

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

**COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12th APRIL, 2018 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CIVIC OFFICES, DUNGARVAN, CO. WATERFORD.**

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Cllr. Damien Geoghegan

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. M. Walsh, Chief Executive
Mr. I. Grimes, Director of Services, Housing, Community & Emergency Services
Mr. M. Quinn, Director of Services, Economic Development & Planning
Mr. Fearghal Reidy, A/ Director of Services, Corporate, Culture, HR & IS
Mr. F. Galvin, Director of Services, Roads, Water & Environment
Mr. J. Murphy, Head of Finance
Ms. S. Walsh, Senior Staff Officer

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Mayor proposed to amend Standing Orders to finish the meeting at 7pm, seconded by Cllr Cummins and agreed.

The Mayor congratulated Cllr. J Cummins on his recent engagement.

The Mayor asked for a minute silence for Ms. Claire Dyer, sister of Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator and Mrs. Muriel Duggan, mother of Mr. Billy Duggan, SEO both of whom passed away recently.

After the minute silence the Mayor welcomed Fearghal Reidy the new Acting Director of Services of Corporate, Culture, HR & IS.

Cllr. David Daniels proposed a vote of congratulations to St. Angela's Ursuline School on becoming double All Ireland winners in Camogie and proposed to grant them a Civic Reception, Mayor said proposal will be brought to the Corporate Policy Group.

Cllr. Carey proposed a vote of sympathy for Mrs Joan Kelly, Passage East.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

- (a) Minutes of the Plenary Meeting held on 8th March, 2018 were proposed by Cllr. Carey and seconded by Cllr. Brazil
- (b) Minutes of the Civic Reception for the Ardmore Junior Hurling Team – 8th March 2018 were proposed by Cllr. Tobin and seconded by Cllr. Doocey

2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Conway wished Fearghal Reidy well in his new position and asked if the Audit Committee report was ready yet.

Cllr. Clune said he was glad the commission of investigation in relation to Billy Kenneally was being commenced. He asked to meet Fergus Galvin, DOS about the tender documents for the purchase of the vans and asked can the internal report on the vans be released or requested through Freedom of Information.

Cllr. Whelan asked about the report on turnaround of housing voids and if any of the local builders met the procurement criteria.

Cllr. Mulligan said the Audit Committee report is currently being concluded and should be presented to Council at the May meeting.

F. Galvin, DOS said he will meet Cllr. Clune in relation to report on the tender for the vans.

I Grimes, DOS said the tender process for the housing voids is still ongoing and when the process is complete he will notify Cllr. Whelan of the details of the successful tenders.

Cllr. Roche enquired if Dr. Paddy Owens is to meet the Council and also asked for an update on the boundary extension in light of the new Local Government Act that is proposing to 'enshrine borough boundaries'. Cllr. Hearne asked about the report on people with disabilities. Cllr. Mulligan endorsed Cllr. Roche's comments in respect of the boundary.

M. Walsh, indicated that there is no update on the boundary extension and he has no sight of any intentions of the Minister in this regard.

I Grimes, DOS said he will have the report on services for people with disabilities in advance of the next meeting. He will organise a meeting with relevant staff in relation to information on adaptation grants. He will copy all councillors with this information.

Cllr. Cummins asked for an update re CPO on the North Quays as it looks like the two schemes are being conflated by An Bord Pleanala and also asked for an update on timelines for signing of the contracts. He asked for an update on the LIHAF schemes, Kilbarry and Gracedieu.

Cllr. Daniels asked if there was any feedback about amendments to the Tenant Purchase Scheme promised by Mr. Eoghan Murphy, TD, Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government. He also reminded Councillors that on 13th June the review of the electoral areas is to be announced.

Cllr. Brennan said that she asked at the review of Storm Emma at last month's meeting if the Coast Guard, Marine Search and Rescue and a Councillor from each area could be included in the Major Emergency Plan group as regards providing information on the ground regarding conditions, she awaits a response.

M. Walsh, CE said that the Council has no control over the way that the North Quays is being dealt with by An Bord Pleanala. Draft contracts are agreed and will be signed in the coming weeks.

Cllr. O'Leary wanted a point of clarification on the procedures of the meeting saying there should not be so many questions in matters arising as it is taking too long and are often brought up at the management report again. Cllr. O'Sullivan agreed with Cllr. O'Leary.

Mayor agreed that there is a lot of discussion at matters arising and it will have to be reviewed.

Cllr. Roche said that at the Metropolitan District meeting answers to questions from previous meetings are issued in writing in advance of the next meeting about 2/3 days before, this approach shortens matters arising. Proposed by Cllr. Roche to amend, Mayor said he will look at it with regard to reviewing standing orders. Cllr. O'Ryan said that in addition to that it should be added that questions asked at matters arising should not appear elsewhere on the Agenda.

I Grimes, DOS said there was no update on amendments to the Tenant Purchase Scheme. He said that during Storm Emma there was good liaison with staff on the ground, the agencies and Council staff and he will review Cllr Brennan's suggestion with regard to the Major Emergency Plan and emergency services.

M. Quinn, DOS said that complications have arisen in relation to both LIHAF schemes, as documented in the report. In relation to Kilbarry the Council is looking at buying the land so that it can proceed with some version of the scheme but this will redefine the works that are required and there is an issue with developer on the Gracedieu scheme on prices of houses so scheme can't progress until agreement is reached.

3. Planning

(a) Planning lists as circulated were noted.

Cllr. Tobin asked if the Council has met its full requirement under EU guidelines now, also there is a monitoring mast about 18m high with a red light on top without any planning permission, is there a limit to how long this can be left up.

Cllr. Fitzgerald said in relation to an email received by Councillors about a nuclear monitoring policy that seemingly the Government has asked all councils to make a submission on Hinkley Point which is under construction at the moment even though it is in Somerset England it is close enough to Ireland to affect us and he enquired if a submission has been made by this Council.

M Quinn, DOS said he will revert re number of permissions given to wind turbines and said that the monitoring masts are only temporary and do not require planning permission and should not remain in the long term. He will revert on the question re. nuclear monitoring.

4. Land Disposals

Cllr. Cummins asked about D695 disposal to Jump Lanes (Waterford) Ltd if there is a 'drifting car' type set up proposed in this development as the noise etc would be a concern of the residents nearby. Asked for clarification on what is being proposed.

M. Quinn, DOS said there are a range of activities proposed for the site that may include archery, firing range, zip lines. Planning permission would be required for the proposed uses.

Cllr. Clune requested further detailed information on land disposals eg valuation, zoning and business case.

F. Reidy, A/DOS said this will provided from next month on.

Cllr. Whelan asked why is D697 (Freehold of 3 Baileys New Street) being disposed of so cheap.

F. Galvin, DOS replied that it is a rectifying of a freehold property bought from the Holy Ghost and the sitting tenant had the right to buy out the freehold at a substantial discount based on their legal rights and this is reflected in the price.

Cllr. O'Neill asked in relation to D695 at Ballybeg, if this land is solely for entertainment purposes or can it be changed to be used for housing at any stage if this proposal does not work.

M. Quinn, DOS said the land is zoned light industrial so a material contravention will be needed to change it to 'leisure use only' and will have to be developed within a certain timeframe.

Cllr. J. Murphy said that the development of the land at Ballybeg (D695) is for a multi user leisure complex and all houses in this area will benefit and he said that the 'drifting car' setup is not a make or break for this development as this is a multi-use leisure development.

Cllr. Griffin asked if D695 is being operated by a private company and would the company engage with sulky racing within this complex.

M. Quinn, DOS replied that he will make the suggestion to the developer.

Cllr. Cummins asked if the terms of the disposal of land at Ballybeg ensures leisure use considering the site is zoned light industrial.

M. Quinn, DOS the proposal is for a leisure facility in the area and is subject to a planning application and will require a material contravention. The valuation reflects the proper value of the land for disposal.

M. Walsh, CE said that the intent of this development is for a leisure facility and that it is subject to the development being completed in a limited numbers of years and will fall if not completed by then. It cannot be transferred to light industrial in five years time, it is subject to a material contravention so it will be up to the Council to approve or condition.

Proposed by Cllr. Cummins, seconded by Cllr. J Murphy and agreed.

5. Monthly Management Report

M. Quinn, DOS made a correction under the Economic Report, Town & Village schemes that Tramore is receiving €100,000 and not €10,000 as stated.

Cllr. O'Ryan said that as it is An Taisce Clean-Up month, and in line with other counties, can the Council have a team of clean-up ambassadors using Waterford Sports Stars etc to attract helpers and it is a strategy the Council should be taking up and promoting. Cllr. O'Neill asked if a small shopping unit with accommodation overhead can be pursued for the Kilbarry, can a CPO be put on Ryan's Pub as it is a blight on the area. Cllr. Mulligan said that homeless figures are up, emergency accommodation figures are up and he said some housing projects listed on the report have been listed the last 2 years so how many houses will be built in the next year. How much of the €60m approved in the National Planning Framework re the North Quays has been spent and is the Council owed any monies from 3rd parties for work the Council carried out.

F. Galvin, DOS the Council has about 70-75 groups carry out spring cleaning annually. He will bring the ambassador recommendation to next Environment SPC.

M. Walsh, CE said he intends coming to the Metropolitan District Council with a broad view of the Kilbarry area right out to the Cork Road up to the RSC in the next couple of months.

M. Quinn, DOS said that €1.5m spent on the North Quays to date relates to design and clearing of the site.

Cllr. Mulligan asked if this is recoupable.

M. Quinn, DOS replied that this is not recoupable but the work has been necessary to build the proposal to make the submission to the Department for funding.

I Grimes, DOS said the homeless figures increased largely due to the bad weather during the storms, but throughout the winter there was a cold weather initiative where a facility in the City was provided to those who did not engage with the emergency accommodation. Up to 70 people availed of the facility over the winter months and he is confident that the output of new housing units will be in excess of 100 this year.

Cllr. Doocey supports Cllr O’Ryan’s cleaning initiative and also said that small waste bins are needed especially at seaside resorts and requested an update on treatment of Japanese Knotweed.

Cllr. Daniels asked if the €60m for the North Quays and Michael Street Development is a phased payment or a lump sum that will be received, he queried who will be responsible for the tendering of the buildings associated with these developments. Could a meeting with the investor be arranged at a future date and have all negotiations been completed with NAMA re. Michael Street.

Cllr. Fitzgerald asked how are Council road staff distributed around the city and county.

Cllr. Conway referenced Economic Development Item No. 3 ,LIHAF, where it states in relation to the Kilbarry works that one of the three landowners is withdrawing from the scheme and that the project will proceed in part with the remaining landowners and he is enquiring as to what part will proceed and who are the other two landowners.

F. Galvin, DOS said that small bins in parts of the county are regularly reviewed and moved around as needed e.g remove them in the winter and put them back in the summer and with regard to Japanese Knotweed we ask the public to be vigilant and let us know if they see it and we put it on the schedule for treatment. He said Council road workers are spread out geographically and staffing levels are reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Cllr. Fitzgerald said that there are a small number of workers in his area and if staff takes holidays the job is not done, he asked can they be replaced especially in areas that have low numbers of staff.

F Galvin, DOS said he will take this up with district engineer and revert.

M. Walsh, CE said the Council will have to put in an application for funding for the North Quays and this is being worked on at present. He said the demand for funding will occur over 3 years to get work done and the Council is working toward the end of Q1 2019 to be on site and it will be a 24-30 month build. He confirmed it will be the developer who will be tendering for the development of the North Quays and Michael Street, the Council will be separately tendering for the public elements roads, bridge, etc. He said the Council is also working with NAMA in the context of the Michael Street site, Irish Rail with regard to the train station and Fiskars in relation to their potential site and layout.

M. Quinn, DOS said the original design for the Kilbarry project was a U shape road and due to current negotiations with one of the landowners a redesign needs to occur to facilitate two other landowners, he will revert with the landowners details.

Cllr. Cummins said in relation to house delivery both private and social and referring to the targets set for population increase in Waterford area 2040 we need 1,600-1,800 per year and in reality only 100 are being built in the current year. How can the council get to the numbers required, the workers on the North Quays etc will need accommodation and what can the Council do to increase the delivery of housing in the private sector. When is the demolition of the Hennibique due to take place and he also requested an update on the PPP Scheme in Slievekeale.

Cllr. Roche requested an update on the Airport, asked if the board of trustees was put in place for Mount Congreve in order to get a development plan in place. Will the report on the potential bridges across the city be issued to the members. What is the process for the development of the Regional Spatial Economic Strategy plan that is being put together by the Southern Assembly, can a collaborative plan be put together for the regional plan.

Cllr. Whelan asked about the housing adaptation scheme for people with disability as there were 41 successful applicants for 2017 and why was there none for 2018. Enquired if homeless places can be sourced in Dungarvan as when people present there as homeless they have to be sent to the city.

I Grimes, DOS said that the Part 8 for the PPP for Slievekeale is on the Metropolitan agenda. He said he will be putting a report together on Housing Adaptation grants, he will look at the provision of homeless services in Dungarvan but it is subject to budget and will needed to be looked at carefully.

M. Walsh, CE said in relation to housing in general there will be a need for 500-600 houses a year in the metropolitan area, 100 social units will be delivered this year but another 500 private units will be required and the new jobs associated with the North Quays will be the catalyst for this, but the housing market is challenging. It might be 2 to 3 years before the 500 houses will be realised and he welcomes any suggestions.

Cllr. Cummins asked if the Council would look at a joint venture scheme. CE is prepared to look at this.

CE replied that the demolition of the Hennibique will commence in coming weeks as the contractor is coming back on site. He said with regard to the Regional Spatial Economic Strategy plan, he is on the steering committee at regional level and there are some Councillors on the Regional Assembly, a workshop to discuss the submission with the Councillors can be arranged. There is no board of trustees for Mount Congreve in place yet but he will revert to the Council, there is work ongoing with business plans etc. In relation to the Airport there is a lot going on in the background and he will revert to the Council in the next few weeks.

M. Quinn, DOS will issue report on the bridges to the Councillors.

Cllr. Hearne requested a book of condolences for the people in Gaza as books of condolences were given to Manchester, Paris, etc but this did not happen and he said it was a missed opportunity to show solidarity with the people of Gaza but he understands and respects the decision not to have it. He said with regard to Dunmore and the Fishermans Co-op it is no longer operating and can the Economic Development Section help the fishermen in any way.

Cllr. Clune asked about the LIHAF scheme for which 2 sites have been identified in Waterford, Kilbarry (400 private houses) and Gracedieu (238 Houses), Gracedieu is a mixture of Council and private land and enquired as to the split in ownership and associated valuation. Asked is there a developer or a local builder to carry out this construction, when will these projects start and is the Council getting the best value for their construction.

Cllr. Reinhardt asked if the Council can look at the possibility of providing wheelchair accessible play equipment and making our play areas inclusive for all.

M. Quinn, DOS confirmed he will talk directly to Cllr. Hearne re Fishermans Co-op in Dunmore East.

I Grimes, DOS said as there is currently ongoing discussion with developers there is a restriction to details that can be provided at this time but the split between private and council land is 60/40. With regard to Kilbarry there are a number of options being considered to see how it can be advanced.

F. Galvin, DOS will look at wheelchair accessible play equipment for our parks and play areas.

Cllr. Hannigan asked if the Council has spoken to NAMA about vacant houses/ sites available for social and private housing and he said that Pride of Place is taking place in Tramore on 19th April.

Cllr. Griffin asked for an update on the presentation from GAA on Walsh Park. Enquired if the Council has any engagement with Fáilte Ireland on the Ancient East, he is working on a project at Creadon, Dunmore East that has huge potential for Waterford, they are currently engaging with National Monuments Ireland trying to carbon date the finds. He requested that the Council invite Fáilte Ireland to view this find and assist in progressing the project.

Cllr. J. Murphy said he gets representations from tenants on maintenance issues that may not come under works carried out by the Council, other local authorities have given grants for these maintenance works and asked if the Council could introduce a similar scheme in Waterford

I Grimes, DOS said that over the last number of years the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government and the Housing Agency has been liaising with NAMA and other approved housing bodies for properties suitable for social housing, a lot of houses in NAMA due to size, location etc would not be suitable for social housing and he will re-circulate the information. He is aware of the scheme for grants for maintenance in Carlow County Council but the Council's approach with its own planned maintenance programme where the spend is €4m per annum gets better value for money and assurance with regard to the quality of the work carried out.

Cllr. J Murphy stated that broken door latches, windows latches etc are not covered under the Council's maintenance programme and Waterford Council tenants are being put at a disadvantage in this regard.

I Grimes, DOS disagreed.

M. Quinn, DOS said in relation to Fáilte Ireland there is an ongoing programme of improvements being part funded by Fáilte Ireland e.g. King of the Vikings and we are getting significant ongoing promotion with them, the Greenway was mentioned in Germany as a place to visit and they are interested in

supporting the Greenway and Mount Congreve. He said he will ask the Heritage Officer to look at the site in Creadan re options to progress the recording and preservation of the artefacts found.

Cllr. Griffin said that the late Professor Peter Woodman, who wrote the book on Mount Sandel, made a number of visits to the site at Creadan, it was in the Professor's will that he thought the site at Creadan will challenge Mount Sandel and the Council should look seriously at this.

Mayor asked Cllr. O'Leary for update re the Walsh park development.

Cllr. O'Leary said there will be a public meeting with the residents in the area of Walsh Park and he said the current issues of traffic management etc will be addressed in the new development and he hopes that the support will be there for the development.

Cllr. Tobin highlighted the problems facing farmers and that the Council should give all the support we can. He proposed that the Council write to the Minister to extend the assistance until it is no longer needed, seconded by Cllr. O' Ryan.

Mayor supported Cllr. Tobin regarding the farming community

Cllrs. Power, Brazil and Cronin supported Cllr. Tobin outlining that there will be a serious issue in 2019 if not addressed.

6. Supporting Waterford Communities Fund 2018 - Allocation

I Grimes, DOS said the report was updated since the document issued to Councillors as some duplicates on the original were removed.

Cllr. Cummins said he is delighted to propose this allocation as not many Councils support local groups.

Cllr. Ray Murphy welcomed funding and commented that the same funding is given to residents associations and tidy town groups but that tidy towns groups have more costs. He is hoping going forward that the tidy towns groups will be taking out and treated separately, 2018 is the 60th year of tidy towns in Ireland and asked that the Council find additional funds to supports these groups.

Cllr. O' Ryan welcomes the grants coming back and helping these community groups and asked if groups within the PPN network can be notified directly.

I Grimes, DOS said the allocation process was discussed at the Housing and Community SPC and it was agreed to use the same process at previous year. He said he will confirm that PPN are communicated with directly.

Cllr. Brennan welcomes the funding and highlighted the value of the grants to all the groups.

Cllr. O'Leary supports Cllr. R. Murphy proposal on tidy towns and said the expenses that they have compared to residents association are greater, insurances etc, and if we lose the support of tidy towns group and the work they are doing it will fall back on the Council.

Cllr. Roche outlined issues re duplication of funding for some groups and asked for this to be reviewed.

Cllr. Fitzgerald highlighted that groups not part of the PPN network need to be included in any communication re the community funding.

I Grimes, DoS stated that duplicate applications were identified, every effort is made to ensure all groups are reviewed.

Cllr. Cummins asked if there is any additional monies leftover can it be allocated to tidy towns on a proportional basis. Cllr. Reinhardt requested additional monies to go to the Lisduggan and Larchville groups as these represent large housing estates.

Proposed by Cllr. Cummins second by Cllr. Doocey

7. Waterford LCDC Annual Report 2017

Deferred to next meeting.

8. Correspondence

Conferences and Receptions proposed by Cllr. Pratt and seconded by Cllr. Tobin

9. Motions

Deferred to next meeting.

Meeting concluded.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____