

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

**COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022 BY TEAMS**

**Present**

Cllr. Ger Barron	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Donal Barry	Cllr. Pat Nugent
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 D. 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. James Tobin
Cllr. Joe Kelly	Cllr. Adam Wyse
Cllr. Cristiona Kiely	

Apologies: Cllr. Seamus Ryan

**Officials in Attendance**

Mr. M. Walsh, Chief Executive  
 Mr. K. Kehoe, Director of Services, Corporate Services, Culture & Planning  
 Mr. I. Grimes, Director of Services, Housing, Community & Emergency Services  
 Mr. M. Quinn, Director of Services, Economic Development  
 Mr G. Hynes, Senior Engineer, Roads Dept  
 Mr. B. Pollard, Head of Finance  
 Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator  
 Mr. D. Mitchell, Corporate  
 Mr. Jon Hawkins Information Systems  
 Mr. Conan Power, Communications  
 Ms. Colette O'Brien, Community  
 Meetings Administrator carried out a roll call to confirm meeting attendance.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of Plenary meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2022 proposed by Cllr Pratt, seconded by Cllr Fitzgerald and agreed by all.

**2. Matters Arising**

Cllr. Conway thanked the CE for the members workshop briefing on the North Quays.  
 Cllr. Mulligan enquired on the progress with distributing the LVP Card compliance report and raised again the audit issue with regards to drawdown on monies for roads. Responding the CEO said he would arrange

for the LVP report to be distributed. He confirmed that the monies drawn down in relation to the roads project complied with procurement rules and that all the works had been completed.

Cllr. Roche enquired as to the council's current role in coordinating the arrival of Ukrainian refugees.

M. Walsh, CE, explained that the role had changed in the last few weeks and that government had asked the councils across the state to render assistance. Three Reception Centres had been established in Dungarvan, Carrickpherish and in the Crystal Sports Centre which are the current focal points for supports. There would be a ramping up on activating pledged accommodation. Other options were being examined although few are available, and most would need work some level to make them usable. The Government had requested that the council does what it can without impacting on its Housing for All priorities, a number of staff have had to be seconded to assist with humanitarian assistance to refugees.

Cllr. Bailey informed the meeting that there would be a vigil in John Roberts Square on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April for Michael Snee and Aidan Moffitt who were murdered in Sligo.

Cllr. Fitzgerald enquired if the Government were providing funding to offset the costs falling on the council in responding to the Ukrainian crisis.

Cllrs. O' Sullivan, J. Power and O' Leary complimented the Housing Department on the manner in which they have stepped up and the incredible work that have been doing to cater for the Ukrainian refugees. Cllr. O' Sullivan suggested that there needed to be area workshops urgently for the members and the executive to ensure that there was joined up thinking locally on using resources available. Cllr. Tobin was concerned that people might be placed in rural areas and isolated as the supports they needed would not be available such as transport and schools. Cllr O' Leary asked if there was a limit to the numbers that could be accommodated resulting in a tent situation. Cllr. Power also wanted to acknowledge the efforts of people in the PPN and asked if the Little Sisters of the Poor in Tramore was being considered.

Cllr. E. Quinlan was supportive of the efforts to support the refugees but stated that it was important to note the security concerns expressed by the parents of the two schools in Carrickpherish and the need to communicate with them on the operation of the Reception Centre and the potential for their children to access any of the sports facilities.

I. Grimes, DoS, clarified that the refugee support was not just a Housing Department effort and that staff from across the directorates were involved, led by Sinead Breathnach from the Community Department. He said the Community Call had been stood up and they were working closely with the member agencies. He added that he would be happy to have area meetings as suggested by Cllr. O' Sullivan. He agreed with Cllr. Tobin on the need to source accommodation within a reasonable distance of town centres especially as children had been enrolled in schools and would be attending after Easter. All options were being considered and he hoped that tents would not be needed. Mr. Grimes stated that there was little time to inform the parents of the Carrickpherish school in advance as he was only informed on Wednesday that there were 150 refugees arriving the following day that he needed to accommodate.

M. Walsh, CE, stated that the council had received comfort from the Department of Children on the costs incurred supporting Ukrainian refugees. The council were working on 10 potential properties, the convent in Tramore was not one of them. Regarding placing people in rural areas, he does not see enough capacity in urban settings and tents may need to be part of the solution, noting that accommodation pledges are not transpiring. Currently it was not possible to reconcile demand with capacity and that policy and cost decisions would be required at a national level. In terms of vacancy rates in our own stock Waterford is at 2% which is one of the lowest in the county and most of the vacancies would be in rural areas with our main urban areas being very stressed. Efforts would need to be made to get support services to match any usage of rural accommodation and to get community fora to help with supporting the incoming people. He added that the situation at present was very challenging.

Cllr. Kiely added her appreciation of the work done by the staff and she supported the concept of area meetings. She did ask about the availability of the hotels that were being used in the longer term and if they were forward booked into the summer season.

Cllr. McGuinness acknowledged the sterling work done by the council in dealing with the refugees from the Ukraine. He also stated that there was a vigil in Dungarvan on 15/04/22 for the two men murdered in Sligo. Additionally, he asked about the impact of fuel prices and the carbon tax on the council budget and if there was any extra funding from the department for the Roads Programme.

Cllr. Pratt commended the Council and WAP for the work they are doing with the refugees, and he asked that the members be kept informed about progress as best they can.

Cllr. Nugent asked if the Ukrainian refugees were eligible to work in Ireland and if there was any progress with using the Scouting Ireland property in Mount Mellary for refugee housing.

Cllr. Hearne stated that he would like to see people getting together with the business community to get as many refugees as possible into employment.

Cllr. Doocey stated that the timeframe for the refugees was not a temporary one and suggested that older refugees might be accommodated in rural areas and that some might be able to assist with fixing up their own accommodation.

Cllr. Phelan asked if there could be topic put in the management report for the Ukrainian Refugees in future months.

Cllr. Mulligan stated that city centre businesses are coming together with immediate start jobs for Ukrainian refugees, but they needed somewhere to post these jobs and wondered if LEO could assist.

I. Grimes, DoS, clarified that the council were not involved in the hotel bookings which were done by IPAS, but they would be engaging with the individuals. He thanked the members for their compliments regarding the Team and PPN. Regarding communicating with the members, he stated that they were in emergency mode at the moment and will discuss it next week. He clarified that the refugees from Ukraine have been given the right to work here and that the ETB were starting language classes for them. He agreed to work with the Chamber of Commerce and LEO regarding publicising available jobs. He said that for any accommodation where children would be housed broadband was essential as many were going to school online. He would look at including an item in the next management report, but he did not want to impact on a team that was extremely busy.

M. Walsh, CE, stated that the Scout centre in Mount Mellary was being discussed noting there are issues with the building and a portion of it could be used in a few weeks' time when some works were completed.

F. Galvin, DoS, stated that current roads tenders were showing double digit price increases and that the Department, TII and other bodies were informed but no response had been received yet. He will follow up with them but there will be pressure to complete the works currently planned given the escalated costs.

The Mayor enquired if Gracedieu Manor was being considered. I Grimes, DoS, stated that IPAS had been in direct contact with the owners of Gracedieu Manor have been in direct contact and it will be in use shortly.

### **3. Land Disposals**

K. Kehoe, DoS, listed the land disposals for consideration which were proposed by Cllr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr. Nugent

Cllr. Daniels queried the location in Kilbarry of the 10.5 acres and if it was zoned for housing. Cllr. Clune asked if the €1.65m proceeds go back to the revenue budget. K. Kehoe, DoS, clarified that these were the lands discussed at the workshop and that they do not relate to the cemetery area and are not linked. The lands for disposal were zoned for industrial and business use and that the sales contract had a condition that planning permission be submitted within 6 months in order for the sales to be completed. The sales proceeds would go to the Capital account to fund capital investments such as matched funding requirements for urban and rural regeneration projects.

Cllr. Conway queried the level of rent increase applied to the building occupied by NearForm given the increase in market rents in Tramore in recent years. K. Kehoe, DoS, responded by stating that he would supply the level of increase to the members for this short-term lease extension.

Cllr. Hearne thanked the executive for the recent tidying up of areas close to the disposed lands in Kilbarry and hoped that further lands in the area could also be moved on.

The disposals were agreed by all.

#### **4. Monthly Management Report**

Cllr. Barry stated that the current Heritage Plan would expire this year and he would like to know what the timespan was for preparing the next one which should be in line with the national 2030 Plan. He would also like to see a report on what had been achieved against the current plan. He asked if there were plans to celebrate European Maritime Day on May 20<sup>th</sup> and he also asked if consideration could be given to having a Waterford Maritime Festival next year. He also noted that the LCDC meeting minutes were not posted on the Council website and asked for this to be rectified.

Cllr. Clune enquired on the progress of Lifeguard recruitment for the beaches this summer and if the required number were recruited for full service during June, July & August.

Cllr. Fitzgerald stated that housing for single people was rarely available on the CBL website. He stated that it was difficult for people to source HAP properties as landlords did not like the red tape of applications and estate agents have nothing on the books for single people.

K. Kehoe, DoS, stated that the new Heritage Plan would be started in the third quarter via the SPC and would be in accordance with the aims of the National Plan. As part of the process there would be reports on the output from the 2017 to 2022 plan that is expiring. He will see if there are plans for European Maritime Day and will link up with communications on it. Regarding a maritime festival for next year, he noted the comments made. Testing of lifeguards is ongoing at present.

I. Grimes, DoS, stated that he will get the LCDC minutes uploaded to the website after this meeting. He said that the lifeguard interviews were in the coming week and the service would be full time in July and August. He felt there might be an issue with a fulltime service in June due to the availability of qualified lifeguards rather than any budget issue. The situation would be clearer after the interviews, and he would let the members know then. He clarified that 50% of people on the housing waiting list are for one bed units and that our capital programme was addressing this with 35% approximately of new builds being 1 beds. He also clarified that landlords cannot refuse to take HAP tenants and can be subject to the WRC and the form that is needed is a central government requirement.

Cllr. Geoghegan enquired as to the council annual spend on local and national radio advertising and if details could be supplied including those for the past 3 years.

Cllr. Conway commented on the widespread instances of signposts pointing in the wrong directions in various locations across the county. The signs also have mould and need attention and he would like something to be done. F. Galvin, DoS, will look at these issues and they will be prioritised in the coming weeks and months.

Cllr. J. Power asked why there were 276 CBL refusals. He also wants to know about the debts over one year old for rates, loans and rents and how much it cost the council. He stated that the Great Island Power Station was shut down and would remain so for six months and asked if the council were aware of any environmental problem. He would welcome a Maritime Festival plus getting the Tall Ships back. He congratulated Seamus Power on getting in to the top 40 Golfers in the world.

K. Kehoe, DoS, agreed to supply the radio advertising costs to the members after the meeting as he did not have them to hand.

F. Galvin, DoS, stated that he was not made aware of any issue with the Great Island Power station, but it is licenced by the EPA so enquires should be directed to the EPA.

I. Grimes, DoS, stated that the CBL refusal rate was much lower than previous schemes which are running at 40%. Typically, people bid and are not clear of the locations of the available properties and then when they are offered, they realise where the properties were located and turn them down. The one bed on CBL is usually allocated to people with medical need that were waiting so do not get offered on the CBL.

B. Pollard, HoF, explained that major inroads had been made into rates arrears in 2021 reducing from €11m to €6m. Housing loans and rent arrears also improved in that time. There were costs associated with resolving arrears. Waterford was on the higher end of arrears for rates in comparison with other authorities and mid table for rents and loans.

Mayor enquired if the Mount Neale development would go on CBL. I. Grimes, DoS, stated that the first phase were advertised on the CBL and the second phase will be handed over in the coming weeks, the CBL listings are done by a single typical house rather than each individual unit being listed.

M. Quinn, DoS, stated that a Maritime Festival while it was a good idea that the resources and funding was not there if community groups did not support it. The Council could provide support but would not be able to lead. He also pointed out that the Tall Ships would need funding for the huge cost both to bid and to deliver if successful. The long-term potential benefits need to be taken in to account and there might be more value gained by putting resources in to promoting Waterford as a work and investment destination.

Cllr. F. Quinlan raised the issue of Greenway safety following a recent accident and suggested that keep left arrows needed to be put down at points where people join it. This would remind cyclists and children and avoid accidents. He also enquired if EV chargers could be put in Greenway car parks so that visitors could charge while they walked.

Cllr. McGuinness asked that a letter be sent to the minister to request that the short-term housing rental rates charged by Airbnb be included in any examination of rents for an area as he felt more areas of Waterford would then become Rent Pressure Zones. He requested an update on the progress with the Carroll's Cross roadworks and Bumahon Sewerage works.

Cllr. Roche asked that an invitation be sent to SETU to address the members at the May Plenary which would be after the university was officially established on 1<sup>st</sup> May. She asked if the Apple Market could be turned in to a Hurling Fan zone during the All-Ireland Hurling Championship. She asked if any information was available on the new apprenticeships being run at Mount Congreve.

M. Quinn, DoS, stated that he was awaiting a report of the recent Greenway accident and that directional arrows would be useful and would look at getting them in place, if possible, for the summer season. There were no plans for EV Chargers at present and might be on the climate change programme in the due course. He will get the details for the Mount Congreve apprenticeship for the members. A Fan zone in the Apple Market would need to be run and owned by the local businesses and the council would be happy to work with them.

The Mayor said he would be happy to write to invite SETU to the next plenary council meeting.

I. Grimes, DoS, agreed to write to the Minister regarding the rent pressure zones.

F. Galvin, DoS, confirmed that the Carroll's Cross roadworks was on schedule to complete in the next 6 to 8 weeks and he would let the members know when he has a more definite date. He confirmed that a draft EV charger Strategy had been released by the Department in recent days and that the council would be represented on the working committee.

Cllr. Griffin enquired when the new Affordable Housing scheme might be progressed and when the beach maintenance and bins would start for the summer season. He asked if non-qualified people with local knowledge could help lifeguards by doing visual checking if there were not going to be enough qualified lifeguards.

Cllr. Daniels asked if the members could be notified when the council completes the acquisition of a property. He also enquired as to the progress with Airport funding and if it was ringfenced.

Cllr. O' Leary enquired as to how the new preplanning meeting sessions worked.

I. Grimes, DoS, explained that the Affordable Housing Pilot Scheme had been on the agenda for this meeting but had to be deferred as the Department had not issued the final official version of the regulations that would apply. When the scheme comes into effect those that have completed the Expression of Interest will all be contacted and given application forms. Others will be open to apply for it also, but he cannot commit to a timescale for this given the dependency on Department approval of the regulations. He explained that full time lifeguards for July and August was not an issue and that it was June that could not be committed to at present due to a dependency on leaving certificate students.

F. Galvin, DoS, stated that beach maintenance and bins for the summer season would start for the May Bank Holiday.

K. Kehoe, DoS, agreed that an acquisitions report could be provided to the members six monthly. Regarding pre-planning meetings, he explained that the times were of set duration, and anyone interested in availing of the service should fill in the preplanning form. They will then be assigned a planner and a timeslot for the discussion. The planner would make their notes available to the applicants after the meeting and he would encourage people to make use of this service.

M. Walsh, CE, confirmed that there had been no progress on the airport since last month but that he would come back to the members when the agreement was drafted.

Cllr. S. Power enquired about the process for planning for Solar Panel farms and if any applications or meetings had been held with interested parties.

Cllr. Mulligan enquired about charging points for EVs in urban settings if cables could be run over paths etc for people that didn't have off street parking. He also suggested that consideration be given to a berth for boats such as the Barrow Princess at Mount Congreve. He further made an enquiry relating to planning policy and if there was reason for the council to appeal An Bord Pleanála regarding change of use.

Cllr. Kiely asked about air quality monitoring and what the local results were and if the smokey coal ban was enforced. She asked if there was an update on the LVP report. She also asked if there was anything started yet for the next Winterval. Requested a workshop on decarbonisation and enquired if there were plans to get CCTV to prevent illegal dumping following the change to the law.

F. Galvin confirmed that cables for EV charging cannot be run across paths. The department draft EV charger plan was considering options for communal EV points in urban areas. There are two EPA air quality monitoring centres in Waterford and there is live and historical data available on their website. The smokey coal ban is enforced and there have been prosecutions in the city. He was still awaiting a response from the recent EU applications, and he will then engage with the members regarding a decarbonisation workshop. Details of the regulations regarding CCTV installation to prevent illegal dumping had not been received from the department but once the compliance requirements are known they can be introduced.

K. Kehoe, DoS, stated that he could not discuss individual planning applications for solar farms but there had been a recent pre planning meeting. There were no guidelines per se for solar power, but the existing regulations could be applied. The council must support renewable energy. Regarding An Bord Pleanála decisions the council would take learnings from them, but we would have to accept the outcome. He clarified the details of the LVP card report were in the audit report which went before the previous plenary meeting.

M. Quinn, DoS, stated that a berth for boats at Mount Congreve could be considered but the priority is the visitor centre at present. A Blueway could also be looked at when the visitor centre was completed and confirmed that the tender for Winterval Director has issued.

Cllr. Tobin asked if the grant money allocated to the cancelled Campfire Horse Festival could be rolled over to next year. He also asked if there was any reuse of funds for Housing Adaptation Grants for private homes that was not used for council houses.

Cllr. Bailey asked when the new public lighting scheme would come into operation. She also enquired if extra categories could be added to the council CRM for Environment and Signposts.

Cllr. Hearne asked if there was a policy of closing open fireplaces up in council housing. He also suggested that meetings should be arranged with local Gardai, staff and the members now that the JPC was no longer operating.

M. Quinn, DoS, explained that there was no provision in festival funding for rollover of the Campfire Horse Festival grant to the following year and if it was not drawn down this year.

I. Grimes, DoS, confirmed that it was not possible to cross fund the Housing Adaptation Grants which had been raised with the department previously. He suggested that meetings with the Gardai would be best done at district level, but staff were very stretched at present. Relating to fireplaces he replied that these were not taken out in all cases and the needs of tenants were taken into consideration.

K. Kehoe, DoS, outlined that the existing CRM categorisation should be used where possible. He encouraged more members to use CRM as it was a very effective. Cllr. F. Quinlan supported the use of CRM by the members which he found extremely useful in solving issues he raised quickly.

F. Galvin, DoS, stated that the legislation needed to be complete before CCTV could be again used to counter illegal dumping. The public lighting regional contract had been signed about two months ago and the Waterford Council areas would be surveyed towards the end of the summer. Retro fitting should commence in the first half of 2023.

Cllr. E. Quinlan enquired if planning notifications that the council placed in local newspapers could also be posted as site notices. He also asked if shared accommodation in 2/3/4 bedroom properties could be considered for single people on the housing waiting list. Additionally he asked if council mortgages could be considered for people who were self-building.

Cllr. Doocey commented that there was a shortage of EV charging points across the county. He also said that there would be extra funding for Campfire Horse trials to ensure it stays in Waterford.

Cllr. Phelan asked if members could be kept updated on CCTV use. He asked if there would be a new App to notify of street lighting faults. He further enquired if the advertised Climate Change Director role only had a city remit.

F. Galvin, DoS, explained that planning notices had to be published in local papers by law and in many cases public consultation is invited especially under Active Travel. He suggested that we could go beyond the legal requirements and look at wider engagement as Active Travel progresses. He stated that the new national strategy on EVs was pending. He committed to keeping the members updated on progress with CCTV. He expected that there will be less issues with the new public lighting and a new app will be considered once the new lights are in place. The role of the Climate Change Director will be across the city and county, but the initial projects were city based.

I. Grimes, DoS, said he would need to think about putting singles into shared accommodation and that the SPC should consider it at their next meeting. He also stated that council mortgages were available for self builds.

## **5. Allocation of Supporting Waterford Community Fund 2022**

This was introduced by Colette O'Brien who gave an update on what had occurred regarding the fund and proposed allocations. It was proposed by Cllr. Pratt and seconded by Cllr. McGuinness.

Cllrs Pratt, McGuinness, O'Leary, Geoghegan and Roche spoke to comment Colette O'Brien on the work she had done and the assistance she had given to applicants.

Cllr. Roche asked if there was a way to help organisations such as Blood Bike Southeast even though they were not based in the county. C. O'Brien stated that this organisation got financial support via Wexford Co.Co. where they are based. It is not possible to fund a body that does not have a base in Waterford from the Waterford funds.

The allocation was passed unanimously.

At this point the Mayor stated there was a need to suspend standing orders and extend the meeting duration. Cllr. Phelan proposed extending it to 5 pm and this was seconded by Cllr. McGuinness and agreed by all.

## **6. Draft Scheme of Priority for Affordable Dwelling Purchase Arrangements – for approval - documents to follow when new Regulations are received from Government**

This item could not be dealt with at this meeting as new regulations have not yet been received and will be deferred to a later date.

## **7. Correspondence**

This was proposed by Cllr. Geoghegan and seconded by Cllr. Conway and agreed by all.

## **8. Notice of Motions**

### **1. Motion in the names of Cllrs. Conor D. McGuinness, Joanne Bailey, Jim Griffin, John Hearne & Pat Fitzgerald**

*“Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann is a week-long celebration of Irish music and song. It is one of the biggest cultural gatherings in the world. Waterford would provide an ideal backdrop for this unique festival. We call on the Executive to engage with Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann with a view to preparing a bid for Waterford to host the Fleadh Cheoil in the near future.”*

**Reg. No. 209** (dated, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2022)

This was introduced and proposed by Cllr. McGuinness and seconded by Cllr. Griffin.

Cllr. Barry enquired if the local CCE were pushing this proposal as it should have their support. Cllr. Conway gave its support contingent on the local CCE being in favour. Cllrs. Daniels Geoghegan, Pratt, Bailey, Power, Kiely, Tobin and Nugent.

Cllr. Nugent commented that infrastructure including suitable hotel rooms would be needed for such an event.

Cllr. McGuinness confirmed that informal talks had been held with the local CCE and that this was the first step in applying for the event. There would be a number of years lead in if it were to be approved.

The motion passed unanimously.

### **2. Motion in the names of Cllr. Cristiona Kiely**

*“That Waterford City & County Council commits to a feasibility study into providing a Changing Places accessible facility in Waterford City, Tramore and Dungarvan as a starting point with a view to rolling out one in each large town in the county.”*

**Reg. No. 210** (dated, 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2022)

The motion was introduced and proposed by Cllr. Kiely and seconded by the Mayor. Cllrs. Hearne J. Power and Phelan spoke in support of the motion which passed unanimously.



**3. Motion in the names of Cllr. John Pratt**

*“That Waterford City & County Council will call on the Ministers for Justice; Education; and Children, Disability, Equality & Integration to immediately implement an Operation Encompass-style programme between An Garda Siochana and schools.”*

**Reg. No. 211** (dated, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2022)

This motion was introduced and proposed by Cllr. Pratt and seconded by Cllr. Phelan. Cllrs. Hearne and McGuinness gave their support and the motion passed unanimously.

**4. Motion in the names of Cllrs. John Hearne. Conor D. McGuinness, Joeanne Bailey, Jim Griffin, & Pat Fitzgerald**

*“That Waterford City & County Council writes to the HSE and Minister for mental health and request that they fully restore the facilities in Brook House to the pre pandemic levels as soon as possible and commit to that in writing to the patients who are lost without them”*

**Reg. No. 212** (dated, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022)

Cllr. Hearne introduced and proposed this motion which was seconded by Cllr. Bailey. Cllrs. Barry Phelan, O’Leary and McGuinness added their support and the motion passed unanimously.

**9. A.O.B.**

The Mayor reminded the members that they needed to register their attendance using the link previously supplied to the “Best Place to Live” live event on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

Cllr. Fitzgerald stated that members needed more information from government and companies involved in the proposed offshore wind farms.

Cllr. Geoghegan want to congratulate Henry De Bromhead on the victories of Honeysuckle and A Plus Tard in the Champion Hurdle and Gold Cup in Cheltenham. He also wanted to express his sympathy to the family and friends of Dr. Heidi Hosey-McGurk of Medhurst University.

Cllr. Mulligan enquired where the misuse of the council LVP card was reported. M. Walsh, CE, replied that it was in the Audit report, but he was not sure as to the level of detail that could be included as it involved a member of staff. Mr. Walsh was happy that the correct disciplinary procedure was observed in this matter.

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

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