

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

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING (CIVIC RECEPTION) HELD ON 23<sup>rd</sup> JUNE 2022 IN THE  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE MALL, WATERFORD**

**Present**

Cllr. Ger Barron	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Donal Barry	Cllr. Seamus O'Donnell
Cllr. Liam Brazil	Cllr. John O'Leary
Cllr. Joanne Bailey	Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan
Cllr. Declan Clune	Cllr. Jody Power
Cllr. Joe Conway	Cllr. Seanie Power
Cllr. Tom Cronin	Cllr. John Pratt
Cllr. David Daniels	Cllr. Eamon Quinlan
Cllr. Declan Doocey	Cllr. Frank Quinlan
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr. Eddie Mulligan
Cllr. Joe Kelly	Cllr Pat Nugent
Cllr. C Kiely	Cllr. Seamus Ryan

Apologies: Cllr. Conor D. McGuinness, Cllr. Declan Doocey, Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald, Cllr. Damien Geoghegan, Cllr. Thomas Phelan, Cllr. James Tobin, Cllr Adam Wyse

**Officials in Attendance**

Mr. Michael Walsh, Chief Executive  
 Mr. Kieran Kehoe, Director of Services, Corporate Services, Culture & Planning  
 Mr. Michael Quinn, Director of Services, Economic Development  
 Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator  
 Mr. Dave Mitchell, Corporate  
 Mr. Eamonn McEnaney, Museum Director Waterford Treasures Museum  
 Ms. Rosemary Ryan, Keeper Bishops Palace, Waterford Treasures Museum  
 Mr. Donnchadh Ó Ceallacháin Keeper, Medieval Museum, Waterford Treasures Museums  
 Ms. Áine Whelan, Front of House Supervisor, Waterford Treasures Museums  
 Ms. Cliona Purcell, Researcher, Waterford Treasures Museums  
 Mr. Rupert Maddock, Senior Architect, Economic Development

**1. Civic Reception to honour Donors and Benefactors of the Museum of Time Waterford- David Boles, Colman Curran and his wife Elizabeth Clooney**

The Mayor welcomed the recipients and their guests to the chamber. He spoke of the great work and generosity of David Boles, Colman Curran and Elizabeth Clooney in funding the Museum of Time with their donations of some of the oldest timepieces in the world. The people of Waterford and the Irish nation are greatly indebted to them for the contribution of their collections and the insight it gave in to the social, cultural, and technical history of the timepieces. The donation of some of the oldest timepieces has added immensely to what Waterford has to offer visitors as borne out in the media coverage it has received including internationally in the New York Times. It is now being enjoyed by an increasing number of visitors to the city.

The Mayor then called on Cllr. Lola O Sullivan to propose David Boles for the honour of a civic reception.

As the proposer Cllr. O' Sullivan spoke of David Boles outstanding and exceptional contribution to the cultural life of this city and indeed the Irish nation. Just as Ireland is a world leader in technology today the collection of clocks and watches show how Ireland was also at the cutting edge of technology for the preceding three and a half centuries. In paying tribute Cllr. O' Sullivan stated that David's remarkable philanthropy has made this unique museum possible. She commended him for the enormous role he played in making this special cultural offering a reality here in Waterford which is the culmination of sixty years collecting the very best of historic Irish time pieces. The value of the collection was beyond monetary, and it showed the passion of a lifetime dedicated to collecting the very best examples, conserving them for the present and future generations to enjoy. Cllr. O' Sullivan concluded by stating that the people of Waterford owed David an enormous debt of gratitude.

Cllr. Pratt spoke to second the motion outlining the virtues of the collection, its antiquity, breath, and scope allowing the museum to display the finest collection in the world of Irish timepieces. Such is the museum's reputation that in May last it hosted one of the largest gatherings of international independent watch makers in the world. He wished David every success with his soon to be published definitive and encyclopaedic book on Irish Time Piece Makers.

The motion was passed by the unanimous affirmation of the members present. The Mayor then presented a scroll and a commemorative piece of Waterford Crystal to David. He then invited him to speak in response to the motion.

In responding Mr. Boles thanked the Mayor, the members and the Chief Executive for such a great an unexpected honour. He then spoke of how his interest in clocks and watches began when he was growing up. He began to realise the wonderful workmanship of the Irish pieces which were often thought of as British. He became an active collector and was given the moniker of the "Tick Tock Man" by regular attendees at auctions. He spoke of the quality and craftsmanship that went into the Irish timepieces. His early attempts at creating a museum 30 years ago although welcomed with enthusiasm did not have a material result. He then met with Colman Curran who supported him in persevering with the concept and bringing the museum to fruition. When they looked at the former Methodist church in Greyfriars Street as a potential premises to house he felt the building and Waterford would be perfect to house his collection. He commended Brian Whelan and Dylan Frank for the stonework and plaster restoration to the building. He also commended Rupert Maddock and team for the great internal design work. David also complimented Eamonn McEnaney and his team and stated that once he met with them, he decided to donate all his collection rather than just part of it as originally envisaged.

The Mayor called on Cllr. Jason Murphy to propose Colman Curran and Elizabeth Clooney for the honour of a civic reception.

Cllr. Murphy spoke of his great pleasure to propose this motion. He explained that it was Colman who first approached the Council about establishing a horological museum in Waterford to celebrate the 350-year-old tradition of high-end timepiece making in Ireland. He said Colman and Elizabeth worked tirelessly to ensure that the idea of a Museum of Time was not a pipe dream but could become a reality. Their enthusiasm was infectious, and very quickly got David Boles and Kevin Chellar on board. Their dream soon became a reality when the Chief Executive, Michael Walsh made the inspired decision to make the former Methodist Church in Greyfriars, available as a location for the Irish Museum of Time. In addition to his collection of magnificent Irish longcase clocks, bracket clocks and watches from all over the Island of Ireland, like David, Colman brought with him the expertise he acquired in almost 50 years of collecting museum quality examples for display. Cllr. Murphy stated that to be gifted not only the objects for display but also the years of scholarly research associated with each item was a curator's dream. He spoke of how a value could never be put on gifts like these – the time, enthusiasm and passion that is at the very core of this type of philanthropy is why the Council have thought it right and fitting to recognise Colman's and Elizabeth's

remarkable generosity. Cllr. Murphy said that their names and those of David Boles will forever be remembered in the annals of Waterford.

In seconding the motion Cllr. Joanne Bailey offered her sincere congratulations and that of the Council to both Colman and Elizabeth and their co-benefactor David Boles for the enormously positive outcome that their philanthropy has generated. It had been covered across numerous media and broadcast platforms including the New York Times. She noted that a local journalist commented that the addition of this museum had tipped the balance in favour of Waterford as a cultural tourism destination. Cllr. Bailey stated that the generosity shown by Colman and Elizabeth is rare in the extreme, their legacy and that of David Boles has placed Waterford Treasures Museums as one of the premier cultural institutions in Ireland. In addition to enhancing the offerings of the Viking Triangle it would also be a contributor to the future of jobs in retail, hospitality and tourism in Waterford.

The motion was passed by the unanimous affirmation of the members present. The Mayor presented a scroll and a commemorative piece of Waterford Crystal to Colman and Elizabeth.

At the invitation of the Mayor Mr. Curran responded by stating how overwhelmed they were by the generosity of the Council and expressed his delight at how the whole project had been successful. He recounted the journey they had taken to get to this stage and how he had been collecting for over thirty years with the support of Elizabeth. They wanted to find a home for the collection so that it would not be dispersed after their passing given its significance in terms of social history, economic history, craftsmanship and engineering. They approached various organisations in Dublin to find a home for the collection but were not successful in finding a material solution. He met with Brendan Burgess who recommended Waterford. Eamonn McEaney visited Colman and Elizabeth's home to see the collection. Eamonn then arranged for a meeting with Michael Walsh in Waterford who was able to support and advise on the way forward. A number of possible buildings were looked before getting to the Greyfriars building in 2017. Two years of fundraising followed. When David agreed to add his collection, their efforts got a great boost. Colman and David carried out extensive research around the world to work out the best designed solution for a Waterford Museum of Time that was feasible. The work then started on the building, and it opened in June 2021 some eight and a half years after it was conceived. He stated that it could not have happened without the collaboration with David Boles and Eamonn McEaney and his team. It is of great benefit to both Waterford and Ireland and should be a source of great pride for all.

The Mayor then asked Elizabeth to address the meeting. She thanked the Council for the wonderful reception and spoke of her pride in the museum and how it had come to be in Waterford, a place she loved, after all the hard work that had gone into the venture over the years.

Cllrs. E. Quinlan, Ger Barron, Pat Nugent, Cristiona Kiely, Mary Roche and Jim Griffin spoke on behalf of their parties and groupings to thank the recipients for their generosity and philanthropy towards the people of Waterford noting the State now had a world class Museum of Time. They also commended Eamonn McEaney together with his team on his contribution to museums in Waterford and the legacy that has been created.

The mayor extended his thanks on behalf of the people of Waterford, the recipients for their generosity, kind words and their wonderful account of how they became involved in the foundation of the Museum of Time. He was sure that this successful story would continue into the future. He thanked the councillors for their participation in today's event and added his recognition of the great work Eamonn McEaney and his team have done with the four existing museums and the fifth that is due to open in the near future.

The mayor then closed the meeting and invited those present to partake in light refreshments.

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

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