

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

**COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8th NOVEMBER, 2018 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CITY HALL, THE MALL, WATERFORD**

PRESENT

Cllr. Declan Doocey, Mayor	Cllr. Pat Nugent
Cllr. Liam Brazil	Cllr. John O'Leary
Cllr. Joe Conway	Cllr. Seamus O'Donnell
Cllr. Tom Cronin	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. Mary Roche
Cllr Joe Kelly	Cllr. James Tobin
Cllr. Eddie Mulligan	Cllr. Siobhan Whelan
Cllr. Jason Murphy	Cllr. Adam Wyse
Cllr. Ray Murphy	

APOLOGIES

Cllr. B. Brennan.

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. C. Horan, A/Director of Services, Corporate, Culture, HR & IS
Mr. B. O'Kane, A/Head of Finance
Mr. B. Duggan, SEO, Economic Development
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator
Ms. S. Walsh, Senior Staff Officer

At the outset of the meeting the Mayor proposed a vote of sympathy for Cllr. Mary Roche's father who recently passed away. Cllr. Conway proposed to extend a vote of sympathy to the Chief Rabbi of Ireland regarding the recent murders in the Tree of Light Synagogue in Pittsburgh, USA. A minute silence was held for both.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

- (a) Plenary Meeting held on 11th October, 2018 proposed by Cllr. Geoghegan seconded by Cllr. Brazil

Cllr. Geoghegan proposed to take items no 6 and no 7 after item no. 1 confirmation of minutes, seconded by Cllr. Cummins. Cllr. Mulligan proposed to bring forward item no.8 after item no.7, seconded by Cllr. Pratt.

6. Casual Vacancy

H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator confirmed that after the untimely date of Cllr. John Carey a casual vacancy exists on the Council. As Cllr. Carey was a member of a registered political party, Fine Gael, and under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2001, the political party had nomination rights to the casual vacancy. As a consequence the Fine Gael party had nominated Sharon Carey for the vacancy and she had given prior written consent to her nomination to Waterford City & County Council.

It was proposed by Cllr. Geoghegan, seconded by Cllr. Cummins and unanimously agreed:-
"THAT Ms. Sharon Carey, 1 Cuan na Greine, Croke, Passage East, Co. Waterford be appointed to fill the vacancy on Waterford City & County Council arising from the death of Cllr John Carey"

The Mayor then asked Sharon Carey to take her seat on the Council. Congratulations and good wishes were accorded to Cllr. Carey from the Members.

The Chief Executive welcomed Cllr. Carey to the Council on behalf of the Executive.

In response Ms. Carey thanked her proposer, seconder and the Members for their support. She expressed gratitude to her family for their support and stated that she looked forward to serving the people of Waterford.

Cllr. Geoghegan proposed an adjournment for 5 minutes, seconded by Cllr. Tobin and agreed.

7. Address by Mr. John Paul Phelan, T.D. Minister of State for Local Government & Electoral Reform

Minister John Paul Phelan was welcomed to the Chamber by the Mayor. At the outset the Minister congratulated Sharon Carey on her co-option to the Council and spoke fondly of her father who he knew all his political life. He then proceeded to discuss the Programme for Local Government, improving and enhancing local government, the boundary extension, the joint structures proposal, directly elected Mayors and the plebiscite for same and the review of the role and remuneration of Councillors and said he is in full support of the North Quays development as it will be positive for the region.

The Minister then took question from the Members on a wide range of issues, the upgrading of Waterford Institute of Technology, 24/7 Cardiac Care, changing the Comeragh District Council name and reducing the number of its elected representatives and Brexit. He gave details regarding the directly elected Mayor, derelict sites and the Land Agency, selecting designated areas for erecting election posters, guidelines for wind farms, social housing, funding for Waterford Airport and the North Quays.

The Mayor thanked Minister Phelan for attending and answering the questions. He then proposed an extension of standing orders. Deputy Mayor Cllr. O'Leary took the chair. Cllr. O'Sullivan proposed to extend Standing Orders by 15 minutes, seconded by Cllr. Roche and agreed.

8. Comhairle na nÓg- Presentation

Deferred to December meeting.

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Planning

(a) Planning lists as circulated were noted.

4. Land Disposals

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

Cllr. Mulligan asked if the footpath outside Hennessy's funeral home will be retained in Council ownership.

F. Galvin, DOS said that the footpath will remain in Council ownership.

9. Correspondence

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

5. Monthly Management Report

Cllr. J. Murphy congratulated the housing section on the number of houses allocated to date this year as it is increased on last year. He asked why the refusal rate is so high for Rebuilding Ireland Home loans compared to the previous loan scheme and how much funding is available for housing adaptation grants. Cllr. Fitzgerald asked for an update on the treatment of Japanese Knotweed. Cllr. Conway asked if the Council is at risk with the contract for housing voids being outside the Council's jurisdiction. Cllr. Brazil asked for an update on landbanks. Cllr. Mulligan asked if there was an up to date list for all homeless people as well as those who present to the Council as homeless e.g. rough sleepers. Cllr. Hearne asked about rehousing families who were evicted from their homes due to mortgage arrears. Cllr. Reinhardt asked if the Choice Based Lettings website could be reviewed to assist users.

I Grimes, DOS said the rate of refusal on home loans is under 50% and the housing adaptation grants funding is approximately €2m and is always spent. The contract for the turnaround of vacant properties was tendered and issued in compliance with public procurement rules. He said Landbanks have to be acquired for social housing in some areas and the Council is looking at land in the Kilmacthomas area. The list of rough sleepers is updated on a daily basis and included in the monthly report. Those evicted due to mortgage arrears must present to the Council if they want to be rehoused. The CBL website is being reviewed by staff at present.

F. Galvin, DOS said that the Japanese Knotweed was sprayed during the Autumn and there is an app on the website for the public to log any outbreaks.

Cllr. Griffin asked for an update regarding holding another Housing Summit before the end of the year.

I Grimes, DOS said that the outcomes from the previous event are being reviewed and follow-ups will be issued in relation to same.

10. Notice of Motions

Deferred to December meeting proposed by Cllr. O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. Cummins.

11. AOB

H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator reminded Councillors that a submission is to be made before the end of November regarding the role and remuneration of Councillors. Cllr. Geoghegan urged Members to fully support the AILG and LAMA submission in this regard.

Cllr. Kelly said that a cross party group was to be established for the 24/7 Cardiac Care campaign. Cllr. Cummins said that the Whips will make nominations to the group.

The Mayor took the chair.

Cllr. Kelly said that there was a great sporting achievement where 3 world titles and 2 bronze medals were won in the same weekend by the same person and he proposed that he hold a mayoral reception to recognise this, seconded by Cllr. Mulligan. Cllr. Cummins said this was against procedure and Standing Orders and must go before the Corporate Policy Group the same as with all reception requests, seconded by Cllr. Hearne and agreed by all.

The meeting concluded.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____