

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

**COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25TH FEBRUARY ADJOURNED FROM 11TH FEBRUARY
2021 BY ZOOM**

Present

Cllr. Ger Barron	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Donal Barry	Cllr. Pat Nugent
Cllr. Breda Brennan	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 D. McGuinness	Cllr. Seanie Power
Cllr. David Daniels	Cllr. John Pratt
Cllr. Declan Doocey	Cllr. Eamon Quinlan
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. Frank Quinlan
Cllr. Susan Gallagher	Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan	Cllr. Seamus Ryan
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. Adam Wyse
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr. James Tobin
Cllr. Joe Kelly	

Apologies: Cllr. Liam Brazil, Cllr. Eddie Mulligan, 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
 Mr. D. Mitchell, Corporate

Meetings Administrator carried out a roll call to confirm meeting attendance.
 Agenda Items 1 – 9 dealt with at meeting held on the 11th February 2021.

10. Correspondence

Correspondence noted

11. Motions

- Motion in the names of Cllrs. Jody Power, Susan Gallagher, Thomas Phelan, Seamus Ryan, Ger Barron, John Pratt, Davy Daniels and Joe Kelly (Deferred from December & January meeting).**

“That Waterford Council write to the Minister to immediately commence the implementation of

the recommendations of the Waterford Boundary Review Committee as set out in its report as published on 17th February 2017 in particular the extension of the boundary of Waterford City and County Council into County Kilkenny by including the entire Electoral Area of Kilculliheen and those parts of the Electoral Areas of AGLISH and Dunkitt contained within the area of interest that lie south of the N25 bypass ”

Reg. No. 166 (dated, 2nd November, 2020)

In proposing the motion Cllr. J Power stated that extending the boundaries to the north of the city offered the best opportunities to develop the region. It was necessary for the concentric development of Waterford as a Gateway City.

Cllr. Kelly seconded the motion stating that it was in line with the report prepared by professionals on the review committee to allow for the proper and sustainable development of the region.

Cllrs. Daniels, Phelan, Ryan, Gallagher, Roche, Griffin, O’Leary & E. Quinlan spoke and added their support to the motion:

The motion was agreed unanimously.

2. Motion in the name Cllr. Declan Clune (Deferred from December & January meeting).

“That members of Waterford City & County Council call upon the Minister for Climate Action, Communications Networks and Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D, the Minister of Finance, Paschal Donoghoe T.D and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Michael McGrath T.D to urgently enact the private members' motion previously passed in November 2016 by the previous Government regarding the future of the Post Office Network. This is a matter of urgency to ensure the sustainability of our existing community Post Office Network.”

Reg. No. 167 (dated 16th November, 2020)

Cllr. Clune introduced the motion emphasising the importance of Post Offices particularly in rural areas from both a business and social aspect for those communities. In seconding the motion Cllr. O’Leary reiterated the importance of Post Offices in rural life and that perhaps the reopening of some of the closed offices could also be considered.

Cllrs. Tobin, McGuinness, Phelan, J. Power, Hearne, Pratt. S Power, Fitzgerald, Conway, Murphy, Kelly and Daniels spoke and added their support to the motion. At the suggestion of Cllr Tobin and supported by Cllr. Clune it was agreed to circulate the letter to the other Local Authorities.

The motion was passed unanimously.

3. Motion in the names of Cllrs. Joe Kelly, Cllr Joe Conway & Mary Roche (Deferred from December & January meeting).

“That Waterford City & County Council write to the Ministers for Justice, Finance and Public Expenditure requesting them to make provisions where monies confiscated under the Proceeds of Crime Legislation be re-directed from central coffers, back into local addiction services, youth organisations, and community initiatives to combat the effect of addiction on our communities, and that the necessary legislation is changed as a matter of urgency to allow this vital funding support to happen”.

Reg. No. 168 (dated, 16th November, 2020)

Motion proposed by Cllr. Kelly who stated that the monies recovered under the proceeds of Crime Act should be directed to addiction and youth services in areas impacted by drug dealing rather than going back into general government funds. This should be extra funding and not replace existing schemes.

In seconding, the motion Cllr. Conway stated that it was natural justice that the funds should be applied back in the communities that suffered due to the criminal activities.

Cllrs. Roche, McGuinness, Hearne, Brennan, Barry, Ryan, & Geoghegan supported the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously.

4. Motion in the name of Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald (Deferred from January meeting).

“Waterford City and County Council calls on the Office of Public Works to carry out the necessary excavation works to recover the remains of Joe Brady, Daniel Curley, Michael Fagan, Thomas Caffrey and Tim Kelly, in what is commonly known as the Invincibles Yard at Kilmainham Gaol. The bodies of these five members of the Irish National Invincibles lie beneath the paving slabs of the yard where they were executed in 1883 for their part in the Phoenix Park assassinations. The families of the five men are represented by the National Graves Association and the wish of the families is for their relatives to be exhumed from Kilmainham Gaol and reinterred in consecrated ground at Glasnevin Cemetery.”

Reg. No. 169 (dated, 30th November, 2020)

Cllr Fitzgerald proposed the motion outlining that the remains had been in the prison yard for 137 years and their families wanted them to be reinterred in Glasnevin cemetery which was consecrated ground and more accessible to those families. The National Graves Association was not a political body who were working with the families and that a number of other local authorities had passed similar motions. Motion was seconded by Cllr. Hearne, further support was offered by Cllrs. Conway, Murphy, Kelly and J. Power.

The motion was passed unanimously.

5. Motion in the name of Cllr. Declan Clune

“That Waterford City & County Council calls on the Minister for the Environment Eamon Ryan TD to immediately increase the penalties laid out in the Litter Pollution Act 1997 (as amended in 2017) for persons found to be carrying out illegal dumping to:

- €1500 for first offence*
- €3000 for second offence*
- €5000 for any subsequent offence ”*

Reg. No. 171 (dated, 19th January, 2021)

Cllr. Clune left meeting, motion dropped and will be resubmitted for next council meeting.

6. Motion in the name of Cllr. Breda Brennan

“I propose that Waterford City and County Council write to Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee, to request that a review of the 3rd National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence, is expediated, to provide a fit for purpose strategy taking into account, the additional reported rise in domestic abuse incidents occurring during Covid-19 Pandemic

restricted conditions and the urgent need for additional refuge places and adequately resourced services”

Reg. No. 172 (dated, 26th January, 2021)

Motion proposed Cllr. Brennan where she emphasised the negative effect that Covid has had in causing extra hardships for victims of all ages both men and women.

Motion seconded by Cllr. Hearne who added that from speaking to senior Gardai that domestic abuse had increased throughout the pandemic.

Cllrs. Ryan, McGuinness, O’Leary and Geoghegan all spoke in favour of the motion commending Cllr Brennan for bringing it forward.

This motion was passed unanimously.

7. Motion in the name of Cllr. John Pratt

“That Waterford City and County Council would look at holding and supporting a festival of events in 2022(or as soon as it’s safe to do so) similar to The Gathering. This is to encourage people to travel to Waterford to help tourism and business in our City, towns and villages to recover from the effects of the pandemic. This should be circulated to other councils. ”

Reg. No. 173 (dated, 29th January, 2021)

Motion proposed by Cllr. Pratt stating that there was an opportunity to prepare such an event to be held in 2022 to bring visitors back to the county both domestic and international. He thought that there might be particular interest from the Waterford Diaspora.

Motion seconded by Cllr. Phelan who also expressed the view that preparations would need to begin now.

Cllrs. Ryan and Griffin also spoke in favour of the motion with Cllr. Ryan requesting the Executive to examine the options.

Chief Executive stated that he would come back to the plenary with a report on the options for such an event.

This motion was passed unanimously.

12. Questions – For Noting

The items listed were noted.

13. AOB

Cllr. Doocey raised the issue of the serious flooding that had occurred in the Blackwater Valley over the past week and requested a report for the next meeting in March.

Cllr. Geoghegan asked if there was any comment from the executive on the boundaries motion passed earlier in the meeting.

M. Walsh, CE stated that the executive would support the views on the boundary expansion but that it was a political decision that would need to be passed in the Oireachtas.

Cllr. McGuinness raised the issue of discrepancies in the 2020 attendance records at meetings for councillors and asked for them to be amended.

Cllr. Griffin noted there were possible errors with the SPC attendance with also an error in December Plenary.

M. Walsh, CE stated that attendance was taken at the beginning of all meetings and recorded in the minutes, the attendance can be amended if required at the subsequent meeting.

Cllr. Geoghegan pointed out that the attendance figures did not take into account illnesses and bereavements as reasons for absence noting that all councillors in Waterford were extremely committed and hardworking. He also stated that many councillors were members of other bodies whose attendance was not reflected in the attendance record.

Cllr. Conway pointed out there was no sick leave scheme for councillors and there was in excess of 90% attendance overall at the 2020 meetings which many organisations would be very happy with.

Cllr. Roche pointed out that there was no maternity or parental leave either for councillors.

Cllr. J Power added that many councillors also had full time jobs, and this should also be taken into account when looking at attendances.

Cllr. Fitzgerald pointed out that there are instances of meeting clashing and that some councillors were required to attend more meetings than others due to the committees they were appointed on so fair comparisons could not be made.

It was noted by Cllr. S Power and Cllr. Cronin that the majority of the work done by the members was done outside of meetings.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____