

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

**COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11th JULY, 2019 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CITY HALL, THE MALL, WATERFORD.**

PRESENT

Cllr. John Pratt (Mayor)	Cllr. Joe Kelly
Cllr. Ger Barron	Cllr. Eddie Mulligan
Cllr. Donal Barry	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Liam Brazil	Cllr. Pat Nugent
Cllr. Breda Brennan	Cllr. Marc O’Cathasaigh
Cllr. Declan Clune	Cllr. Seamus O’Donnell
Cllr. Joe Conway	Cllr. John O’Leary
Cllr. Tom Cronin	Cllr. Lola O’Sullivan
Cllr. John Cummins	Cllr. Thomas Phelan
Cllr. Davy Daniels	Cllr. Jody Power
Cllr. Declan Doocey	Cllr. Seanie Power
Cllr. Conor D. McGuinness	Cllr. Eamon Quinlan
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. Seamus Ryan
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan	Cllr. Matt Shanahan
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. James Tobin
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr. Adam Wyse

APOLOGIES

None

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. M. Walsh, Chief Executive
 Mr. I. Grimes, Director of Services, Housing, Community & Emergency Services
 Mr. F. Galvin, Director of Services, Roads, Water & Environment
 Mr. K. Kehoe, Director of Services, Corporate, Culture, HR & IS
 Mr. B. Pollard, Head of Finance
 Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator
 Ms. A. Maher, Corporate Dept.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Plenary Meeting held on 9th May, 2019 were proposed by Cllr. Quinlan and seconded by Cllr. Kelly
 Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 7th June, 2019 were proposed by Cllr. D.McGuinness and
 seconded by Cllr. Brennan.

Best wishes were expressed from all the councillors to Cllr. Cummins and Inga Slosarova in relation to
 their upcoming wedding.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Geoghegan requested that the minutes reflect his dissatisfaction with Cllr. Doocey not being
 nominated onto the Lismore Heritage Co. Ltd. at the AGM. Cllr. Pratt outlined that he has requested an
 additional seat for Cllr. Doocey.

Cllr. Daniels enquired if the council has applied for supplementary funding for roads.
F. Galvin, DoS outlined that as the opportunity arises any available funding will be applied for.

3. Planning

(a) Planning lists as circulated were noted.

4. Land Disposals

Land Disposals proposed by Cllr. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Conway.

5. Monthly Management Report

Members agreed that report is taken as read.

Cllr. Tobin raised the issue of wind turbines outlining that Ballyduff has a large development that is in contravention to its planning permission, he requested the council to contact An Bord Pleanála for an update. He enquired if the council has received notification of a new planning permission for a wind farm in West Waterford and a request to erect a monitoring mast in the area.

Cllr. Clune requested the total written off for rents, loans and rates for the last financial year.

Cllr. Shanahan enquired about the retail strategy and asked was there any sight of the factors to be measured.

M. Quinn, DOS responded that the council can request information in relation to the decision and will write to An Bord Pleanála. He will check with the planning department and revert in relation to the planning queries. He outlined that the initial survey for the retail strategy will look at spending and will be brought to the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC for discussion.

B. Pollard, HoF stated that he is driving a new policy in the organisation regarding rate collection and there is a strategy to reduce the loans balance by 2021. He will revert with requested figures to councillors.

Cllr. Daniels highlighted positive developments for Waterford in relation to the airport and development of new trading routes for Waterford Port. In relation to the airport he requested update on construction date, land acquisitions for the expansion and update to shareholders.

Cllr. Ryan stated in relation to housing that the housing application form is complicated, requesting it to be reviewed and asked could further information be provided later in the process. In relation to Rebuilding Ireland Scheme and loans he noted that there were 9 applications received this year and asked if the council were taking applications and granting any as there had been some funding delays. He requested that the council review provision of new premises for the Rogue Gallery in Michael Street during re-development of the area.

Cllr. Murphy enquired as to what happens the properties that are deemed non-compliant as a result of inspections. He noted that there is increase in the number of housing applications and asked if it is the intention that the council will sell CPO vacant properties back into the private market or keep as council stock.

M. Walsh, CE noted that there is a lot of work to be carried out in relation to the development of the airport and negotiations are ongoing with landowners and a meeting is due to be scheduled with shareholders.

K. Kehoe, DOS replied in relation to the Rogue Gallery that the Council are currently looking at other locations. He noted that where a property is CPO'd that property management will as the preferred option put back into the housing stock.

I. Grimes, DOS stated that the housing application form is a standardised national form and the new appointment system operated by housing is to assist applicants with completing the form and having all supporting documentation. A number of applications have been submitted for the Rebuilding Homes Scheme and staff are processing and hoping for favourable response from the Department regarding funding. He stated that inspection standards were raised recently and these cause the failures with items such as smoke detectors and alarms, tenants update when works are completed.

Cllr. Mulligan asked for an update on the North Quays and when it will go out to tender. He stated that the current retail strategy is due to expire in July noting they there is no notice to the public on a new strategy. Requested an update in relation to the works and opening date for the new art gallery and queried if due to the traffic problems on the Dunmore Road if an extension to the outer ring road is being considered. He queried the comparison between private house inspections to our council house inspections?

Cllr. Quinlan stated there is a time delay in the issuing of the text alerts. He enquired as to why FIS (Family Income Supplement) is deducted by the council in some cases and not in others. Enquired if releasing information to MABS is an issue under GDPR.

Cllr. O'Donnell queried about the procedure for going onto the register of electors and questioned why first time voters have to provide copy of passport.

M. Walsh, CE replied that they are currently reviewing road access for the North Quays and hope that there will be a tender in the New Year.

K. Kehoe, DOS replied that the soft opening of the art gallery is due in 3 weeks. He confirmed he will look at the system for text alerts. In relation to the register of electors it is a standard form and confirmed there is a requirement for back up information to register as a new voter.

M. Quinn, DOS stated that there will be engagement with shoppers and businesses in relation to the retail strategy and confirmed that public consultation will take place.

I.Grimes, DOS stated that MABS are state funded and the council provides confidential information to them which is not an issue under GDPR and will review the issue in relation to FIS. He outlined that there are currently reviewing the rent schemes as there are three in operation so income being taken into account in general is being looked at.

Cllr. Cummins asked for details in to stages in the North Quays projects and the various elements involved in the project. He noted and welcomed that housing are pursuing action in relation to the subletting of council properties, requested an update on the Affordable Housing Scheme and outlined that Cork City Council have a downsizing scheme in operation and would this be something that could be considered.

Cllr. Phelan asked for details of number of applications received in relation to the Disabled Persons Grants (DPG's) in Housing. Enquired how fines under environmental enforcement are carried out and requested information on when community clean ups are being scheduled.

Cllr. Fitzgerald enquired if there have been changes in relation to the local improvement scheme. Outlined that there continues to be a problem with Japanese Knotweed and asked how it is being addressed. He stated that there is delays with tenants having repairs carried out and asked can it be reviewed and improved.

M. Quinn, DOS outlined that the planning application is due on the North Quays, once decision on planning permission in made the tender will be completed and it is hoped for construction mid-2022 to complete the project.

F. Galvin, DOS stated that all are fixed fines in relation to enforcement in the environment department and a number do result in court action been taken. He will put a list together of groups that are involved in the Community Clean Ups and circulate. He confirmed that the environment section have been treating the Japanese Knotweed, treatment will begin in autumn this year with the hope of eradicating the problem.

I.Grimes, DOS stated that a lot of time has been put in by Tenancy Management in relation to illegally occupied houses and action has been taken. In connection with the Affordable Housing System new regulations are due to issue. He stated that the downsizing scheme in Cork targets private owners and the council are looking at downsizing for our own tenants i.e. the elderly and will be looking at schemes locally to see if there is interest in it. With regard to the waiting time on repairs the council is currently procuring for services which when introduced will help reduce wait.

Cllr. John O'Leary queried if the Suir Valley railway could be used as a long term way of transport into the City.

Cllr. Hearne welcomed the new water fountains on the greenway and asked for it to be introduced in our parks. Queried if the taxi service checking can be brought back to Waterford as they now have to go to Kilkenny.

Cllr. Geoghegan queried the applications under Town and Village Renewal Scheme which have been submitted to the Council and asked for councillors be given a list of these and a short synopsis of the applications and for the same information in relation to the outdoor Recreational Infrastructure grants.

M. Quinn, DOS stated the use of the Suir Valley Railway would not be cost effective so is not an option, land acquisitions would also be required. Town and Village grants can be reported on for next meeting.

F. Galvin, DOS stated that the greenway water fountains are a pilot scheme and will review other locations. He will review options for the taxi service checking.

Cllr. Brennan sought clarification on whether we are still accepting and assessing grants.

Cllr. Conway asked that the Council look at a voluntary system of stopping election posters in the future and sought figures for prosecutions on elections/polling stations.

Cllr. Wyse highlighted that those with disabilities could have a 6 year wait for consideration because of reduction in the allocation from the department and asked did other local authorities receive a reduction. Enquired if the All Together Now festival is proceeding and asked when the new board will be established for Mount Congreve.

I.Grimes, DOS outlined details in relation to the grants for private houses and that the council received funding for council houses confirmed that the allocation has been reduced. He stated that he is not aware of impact on other local authorities but it will result in reduced work being carried out on council stock.

M. Quinn, DOS explained that upgrades are ongoing at Mount Congreve with a Part 8 to look at delivering improvements. A new board is due to be established.

F. Galvin, DOS stated that information on prosecutions for polling stations is available from the returning officer in the courthouse. No prosecutions issued in relation to campaign posters.

Cllr. O'Cathasaigh asked are dog fouling included in on the spot litter fines.

Cllr. Kelly asked are homelessness figures increasing and has the council reviewed reasons for increase. Enquired if the private adaptation grants are up to date.

Cllr. Barry enquired about over 18's putting in their own housing application when presenting as part of a family.

I.Grimes, DOS stated that homelessness statistics are done nationally. Outlined that funding is available to cover most private grants so once approved the timing of the work is up to the person and once they get the work completed they then claim the grant. He confirmed that assessment of adult children for housing is a national requirement and housing are following directions on this.

F. Galvin, DOS stated that dog fouling is included in litter fines.

Cllr. McGuinness enquired if provision can be made for homeless cases that live outside of Waterford city in their own area. Requested details on ASB unit to be included in management report.

Cllr. Nugent outlined that it is difficult to get people involved in the CE Scheme and asked if retired people can access the scheme.

Cllr. Griffin enquired about the adaptation grant and the possibility of an information forum to enable the public to access information. He enquired if tenants are permitted to install a ramp to the front of their houses.

I.Grimes, DOS stated that the Homeless Services are looking at options for provisions of accommodation outside of the city for those homeless. In relation to council properties tenants must get full permission from council for any work which would include access ramps but that housing will look at each case sympathetically.

F. Galvin, DOS responded that in relation to the CES we have regulations to follow but he will look at options which may be open to us.

6. Nomination to the South East Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force (SERDATF)

Cllr. Kelly proposed by Cllr. Hearne and seconded by Cllr. Barron.

7. Correspondence

Proposed by Cllr. Kelly and seconded by Cllr. Conway

8. Notice of Motions

1. Motion in the name of Cllr. Eamon Quinlan

“That this Council writes to the Minister for Education to call for all relevant legislation in relation to the establishment of the Technological Universities to remove the need for two IT’s in the same region to merge if one IT refuses to participate. Supplementary, that in the process”

Reg. No. 130 (dated 24th June, 2019)

A show of hands was called for which resulted in 22 members in support and 6 members abstaining

For	Abstained
L. Brazil	G. Barron
B. Brennan	D. Barry
J. Cummins	J. Conway
C. D.McGuinness	J. Kelly
D. Daniels	E. Mulligan
D. Doocey	S. Ryan
P. Fitzgerald	
D. Geoghegan	
J. Griffin	
J. Hearne	
J. Murphy	
P. Nugent	
M. Ó Cathasaigh	
J. O’Leary	
T. Phelan	
J. Power	
S. Power	
J. Pratt	
E. Quinlan	
M. Shanahan	
J. Tobin	
A.Wyse	
22	6

2. Motion in the name of Cllr. Matt Shanahan

“That Waterford City & County Council reflecting fairness and equity ask the Minister for Health Simon Harris to appoint a Waterford representative to the vacant seat of SSWHG group board made available by the departure of Professor Deirdre Madden.”

Reg. No. 131 (dated 25th June, 2019)

Agreed.

3. Motion in the name of Cllr. John Pratt

“That Waterford City & County Council in keeping with the objective of making Waterford a fair employment area agrees with and endorses the right of all employees to be represented

individually and/or collectively by a trade union if they so wish. We would expect and encourage all Employers and their representative organisations in Waterford City and County to fully recognise this basic fundamental human right and so not intimidate, harass or threaten the continued employment of those exercising this right”

Reg. No. 132 (dated 2nd July, 2019)

Motion proposed by Cllr. Pratt and seconded by Cllr. Ryan and agreed by all.
Requested that the motion be circulated to other Local Authorities for support.

4. Motion in the name of Cllr. Jody Power

“Waterford Council to consider the sculpting of the head of Michael Collins on a Mount Rushmore style sculpting to mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of our free country. This, not only commemorates our great liberator, but also adds a unique tourist attraction to our city and county. The scale of our cliff face is such that other heads may be added in due course.”

Reg. No. 134 (dated 2nd July, 2019)

Motion proposed by Cllr. Power and seconded by Cllr. O’Cathasaigh.
After a brief discussion it was agreed that this will be referred to the Commemoration committee for consideration.

13. AOB

I.Grimes, DoS informed the meeting that the four reps to the LCDC are Cllr. J. Pratt, Cllr. Wyse, Cllr. Sullivan and Richard Awosika from the PPN. Proposed by Cllr. Cummins and seconded by Cllr. Mulligan.

Cllr. J. Tobin asked for a vote of sympathy for the family of the late Noel Whelan and that a book of condolences is opened in the City and Dungarvan offices.

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked that a letter is sent to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in relation to the reduction in the allocation for the adaptation grants.

Cllr. D.McGuinness would like congratulations noted for Edmond Phelan who was elected as president of the Irish Cattle & Sheep Farmers Association.

Cllr. Mulligan informed the meeting that the National day of Commemoration is on 14th July, 2019 and Waterford will be holding an event at the John Condon Memorial on Sunday 14th July at 11am.

Cllr. Ryan outlined details of the two motions that he submitted that were not brought to the council meeting as one has been referred to the Metropolitan District meeting and the other referred to a committee for consideration. He requested that these are made available to this meeting.

Cllr. Shanahan asked that it be noted that there is a need to get additional information in relation to the position of 5G, Cllr. Phelan agreed and requested a workshop on the matter.

Cllr. Brazil informed the meeting The Comeragh Wilds Festival commences tonight and Cllr. O’Leary asked for this festival to be supported by as many as possible.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____