

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

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29th July, 2020 IN WIT ARENA,
CARRIGANORE, WATERFORD.**

PRESENT

Cllr. Ger Barron	Cllr. Pat Nugent
Cllr. Breda Brennan	Cllr. Seamus O'Donnell
Cllr. Joe Conway	Cllr. John O'Leary
Cllr. Tom Cronin	Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan
Cllr. Conor D. McGuinness	Cllr. Thomas Phelan
Cllr. David Daniels	Cllr. Jody Power
Cllr. Declan Doocey	Cllr. Seanie Power
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. John Pratt
Cllr. Susan Gallagher	Cllr. Eamon Quinlan
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan (Mayor)	Cllr. Frank Quinlan
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr. Seamus Ryan
Cllr. Joe Kelly	Cllr. James Tobin
Cllr. Eddie Mulligan	Cllr. Adam Wyse
Cllr. Jason Murphy	

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Barry, Cllr. Clune and Cllr. Brazil.

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. M. Quinn, DOS, Planning and Economic Development
 Mr. L. McGree, Senior Planner
 Ms. A. Maher, A/SSO, Corporate

1. Material Contravention of the Waterford County Development Plan 2011-2017 – Ref. No. 19/943 – Change of use of the former Old Woollen Mills (Grain Store), Main Street, Kilmacthomas (Protected Structure) – Applicant Gortinore Distillery Ltd.

Cllr. Barron proposed the adoption of this Material Contravention and asked for all councillors to support its adoption. He gave a brief history on its use as a grain store and prior to this as a woollen mill during World War 1. He enquired if this was now the end of the planning process for the proposed development and enquired if the developer could meet with the Comeragh District members to address some minor issues in relation to the development. He stated that it is an exciting and unique opportunity for the area and will be great addition to the Greenway.

Cllr. Power seconded the proposal noting that it would further enhance the area around the Greenway, he welcomed additional employment and spin off for the village of Kilmacthomas and surrounding area.

L. McGree, Senior Planner confirmed that this marks the end of the planning process but there is still a right of appeal and requested approval by the members. He confirmed that he can invite the developer to meet with the Comeragh District Councillors.

Mayor expressed his agreement and a roll call vote was called for.

All 29 councillors present voted in favour of the Material Contravention to the Waterford County Development Plan 2011-2011 which exceeded the required 75% of all councillors required for the passing of the amendment.

2. Migrant Integration Strategy 2020-2023

I.Grimes, DoS outlined details of the Migrant Integration Strategy noting the change in the population over the last 25 years. He stated that full research and consultation was carried out prior to the development of the strategy.

Cllr. Conway noted chapter detailing community attitude and preconceptions and asked about the numbers that the research was based on. He queried the inclusion of drug addicts, nationalist and unionists as ethnic groups and for it to be reviewed and noted that migrants need to be integrated equally across the country.

Cllr. Mulligan welcomed the work undertaken for the strategy, noting that councillors receive many representations from non-nationals and outlined that more needs to be done in order to integrate them politically along with highlighting their right to vote.

Cllr. Phelan enquired if the strategy as presented is the final draft and supported Cllr. Conway's point in relation to the use of terminology and proper descriptions used in the document outlining that a final check on date is required. There is a need to update the details over the time of the Strategy and his for is required. Strategic actions should be agreed.

Cllr. Hearne welcomed the strategy outlining that the direct provision system needs to be changed.

Cllr. D. McGuinness commented that a substantial document is presented and commends those who put it together. He participated in the consultation and welcomed inclusion of the feedback from this in the document and noted that would like a detailed work plan to be done.

Cllr. Kelly welcomed the document and noted that the strategy plans a way forward to deal with issues such as integration, tackling of racism and increasing the political involvement for our new Irish. He also sees sport as part of integration and this should come through to other elements of life.

Cllr. J. Power mentioned that in the current programme for government the ending of direct provision is proposed and enquired if Brexit has affected this strategy.

Cllr. Roche said that we should give leadership and asked for clarification on the role and responsibilities of the council in relation to the strategy.

Cllr. Ryan stated it was an important document and supported the need to correct the categories as listed under ethnic groups. Candidates were asked to sign an anti-racism pledge and this needs to be carried into other areas. Requested the inclusion of Travellers and the need to call out and end the concept of direct provision and allow all people to contribute to society.

I.Grimes, DoS outlined that the document as presented was the final draft but notes the comments by the members and will address accordingly. He didn't have the numbers consulted but outlined that there were public meetings in Waterford and Dungarvan where a couple of hundred people attended. Strategy does not take into account Brexit as Brexit is being looked at nationally and direct provision is being addressed by the Department of Justice.

Proposed by Cllr. Ryan, seconded by Cllr. Barron and agreed by all on inclusion of the outlined changes.

3. Corporate Risk Register.

I.Grimes, DoS outlined that the council must recognise risks, their probability and then the impact and the risk register shows the list of risks identified for the organisation and what it being done, most significant risks must get highest priority. Each department has their individual list which are included into and overall corporate register. Ongoing risks are included like accidents, major emergency, IT, industrial relations, significant projects and also Covid 19.

Cllr. Phelan asked if the list follows ISO standards and stating that more detail is required suggesting that it is presented in ascending order with the highest risk first.

Cllr. D. McGuinness welcomed the document noting it is important to get an oversight on risks along with steps being taken to reduce the risk. He requested the CE to look at the A4 risk items as the highest risk level on the report and asked for more details. He asked if risks for other departments could be brought to the relevant SPC meetings.

I.Grimes, DoS confirmed that IPB developed the register format for Local Authorities, it is done simply so that it is straight forward but can review and see if improvements can be made on this. Some make up does not follow to the SPC's so will check this.

M. Walsh, CE said that they were looking at the high level risks and these are fed into the list by the risks identified in the different areas. Covid 19 pandemic is an example where measures were taken recently to help and include the rates rebate for 6 months and he would hope to get rebate from Government in the region of €6m to help against this. There is also a significant loss of income from parking, income fees and other extra costs incurred around Covid 19 like the cost of IT and he is waiting on decision from Government on covering of this additional unplanned costs. He questioned the suggestion of the risk register being dealt with by the SPCs as they deal with policy and not operations.

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked about the A4 and A3 risks high risks and the odds of these taking place.

I.Grimes, DoS noted that the pandemic is considered the highest risk.

Cllr. Daniels asked in connection with the rebate on rates and the resulting deficit and the position for the end of year and for an update to be provided to the members. He enquired if there is any prospect of the Irish Water deficit being changed considering the current economic climate.

4. Land Disposals

K. Kehoe, DoS outlined details of the land disposals as presented.

Leases proposed by Cllr. Pratt, seconded by Cllr. Phelan and agreed by all.

Wayleaves proposed by Cllr. E. Quinlan, seconded by Cllr. Cronin and agreed by all.

5. AILG Training Module 3 – “Moorhead Report – A briefing for Elected Members”.

Proposed by Cllr. O’Leary, seconded by Cllr. O’Sullivan and agreed by all.

6. Draft Shop Front Improvement Scheme

Proposed by Cllr. Barron, seconded by Cllr. Mulligan and agreed by all.

7. A.O.B.

Cllr. E. Quinlan outlined that Waterford Youth Arts would like to host their annual play in Wyse Park due to Covid 19 restrictions and requested for a contribution of €6,000 towards the event. He suggested that this funding is taken from the monies that can't be drawn down by groups due to the cancellation of events as a result of Covid 19. This request was seconded by Cllr. D. Geoghegan.

K. Kehoe, DoS agreed to the proposal which was agreed by all members.

Cllr. O'Sullivan requested that a review of available funding as a result of cancelled events is carried out. Cllr. Tobin outlined his disappointment in the postponement of Tallow Horse Fair and requested details on who made the decision.

Cllr. Doocey enquired if people who had been cocooning and had paid car tax could receive any compensation for not being able to use their cars during this time.

Cllr. Conway mentioned the schools and wished them a safe return in September. He is aware that Councillors have no remit in this as it is the responsibility of the Department of Education.

K. Kehoe, DoS agreed to review of festival funding.

M. Walsh, Chief Executive commented that there is no role for the council in the running of events and management of numbers as it is the responsibility of An Garda Síochána. He noted that it would be rash to hold events in the present environment.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____