

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

RE-CONVENED COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24TH NOVEMBER, 2020 VIA ZOOM

PRESENT

Cllr. Ger Barron	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Donal Barry	Cllr. Pat Nugent
Cllr. Liam Brazil	Cllr. John O’Leary
Cllr. Breda Brennan	Cllr. Lola O’Sullivan
Cllr. Declan Clune	Cllr. Thomas Phelan
Cllr. Joe Conway	Cllr. Jody Power
Cllr. Tom Cronin	Cllr. Seanie Power
Cllr. Conor D. McGuinness	Cllr. John Pratt
Cllr. David Daniels	Cllr. Eamon Quinlan
Cllr. Declan Doocey	Cllr. Frank Quinlan
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. Susan Gallagher	Cllr. Seamus Ryan,
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan	Cllr. James Tobin
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. Adam Wyse
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr. Eddie Mulligan
Cllr. Joe Kelly	

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Seamus O’Donnell

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. M. Walsh, Chief Executive
 Mr. K. Kehoe, Director of Services, Corporate, Culture, HR & IS
 Mr. I. Grimes, Director of Services, Housing, Community & Emergency Services
 Mr. F. Galvin, Director of Services, Roads, Water & Environment
 Mr. M. Quinn, Director of Services, Economic Development and Planning
 Mr. B. Pollard, Head of Finance
 Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator
 Ms. A. O’Shea, Corporate

It was agreed to amend Standing Orders to take Item 10 before Item 6.
 Proposed by Cllr. Brennan and seconded by Cllr. Barron.

10. Notice of Motions

- Motion in the names of Cllrs. Joe Kelly, Eddie Mulligan, Jim Griffin, Joe Conway, John Hearne, Lola O’Sullivan, Thomas Phelan, Seamus Ryan, Jason Murphy and Jody Power (Deferred from July & September Meetings)**

“That Waterford City & County Council creates a ‘Walk of Fame’ in Waterford City centre in an appropriate location, like the world famous one in Hollywood. Two name tiles / squares to be added each year to the ‘Walk’.

The names of chosen recipients (two) per year who are significantly associated with Waterford to be selected by the Metropolitan Mayor and Plenary Mayor (one each) early in their term of office every year and these to be added to the Walk of Fame.

The motion will be submitted to the Housing, Community, Culture, Sport & Recreation SPC and the procedures committee in order to develop further, a report to issue to council within 6 months”.

Reg. No. 158 (dated 30th June, 2020)

After much discussion, agreed to submit to the Housing SPC for further development.

2. Motion in the names of Cllrs. Joe Kelly, Breda Brennan and John Hearne. (Deferred from September Meeting)

“Considering the upsurge in the theft of companion animals such as dogs, and the immense and often traumatic effect on animal owners, Waterford City & County Council calls on the Minister for Justice to urgently do the following:

1) Make the theft of a companion animal a stand-alone offence with a minimum punishment that serves as an adequate deterrent against this activity.

2) Make Amendments to the Microchipping of Dogs Regulations 2015 (S.I. No. 63/2015) to

a) Create an independent central database of microchips that serves as a register of ownership that is updated on transfer of ownership and yearly with licencing requirements. And

b) To initiate compulsory scanning of all pets straying or presented for treatment, to ensure pets are reunited with their owners swiftly, and pet theft is more easily detected.

3) Amend the Animal Health and Welfare (sale or supply of pet animals) regulation 2019, to make it a legal requirement for all ‘sale of pet’s platforms’ to integrate to the central database, to ensure every advertisement complies with the legal requirement of the microchip and registered ownership/supplier number details. This significantly reduces the market for illegal dog trading”.

Reg. No. 159 (dated 18th August 2020)

Proposed Cllr. Brennan, seconded by Cllr. Hearne and agreed by all.

3. Motion in the names of Cllrs. John Pratt, Ger. Barron, Seamus Ryan & Thomas Phelan. (Deferred from September Meeting)

“That this Council calls on the government to bring forward legislation requiring all employers by law to make provision for sick leave, i.e., paid time off from work for workers when they are ill.

Also to amend the Parental Leave Act 1998, (force majeure leave) with a new provision. In such a case an employee who is the parent or adoptive parent of a child shall be entitled to force majeure leave where and for so long as the child is unable to attend the school or pre-school, if the presence of the employee is required at his or her home in order to care for that child..”

Reg. No. 160 (dated 1st September, 2020)

Proposed by Cllr. Ryan, seconded by Cllr. D McGuinness and agreed by all.

4. Motion in the name of Cllr. Lola O’Sullivan(Deferred from September Meeting)

“Call on Waterford City and County council to ban the use of inflatable toys on our beaches.”

Reg. No. 161 (dated 4th September, 2020)

Proposed by Cllr. O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. Brazil and agreed to submit to Environment SPC for further development.

5. **Motion in the names of Cllrs. Breda Brennan, Conor D. McGuinness, Pat Fitzgerald, Jim Griffin and John Hearne.**

“That Waterford City and County Council:

- *sends its solidarity and support to the former Debenhams workers seeking a just and fair settlement from their former employer*
- *reaffirms the Council’s support for workers’ rights, the principle of collective bargaining, and fairness and dignity at work*
- *calls on the Government to implement the Duffy-Cahill report; to legislate to protect workers from strategic liquidations and asset stripping by companies; and to protect collective bargaining agreements*
- *calls for KPMG and Government to immediately engage with the workers and their representatives in the Mandate trade union”.*

Reg. No. 162 (dated 1st October, 2020)

Motion was proposed by Cllr. Hearne and seconded by Cllr. Ryan and agreed by all. It was agreed that a letter would issue to all 3 Government Leaders and details of motion to issue to other Local Authorities

6. **Motion in the name of Cllr. Thomas Phelan**

“That Waterford City & County Council calls on the government to formally recognise the problem of Parental Alienation and to implement recommendation no. 36 of the Report on the Reform of the Family Law System, which was published by the Oireachtas Committee on Justice and Equality in October 2019.”

Reg. No. 164 (dated 29th October, 2020)

Proposed Cllr. Phelan, seconded by Cllr. Pratt and agreed by all.

6. Monthly Management Report

Cllr. Roche requested update on the North Quays and the status of the planned 1,000 houses, the second river crossing at Tower Hotel, the pedestrian counts on Greenway and stated Technical University for South East needs further discussion.

Cllr. Tobin enquired about Disabled Grants stating those in Category 3 have no hope of getting a grant and asked for a list of those in the 3 categories.

Cllr. Kelly looked for an update on the Part 8 process in Carrickphierish stating that the illegal structure should not be allowed, stating that Planning needs to enforce law.

Cllr. Pratt outlined that electric car owners living in estates cannot plug into their electrical points due to crossing over public footpaths, requested update on the feasibility study on the Greenway in West of the County. Enquired about a minimum standard for council houses, if turnkey houses can be purchased and could a set down area for the local link bus in Dungarvan be set up.

Cllr. D. McGuinness asked could there be a resolution on the Homesavers planning issue to maintain employment and could we write to the Department to look for funding for the dredging of Helvick harbour.

Cllr. Daniels asked were there revised plans for Michael Street development and the status of the planning.

Cllr. Nugent enquired about new grant for hedge cutting, if any applications made under the National Greenway funding and the status of the former Ardree hotel site.

Cllr. Barry asked could the Council erect a beacon of light on the Plaza to remember all the people who have lost their lives to Covid. He congratulated the Council for the Covid adverts on WLR. He asked if a

joint statement could be issued from the Chief Executive and Councillors thanking the public for their co-operation and front line staff for their efforts

M. Walsh, CE said he welcomed funding announced for North Quays and is now working with solicitors regarding the transfer of lands and would hope to bring to members at December Plenary meeting and stated that the next few months important progress will be made on the design and contract documents. He stated tenders would issue by end of Q1 for contractors for Transport Hub worth €130M. The development is currently the initial scheme and revised scheme has not been brought to Planning. The bridge at Tower Hotel is still viable but has complexities due to bend in river requiring considerable scale in the opening section. The Council have no direct involvement in the 1,000 houses but stated it is part of the overall development.

F. Galvin, DoS stated they are looking at Implementation Strategy for public charging points and there are gaps with charging points in the West of the County. He stated they are looking at a possible solution for the Local Link set down in Dungarvan, dredging of Helvick is not funded by Department, funding is only for Capital works and he will revert regarding the grants for hedge cutting.

I. Grimes, DoS stated that increased funding has been provided for Disability Persons Grant so he can deal with backlog, an order was issued in March - not to remove any unauthorised developments from Halting sites. He stated that there are minimum standards for allocated properties and it is possible to purchase turnkey properties after a minimum of 12 months residency but is a decision for the Council.

M. Quinn, DoS stated that he is currently working on three Greenway projects, the scoping out documents for consultants for the Waterford/Tramore and Dungarvan/Ballyduff will go out to tender early 2021 and the NTA are funding the Bilberry to Clock Tower Greenway section. The methodology for the counting of pedestrians on Greenway is complicated and is calculated once a year. He cannot comment on Homesavers for legal reasons and there are legal issues to be resolved on the Ardree site before any development commences.

Cllr. O'Leary stated funding for Repair & Lease has increased and said there is a large number of vacant properties in Waterford stating owners need to be identified to achieve maximum potential.

Cllr. Brennan stated inspections of HAP houses show a number of non-compliance, requested that the Capital Projects in Management Report be split to show different housing bodies. Enquired if the housing maintenance programme is affected by COVID, will the boiler service programme go ahead this winter and is Arts & Culture being supported during COVID.

Cllr. Hearne thanked Council staff for their help on achieving 2nd place in the Pride of Place competition; he stated that a small number of families are causing problems in the community and asked about the Community Policing pilot scheme and regarding the unauthorised development in the halting site stated everyone must obey the law.

Cllr. Conway enquired if coastal erosion is taken into account for retention planning permission, he supports Cllr. Kelly's statement regarding the unauthorised development in Carrickphierish, asked what was the cost to Council for turnkey properties, could local employment be used for the North Development and welcomed the feasibility study for the Waterford/Tramore Greenway.

Cllr. Mulligan asked if the Michael Street/North Quays site was sold on by the developer would Waterford Council get a share in the profits and asked when an estate is taking in charge by the Council is the land in the Council's ownership.

Cllr. Griffin stated the unauthorised development in Carrickphierish is flouting the law and asked if the Part 8 could be postponed until Covid restrictions are relaxed. He also requested a meeting with Homesavers as soon as possible.

Cllr. Murphy enquired if the developers of the North Quay could change permission from retail to residential, he asked if the Transport Hub would have multiple platforms and what are the plans for the existing railway station.

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked if the Map Alerter system would be rolled out to the retained Fire Service and stated that anti-social behaviour in estates is reaching crisis point and asked if a special meeting could be held as soon as Covid restrictions are lifted to deal with the issues.

M. Walsh, CE stated Falcon Real Estate are in a contract and ownership would revert to Council if development did not go ahead within a timeline of 3-6 years. There is a completion date of 2023, the developer would have to revert with a planning permission to vary plans and are working with current plans. The Transportation Hub will have two platforms that will be significantly longer and the re-use of the existing station is a matter for Irish Rail.

F. Galvin, Dos stated Map Alerter is a free service for anyone to sign up to.

I.Grimes, DoS stated he would raise issue of Map Alerter with the Chief Fire Officer. He would encourage all Councillors to advise of suitable property in their areas for repair and lease and stated that 175 newly refurbished units have been added to social housing. The non-compliant issues with HAP properties are minor issues that are easily rectified, he stated that Covid has had an impact on housing maintenance but staff have been trained and are dealing with all issues including boiler servicing. Estate Management are working with Community Gardaí to deal with anti-social behaviour in our estates and Housing SPC are reviewing the Anti-Social Behaviour Policy. There is a requirement for turnkey houses to be value for money and stated the Part 8 for Carrickphierish has gone out for public consultation and he hopes to bring to the Metropolitan meeting in the New Year.

K. Kehoe, DoS stated there has been support for the Arts & Culture sector and have moved the application of grants on-line. He hopes to bring the 2021 Arts Grants to the December Plenary meeting,

M. Quinn, DoS stated standard rules apply for retention applications, he will encourage the Contractor to hire locally and Taking in Charge is for services and is not ownership of lands.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated _____