

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

**COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11th OCTOBER, 2018 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CIVIC OFFICES, DUNGARVAN, CO. WATERFORD**

PRESENT

Cllr. Declan Doocey, Mayor	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Liam Brazil	Cllr. Pat Nugent
Cllr. Breda Brennan	Cllr. John O'Leary
Cllr. Tom Cronin	Cllr. Seamus O'Donnell
Cllr. Joe Conway	Cllr. Cha O'Neill
Cllr. John Cummins	Cllr. Michael J O'Ryan
Cllr. Davy Daniels	Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. Seanie Power
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan	Cllr. John Pratt
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. Eamon Quinlan
Cllr. Blaise Hannigan	Cllr. Seán Reinhardt
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr. James Tobin
Cllr. Joe Kelly	Cllr. Siobhan Whelan
Cllr. Eddie Mulligan	Cllr. Adam Wyse

APOLOGIES

Cllr. M Roche, Cllr. D Clune, Cllr. R Murphy

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. M. Walsh, Chief Executive
Mr. M. Quinn, Director of Services, Economic Development & Planning
Mr. I. Grimes, Director of Services, Housing, Community & Emergency Services
Mr. F. Galvin, Director of Services, Roads, Water & Environment
Ms. J. Cantwell, A/Director of Services, Corporate, Culture, HR & IS
Mr. B. O'Kane, A/Head of Finance
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator
Ms. S. Walsh, Senior Staff Officer

1. Confirmation of Minutes

- (a) Plenary Meeting held on 13th September, 2018 proposed by Cllr. Daniels seconded by Cllr. Power
- (b) Local Property Tax Meeting held on 26th September, 2018 proposed by Cllr. Geoghegan seconded by Cllr. Tobin
- (c) Special Meeting Presidential Candidates 14th September, 2018, proposed by Cllr. Tobin seconded by Cllr. Hannigan
- (d) Special Meeting held on the 11st September, 2018 proposed by Cllr. Cummins seconded by Cllr. O'Leary

Cllr. Daniels proposed a vote of congratulations to Ballygunner GAA winners of the Hurling County Final 5 years in a row.

Cllr. Pratt proposed a vote of sympathy for Emma Mhic Mhathuna, Cervical Check Campaigner. A minute silence was held.

The Mayor asked to amend Standing Orders to bring forward items No. 6 and No.7 after item No. 3 Proposed by Cllr. Geoghegan, seconded by Cllr. Cummins and agreed.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked for an update on engaging a contractor to treat knotweed. Cllr. Mulligan asked when the Council will meet with representatives of the Technology University of the South East steering committee. Cllrs. Daniels asked if there was a response from Minister Shane Ross regarding funding for the airport.

F. Galvin, DOS said that knotweed is being sprayed by a combination of Council's own staff and contractors.

H. Dunphy, AO said she is in discussion with the steering committee to agree a suitable date.

Cllr. O'Neill asked if the member's representatives on the college board/Waterford Wexford Education Training Board could give the members an update prior to meeting steering committee.

Chief Executive said that clarification regarding the Council's previous submission on the airport is being sought by the Department and will revert once response is received.

3. Planning

- (a) Planning lists as circulated were noted.

4. Land Disposals

Proposed by Cllr. Geoghegan seconded by Cllr. Nugent and agreed.

8. WCC Services for people with Disabilities

I Grimes, DOS outlined that the report which is for noting was prepared for the July meeting but had to be deferred. Councillors welcomed the report and asked that Waterford be made the first disability city in Ireland and all parts of the city, county, towns and villages be disability proofed.

6. Presentation by Healthy Waterford on the Healthy Waterford Strategic Plan 2018-2021

Presented by Brianna Connaughton, Healthy Waterford Co-Ordinator. Members complimented the presentation and Brianna took questions from the members.

7. Presentation on Winterval

Presented by Tommie Ryan Festival Director of Winterval. Tommie Ryan is the new Festival Director of Winterval, He outlined the changes being made to the festival for 2018, updating the branding, new events and refreshing festival favourites. After the presentation Tommie Ryan dealt with questions from the members.

5. Monthly Management Report

Cllr. Daniels asked for an update regarding recouping funding relating to storm costs.

Cllr. O’Ryan requested the Council write to the Minister of Communications or to the Taoiseach to request a proper roll out of broadband to rural areas of Waterford, seconded by Cllr. Daniels.

Cllr. Cronin supports Cllr. O’Ryan on the proper roll out of broadband.

Cllr. Brennan is happy to note there was no malicious fire brigade call-outs in the last month and asked the Council to write to the Private Rented Tenancies Board to ask them to remind landlords to be compliant with Health and Safety requirements, also when will the register of council owned landbanks be completed and she congratulated the Tramore and Waterford Arch club and wished them success in the 2018 Pride of Place Awards.

F. Galvin, DOS said that additional storm funding was received in last few days and positive indications from the Department are that the balance of funding will issue.

H. Dunphy, AO will seek confirmation on when register of council owned landbanks will be available.

Cllr. Kelly said that the figures in the report for Housing were a concern, mortgage refusal rate was high HAP inspections not compliant had increased, Homeless, B+B waiting list, and the emergency accommodation waiting list all increased, all indicate that the Council is moving in the wrong direction.

Cllr. Cummins (take Cllr. O’Sullivan’s allotted time) asked for an update in relation to the Urban Regeneration application to the Department, CPO on the North Quays, date for signing of contracts with the AI HOKAIR group, road access infrastructure and rock stabilisation planning application will be coming before the Council and requested if there will be a workshop on same. LIHAF states agreement in place for Gracedieu, asked what is total number of houses as part of that scheme, plus there are two valid appeals on vacant sites what does this mean and regarding affordable housing scheme the Minister will announce later in the month on the first scheme and has the Council a scheme ready to go.

Cllr. Conway (taking Cllr. O’Donnell’s allotted time), said loan applications has a disappointing approval rate, he asked for an update on the CPO in Tramore Heights and other CPOs, he is disappointed in the presentation of the information in the Housing Report, e.g no turnaround times comparison to previous years and can this be changed. Also he is concerned about the private houses that are completed and lying vacant is there an explanation and the roll out of broadband is disappointing and asked can our Broadband officer address the Council regarding the level of the rollout in Waterford.

Cllr. J. Murphy asked for the exact number on the housing list and what is the timeframe for the delivery of the new units. Regarding the turnaround times for vacant houses under the new contractor scheme have they been finished cheaper and faster than previous contractors.

Chief Executive said regarding the North Quays the decision on the URDF application will be in November, there is no further news on the CPO and the contracts are agreed and workshop on the planning Part 8 will be brought to Metropolitan district council, they will be advertised for the public consultation.

I. Grimes, DOS said HAP refusals are down to issues outlined previously but the Council will look at ways to improve levels of compliance and take the matter up with the PRTB. The Rebuilding Ireland home loan scheme approval numbers are up on the previous scheme and applicants’ credit rating, savings history

has to be taken into account as part of the approval process. HAP tenancies have decreased year on year due to a shortage of private rented accommodation, homelessness is a matter of concern and trends are concerning. There are 68 social units (LIHAF) agreed with the developer for Gracedieu, no schemes are earmarked for affordable housing scheme yet as it is a new announcement from the Department and the council is awaiting details from the Department. He said there was an objection to the CPO in Tramore so it is expected there will be an oral hearing and voids are reported on in the management report and the turnaround times are reported on a statutory basis to NOAC and he will look to see if these can be reflected in the management report. He said the new contractors for vacant houses are meeting turnaround times and is significant cheaper and figures will be sent out next week. He cannot offer explanations why private houses in Tramore are not being occupied. In 2018 the Housing Need Assessment published 1,117 on the housing list for Waterford however this figure does not include HAP. He said he is confident that the capital projects in the management report will be delivered over the next 18mth-24ths.

M. Quinn, DOS said the two appeals regarding vacant sites have been deemed valid by An Bord Pleanála.

Cllr. O'Leary asked does the Council have to get money upfront to build houses and he welcomes €756,000 received for the Town & Village renewal scheme.

Cllr. Fitzgerald stated that figures at the end of September show an increase in the economic report for the Local Enterprise Office, is this an increased effort by the LEO section or an upturn in economic activity which is good news for Waterford and the economy.

Cllr. Hannigan asked when will the Waterford ORIS Projects 2018 funding for the Nature Trails be announced and regarding succession to tenancy of a council house is it council policy that you have to be living there for 2 years to succeed to the tenancy.

M Quinn, DOS said that the activity in LEO has increased and there is also an improvement in economic circumstance so it's a combination of both.

I.Grimes, DOS said costs are paid upfront for capital projects by the Council and then recouped from the Department. He said the policy is 2 years but Housing is prepared to look at individual cases with regard to succession to tenancy.

M. Quinn, DOS said a response regarding the Nature Trails application is due in next month.

Cllr. Hearne asked when the Council goes out for tender does it have a contract clause to ensure that illegal self-employment does not happen and can people that are evicted from their houses be re-housed by the Council.

Cllr. Mulligan complimented the Library on its Summer Stars reading programme, he asked for an update on grants for environmental pilot projects e.g. bring banks audio warning, Waterford estuary project and waste management at traveller accommodation sites.

Cllr. Whelan asked if there is a lack of understanding with tenants regarding the Choice Based Lettings scheme and has the income limit to qualify for housing changed in the last budget and stated that emergency accommodation is needed in Dungarvan. She complimented the Arts and Culture report and said it was full of information and very positive and shows that Waterford has a vibrant art culture.

I Grimes, DOS, said in relation to a family being evicted from their house a housing need assessment has to be undertaken before being placed on the housing list. He said in relation to the Choice Based Letting they are constantly reviewing it to update it and make it more user friendly. He stated that the aim is to provide emergency accommodation as close as possible to where people are from.

F. Galvin, DOS said there are various schemes to get grants for all those areas mentioned so he will check this out and revert.

Cllr. Tobin asked when the Council last received correspondence with regard to the proposed wind turbine application in West Waterford.

Cllr. O'Neill asked how many single people are living in 3 bedroom houses and can this be reviewed. Enquired if acceptance on housing list by people who end up moving back with parents as a result of a marriage break up can be reviewed.

Cllr. Griffin said the cost of items at €8 each at civic amenity site is very expensive.

Cllr. Nugent asked for confirmation that the pre planning figures on the management report are up yet full planning figures are down.

Cllr. Quinlan asked how many are engaged in the Repair and Lease scheme, how many re-housed as a consequence and what is the cost of running the scheme and is there provision and precautions put in place for Storm Callum.

M. Quinn, DOS said regarding the wind farm application it goes directly to An Bord Pleanála and as the council does not decide on the application there is no obligation on the company to engage with the council. He said pre planning meetings and planning applications being received don't always correlate with each other.

I.Grimes, DOS said that occupancy of 3 bed houses by individuals would be in the region of 1,000 but the council does not want to compel people to downsize, the issue regarding adults living back with parents is referred to the Housing SPC. He said under the Repair and Lease scheme, 20 units are already tenanted, another 45 are under repair and capital costs are recouped from Department and interest in the scheme is increasing.

F. Galvin, DOS said that the charges at the civic amenity site are subsidised by the council, there is currently no scope for a reduction in charges. Emergency response teams and staff are prepared and on standby for Storm Callum.

Cllr. Tobin proposed that the meeting be adjourned in view of the impending storm. Cllr. Geoghegan proposed to extend Standing Orders by five minutes, seconded by Cllr. Nugent.

9. Waterford City & County Council Segregation, Storage & Presentation of Household & Commercial Waste Bye-laws, 2018

F. Galvin, DOS gave a summary of the process which involved the Environment SPC and public consultation, no submissions or objections were received in this regard and the Bye-Laws will assist the Council with regard to illegal dumping.

Proposed by Cllr. O'Neill seconded by Cllr. Daniels and agreed.

10. Correspondence

The Training and Conferences and Receptions included in correspondence as circulated were proposed by Cllr. Tobin seconded by Cllr. Cummins and agreed.

12. AOB

Cllr. Hannigan is moving from the Transport SPC to the Housing SPC.

Proposed by Cllr Cummins, seconded by Cllr Nugent and agreed.

I.Grimes, DOS said that Vincent Daly member of the LCDDC resigned and his replacement is Julie Somers
Proposed by Cllr. Pratt seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed.

Cllr. Geoghegan said that late Cllr John Carey, RIP was on a number of committees and his replacements were proposed as follows:

Joint Policing Committee – Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan

Chair of Planning SPC – Cllr. Brazil

Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) – Cllr. Nugent

Health Service Executive – Cllr. Geoghegan

Proposed by Cllr. Geoghegan, seconded by Cllr. Cronin and agreed.

An extension of Standing Orders for 5 minutes was proposed by Cllr. Kelly, seconded by Cllr. Brennan and agreed.

11. Notice of Motions

1. Motion in the names of Cllrs. Declan Clune, John Hearne, Jim Griffin, Breda Brennan, Pat Fitzgerald & Siobhan Whelan.

“That Waterford City and County Council agrees to standardise parking charges across the City & County, and to include a 30 minute free parking policy in Waterford City”

Notice of Motion Withdrawn.

2. Motion in the names of Cllrs. John Hearne, Jim Griffin, Breda Brennan, Siobhan Whelan, Pat Fitzgerald and Declan Clune.

“That:

1. All Waterford City and County Council meetings and activities from here forward do not use single-use plastics.

2. The Waterford City and County Council provide water fountains at key locations throughout the City and County to refill reusable bottles.

3. The Waterford City and County Council support the proposed EU-ban on plastic packaging with particular emphasis on the elimination of single-use plastic straws.

4. Any events funded or otherwise supported by the Waterford City and County Council should include in their sustainability plan the elimination of single-use plastics wherever possible.

5. The Waterford City and County Council provide recycling bins for plastic waste in key locations throughout the City and County.”

Proposed Cllr. Hearne, seconded by Cllr. O’Ryan and agreed by all.

3. Motion in the name of Cllr. Siobhan Whelan.

“That Waterford City and County Council calls on RTE to boycott next year’s Eurovision song contest that is to be held in Israel”

Proposed by Cllr. Whelan, seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald but not agreed by all Councillors, motion still stands and is deferred to the next meeting as the extension of Standing Orders expired and the meeting concluded.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____