

CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL

**SPECIAL PLENARY MEETING CIVIC RECEPTION FOR ALL IRELAND
CHAMPIONS WATERFORD MINOR HURLING TEAM
HELD ON 28TH AUGUST 2025
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, WATERFORD.**

PRESENT

Cllr. Seamus Ryan (Mayor)
Cllr. Joeanne Bailey
Cllr. Donal Barry
Cllr. Catherine Burke
Cllr. David Daniels
Cllr. Jim Darcy
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Damien Geoghegan
Cllr. Jim Griffin
Cllr. Blaise Hannigan
Cllr. John Hearne
Cllr. Joe Kelly

Cllr. Donnchadh Mulcahy
Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Pat Nugent
Cllr. Niamh O'Donovan
Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan
Cllr. Joe O'Riordan
Cllr. Thomas Phelan
Cllr. John Pratt
Cllr. Eamon Quinlan
Cllr. Frank Quinlan
Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. Adam Gary Wyse

Apologies:

Cllr. Declan Barry, Cllr. Liam Brazil, Cllr. Declan Clune, Cllr. Sandra Conway, Cllr. Tom Cronin, Cllr. John O'Leary, Cllr. Kate O'Mahoney, Cllr. Seanie Power

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. M. Quinn, Deputy Chief Executive
Mr. S. De Faoite, Director of Service, Housing
Mr. G. Hynes, A/Director of Services, Roads, Water & Environment
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator
Ms. L. Grant, Administrative Officer, Corporate

1. Civic Reception to honour the All-Ireland Champions: Waterford Minor Hurling Team

The Mayor welcomed everyone to this Civic Reception to celebrate an exceptional group of players and staff who made history this summer by winning the All-Ireland Minor Hurling Championship. He said that the day of the final will live long in people's memories as a day when unity and resilience carried this team to victory. This achievement was the fruit of years of work starting in October 2021 when the management team began building the team and with the appointment of James O'Connor as Minor Manager in 2023. The journey involved a challenging Munster campaign, with victories over Clare, Tipperary and Limerick and Limerick again in the All-Ireland series, before an unforgettable All-Ireland semi-final three point win against Kilkenny. And then history was written on June 28th when Waterford beat Clare to lift the Minor All-Ireland for only the fourth time in our history.

Speaking to the players, he said that you have etched your names into Waterford's proud sporting history and you have given young hurlers in the county something to dream about and a day every supporter will never forget.

Speaking to the coaches, selectors, and support staff he added that their commitment and leadership made this possible. Success is never an accident; it comes from planning, persistence, and faith in the journey.

Finally, he added that on behalf of the people of Waterford, he extended his heartfelt congratulations to the players, management, families and supporters noting that today's civic reception is a mark of how deeply we value your achievement. In closing, he added that may this be only the beginning of even greater days for Waterford hurling.

The Mayor called on Cllr. John Pratt to formally propose the motion.

Cllr. Pratt said that it was his privilege to formally propose this Civic Reception to honour the Waterford Minor Hurling Team. Speaking of the All-Ireland Championship he stated that this achievement was not just a victory on the scoreboard, it is a victory for every club, coach, family and community represented on the squad. Fifteen clubs in all - each of them nurturing and supporting players who came together to form this extraordinary panel. He added that as a supporter looking on, what he felt made the achievement so special is the journey including training sessions, hard-fought wins against strong opposition including Clare, Limerick and Kilkenny culminating in the All-Ireland. Cllr. Pratt thanked the Mayor for hosting the reception which rightly honours a group that has brought such pride to Waterford. Cllr. Pratt also congratulated the players and management on behalf of the Council adding that their victory is an inspiration and reminder of what can be achieved with belief, teamwork and determination.

Cllr. Wyse stated that it was his great pleasure to second this proposal and to add his voice in congratulating the Waterford Minor Hurling panel and management. He noted that this Civic Reception is a prestigious occasion and rightly so as we are celebrating history when these players delivered one of the proudest days Waterford has seen in years. Their journey and resilience against the toughest opposition and triumph in the All-Ireland final have filled our county with pride. He added that the players have shown us not just how to win, but how to carry themselves with unity and respect both on and off the field. Cllr. Wyse thanked Cllr. Pratt for his proposal and the Mayor for hosting this celebration on behalf of the people of Waterford. Lastly, he added to the players, coaches and families that they are an inspiration, and we stand with you in pride today.

Cllr. Geoghegan congratulated all involved on behalf of Fine Gael and himself adding that the victory gave a great boost to supporters in and from Waterford. He added that the players are a credit to themselves, their family, their clubs and their schools and that each victory brings Waterford closer to winning the Liam McCarthy. Cllr. Geoghegan also added his congratulations to those that had been appointed to the Under 20 team.

Cllr. Fitzgerald said he was privileged to address attendees on behalf of Sinn Féin noting the great game and achievement on the 28th June and the defeat of Kilkenny to reach the final. The victory has given Waterford confidence in Waterford hurling. He added that Cumann GAA is the envy of sporting organisations across the world and their role in promoting the GAA ethos

and Gaelic culture. He wondered where this success will lead us and wished all involved the very best in the future.

Cllr. Barry acknowledged the commitment of all those who have played a part in delivering this historic victory including the management team. He added that the people of Waterford are grateful for the team's commitment. This success belongs to those who supported the players through both their failures and their successes. He wished the team continued success under the new management team.

Cllr. Kelly spoke of his delight in welcoming the players and their families and expressed thanks on behalf of himself and his independent colleagues and Waterford fans. He added that this was a full panel victory who all played their part on the journey to the final. He wished the team all the best for their hurling and life careers and looks forward to them becoming part of the senior panel.

Cllr. E. Quinlan spoke about Waterford as Ireland's oldest city and the Civic Receptions which are a list of those who have achieved greatness for Waterford. He added that the team is at the sporting pinnacle for their age having conquered the All-Ireland on behalf of Waterford. He acknowledged all those in Waterford who contributed to the achievements the team. He described the team as bright, young and dedicated and wished them the best in the future.

Cllr. Roche noted that it was two months to the day since the final which has created a lasting legacy for all those involved and that the lessons learned will guide everyone in the future. She noted that they have done Waterford City and County and themselves proud. On behalf of the people of Waterford, fellow Council representatives she congratulated everyone.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. Pratt, seconded by Cllr. Wyse. The Mayor invited the Council to pass the motion with acclamation and all members stood and clapped to acknowledge their unanimous approval of the motion.

James O'Connor, Manager, thanked the Mayor for the invitation to acknowledge this achievement and he hopes that it will inspire young players of the future. He expressed his thanks to the parents for their support over the last three years adding that the All-Ireland will live with these players forever. He thanked the County Board, Chairman and Secretary for their help and support. He thanked the Management Team for their support during the ups and downs naming Nicky, Seamus, Paul, Tommy and everyone else who was involved over the last three years. He thanked the players and wished them all the best adding that he looks forward to working with them again in the future.

James Comerford, Captain, started by describing the invitation as an incredible honour and that it was an amazing journey to the All-Ireland on the 28th June. He shared some of the journey which started three and a half years ago in De La Salle gym when a large group of players were brought together from different clubs around the county and outlined some of the special memories on the road to the final noting that at times it was a bumpy journey including to the Munster Final. The experiences helped build a bond of friendship and bring out the best in all the players and helped the players bring out the best in each other. He referenced the unforgettable summer where they brought back the cup to their clubs and parishes. He acknowledged a number of the older generation who have expressed their gratitude and appreciation which highlights the significance of the achievement. He added that the victory belongs to all of Waterford, the players, coaches and support staff. On behalf of the team, he

thanked all the parents. He expressed his hope that their victory will help light the fire in others to continue and build on their success. He acknowledged that the team has achieved something special and he thanked the Mayor for the honour and everyone for their support.

The Mayor presented a scroll and a commemorative piece of Waterford Crystal to James Comerford and James O'Connor.

The Mayor invited guests and the members to the Large Room for refreshments and photographs.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____
Mayor of Waterford City & County 11th September 2025