolished;
- Cease the threat of taking water charges from people’s salary, pension and/or social welfare benefits as is currently planned.”

**Reg. No. 33** (dated 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2015 – *deferred from June 11<sup>th</sup>. 2015*)

NAME	For	Against
Liam Brazil (FG)		X
Breda Brennan (SF)	X	
Mary Butler (FF)	X	
John Carey (FG)		X
Declan Clune (SF)	X	
Joe Conway (Ind)	X	
Tom Cronin (FF)	X	
Declan Doocey (FG)		X
Pat Fitzgerald (SF)	X	
Jim Griffin (SF)	X	
Blaise Hannigan (Ind)	X	
John Hearne (SF)	X	
Joe Kelly (Ind)	X	
Eddie Mulligan (FF)	X	
Jason Murphy (FF)	X	
John O’Leary (FF)	X	
Cha O’Neill (Ind)	X	
Michael J O’Ryan (FF)	X	

Seanie Power (FG)		X
John Pratt (Lab)		X
Eamon Quinlan (FF)	X	
Sean Reinhardt (Ind)	X	
Siobhán Whelan (SF)	X	
Adam Gary Wyse (FF)	X	
TOTAL	19	5

2. The following motion was proposed by Cllr O’Ryan, seconded by Cllr Wyse and agreed.

"That Waterford City and County Council calls on the government to protect rural post offices by ring fencing and enhancing the services they provide and to implement the proposals put forward by the Irish Postmasters' Union."

**Reg. No. 34** (dated 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2015 - *deferred from June 11<sup>th</sup>. 2015*)

3. The following motion was proposed by Cllr Mulligan, seconded by Cllr Butler and agreed.

"This Council calls on Minister Alex White TD and the Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources to scrap the controversial and confusing EIRCODE design. Furthermore this Council asks that a free and open tender, that does not exclude small business, be held for the design of a modern, smart, structured postcode with integrated geolocation (GPS) data. This Council calls for a postcode design that is simple & inexpensive to adopt & maintain for government, citizens, businesses and tourists alike. This Council also calls for a postcode that offers maximum assistance to all our emergency services by providing a single code format to help guide them quickly to both dwelling and non dwelling incidents such as road traffic accidents. It is proposed that the system currently in use on locations of ring buoys approved by Irish Water Safety and by HSE Emergency planning for the Southern Area and used by Waterford Council for water asset location be examined as an interim solution'.

**Reg. No. 35** (dated 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2015)

#### 11.AOB

None.

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

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