

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

**COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2016 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
CIVIC OFFICES, DUNGARVAN, WATERFORD**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr. Adam Wyse Mayor	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Liam Brazil	Cllr. Pat Nugent
Cllr. John Cummins	Cllr. Seamus O'Donnell
Cllr. Declan Doocey	Cllr. John O'Leary
Cllr. Joe Conway	Cllr. Michael J O'Ryan
Cllr. Declan Clune	Cllr. Cha O'Neill
Cllr. Tom Cronin	Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan
Cllr. Davy Daniels	Cllr. Seanie Power
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. John Pratt
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. Eamon Quinlan
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan	Cllr. Sean Reinhardt
Cllr. Blaise Hannigan	Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. Joe Kelly	Cllr James Tobin
Cllr. Eddie Mulligan	

**APOLOGIES:**

Cllr. J. Hearne, Cllr. S. Whelan, Cllr. B. Brennan, Cllr R. Murphy

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY:**

Cllr. O'Donnell sought adjournment for 5 minutes as a mark of respect to the victims of the recent tragedy on Military Road, Dungarvan. The Emergency Services were congratulated for their input at this incident. Councillors Tobin, Nugent, Pratt, Geoghegan, Roche, Fitzgerald, Mulligan, O'Leary, Cronin and Cllr. Wyse, Mayor, added their condolences

The meeting then stood for a minutes silence and adjourned for 5 minutes.

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr. M. Walsh, Chief Executive  
Mr. M. Quinn, Director of Services, Corporate, Arts, HR & IS  
Mr. L. Power, Director of Services, Economic Development & Planning  
Mr. I. Grimes, Director of Services, Housing, Community & Emergency Services  
Mr. J. Murphy, Head of Finance  
Mr. F. Galvin, Director of Services, Roads, Water & Environment  
Mr. E. Ruane, Meetings Administrator  
Ms. S. Walsh, Senior Staff Officer

## **1. Confirmation of Minutes**

- (a) Plenary Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2016, proposed by Cllr. Doocey, seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald and agreed.
- (b) Special Plenary Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2016 ,proposed by: Cllr. O'Leary seconded by Cllr Tobin and agreed. Correction noted as Lar Power's attendance not recorded for this meeting
- (c) Special Plenary Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 proposed by: Cllr Pratt, seconded by Cllr Tobin and agreed.

## **2. Matters Arising**

Cllr. Cummins requested an update on the Boundary Report. Cllr. Doocey, enquired about cobblelock and insurance claims figures. Cllr. Roche asked for an indication on what is in the Boundary report, also the date for an Economic Strategic meeting. She said the response from TII in connection with the N24 was unacceptable and the Council should go back to them on this. She also requested an update on the SDZ.

I. Grimes, DOS confirmed that the Boundary Report was received by the Minister's Office with no details as yet but the report should be published shortly.

J. Murphy, HOF will revert with insurance claim detail.

L. Power, DOS will revert with Economic and SDZ updates in January

F. Galvin, DOS will contact the TII again re. the N24.

Cllr. Hannigan asked if the meetings of Tramore & Waterford City West with Piltown District will continue.

Cllr. Nugent spoke about the quality of water and requested an update.

F.Galvin, DOS will revert with report on water quality when to hand.

Cllr. O'Ryan enquired if there was an update on the Council's meeting with EIR re.broadband.

E.Ruane, SEO confirmed that he was in contact with EIR to arrange a meeting. It was also confirmed that the Tramore Waterford West with Piltown District meetings will continue.

## **3. Planning**

- (a) Planning lists as circulated were noted.

## **4. Land Disposals**

Cllr. Mulligan enquired about item ref. No. 1264 (Splashworld) and requested further details. M.Quinn, DOS responded.

Cllr. Cummins asked about ref. No. 1266 FLI International Ltd and the disposal details and access to the site.

F. Galvin, DOS confirmed an anaerobic digester plant will be provided and new access provided also. The Council will be kept informed.

Cllr. Cummins asked to be informed re. the entrance and exit of this facility in this area, also can roadworks take place before any other work. Cllr. O'Neill said that we should re-negotiate the terms

F. Galvin, DOS said that these issues were dealt with at the planning stage, traffic issues dealt with, emissions from site dealt with- all by the Part 8 of the Planning Process. The Council would have allowed for safe emergence onto the road also there was no agreement to ever sell this site.

Cllr. Cummins proposed re Ref. 1266, this matter go to the January meeting and was agreed. Cllr. Tobin stated that all the Council be kept informed of outcome of discussions in this regard.

All other items under Land Disposals were proposed by Cllr. Mulligan, seconded by Cllr. Nugent and agreed.

## **5. Monthly Management Report**

Cllr. Daniels requested an update on the Airport and on the WIT upgrading. Cllr. Reinhardt asked about the Tenant Purchase scheme and if the Policy regarding €15k earned income and requirement regarding bungalows can be reviewed, also can the Choice Based Letting Scheme be extended. Cllr. Quinlan enquired about the Council's current debt level.

I. Grimes, DOS – Tenant Purchase scheme income requirement is to be reviewed by the Department and will go to the Housing SPC next week. The restriction for single storey houses will be reviewed after 12 months, and it is intended to increase the Choice Based Letting scheme.

J. Murphy, HOF said that the Council's indebtedness is sustainable and that all repayments are included in the Budget each year. A substantial aspect of the indebtedness is in relation to voluntary housing and is recoupable.

Cllr. O'Leary wanted an update of the Town and Village Scheme grant details etc. He raised a question on the N25 Tramore junction but was informed that this is an issue for the District. Cllr. Kelly asked for an update on the EPA legal proceedings against the Council and also an update on the Applemarket development and Christmas arrangements and completion date also a report on pinch points on the Quay. Cllr. Roche enquired if there was anything that could be done to accelerate the housing process to make a significant difference on housing provision. She raised the issue of the categorisation of homeless and questioned its appropriateness.

L. Power, DOS said that in relation to the Town and Village scheme, the Council has been in contact with groups and projects will be advanced. The Applemarket will be tidied up for Christmas and contractors have been in contact with traders and some barriers will be left.

F. Galvin, DOS gave an update on the EPA legal action and explained re court proceedings. A new local site has been sourced for disposal. He expects the court case to be deferred. He said pinch points were reported on previously to the Metro meeting.

I. Grimes, DOS said that he will look at the categorisation of homeless and revert, he said significant progress has been made with the Department with capital projects and hopes for news on new developments.

Cllr. Tobin welcomed CLAR funding and enquired if there is a time limit on spending. Cllr. Pratt looked for an update on the Tallow Link Road and also asked can information signs be put on the roundabout in Grattan Square for road safety purposes. Cllr. O'Neill complimented the Council on Grattan Square and said that the Applemarket will be good when it is finished. He requested that signs to be put up on entrances to City for the Christmas period.

F. Galvin, DOS said that CLAR funding was satisfactory and most works were expected to be completed soon. Tallow Link Road should have funding early in the New Year. He said the shared mini roundabout space in Grattan Square was working satisfactorily and he will look at signage. Cllr. O'Ryan welcomed the CLAR Funding and asked about if a region received funding for schools etc under measure 1 and if there is a timeline. Cllr. Fitzgerald asked in relation to Built Heritage employment figures, if they include CE schemes in the workforce. He also remarked on the number of emergency call-outs that included false alarms. Cllr. Griffin commended the Greenway and asked if the walkway could be extended to the Copper Coast, and ensure all opportunities to for funding are publicised.

F. Galvin, DOS said that it is intended to get CLAR works done early in the new year and School Principals are being consulted he expects new applications will be in earlier next year.

I. Grimes, DOS said he will revert with details of false alarms for the next meeting.

L. Power, DOS said employment on Built Heritage is by contract and the CE schemes are not included. He said the work with LEADER is in partnership with Council, LCD, and will keep all communities informed.

Cllr. Power asked can CLAR be extended. Cllr. Hannigan asked for an update on the Choice Based Letting Scheme. Cllr. O'Donnell asked if the Council could revise the parking plan for Grattan Square.

F. Galvin, DOS stated that Grattan Square is a shared space and is better and safer now and the Council does not intend to revise the plans. Cllr. O'Donnell intervened and refused to obey the direction of the Mayor. The Mayor at this point adjourned for 10 minutes.

Meeting resumed. Mayor said that standing orders for the conduct of the meeting should be adhered to.

I. Grimes, DOS stated that the Council is working on the Housing Initiative, Repair and Lease, he said there were a number of refusals on the Choice Based Letting and he reiterated that if an offer is refused the applicants will be suspended for 12 months from Choice Based Letting Scheme.

Cllr. Cummins remarked about the collection rates year to date versus the performance indicators showed a dramatic jump in figures. He also said that there was no information on the Council's website with regard to the Living City Initiative and looked for an update. Cllr. Mulligan asked for clarification on 2 refusals on the Choice Based Lettings, and an update on homelessness. He also welcomed the REDZ funding for Dunmore East and enquired when will the work commence. Cllr. Nugent asked in relation to Heritage/Conservation and the Structures at Risk budget. He asked about planning application figures, also in relation to the coastal erosion work to be carried out at Baile na nGall and funding for same.

J. Murphy, Head of Finance reported on the balances and he will look at our bad debt provision and showing this figure in the Report.

I. Grimes, DOS, stated that the Council is tackling arrears. He said that the number of refusals on the Choice Based Letting Scheme is in respect of people not houses. The Homeless number has reduced and has improved this month, there was a reduction in the number of people presenting as homeless.

L. Power, DOS - There is no update on the Living City, he thought it was on our website and will check and revert. The work in Dunmore East will be progressed and there is a team dedicated to it. The Built Heritage scheme is national and applications are sent to the Council, who recommend and send to the Department for vetting and approval. He confirmed planning application activity as the same as last year.

Cllr. O'Donnell apologised to the members and the executive for his earlier behaviour at this point.

#### **6. Draft Litter Management Plan 2017-2020**

Proposed by: Cllr. Roche, seconded by Cllr. Kelly and agreed.

Cllr. Kelly asked when will a policy re. temporary signage be available. He noted that waste disposal arrangements are to be in place by all households and he enquired if this is a requirement. Cllr. Fitzgerald commented that the business of take-away foods cause a lot of the litter and does the plan affect this e.g. can their rates loaded/levied. Cllr. O'Ryan wanted to know if polystyrene cups can be eliminated. Cllr. Cummins conveyed thanks to Environment team and congratulated them for the work done through course of the year.

F. Galvin, DOS said there was a policy re temporary signage in place developed through the SPC and he will provide a copy. Households can legally be asked to produce evidence of their method of disposal of waste and this is enshrined in the plan. Fast food providers are required to keep the area within the curtilage of their premises clear of litter. Polystyrene coffee cups are a national issue and we can only lobby nationally.

Chief Executive said that there is no provision in rates legislation to penalise owners for littering.

#### **7. Draft Waterford City and County Library Development Plan 2017-2022**

Proposed by: Cllr. Doocey, seconded by: Cllr. Brazil and agreed

Cllr Conway asked will the plan be reviewed during its term.

M. Quinn, DOS replied that there was no formal review included but progress is measured with the plan annually and we can provide for a review to take new circumstances into account.

## **8. Waterford Local Community Development Committee**

Proposal to replace Michael Quinn, Director of Services with Richie Walsh, Head of Enterprise, on the Waterford Local Community Development Committee

Proposed by: Cllr. Cummins , seconded by: Cllr. Tobin and agreed

## **9. Performance Indicators 2015 – NOAC Report**

Workshop proposed for January by Cllr. Quinlan, seconded by Cllr. Kelly

Cllr. Cummins has questions on NOAC and Cllr. Conway said it was incumbent on elected representatives to have workshop. Mayor Wyse suggested it be put on January Agenda and agreed.

## **10. Correspondence**

That the Training and Conferences circulated and Receptions as circulated be approved.

Proposed by: Cllr. Tobin, seconded by Cllr. Nugent and agreed.

## **11. Notice of Motion**

### **1. Motion in the name of Cllr. M. J. O’Ryan**

“That this Council call on the Taoiseach as Leader of the Government to implement the recommendations of the Post Office Business Development Group and the new model of Community Banking as advocated on page 48 of the current programme for Government to facilitate the retention and growth of post offices in rural Ireland. “

Proposed by Cllr. O’Ryan, seconded by Cllr. O’Leary and agreed.

It was also agreed to send the motion to other councils.

Proposed by: Cllr. Brazil, seconded by Cllr. O’Ryan

## **12. AOB**

L. Power, DOS said that the Festivals and Events workshop was proposed for 5<sup>th</sup> January to be held in Dungarvan at 5pm.

Cllr. Cummins asked can the Council improve the re-letting time. Cllr. Pratt raised a query on businesses paying water bills to Irish Water instead of the Council. He said customers were not informed that Irish Water not Council was dealing with this. Cllr. O’Ryan enquired the general operative panel.

I. Grimes, DOS said he replied at last meeting that the Council is consulting with other Local Authorities re their processes and we will amend ours and make changes to improve turnaround.

F. Galvin, DOS said commercial water transferred to Irish Water and bill queries should go to them. Irish Water was to issue a welcome pack giving this information to all customers.

M. Quinn, DOS, stated that the General Operative panel was advertised

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked if there was a second dog warden being employed. Cllr. Kelly asked in relation to Festival lighting on the Bridge and John Street and if businesses are involved. Cllr. Roche said that the Wicklow LEO created a creative corridor (FUSED) and Waterford designers were allowed to join but had a short time to join so can representations be made to Wicklow to extend the closing date to allow Waterford designers to join. In relation to the Boundary extension she was not happy with the negative comments. The deficit of the prior council was €6.9m, what is the deficit of the amalgamated council.

L. Power, DOS said that the Festival lighting is mainly done by the Council, but some owners do their own. He will take up concerns about the creative corridor (FUSED) application date.

Cllr. Conway compared Waterford with Louth, Kilkenny and Limerick and remarked that Waterford City & County Council's performance for re-letting is comparable. Cllr. Doocey said there was no information re Irish Water and there are ongoing leakage problems and the Council should not. He said the Irish Water changeover should be advertised.

Mayor Wyse informed the Council that the unveiling of 1916 Plaques will take place at 11am on 22<sup>nd</sup> December at the Bishop's Palace and 2.30 in Park, Dungarvan

This concluded the meeting.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mayor**

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