

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

**Item
No. 1.**

**COUNCIL MEETING HELD on 9th April, 2015 HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CIVIC OFFICES, DUNGARVAN, CO. WATERFORD.**

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Joe Kelly, Cllr Sean Reindhardt, Cllr Declan Doocey, Cllr Declan Clune

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
Ms. L. O'Mahony, A/SEO Housing, Community & Culture
Ms. A. Jacob, Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

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

Eileen Coffey, John Goff, Jimmy Henley, Jim Power, Muriel Walsh, Bobby Phelan, Brian Heeney.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

Niamh Briggs, Liam Brazil, St. Patrick's Day Parade Organisers Tramore

The Mayor recommended that a special meeting of the Council be convened in City Hall to accord a Civic Reception to Niamh Briggs, Captain of the Irish Ladies Rugby team to acknowledge her recent successes and achievements. This was proposed by Cllr Nugent, seconded by Cllr O'Ryan and agreed.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- 1a.Minutes of meeting held on 12th March 2015 were proposed by Cllr Cummins, seconded by Cllr Cronin and agreed.
- 1b.Minutes of meeting held on 16th March 2015 were proposed by Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Daniels and agreed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

1a. – Minutes 12th March, 2015

Cllr Pratt asked for an update on the Tenant Purchase Scheme. M. Quinn, DOS said that the Scheme will not be available until the 2nd Quarter of 2015. Cllr Daniels asked if the CEO of Waterford Airport could be invited to a meeting to discuss the operation of the new routes. Cllr Hearne enquired about the number of homeless and the cost of B&B provision. Cllr Mulligan also enquired about the number of homeless and asked if there was an emergency procedure in place. M. Quinn, DOS responded stating that there is a procedure in place and will follow up on the circulation of the out of hours service telephone number. Cllr Whelan asked why her query on Mercyhurst College was not included in the minutes of the last meeting. The CE responded stating that any developments on this matter would come back to Council for approval first.

1b – Minutes 16th March, 2015

Cllr Daniels enquired if the Mayor had any further update on WIT and if a further meeting was required. The Mayor responded stating that the Council would have to await the publication of Mr. Kelly's report but in the meantime that Council should request that a copy of the report be provided when it is issued. This was proposed by Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Daniels and agreed.

3. PLANNING

(a)Planning lists – noted.

(b) Material contravention of Tramore Local Area Plan – Newtown Hill, Tramore

Cllrs Hannigan, Conway and Griffin enquired about the exact location of this development. Cllr Fitzgerald enquired if in the future maps could be circulated in this regard. B. White, DOS responded clarifying the location and agreed that maps would be issued in future. The Material Contravention was proposed by Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr O'Sullivan and agreed.

4. LAND DISPOSALS

Land disposals as listed proposed by Cllr Brennan, seconded by Cllr Hearne and agreed.

5. MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Cllr O'Neill asked if the Council had sufficient resources in place to deal with HAP applications and commented on the litter and flytipping on the road to Portlaw. He also enquired if the shared ownership scheme could be amended to merge the rental

and mortgage elements for homeowners with repayment difficulties. Cllr Roche asked for a brief outline of Measure 1 and 2 of the Economic Grant Scheme, why only 56 applications had been successful and if the names of the businesses and job numbers created by these measures could be released. Cllr O'Sullivan commented that it had been incorrectly reported that councillors had not attended the South East Action Plan for Jobs conference, when no invitations had been issued to Councillors. She also mentioned that the Nationwide Programme on RTE on 15th April would cover Fenor/Dunhill area. M. Quinn, DOS responded stating that the HAP scheme had sufficient staff dedicated to it at present but would provide more if required. F. Galvin, DOS said that the litter problem was being monitored continuously and was aware of the problem in Pouldrew and will address same. J. Murphy, HOF confirmed that the Department was working on a solution to Shared Ownership issues. L. Power, DOS outlined Measures 1 and 2 and confirmed that the 56 grant aided only represented those successful to date but that this figure will increase. He also confirmed that he is examining the possibility of providing figures for job numbers with Enterprise Ireland but that under Data Protection names cannot be publicised. He stated that invitations to the South East Action Plan for Jobs conference were issued by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and that Councils were not included.

Cllr Butler enquired about the proposed review of protected structures and asked if the thatched buildings would be addressed separately, flytipping on the road to Kimeaden and asked if signage to prohibit illegal dumping could be provided. Cllr Daniels asked when funding would be available for the mobility aid adaption grants and if the Council had made any approaches to the Department for supplementary roads funding. He also enquired about the disruption being caused by roadworks on the Dunmore Road by IW contractors. Cllr Cummins asked that the Council write to the Minister to convey its disappointment on the discontinuation of the Community Involvement Scheme. He also asked if the Council could lead the way in pursuing the Department in relation to issues with Income Related loans and about a previous commitment that was given to provide extra bins at the Eco Park. B. White, DOS confirmed that the Protected Structures Register needed to be reviewed and when this is completed will go to the SPC and then back to Council. F. Galvin, DOS stated that the dumping at Pouldrew would be examined and also confirmed that there had been some success with illegal dumping cases being brought to court. He confirmed that the Council had been in communication with IW in relation to the traffic management of the ongoing works on the Dunmore Road to minimise disruption. He said that there was an issue with installing extra bins throughout the Eco Park as it would require resources for refuse collection but that he would review other areas. M. Quinn, DOS said that the adaptation grant funding had not yet been received but an application for a commitment for priority 1 applications would be made. P. Daly, A/DOS said that he will write to the Department in relation to the CIS Scheme. J. Murphy, HOF confirmed that he is in touch with the Department in relation to the Income Related loans.

Cllr Wyse asked who was responsible for damages caused to open spaces/greens caused by contractors. Cllr Fitzgerald enquired about Sustainable Energy schemes and also enquired about funding in respect of the 1916 centenary celebrations. Cllr Hannigan asked when the Tenant Purchase scheme will be available. F. Galvin, DOS confirmed that the contractors are responsible for damage caused to public areas. M. Quinn, DOS confirmed that the Council can make application for energy efficiency upgrades directly to the Department in respect of housing estates but that individuals make them directly to SEAI. He also confirmed that an initial allocation of €30,000 towards the 1916 celebration programme had been granted but that additional grant aid will be available based on our programme submission. Cllr Fitzgerald enquired how the submission will be prepared. M. Quinn, DOS confirmed that a workshop will be arranged for this and that the Tenant Purchase Scheme will become available before end of June.

Cllr Griffin stated that the recent communication to the unsuccessful priority 1 funding applicants was unsatisfactory. Cllr Carey welcomed the funding for flood damage at Passage. Cllr O’Ryan welcomed the commencement of the road works programme, enquired about the local community groups and burial grounds funding. Cllr Power enquired about funding for the burial ground at Churchtown. M. Quinn, DOS stated that the Community Grants application process will be available around October and that properly constituted groups could apply under that scheme. P. Daly, A/DOS also confirmed that area offices and District Engineers may be able to provide some assistance with graveyards.

Cllr Pratt enquired about the works at Kilrush. Cllr Mulligan enquired about planning application numbers and preplanning numbers in comparison to last year. He also raised an issue in relation to the specification on maintenance works on walls etc. He also stated that he had met with IW in relation to the traffic management issues on the Dunmore Road and confirmed that they will be reviewing their hours of work before schools reopen after Easter. Cllr Brazil raised the issue of anti-social behaviour in Kilmacthomas, he enquired about social housing for Kilmacthomas, fire protection in houses at Cúl na Mara and works at Bonmahon Carpark and speed limits in housing estates.

P. Daly, A/DOS explained that the ramps at Kilrush were being widened and lowered and undertook to get the works at Bonmahon carpark completed. He confirmed that the speed limit submissions were being collated and that they would go to the June SPC. He stated that the fire protection issue at the Cúl na Mara Estate, now owned by NAMA related to fire barriers, that it wasn’t significant and measures had been taken to reduce the risk including issuing extra smoke detectors to occupants and the engagement of consultants to carry out further investigations. B. White, DOS said that the drop in planning applications was minor but stated that some significant applications of quality had been granted recently. Cllr O’Leary enquired about the National Housing Strategy and asked how many units would be built in Waterford. Cllr Hearne welcomed the €30,000 allocation for Easter 2016 and asked that the Council ensure that it is all inclusive. Cllr Nugent said that this was the third attempt to address the issue of ramps at Kilrush and asked if some alternative solution could be tried. Michael Quinn, DOS said that full details had yet to be confirmed but that 760 units including construction, RAS and HAP had been approved. At the suggestion of the Mayor it was agreed that the issue of the ramps at Kilrush could be dealt with at the District meeting. Following discussion on the time being spent on the Report of the Chief Executive that might be better dealt with at district level, it was agreed to refer the matter to the CPG for a recommendation.

6. Economic Grant Schemes

Lar Power, DOS presented the report and recommended it for approval. The Mayor, Cllrs O’Ryan and Geoghegan welcomed the scheme. Cllr Roche also welcomed the report but enquired if any studies had been carried out to examine the benefits or issues to businesses grant aided in the past and also enquired if there were any supports available for existing businesses. Cllr O’Neill enquired about two recently opened hairdressing businesses. L. Power, DOS clarified that the scheme only applies to clothing, footwear and homecare businesses.

7. Polling Scheme 2015

The draft Polling Scheme 2015 as submitted for consultation was proposed by Cllr Cummins, seconded by Cllr O’Sullivan and agreed.

8. Loan Approval €4 million (as set out in Business Case for Refinancing approved by WCCC July 2014)

Cllr Daniels enquired if previously approved borrowings had been drawn down and whether the interest rate could be reduced. The CE responded stating that the Council is only borrowing as required and the interest rates secured are the best available. The loan approval was proposed by Cllr Carey, seconded by Cllr Cummins and agreed.

9. Event Licence Completion – West Waterford Festival of Food

Completion of the event licence was proposed by Cllr Geoghegan, seconded by Cllr Cronin and agreed.

10. Notice of Proposal to amend the policy on the removal, storage and disposal of vehicles for parking offences

Item 10 was proposed by Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Daniels and agreed.

11. Waterford City and County Council Anti Social Behaviour Strategy

M. Quinn, DOS presented the report. Cllr Conway commented that the strategy was a proactive device for tenants but said that many were unaware how to go about making a complaint and that a procedure should be issued. Cllr Hearne suggested that a workshop with all agencies involved in anti-social behaviour should be organised. Cllr Griffin said that there would be benefit in inviting the Garda Superintendant to address the Council. The Strategy was proposed by Cllr Cummins, seconded by Cllr Pratt and agreed.

12. Housing Construction

Michael Quinn, DOS presented an updated report circulated at the meeting. Cllr Fitzgerald enquired about the numbers of houses proposed for Dunmore. Cllr O'Neill proposed that this item be discussed at District level. At this stage the Mayor asked for an extension of standing orders for 10 minutes which was agreed. Cllr Cummins asked if they could get an estimated cost for each proposal. M. Quinn, DOS confirmed that the submission must be made to the Department for their decision on the funding first and that he would revert to Cllr Fitzgerald directly.

13. Notice of Proposed Part 8 Housing Developments

Cllr Geoghegan said that this item required discussion at District level. M. Quinn, DOS confirmed that the Part 8 process allows for submission and input. It was proposed by Cllr Cummins, seconded by Cllr Geoghegan and agreed.

14. Scéim Teanga – Official Languages Act 2003 Language Scheme – 2015-2018

Cllr Conway said that while the Scheme covers the rights of citizens rather than promotion of the language that the Council had a duty to adopt it. Cllr Conway proposed, seconded by Cllr O’Ryan and agreed.

15. Report of the CPG 2nd April, 2015

B. White, DOS advised that the CPG sought approval to the hosting of a civic reception for Niamh Briggs, Captain of the ladies Irish Rugby Team, which was agreed. Approval for €3,000 to support two music groups to go to Newfoundland, which was agreed on a show of hands. Approval was also given to a reception by the Comeragh District for the Comeragh Clean up Committee and Tidy Towns Groups. Approval was also sought to the Mayor Cllr Tobin’s visit to the West Pharma HQ in Philadelphia. It was proposed by Cllr O’Ryan, seconded by Cllr Carey and agreed.

As this was the last Plenary meeting for Brian White, DOS the Mayor and Council thanked him and wished him well on his imminent retirement.

Standing orders having been exceeded the meeting concluded.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____