

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

COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14TH OCTOBER 2021 BY ZOOM

Present

Cllr. Donal Barry	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Liam Brazil	Cllr. Pat Nugent
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. Seamus Ryan
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr. James Tobin
Cllr. Joe Kelly	Cllr. Eddie Mulligan
Cllr. Cristiona Kiely	

Apologies: Cllr. Ger Barron, Cllr. Seamus O’Donnell, Cllr. Adam Wyse

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 P. Johnston, Acting Director of Services, Housing, Community & Emergency Services
 Mr. B. Pollard, Head of Finance
 Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator
 Mr. D. Mitchell, Corporate
 Mr. Conan Power, Communications
 Mr. Jon Hawkins, Information Systems

Meetings Administrator carried out a roll call to confirm meeting attendance.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of Plenary meeting held on the 9th of September 2021 proposed by Cllr O’Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. J. Power and agreed by all.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Roche asked for an update on the proposed IDA meeting and what the schedule of meetings would be for upcoming budget preparation.

Cllr. J. Power asked if the referral on the St Declan's Way intersection with the N25 had been forwarded to the TII Safety Officer.

Cllr. McGuinness asked for an update on the suggested meeting with the office of the planning regulator regarding land zoned for housing.

Cllr. Daniels said that he was disappointed the Airport was not on this month's agenda and requested an update from the CEO on current funding and the proposed investment package.

Relating to last month's minutes Cllr Mulligan wanted to have it recorded that he voted against the Festival Funding due to the downgrading of the Harvest Festival from being a pillar festival. He also wanted an update on the appointment of an advisor for the North Quays.

In response M. Walsh (CEO) stated that the Airport board were continuing to work to get the runway extension. As director of the Airport board, he was limited as to what he could disclose but could confirm that:

- Further information was requested relating to the planning application which has been responded to. Any decision would be in another month or two.
- The package of investment was not as originally proposed.
- There was no change to government funding, but it was contingent on the private investment.
- An application for the normal annual funding next year would be submitted by the end of the year as normal.

With regards to the North Quays, he stated that as the members were informed at the recent workshop that no agent was being appointed at this time as developers and funders were being engaged with to test the proposition. We are moving to tender on the infrastructure work.

K. Kehoe (DoS) confirmed that the IDA had been engaged with and that due to calendar clashes they would not be able to present at current plenary dates and alternative arrangements were being made to proceed with a workshop meeting instead.

M. Quinn (DoS) stated that the Office of the Planning Regulator did meet with officials in Waterford on Friday 7th October part of which was a site visit. They now have a significantly improved understanding of the issues faced by Waterford City and County Council.

F. Galvin (DoS) stated that TII had not responded regarding the St Declan's Way N25 intersection but that he would raise the matter again at his next meeting with them and then update the members.

Cllr. Bailey asked of the 2019 information on landbanks that she had been provided was the most current and K. Kehoe confirmed it was.

The Mayor suggested the suspension of standing order so that item 5 regarding the filling of the casual vacancy could be dealt with before item 3, proposed by Cllr. Tobin, seconded by Cllr. Phelan and agreed by all.

3. Land Disposals

K Kehoe (DoS) listed the proposed disposal for consideration, which was proposed by Cllr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr. J. Power and agreed by all.

Cllr. Barry requested clarification that Gas Networks Ireland would maintain the rest of the area adjacent to the disposed land and K. Kehoe responded explaining that they would only be responsible for the land they acquired and that the council or residents would have to maintain the adjoining area.

4. Monthly Management Report

Cllr. Barry called for a public awareness campaign on the education programme for the circular economy. He enquired as to the intended governance of the cultural quarter given its importance as a project. Relating to the NOAC report for 2020 he stated that Waterford City and County Council did quite well in

many areas except in job creations and asked why this was the case and if it warranted further investigation.

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked why the roads report was short this month and wanted an update on Active Travel and to know if the budgets needed to be spent by the end of the year for all project or if they would roll forward for those projects yet to be completed.

K. Kehoe, DoS, stated that the revised governance for the Cultural Quarter was a priority under the strategic plan as it moves into its next phase. Over the past year Covid, outdoor dining and the URDF have been dealt with under its current structure and they have met every two months. He clarified that the roads report reflected the fact that most of the current activities were projects reported on at district level where they were being delivered and that the Plenary Management report was confined to content and strategy relating to the City and County as a whole.

F. Galvin, DoS stated that the engagement on the circular economy would be through the Green Schools initiative and the Council social media platforms. He also clarified that the funding for schemes under Active Travel were on track to spend most of the €14m allocated funds this year but that the funding would roll over the year end for those not completed. There was no danger that the money would be lost.

M. Quinn, DoS, stated that the job creation figures as reported by NOAC for 2020 were disappointing and impacted by Covid. He also pointed out that some of the impact was from a correction to overstated 2019 figures with some jobs transferring to Cork, which inflated the jobs lost figures for 2020. There were constraints in job creation due to the requirement to comply with the Enterprise Ireland framework which is not flexible. He also pointed out that performance was better than most local authorities with respect to Covid responses.

Cllr. E. Quinlan commented on the offshore Energia windfarm and asked if the council could get its own research done on the options available rather than rely wholly on those given by Energia, He also asked about the issues of housing materials inflation which meant that by the time a grant application to the housing department was processed the quoted process are no longer valid for the recipients.

Cllr. Murphy asked if it was time to reconsider the city boundaries as the city population of 53k currently did not include Tramore or Dunmore East. If those areas were included the city would have a 75k population. He also questioned the value of broadcasting the council proceedings give that there were only 14 people watching the current meeting on YouTube.

Cllr. McGuinness asked if social clauses could be added to the council's public procurement contracts to ensure fair treatment of workers and sub-contractors working on council projects. He asked if the council was aware of any industrial relations disputes relating to the staff of contractors and if the council would be an interested party in any such cases.

M. Quinn, DoS, stated that the council had limited responsibilities and skill set with regard to wind energy and the members would need to include the costs of engaging specialist external help in the budget if they felt it was required.

Relating to involvement in contractor industrial relations K, Kehoe, DoS, responded stating that we are not involved because we have little legal standing but if needed, we could engage. He confirmed that before a contract is let externally the council engages with our own unions to check in house ability to deliver. He was not aware of any current disputes involving council contracts but would make enquires. In addressing the costs of broadcasting meetings, he clarified that should the restriction be lifted, and meetings were to be held in person again the costs of broadcasting four meetings each month would be circa €2.6k per month. This would be included as budget item for 2022 for the consideration of the members so that they can decide if they wish to fund it. Regarding the city boundary he clarified that any changes were in the gift of the minister and a new revision process would need to be commenced if the members deemed it necessary.

F. Galvin, DoS, clarified that existing council contracts required the observance of social elements relating to contractor staff such as the payment of sectoral rates, pensions, working hours etc.

P. Johnston, A/DoS, stated that the housing grant is now based on a sum of money to do a particular piece of work. He clarified that 3 quotes were no longer required, and this should speed up the application process for the grant.

Cllr. Phelan stated his appreciation that the Greenway won the European Silver Medal and the need to continue to improve it including looking at what the Gold Medal winner did, and he wanted improvement in the road safety at junctions and intersections. He asked about the zoned land tax introduced in the budget and stated that land should only be zoned if the owner was prepared to develop it and he asked if the council were doing enough to ensure that areas such as brown field sites were being used. He further asked if more information on planning enforcement could be added to the Management Report like the environmental enforcement section. He also noted that our Fire Service came out on top in the country in the NOAC figures. Additionally, he enquired about the continuance of Covid budget provisions and if there was a preview of our budget position.

Cllr. J. Power thanked the Environment Department and Senior Executive Engineer Niall Kane for the great work with plastic removal from the river. He asked if there were any details available from Minister Ryan's visit to Waterford. He also asked who could do a report on the shellfish die off in the Estuary and enquired about the impact on social media statistics of the best place to live accolade.

Cllr. Hearne congratulated council housing staff on the excellent standard of the new housing units at Presentation Field which the new residents were delighted with. He then expressed concern about the level of HAP inspection failures given the high level of rents paid and would like to know why the landlords were not complying with the required standards.

P. Johnston, A/DoS, stated he would pass on Cllr. Hearnes appreciation for the new units to the team. Regarding the failure rates for HAP inspections, he would provide the reasons for failure in future to help get the message across to landlords. The plan for 2022 was to increase the inspection rate to 25% (approximately 2.5k units) to improve the standard.

M. Quinn, DoS, commented that the council could not engage with all landowners directly on proposed rezoning in the development plan and that the landowners needed to engage via submissions to the public consultation process. It would not always be possible to comply with the zoning wishes of owners particularly if it created barriers to progress. He welcomed the European award for the Greenway which has benefitted from a number of improvement initiatives over the years and stated they would look at what the winning entry was offering. In respect of Planning Enforcement numbers, he stated that the volume of planning applications was impacting enforcement actions. Relating to social media he confirmed that an increase in traffic had been seen due since the best place to live in Ireland was announced.

The Mayor commended those working on the Greenway and reiterated its importance to Waterford. He would like to see the award being exploited as much as possible in promoting the Greenway.

F. Galvin, DoS, said that the shellfish die off would be considered under the River Basin Management Plan to which public consultation was currently open, the Suir Estuary is included in this plan. The districts would be briefed at their local meetings going forward. The EPA would work with the various councils and other relevant bodies improving the water quality. He confirmed safety measures were in place at Greenway intersections and asked if Cllr Phelan could let him know if he believed safety audits were needed at any intersections on the Greenway.

B. Pollard, DoS, stated it was too early yet to provide a preview of the council budget, the situation regarding the Q4 rates waiver had still not been clarified by the Department.

M. Walsh, CE, stated that Minister Ryan's visit was a positive meeting and he briefed him on the resources needed and the requirement for the Government to assist with funding for decarbonisation.

Cllr. Ryan requested an update on bus service expansion across the County, requested an update on the current CBL review, commended the library staff on their work during Covid and asked if there was any progress with provision of a mobile library.

Cllr. Daniels asked if there was any timescale on the rates waiver scheme, enquired as to the carbon tax impact on the council budget and asked if there was any indication on the location of the TUSE HQ and what funding might be forthcoming. He asked if the Mayor would write to Minister for Further and Higher Education in relation to the matter.

Cllr. Pratt stated a lot of planning applications were going out for further information and if there were any reasons for this and if it compared to the rate in other counties. He also noted that there were delays in getting tradesmen such as plumbers and electricians to do repair work on council houses and asked if there was anything that could be done to alleviate it. He also enquired if the council needed to apply for extra funding due to the increased costs of materials to be used in housing adaptations.

P. Johnston, A/DoS, stated that he would come back with a report on the CBL review for the next meeting. He outlined that the lack of trades people was an industrywide issue and were managing the materials cost inflation pressures at the moment.

M. Quinn, DoS, stated that the NOAC figures do not report details on why planning applications were refused or further information that were requested. There was a known issue with many applications that were not meeting the current environmental requirements because those submitting were not up to speed with the standards. Many of these are referred for further information so that submitters can correct rather than have a rejection and start again. In addressing the TUSE question Mr. Quinn stated that while he sat on the Governing body of WIT he was not party to the TUSE process as that was governed by the Department of Higher and Further Education.

F. Galvin, DoS, stated that the NTA dealt with the bus services, but he expects they will conduct a public consultation in the coming months.

K. Kehoe, DoS, confirmed that there was no funding currently available for the mobile library but noted that were in an advanced state of readiness to apply should funds be made available.

Cllr. O’Leary wanted to know what the position would be with the new levy on unused zoned land as it would be collected by Revenue according to the budget statement. He wanted it clarified if the proceeds would come back directly to Waterford City and County Council.

B. Pollard, DoS, stated that he had not been informed about how fund from the zoned land tax would be routed to the Council nor if it was a ring-fenced fund for housing like the Vacant Sites Levy.

Cllr. Griffin asked if the Mayor could write to the RNLI regarding the new lifeboat now berthed in Dunmore East. He reiterated his suggestion from last month about having a housing summit to look at the Rebuilding Ireland plans in relation to Waterford that could happen in Quarter 1 2022. Cllr Griffin also enquired about tree planting budget and replacing those that had to be removed.

Cllr. Mulligan commended the Council Communications Team for the recent high level of PR and social media engagement. He also wanted to know what the cost of the current advertising campaigns and annual spend with WLR was and if there was any budget for paid social media advertising. Additionally, he enquired if the council had a tourism officer in place. He also asked if the planning figures in the report could include the pre covid one for 2019 and why there were a high level of housing loan application rejections.

P. Johnston, DoS, said he would talk to Cllr. Mulligan directly to clarify details on loan application rejections. He was happy to consider a housing summit and get it under way but the “Housing for All” measures had still not been fully notified to him in circulars.

M. Quinn, DoS, stated

- There was a higher level of application for planning in 2020 versus 2019. Covid had contributed to the volume increasing.
- He confirmed that there was an Acting Tourism Officer in place to cover maternity leave.
- There was no budget in 2021 for paid social media ads but that it would form part of the 2022 budget proposal.

- There was a standing contract for advertising on WLR which was augmented by individual departments doing specific campaigns from time to time.

F. Galvin, DoS, stated that where trees had to be removed then they were replaced like for like close to where the original tree was where possible. A tree planting programme would be part of the upcoming budget discussions.

The Mayor agreed to write to the RNLI in Dunmore East as suggested by Cllr. Griffin.

Cllr. Bailey welcomed the bus routes public consultation especially for new housing estates and asked if electric buses were an option for Waterford. With regard to Halloween, she enquired if there would be any social media campaign, posters or leaflets regarding safety happening?

Cllr. Joe Conway had a number of questions relating to derelict sites and levies, namely what was collected in 2020, collected to date in 2021, how many sites have been removed from the register, availability of an up to date register and if there is a city centre strategy similar to Cork.

Cllr. Roche asked if the CEO would comment on the new National Development Plan or perhaps arrange a workshop to discuss it and enquired if there was a schedule for budget meeting available. Relating to the Arts community and venues she wanted to know how it had fared and if there was anything that could be done to get it back up and running post Covid. She also stated that it would be a retro step to stop broadcasting and that €33k per annum was a small price to pay for transparency.

Cllr. Clune asked about the plans for replacement of the council 0761 telephone number and if there was a plan to communicate it to the public. He also asked if the council had looked at installing solar panels on our buildings or if there was funding to do so.

Cllr. F. Quinlan asked if there were any plans to enhance the Greenway car parks with EV charging points, if there was a three-month payment period for contractors.

F. Galvin, DoS, said the council would engage with bus operators on electric and hydrogen buses as part of our drive for carbon neutrality and as the council normally does there would be engagement with the Gardai and community organisations. Outlined that reducing carbon was on going noting that solar panels were part of the decarbonisation efforts of the council with a 50KW Solar PV installation being planned for the machinery yard in Dungarvan noting that the SEAI funds such project to about 25% to 30% on capital costs.

An EV charging strategy is being undertaken at the moment, but he is doubtful that the large commercial providers will be interested in the Greenway car parks so the council would need to provide some funding for any initiative.

M. Quinn, DoS, stated that he would ask the Communications & PR Team to put Halloween information out on social media. In addressing Cllr. Conway's Derelict Sites levies questions he said that there had been a soft approach in many cases due to the perilous financial state of some of the owners. Painting schemes have been utilised in some cases and other properties have been repurposed as housing units which produced benefits other than the levy and confirmed that the current vacant sites register available.

In commenting on the National Development Plan M. Walsh, CE, stated that it identified global budgets offering plenty of scope for the Local Authorities to go pursue. With the current pressures on resources the current push is to deliver projects that are already in progress. There are areas that will need more detailed analysis and he is happy to discuss with the members. He noted positives around TUSE and transport. Capacity constraints are an issue generally and we need to deliver what is currently in progress over the next 3 to 4 years.

K. Kehoe, DoS, confirmed that meetings relating to budget matters are included on the members Decision Time calendars following agreement at CPG last week. He also confirmed that the council had worked closely with the Arts community during the lockdown which has been recognised nationally in the media. He could confirm the new Council Phone number would be 0818 10 20 20 and would be launched over the next couple of weeks with a strong PR campaign.

P. Johnston, A/DoS, requested Cllr. Quinlan to provide details of the individual contractors that had payment difficulty and he would investigate and noted Halloween preparedness is ongoing in various sections.

Cllr. S. Power spoke regarding the 3% land tax for zoning that would be coming in future years stating some farmers had no intention of ever selling their land and hoped the Planning Regulator staff saw the importance of building on family land when he visited on 8th of October.

5. Filling of the casual vacancy on council created by the resignation of Cllr Susan Gallagher in accordance with Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2001

H. Dunphy, Meeting Administrator, confirmed that a casual vacancy exists after the resignation of Susan Gallagher. As Susan Gallagher was a member of a registered party, namely The Green Party and under the provisions of Section 19 of the Local Government Act, 2001 the political party has nomination rights to the casual vacancy. It was confirmed that the required notification was received from The Green Party nominating Cristiona Kiely as the replacement.

Cllr. Power proposed acceptance of the nomination outlining her background as a committed environmentalist and contributor to local community matters. The nomination was seconded by Cllr. O' Sullivan who also spoke to her commendable background and agreed by all.

Cllrs. Phelan, Geoghegan, Tobin, Conway and McGuinness welcomed Cristiona to the council, congratulated her on her appointment, wishing her the best of luck in the role on what was a special day for her and her family.

Cllr. Kiely thanked the members for their warm welcome and good wishes outlining that she was honoured to be representing Tramore and Waterford City West. She also thanked Cllrs. Power and O' Sullivan for proposing and seconding her, the Green Party for nominating her and Susan Gallagher for her support. She especially thanked her husband Michael and her four children stating that she was as proud of them as they were of her. She further stated that she looked forward to putting climate change to the fore and welcomed a new Decarbonised Waterford which was the best place to live in Ireland.

The Mayor warmly welcomed Cllr. Kiely to her first Plenary meeting and as a member of the Metropolitan district.

6. Renewal of Bank Overdraft Facility of €18M for period to 31st December 2022

B. Pollard, DoS, outlined the details of the requirements for the renewal of the bank overdraft facility. Proposed by Cllr. Power, seconded by Cllr. Tobin and agreed by all.

Cllr. E. Quinlan asked for the rationale behind the figure of €18m. M. Walsh, CE, explained that it was to allow for adequate cashflow for the development of a large number of capital expenditure projects for the year ahead.

7. Transportation & Infrastructure SPC - Nomination to committee

Proposed by Cllr. Barry, seconded by Cllr. Conway that Cllr. Roche is appointed to the Transportation and Infrastructure SPC, agreed by all.

8. Recommendations from Strategic Policy Committees

Report from Transportation & Infrastructure SPC

Cllr. E. Quinlan outlined the discussion relating to the annual parking permits, suggesting that the members should consider requesting roads department to carry out a feasibility study, supported by Cllr. Phelan.

Cllr. Griffin confirmed that as a member of the SPC that there had been considerable debate and careful consideration of the issue when it was with them and the decisions they made were not rushed.

Cllr. Fitzgerald will not support as it as he stated it discriminates against rural dwellers given it only applied to the city and Dungarvan residents.

F. Galvin, DoS clarified that that Annual Parking permits at reduced costs for residents were already available. These residents were not impacted by the proposal being discussed

Cllr. Conway stated significant time was spent by the SPC on this subject at different meetings and that giving annual discounted permits would have an adverse effect on revenue and he would therefore vote against it at this time.

Cllr. Cronin in favour of these permits as parking is a very significant cost for commuters working in Waterford and Dungarvan.

Cllr. Mulligan said he could not support a general scheme that was across the city and county and believed it needed to be more specific taking location and capacity into account given the economic impact.

Cllr. Geoghegan did not think there was a one size fits all answer and expressed the view that it should be up to the municipal districts to set these parking related changes as they were empowered to under the Local Government Reform Act 2014. They could then apply charges as appropriate to each municipal district. He would not be able to support the proposal.

Cllr. McGuinness noted that while he could see the logic, he through the matter should be considered at district level.

Cllr. Ryan was of the view that such permits should not be considered without knowing the actual financial impact before deciding.

Cllr. Hearne also agreed that it should be up to the districts.

Cllr. F. Quinlan was of the view that designated affordable parking was needed for commuters. He agrees with each municipal area treating it locally and having consideration as to how it might lead to congestion in certain areas.

M. Walsh, CEO, pointed out that parking policy could not be looked at in isolation. There was a very limited amount of parking spaces under council control in the city and Dungarvan which are critical for businesses and trade. He stated that measures such as car sharing, or park and ride need to be considered rather than encouraging people to take up valuable spaces. A more nuanced approach might be considered as a general policy didn't make sense.

Cllr. Kiely saw the merit in Cllr. E. Quinlan's proposals, but it needed to be looked at under Active Travel and would not be able to support at present.

Cllr. Phelan was happy for it to go back to Municipal level to be dealt with.

Cllr. E. Quinlan stated that it was always meant to go back down to municipal level. He stated that the SPC did not report on the financial or capacity issues. He would be happy for the roads department to provide a report to each municipal district explaining the implications for the districts.

F Galvin, DoS stated that he was happy to provide such reports to the Municipal districts.

The details of the Tenants Handbook deferred pending a workshop on the topic.

9. Correspondence

Proposed by Cllr. J. Power, seconded by Cllr. O'Sullivan and agreed by all.

Cllr O'Sullivan clarified that there was a beach wheelchair service in Tramore that had she was involved with in conjunction with. Griffin and plans were in place to expand the service to the other beaches in the county.

10. Motions

It was proposed by the Mayor to suspend standing orders and extend the meeting by thirty minutes which was seconded by Cllr. Phelan and agreed by all.

1. Motion in the names of Cllr. Conor D. McGuinness, Joanne Bailey, Pat Fitzgerald, Jim Griffin & John Hearne. (Deferred from July & September meetings)

“That Waterford City and County Council:

- *acknowledges that every worker in the State makes a considerable tax contribution throughout their working life and should have the right to access the full pension rate of pay when they retire at 65;*
- *recognises that some workers want to retire at 65, while others want to remain at work, where they are able and willing to do so;*
- *notes the difference of €45.30 between the Jobseeker payments and the State Pension leading to an annual loss of €2,355.60;*
- *and calls on the Government*
 - *to restore the State Pension Transition payment for those retiring at 65 years of age;*
 - *to abolish mandatory retirement (with exceptions for security-related employment) to give workers the choice to work or retire so long as they are fit to do so;*
 - *to ensure that workers who choose to work on, do so on their own terms and conditions of employment and are not compelled to sign fixed term or short-term contracts of employment;*
 - *to make provision for those who remain at work beyond 65 to have their Pay Related Social Insurance (PRSI) contributions counted towards their State Pension; and*
 - *to commit not to further increase the State Pension age”*

Reg. No. 193 (dated, 21st June, 2021)

The motion was introduced and proposed by Cllr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr. Griffin.

An amendment was tabled by Cllr. E. Quinlan to replace “every worker in the State” with “every worker on the Island of Ireland” and that it should also sent to the Government in Northern Ireland. This was seconded by Cllr Murphy.

Cllr Fitzgerald stated that he would prefer to vote on the original motion rather than the amended one. Cllr. Barry supported the amended motion and noted that there were those that were carers and people on social welfare that should be included. Cllr. Geoghegan supported the amended motion. Cllr. Hearne stated his support for the recognition and fair treatment of all people who retired. Cllr. O’ Leary pointed out that pensions had to be paid for by a decreasing number of contributors through increased PRSI. Cllr. Phelan did not think sending the motion to the NI Government would have any impact.

Cllr. P. Fitzgerald requested withdrawal of the original motion.

K. Kehoe. DoS, clarified that a vote was required for the amended motion under standing orders unless the amendment was withdrawn. Cllr. Quinlan clarified that he wished the amendment to proceed, and a roll call vote was taken.

Name:	In Favour	Against	Abstain	Absent
Ger Barron (Lab)				Yes
Donal Barry (Ind)	Yes			
Liam Brazil (FG)	Yes			Yes
Joanne Bailey (SF)	Yes			

Declan Clune (Ind)	Yes			
Joe Conway (Ind)				Yes
Tom Cronin (FF)	Yes			
Conor McGuinness (SF)	Yes			
Davy Daniels (Ind)				Yes
Declan Doocey (FG)	Yes			
Pat Fitzgerald (SF)	Yes			
Catriona Kiely (GP)	Yes			
Damien Geoghegan (FG)	Yes			
Jim Griffin (SF)	Yes			
John Hearne (SF)	Yes			
Joe Kelly (Ind)	Yes			
Eddie Mulligan (FF)	Yes			
Jason Murphy (FF)	Yes			
Pat Nugent (FG)	Yes			
Seamus O'Donnell (Ind)				Yes
John O'Leary (FF)	Yes			
Lola O'Sullivan (FG)				Yes
Thomas Phelan (Lab)	Yes			
Jody Power (GP)	Yes			
Seanie Power (FG)	Yes			
John Pratt (Lab)				Yes
Eamon Quinlan (FF)	Yes			
Frank Quinlan (FG)	Yes			
Seamus Ryan (Lab)	Yes			
Mary Roche (Ind)	Yes			
James Tobin (FF)	Yes			
Adam Gary Wyse (FF)				Yes
Total	24	0	0	8

The amended motion was passed.

2. Motion in the name of Cllr. Joanne Bailey and John Hearne (Deferred from July & September meetings)

“That Waterford City and County Council

- stands in solidarity with the LGBT+ community across Waterford City and County;*
- notes that Pride exists to promote the dignity, equality and visibility of LGBT+ members of society;*
- rejects and condemns the recent cowardly and insidious manifestations of homophobia and intolerance in Waterford City;*
- recognises that these manifestations are not representative of the people of Waterford;*
- states its desire that Waterford is a safe, tolerant and welcoming place for all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender;*

- *undertakes to fly the Pride flag from Council buildings each June for the entirety of Pride month; and*
- *hereby declares Waterford City and County an LGBT+ Freedom Zone”*

Reg. No. 194 (dated, 24th June, 2021)

Cllr. Bailey introduced and proposed the motion which was seconded by Cllr. Hearne.

Cllrs. Roche, Geoghegan, Kiely, McGuinness and Phelan spoke to support the motion which was agreed unanimously.

3. Motion in the names of Cllrs. Conor D McGuinness, Pat Fitzgerald, and Jim Griffin. (Deferred from September meeting)

“That Waterford City and County Council

- *commends all those that took part in the recent demonstration by fishing families and members of coastal communities that witnessed over 70 fishing vessels assemble on the River Liffey, including boats and crews from Co. Waterford*
- *welcomes the unity of purpose and resolve within the fishing industry and welcomes the establishment this year of the Irish Fishing and Seafood Alliance;*
- *recognises the value of Ireland’s fishing industry to the economic and social life of coastal communities and to the Nation;*
- *regrets the disastrous situation faced by the Irish fishing industry as a result of inadequate quota; and*
- *calls on the Government to intervene urgently to secure additional quota for the Irish fishing fleet, and to provide immediate support to Irish fishers”*

Reg. No. 195 (dated, 30th June, 2021)

This motion was introduced and proposed by Cllr. McGuinness and seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald.

Cllrs. Hearne, J. Power, Fitzgerald, and Kelly spoke in support of the motion which was passed unanimously.

Remaining motions deferred to November meeting.

11. AOB

Cllr. Doocey proposed that the council write to Bank of Ireland following the closure of three branches in Waterford and ask that they provide ATMs in those localities to service the local residents. This was seconded by Cllr. Tobin and concurred with by the Mayor who is happy to write to them.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____