

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

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8TH JULY 2022 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
DUNGARVAN**

Present

Cllr. Ger Barron	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Liam Brazil	Cllr. Seamus O'Donnell
Cllr. Joanne Bailey	Cllr. John O'Leary
Cllr. Declan Clune	Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan
Cllr. Joe Conway	Cllr. Thomas Phelan
Cllr. Tom Cronin	Cllr. Jody Power
Cllr. Conor McGuinness	Cllr. Seanie Power
Cllr. David Daniels	Cllr. John Pratt
Cllr. Declan Doocey	Cllr. Eamon Quinlan
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. Frank Quinlan
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan	Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. Eddie Mulligan
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr. Pat Nugent
Cllr. Cristiona Kiely	Cllr. Adam Wyse
Cllr. Seamus Ryan	

Apologies: Cllr. Joe Kelly and Cllr. Donal Barry

Marc Ó Cathasaigh T.D. was also present

Officials in Attendance

Mr. K. Kehoe, Director of Services, Corporate Services, Culture & Planning
 Mr. M. Quinn, Director of Services, Economic Development
 Mr. F. Galvin, Director of Service, Roads Water & Environment
 Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator
 Mr. D. Mitchell, Corporate

Apologies from M Walsh (CEO), I Grimes (Director of Services) and B Pollard (Head of Finance).

1. To pass a vote of sympathy on the death of Cllr. James Tobin and resolve to attend funeral as a body robed.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and addressed the meeting stating that it was a very sad day for all and how profoundly sad it was that the council would be meeting eight days on from the election of Cllr. Tobin as Deputy Mayor to pass the vote of sympathy on his passing. The Mayor knew the late Cllr. Tobin personally for over forty years and he had been a great servant to the people of Waterford and was widely respected within and outside the county. He had held many significant roles in public life and the GAA where he was the County Board Chairman from 1984 to 1989 which included that organisation's centenary year. He spoke of Cllr Tobin's twenty three year's service as a Councillor and his election as the first Mayor of Waterford City and County Council following the amalgamation in 2014. As Mayor he worked to ensure that the needs of the people in rural Waterford remained in focus. He was a person with a great love and understanding for people. The Mayor then gave the examples of how Cllr. Tobin had been instrumental in

the success of Local Link and the establishment of St. Carthages House including serving as chairperson for both organisations. He also pointed out that the local environs benefited greatly from the work of Cllr. Tobin over the years. On a personal level the Mayor commented that the late Cllr. Tobin was great company socially for people of all ages and had the ability to always leave people on a happy note. He also pointed out the impact on Cllr. Tobin the passing of his wife Anne who he called his “rock” just eighteen months ago. He extended his sympathies to Cllr. Tobin’s children Máiréad, Micheál, Seán, Áine, Séamus and Pádraig, and the extended Tobin family particularly his grandchildren Oisín, Doireann, Meadhbh, Lily-Marie, Fionn, Ellen and Grace. He also included the people of Ballyhamlet, Kockanore and Tallow in his sympathies.

The Cathaoirleach of Dungarvan & Lismore Municipal District, Cllr. Doocey, spoke of how sad it had been to receive the reports of Cllr. Tobin’s passing especially as he was a close neighbour and a friend of more than forty-five years before either of them were involved in politics. He commented that Cllr. Tobin was a unique gentleman who carried out his duties to the highest standard with integrity, decency, and humour. He was always helpful especially when Cllr. Doocey himself joined the Council even though they were from different parties, and he appreciated being given the opportunity to speak to the meeting about the late Cllr. Tobin when would be badly missed by all the members.

Cllr. Cronin then spoke to pay tribute and said that was a sad day for the Fianna Fáil party and to himself personally as he had known Cllr. Tobin since he first voted for him at a GAA meeting in 1984. He recalled they were both elected together to the then County Council for the first time in 2009. Cllr. Tobin was the father figure of the Fianna Fáil group and was a great character to be with socially. He was from a rural background and could be described as a likable rogue who was genuine and straight. You would not meet a better person anywhere. Cllr. Cronin also spoke of the impact of losing his wife Anne had on Cllr. Tobin and that they would now be back together and in a good place. He would have spoken to Cllr. Tobin almost every day and it was a great loss to him personally.

Cllr. Geoghegan then spoke of how it was little more than a week since the AGM and the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. It was hard to believe that one of the first duties of the new Mayor would be to chair this meeting and go to Cllr. Tobin’s funeral. Cllr. Geoghegan stated that he was most welcoming when he was first elected to the Council and always found him to be an honourable, humorous, and sociable person whose contributions made meetings more enjoyable. He then praised Cllr. Tobin’s lobbying to resolve the issues of the undocumented emigrants in the United States. Concluding he said the Cllr. Tobin would be sadly missed and extended sympathies to his family.

Cllr. Murphy spoke of how difficult it was to speak of Cllr. Tobin in the past tense especially when he was elected by acclamation only the previous week. He had got to know Cllr. Tobin when he was his Deputy in the first amalgamated council in 2014 and spoke of how he was always there to sort issue and bring people together as the father figure and whip in the Fianna Fáil group. He remarked that Cllr. Tobin was extremely proud of where he came from and always told people it was the best place in the world to live. Cllr. Murphy stated that his thoughts and prayers were with Cllr. Tobin’s family and that he was reunited with Anne now.

Cllr. McGuinness then spoke to offer his condolences to the family, community and Fianna Fáil colleagues. He was grateful to Cllr. Tobin for welcoming him when he was first elected and the help he had given. He emphasised how Cllr. Tobin was a decent man who went about his business with integrity and good humour and was a great unifier and how he was a great family man also.

Cllr. Kiely spoke to say that being new to the council during Covid she had not had many opportunities to meet Cllr. Tobin in person but that he had been very welcoming to her, and she wished to extend her condolences to his family, Fianna Fáil colleagues and also to his GAA colleagues.

Cllr. Daniels joined in the tributes stating how shocked he was to hear of Cllr. Tobin’s passing on Monday. He said they had attended many meetings recently especially relating to the County Development Plan and

Cllr. Tobin worked hard to ensure it was successful and to ensure his constituents were properly represented in it. He said Cllr. Tobin was an accomplished politician who would be greatly missed by all.

Cllr. J. Power complimented the late Cllr. Tobin, his intelligence and ability to articulate his position and praised his work especially in relation to the Local Link bus service. He expressed his sympathy to the extended Tobin family at this sad time.

Cllr. Ryan spoke of his shock at the passing of Cllr. Tobin whom he had first met many years ago through the GAA County Boards. He asked to be associated with the remarks of the previous speakers.

Cllr. Pratt spoke of being a close personal friend of Cllr. Tobin and spoke of the fantastic work Cllr. Tobin had done to build the Local Link bus service and his work in establishing St. Carthages House together with his long service to the GAA. He stated that the late Cllr. Tobin gave everything to these voluntary organisations. He wanted to offer sincere condolences to all his family friends and community.

Cllr. Conway also extended his sympathies to the family. He remembered the leadership and direction Cllr. Tobin gave in his time working with all councillors.

Cllr. O' Donnell stated that he knew Cllr. Tobin for many years and was a member of the same party for thirty-three years and he also worked with him on GAA matters. He was a great friend of the family and while he was not able to attend the funeral today had been with them the previous night.

Cllr. Phelan joined in offering his condolences and sympathies to the family and Fianna Fáil colleagues. He had made him very welcome when he was first elected and always acted with empathy and integrity. Cllr. Phelan stated that the late Cllr. Tobin's experience will be greatly missed on the Council.

Cllr. Nugent expressed his sadness when he was informed of the passing of Cllr. Tobin on Monday morning. They had known each other for many years both through the council and as officials in the GAA. He spoke of his admiration for the great work Cllr. Tobin did for the undocumented emigrants to the USA. He also spoke of how Cllr. Tobin was popular among a wide section of his community and got votes from a huge cross section of the electorate.

Cllr. S. Power reminisced about the time he first met Cllr. Tobin when the GAA field in Rathgormack was opened in 1984 and how he was a great ambassador over the years for West Waterford. He extended his sympathies to the bereaved family and friends.

Cllr. E. Mulligan asked to be associated with the previous comments. He knew Cllr. Tobin personally politically and through the GAA beginning when James had presented a trophy to him when he was a minor with De La Salle in 1985. He stated that it was difficult to believe he was gone, and he would miss Cllr. Tobin and had fond memories of banter and "devilment" that occurred when they were together over the years. He especially appreciated the work Cllr. Tobin did working with Kilkenny County Council to have the new toll bridge named after Thomas Francis Meagher.

Cllr. Roche stated that it was difficult to comprehend that Cllr. Tobin had expressed his delight only the previous week from being elected Deputy Mayor unopposed. She recalled when he was the first City and County Mayor in 2014 and how he took all the members on a Tour of the City and County to familiarise themselves with their area of responsibility. He pointed out when he lived and made the point that it was nine miles from everywhere".

Cllr. F. Quinlan spoke also to offer his sincere condolences and to Seamus his son in particular who was a personal friend. He recalled Cllr. Tobin as an honourable and genuine person whose character and humour could be see in the conversations that were had on the online meetings.

Cllr. Fitzgerald reminisced on when he was first elected, and Cllr. Tobin helped him to get settled in and advised him on how to get things done. He also offered him the sound advice to always speak his mind. He then offered his condolences to the bereaved family and friends.

Cllr. Barron spoke of the sad loss of his friend and colleague whom he had joined the council with on the same day in 1999. He spoke of the great pride Cllr. Tobin showed in his area and how he had left it in a better position than when he started.

Cllr. Griffin also spoke of his admiration for Cllr. Tobin and how he humorously worked with all members of the council. He quoted from the film Forrest Gump when stating that “Life was like a Box of Chocolates” serving on the council with James – you never knew what you were going to get.

Cllr. Hearne spoke of the great work Cllr. Tobin did as the first Mayor of the amalgamated Council and how he worked to bring everyone together in a very respectful and dignified manner. He would be impossible to replace, and he sent his condolence to the family, friends, and colleagues.

Cllr. Clune spoke of how he got to know James through training and other events and spoke of his brilliance and how he would leave a void that would be hard to fill. He offered condolences to the family, Fianna Fáil colleagues and friends.

Cllr. E. Quinlan paid tribute to the late Cllr. Tobin by explaining how he had been helped by him all the way through his political life and took care of him. He spoke of how Cllr. Tobin worked so effectively over the years following the amalgamation and brought people together. He was the embodiment of “One Council One Waterford”.

M. Quinn, DoS spoke on behalf of the CEO and staff of Cllr. Tobin’s excellence as a local representative. He was always fully engaged and worked towards making the best decisions for Waterford. He cited the work done on the amalgamation of the City and County as a prime example of this and how Cllr. Tobin had pulled people from the City and County together.

As the District Manager for Dungarvan and Lismore K. Kehoe, DoS spoke of the great honour he felt to have known and worked with Cllr. Tobin over the past three years. He was a great leader and character who was proud of Waterford and the work of the Council and especially its outdoor staff.

The Mayor then spoke to thank all for their heartening and heartfelt contribution which would be noted and that the members would attend the funeral as a body robed. He then closed the meeting.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____