

**COMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL****COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14th July, 2016 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC
OFFICES, DUNGARVAN, WATERFORD****PRESENT:**

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|------------------------|------------------------|
| Cllr. Adam Wyse Mayor | Cllr. Eddie Mulligan |
| Cllr. Liam Brazil | Cllr. Jason Murphy |
| Cllr. Breda Brennan | Cllr. Ray Murphy |
| Cllr. John Carey | Cllr. Pat Nugent |
| Cllr. Joe Conway | Cllr. Seamus O'Donnell |
| Cllr. Declan Clune | Cllr. John O'Leary |
| Cllr. Tom Cronin | Cllr. Michael J O'Ryan |
| Cllr John Cummins | Cllr. Cha O'Neill |
| Cllr. David Daniels | Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan |
| Cllr. Declan Doocey | 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. John Hearne | Cllr. Siobhan Whelan |
| Cllr. Joe Kelly | |

APOLOGIES:

Cllr James Tobin

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Lar Power, Deputy Chief Executive
Mr. P. Daly, A/Director of Services, Roads HR & Emergency Services
Mr. F. Galvin, Director of Services, Environment, Water and Corporate
Mr. I. Grimes, Director of Services, Housing
Mr. J. Murphy, Head of Finance
Ms. J. Cantwell, City and County Librarian
Mr. E. Ruane, Meetings Administrator
Ms. A. Jacob, Senior Staff Officer

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of 9th June were proposed by Cllr Doocey, seconded by Cllr Nugent and agreed. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 30th June were proposed by Cllr Cummins, seconded by Cllr O'Ryan and agreed.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr Cummins enquired why the Performance Indicators were not included on the agenda and the commercial rates indicator figures. F. Galvin, DOS said that this item will be included in the Agenda for September when the 2015 returns are assembled. J. Murphy, HOF responded that the collection figure had increased in 2015 and that there was a target to improve further in the coming years. Cllr Roche referred to the €5 million deficit in the Annual Financial Statement and asked should the Council write to the Minister for Finance re deficit. She also enquired about an update list on LEO staffing, boundary report and asked if the cost of the amalgamation could be included in the management report. L. Power, D/CE said that he would revert in relation to the deficit following consideration of the overall position, the staffing list will be circulated and the cost of the amalgamation will be included in the next report. I. Grimes, DOS said that the report on the boundary was at an advanced stage and was due to be sent to the Minister shortly. Cllr Brennan asked that a contact list on recent staffing changes be circulated. L. Power, D/CE confirmed this would be done. Cllr Kelly enquired about the context in which the budget is improving. L. Power, D/CE said that the subsidy is increasing. Cllr Mulligan enquired about the delay in housing tendering. I. Grimes, DOS said that the Tramore development had gone to tender, Cappoquin would be advertised next week but that Larchville was delayed due to an issue with an extinguishment of a right of way. Cllr J. Murphy asked for an update on Waterford Airport. The Mayor said that this would be dealt with under the management report.

3. Planning

Planning lists were noted.

4. Land Disposals

Land disposals as listed were proposed by Cllr Kelly, seconded by Cllr Conway and agreed.

5. Management Report

Cllr Nugent enquired about the current zoning for housing in the Ring area and building on agricultural land until review of the Development Plan. Cllr Hearne asked for an update on the 84 vacant housing units. Cllr Conway asked about the unsuccessful SEAI funding application for the Vincent De Paul Housing in Tramore, footpaths programme update, a check on the status of the ring buoys in Anne Valley and county wide, unfinished nursing home in Tramore and vacant properties in City and County. L. Power, D/CE said that the National Planning Framework must be published before the current development plans can be reviewed and then the process takes 82 weeks. In relation to the Airport he assured members that everything is being done by the Board and the CE to secure its future and said that new investors are being sought and that the Tramore Nursing home developers will be onsite soon. P. Daly, A/DOS said that the footpath programme has been agreed and he will have ring buoys checked and replaced if necessary. I. Grimes, DOS said that significant resources have been committed to bring 75 vacancies back into stock and that the Council are also seeking to bring private vacancies into use and that the Council will continue to apply to SEAI. Cllr Brennan asked about Japanese knotweed spraying schedule that it is on the Greenway and the Johns River walkway. Cllr Fitzgerald asked about the possibility of installing CCTV at small harbours around the County for security. Cllr Daniels urged Council to do everything possible to assist Waterford Airport, he enquired about supplementary funding for roads and representations made on the TPS. P. Daly, A/DOS responded that it can take up to 5 years to eradicate Japanese knotweed and spraying will continue and to let district offices know of any outbreaks. He said that there are no resources for CCTV for harbours and that we have been in contact with the Department for extra roads funding. I. Grimes, DOS said that we are in regular contact with the Department on the TPS and that submissions can be made for inclusion in the review which will be carried out after 12 months. Cllr Reinhardt asked if the TPS minimum income of 50% of €15,000 from employment could be included in the review and will HAP recipients benefit from recently announced increases. Cllr J. Murphy asked if HAP would pay the full cost directly to landlord and what could Council do to secure privately owned derelict sites. Cllr O'Leary asked about the Greenway official opening and

carpark facilities in Kilmeaden and pedestrian safety crossing at local roads. I. Grimes, DOS said that the TPS minimum income issue has been raised with Department and HAP increase paid directly to landlords in accordance with the HAP rules. L. Power, D/CE said that derelict houses should be brought to the attention of the Council and that private houses have been secured in the past. P. Daly, A/DOS said that the Greenway will be opened by end of August, that the Council is working with Suir Valley Railway to extend the carpark and that crossings on the Greenway will be secured with staggered barriers and warning signs.

Cllr Doocey asked about the combi unit schedule and should the Council be seeking more funding for housing as only 13 LA's drew down their allocation and asked if a map could be provided showing locations of knotweed. Cllr Cummins wished the Three Sisters team well, asked about the Greenway access from City, high CSO numbers of vacant properties in Waterford, turnaround time for Council vacancies, if the areas serviced by bags for refuse collection could be circulated and SDZ on North Quays finish date for demolition and workshop. Cllr Whelan asked why the notification of the boil notice to residents in An Rinn was in English only, Waterford Airport dispute and an update on Ballinroad housing. P. Daly, A/DOS said that there is some flexibility in combi unit programme, that they are working on a digitised map of knotweed locations, the connection to the Greenway in the City starts on the Quay and that a proposal is going to Metropolitan District workshop on Monday next. I. Grimes, DOS said that all housing funding will be drawn down, he will review CSO figures on private vacancies, turnaround time of 21 weeks is due to assessment, procurement rules of works and that Council are looking at ways to reduce this. In relation to Ballinroad he said that a response is awaited from the Department. L. Power, D/CE said that works on North Quays should be completed mid September and was scoping a date for a workshop. F. Galvin, DOS said that he will circulate a list of waste collection by bag areas, that the boil notice issued was an urgent situation dealt with out of hours but that the Irish language would be included in future notices. Cllr O'Ryan asked about the Energy Strategy, fly tipping on the R680 Carrick to Kilmeaden road suggesting zero tolerance and extra signage for the Sean Kelly tour. Cllr O'Donnell asked about special treatment for planning permission in Gaelteacht areas. Cllr O'Sullivan commended the Council on installing BBQ facilities in Newtown Cove. P. Daly, A/DOS said the signage for Sean Kelly tour will be dealt with. L. Power, D/CE said that on last checking that only one submission had been received on the Energy Strategy and that the intention is to have a workshop in September. F. Galvin, DOS noted the fly tipping issue and said he will review. Cllr Kelly asked if homeless in B&B are prioritised, if SEAI grants can be applied for by individuals and raising speed limits on approach roads to Rice Bridge at Sallypark/Ferrybank. Cllr O'Neill asked for an update on Waterside carpark, the third river crossing and extension to the outer ring road. He also enquired if there was sufficient signage for the control of dogs in the Peoples Park and raised concern about HAP landlords threatening to sell houses to increase rent. Cllr Griffin sought update on wheelchairs for beaches, houses in Tramore without back doors on kitchenettes and congratulated the CE on recent RTE Nationwide programme. I. Grimes, DOS said that families in emergency accommodation are prioritised, individuals cannot apply directly to SEAI but Council can include them in further applications. He said that the Council cannot prevent landlords giving tenants notice but that they have statutory rights and he will explore further options for the Tramore houses. P. Daly, A/DOS said that the setting of speed limits is a reserved function of Council on local and regional roads but TII approval is required for national primary roads and they are being reviewed at present and seeking submissions. He said that the Waterside carpark works are imminent, that consultants are being appointed to carry out a survey on the Outer Ring road and that he will revert on wheelchairs for beaches. F. Galvin, DOS said that the signage can be reviewed in the Peoples Park and Eco Park and addressed if necessary. Cllr Mulligan asked about providing funding for 33 the Mall and commercial vacancies and how they compare to collection figures. Cllr Pratt asked for an update on the review of speed limits in housing estates and an update on the Tallow Link road. Cllr Hannigan enquired about a survey of ghost estates in Waterford. L. Power, D/CE said he would need to review the commercial rates figures and revert, that 33 The Mall is not a priority and that he will revert on ghost estates. P. Daly, A/DOS said that the submissions on the speed limit review for housing estates are being assessed and design will be carried out and the Tallow Link road is going to tender shortly.

6. SPC and LCDC Changes

Environmental Protection SPC

It was proposed by Cllr Hearne, seconded by Cllr Brennan that Cllr Clune replace Cllr Hearne as SPC Chair and that Cllr Hearne takes up membership of the Committee. Cllr Pratt resigned as a member of this SPC.

Transportation Infrastructure and Fire SPC

It was proposed by Cllr O'Neill, seconded by Cllr Daniels that Cllr Conway replace Cllr O'Neill as SPC Chair and that Cllr O'Neill takes up membership of the Committee.

Housing, Community, Culture , Sport and Recreation

It was proposed by Cllr Pratt, seconded by Cllr Cummins that Cllr Cronin replace Cllr Pratt as SPC Chair and that Cllr Pratt would take up membership of the Committee increasing the total number on the Committee to 13.

Planning

It was proposed by Cllr Cummins, seconded by Cllr Nugent that Cllr Power replace Cllr O'Ryan as SPC Chair and that Cllr O'Ryan takes up membership of the Committee.

LCDC

On the resignation of Mr. Jim Gibson, Tusla it was proposed by Cllr O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr Kelly and agreed that Mr. Vincent Daly would replace Mr. Gibson from 1st July 2016. It was also agreed that Cllr Cummins would vacate the Chair and Cllr Wyse would assume the Chair and that Cllr Cronin would also assume place on the LCDC.

7. Correspondence

Cllr Kelly proposed the training and conferences as listed and also the following Mayoral receptions, seconded by Cllr Doocey and agreed.

WIT Youth Choir – International Youth and Music Festival Bratislava July
Sail Training Ireland – Waterford Bursary Scheme 29th July
Flanagan Family – Waterford Civic Trust – 19th August
Plunkett Family (Plunkett Station, Irish Rail) 12th August

8. Notice of Motions

- 1.(a) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Roche, seconded by Cllr O'Neill and agreed.

"That Waterford City & County Council would examine if it can avail of the opportunity identified by the Master of the High Court Mr Edward Honohan in his recent open letter to the Minister for the Environment stating that there is NO constitutional barrier to the State issuing Compulsory Purchase Orders in order to deal with the housing crises and further to write to acting Minister Alan Kelly or his successor if one has been appointed asking that urgent action be taken in pursuit of this solution."

Reg. No. 47 (dated 19th April, 2016)

2. The following motion was proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr Whelan and agreed.

"That Waterford City & County Council recognizes the fact that the National Ambulance Service is understaffed and the understaffing of this emergency service has resulted in lengthy response times for some emergency call outs in the South East Region. This Council now requests the Minister of Health & the Health Service Executive to actively consider deploying more ambulance personnel to improve emergency ambulance response times in the South East Region".

Reg. No. 48 (dated 3rd May, 2016)

3. The following motion was proposed by Cllrs J._Murphy and Wyse, seconded by Cllr O'Neill and agreed.

"That this Council, bearing in mind the number of private houses throughout Waterford City but particularly in central areas that are in poor repair and semi derelict, Waterford City and County Council explore the possibility of acquiring such houses with a view to quickly renovating them and offering them to approved housing applicants."

Reg. No. 50 (dated 24th May, 2016)

4. The following motion was proposed in the names of Cllrs O' Ryan, Brazil, Clune, O' Leary, Power and R. Murphy

"That this Waterford City & County Council call on the government and relevant authority to ban coffee cups and introduce a "Cup for Life" type scheme similar to the plastic bag scheme which hopefully would prove as successful for our countryside into the future."

Reg. No. 51 (dated 24th May, 2016)

The following amendment was put by Cllr Reinhardt and the proposers indicated their acceptance of the amended motion in place of the original motion which was agreed by all.

"That this Waterford City & County Council call on the government and relevant authority to encourage a "Cup for Life" type scheme similar to the plastic bag scheme which hopefully would prove as successful for our countryside into the future."

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

"In light of the completely inappropriate nature of a mass trial, the length of the delay before his trial and the lack of evidence provided against him, this council calls on Egypt to immediately release Irish citizen Ibrahim Halawa and asks An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, to write to the Egyptian embassy to convey our views."

Reg. No. 53 (dated 15th June, 2016)

6. The following motion was dropped in the absence of the proposer Cllr Geoghegan in accordance with standing orders.

"That Waterford City and County Council call on Minister Shane Ross (Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport) to put in place a Sports Capital Grant Scheme for 2016, and to ensure that it remains an annual allocation process."

Reg. No. 54 (dated 29th June, 2016)

- 1.(b) The following motion was proposed by Cllr Roche. Following discussion it was agreed that the motion go to the CPG for further scoping on costs and resource requirements.

"That Waterford City & County Council will broadcast Council meetings live on the Internet and will investigate how best to achieve this including the live streaming option on Facebook which could be achieved at minimal cost."

Reg. No. 49 (dated 17th May, 2016)

9. AOB

None.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____