

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

**Meeting of the Metropolitan District held by MS Teams on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 @ 5.00pm**

**Present:**

|                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Cllr. Seamus Ryan, <b>Mayor</b> | Cllr. Cristiona. Kiely |
| Cllr. Joanne Bailey             | Cllr. Eddie Mulligan   |
| Cllr. Donal Barry               | Cllr. Jason Murphy     |
| Cllr. Joe Conway                | Cllr. Jody Power       |
| Cllr. Davy Daniels              | Cllr. Eamonn Quinlan   |
| Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald            | Cllr. Frank Quinlan    |
| Cllr. Jim Griffin               | Cllr. Mary Roche       |
| Cllr. John Hearne               | Cllr. Adam Wyse        |
| Cllr. Joe Kelly                 |                        |

**Apologies:**

Cllr. L. O’Sullivan

**Officials in attendance:**

Mr. F. Galvin, Director of Services  
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator  
Mr. L. McGree, Senior Planner  
Ms. C. Hartley, SEO Housing  
Mr. B. Duggan, SEO Economic Development  
Ms. N. Keating, SEE, Roads  
Ms. L. Grant, SSO Economic Development  
Ms. A. O’Shea, Corporate Department

Meetings Administrator carried out the roll call for attendance.

The Mayor asked that Standing Orders be suspended to allow Councillor’s pay respect to Dolores O’Sullivan mother of Councillor Lola O’Sullivan who passed away that day. This was proposed by Cllr. Daniels and seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed by all.

Cllr. Daniels said he was saddened to hear of the death of Dolores O’Sullivan and extended is deepest sympathy to the O’Sullivan family. He said she was a lovely lady and will be sadly missed in Tramore.

Cllr. Griffin wished to extend his sympathy to the O’Sullivan family on his own behalf and of his party. He said it is a sad time for the family on losing their mother.

Cllr. F. Quinlan extended sympathy on behalf of the Fianna Gael party to the O’Sullivan family on the death of their mother.

Cllr. Kelly wished to extend his sympathy to Lola, Grace and all the O’Sullivan family on the death of their mother stating it is a very sad time for any family to lose their mother.

Cllr. Conway said Dolores was a kindly lady, admired and respected by all and she will be missed in Tramore. He extended his deepest sympathy to the O’Sullivan family on the loss of their mother.

Cllr. Roche extended deepest sympathy to Lola, Grace and all the O’Sullivan family on the loss of their mother stating there is nothing as hard as losing your mother.

Cllr. E. Quinlan said on behalf of himself and the Fianna Fail party he wished to extend his sympathy to the O’Sullivan family on the loss of their mother stating she was a courteous, kind and a pleasant lady.

Cllr. Power said he was shocked to hear of the death of Dolores and extended his sympathy to Lola, Grace and all the O'Sullivan family.

Cllr. Kiely wished to extend sympathy to Lola, the O'Sullivan family, and the extended family on the passing of Dolores. She said Dolores was a lovely person and a great baker and was very involved in Water Safety Ireland.

The Mayor wished to extend a vote of sympathy on his own behalf and of the members of the Metropolitan District to the O'Sullivan family on the death of Dolores.

F. Galvin, DoS said on his own behalf and of the staff of the Council he wished to extend deepest sympathy to Lola, Grace, and Michael and all the O'Sullivan family on their great loss.

The Mayor proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of Aisling Murphy who lost her life so tragically last week and was callously murdered while out for a run, stating this was unacceptable and that we need to call out any instances of gender violence.

Cllr. Roche seconded the motion of sympathy, she said it has been a shocking week with the brutal murder of a 23-year-old at 4:00pm in a public place. She said there has been 244 women murdered in Ireland and noted Meg Walsh and Imelda Keenan deaths both unsolved. She said we need to stop talking and act and call out and ask men to have conversations saying it is not appropriate. She sends her deepest sympathy to the family of Aisling.

Cllr. Griffin commended the Mayor on giving Councillor's time to talk about the tragic death of Aisling stating he has a daughter the same age and feels sad for her parents and sends his deepest sympathy to the family. He concurred with all Cllr. Roche's sentiments and thanked Cllr. F. Quinlan for organising a vigil which was well attended by people showing their outpourings of grief.

Cllr. Kelly said he was shocked but not surprised about the violent murder of this young woman and said a national response is needed. He said we need to start with the young and introduce educational programmes. He also said the court sentences for attacks on females is too lenient and should be increased to 10-12 years. He said we need to change the laws around video games stating that they depict abuse of women making it acceptable. He also noted torture and abuse and beatings of women in their own homes which is despicable and shocking. He offered his deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Aisling Murphy.

Cllr. Bailey said she was shocked at the tragic death of such a young woman and said women have been exposed to gender violence and must be mindful. She said more educational programmes need to be organised to speak about female abuse and agreed with Cllr. Kelly regarding the effect of video games on young people's minds. She extended her deepest sympathy to Aisling's family.

Cllr. Kiely sends deepest sympathy to Aisling's family, colleagues, pupils, and friends. She said Aisling was killed on a stretch of the canal named after Fiona Pender who also lost her life tragically. She said it shouldn't take the death of Aisling Murphy to have a national conversation. She said there are plenty good men who need to call out the small stuff stating it starts in the locker room and gets bigger. She asked for a workshop to look at the issue in depth and for a Safety Audit on all our paths and laneways to make us feel safe. She said we need Aisling Murphy's death not to be in vain.

Cllr. Power said he was shocked and revolted by the tragic death of Aisling. He said men must stand up and call out. He concurred with Cllr. Kiely regarding a Safety Audit.

Cllr. Hearne said it was a horrendous crime and devastating and sad for the family. He said we need to address the attitude of the State to women and cited the Magdalene Laundry stating the State needs to clean their own house first. He said we need to have respect for old people, women, and ourselves.

Cllr. Wyse agrees with all speakers stating women don't feel safe after this issue and we need to have a conversation and we have responsibility to ensure this doesn't happen again. He also wished to pass on his deepest sympathy to Lola and the O'Sullivan family on the death of their mother Dolores.

Cllr. E. Quinlan concurred with all previous speakers and said the murder in daylight was chilling. He said this was a watershed moment and we need to choose to decide to act.

Cllr. Daniels said it was a horrific act which happened in daylight causing concern with women all over the country. He said it was one death too many and extended his sympathy to Aisling's family.

Cllr. Barry expressed his sympathy to the family, friends, relations, and work colleagues of Aisling Murphy. He said we will have to re-visit this discussion at a future date and agreed with Cllr. Kelly regarding the judiciary laws. He noted our own St. John's river walkway where CCTV cameras cannot be installed due to GDPR and said it would have to be looked at as safety of people comes first.

Cllr. Fitzgerald wished to be associated with all previous speakers and sends his sympathy to the family of Aisling Murphy.

Cllr. Murphy wished to be associated with all previous comments and was revolted by the tragic death of Aisling Murphy. He hopes that the conversation continues stating men need guidance and are aware that women can be uncomfortable, and everyone has a right to go out and feel comfortable. He said this in an international problem, and we need to keep talking.

Cllr. F. Quinlan wished to extend his deepest sympathy to the family of Aisling Murphy, and he was compelled to organise a walk in Aisling's memory saying it was a lovely tribute to her. He said respect should be taught in the schools and we should have respect for each other.

Cllr. Mulligan asked to be associated with comments from his colleagues and asked for a one-minute reflection at end of meeting for the 23y year old girl who had her life taken at such a young age.

All Councillor's thanked the Mayor for giving them the opportunity to speak.

The Mayor thanked everyone for their contribution and was happy to give the members time to express their thoughts on this horrific incident. He said we must act and have a safety audit of our city areas with poor street lighting and no cameras and need to come back to the discussion again. He held a one-minute silent reflection for a kind generous woman who was making a difference with her life, but had it brutally taken away from her.

As a sign of respect to Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan on the death of her mother Dolores O'Sullivan, the Mayor stated that the monthly meeting would be adjourned and re-convened on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm, agreed by all.

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

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