

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

COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8TH APRIL 2021 BY ZOOM

Present

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

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. F. Galvin, Director of Services, Roads, Water & Environment
 Mr. M. Quinn, Director of Services, Economic Development and Planning
 Mr. B. Pollard, Head of Finance
 Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator
 Mr. D. Mitchell, Corporate
 Ms. E. Keane, Corporate
 Mr. Conan Power, Communications

Meetings Administrator carried out a roll call to confirm meeting attendance.

At the commencement of the meeting Mayor proposed a vote of sympathy to the family of Con Casey, Tramore, which was seconded by Cllr Lola O' Sullivan. Mr Casey was a former member of Waterford County Council. A minute's silence was also observed.

Mayor proposed a vote of congratulations to Henry De Bromhead and his team at Knockeen on the six winners they had at the Cheltenham Festival. The achievement was unique in that it included the three main championship races at the meeting which has never previously been achieved by any trainer ever in the one year. The special achievement of Rachel Blackmore as champion jockey was also noted. This was seconded by Cllr. Daniels and agreed by all.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of meetings held on the 11th March 2021 proposed by Cllr. Roche seconded by Cllr Murphy and agreed by all.

2. Matters Arising

Updates were requested as follows:

Cllr. Clune enquired if invitation issued to Tramore Development Trust regarding workshop with plenary council and if there was a reply.

Cllr. Jody Power enquired if response received from letter to Minister regarding extension to county boundary.

Cllr. Daniels enquired about response from the IDA.

Cllr. Roche enquired if response received from Minister Harris.

The meeting administrator will follow up on any outstanding correspondence.

The cost breakdown update on North Quays development was requested by Cllr. Mulligan and Mr. Quinn stated that it had been produced and would be distributed after the meeting.

Cllr. Phelan followed up on a previous request regarding cigarette butt recycling and asked if there was any progress.

3. Land Disposals

K. Kehoe, DoS listed the proposed disposals and introduced them for consideration.

Proposed by Cllr. O'Sullivan, seconded by Cllr. F. Quinlan and agreed by all.

Cllr. E. Quinlan queried the inclusion of special conditions as part of the Knockboy land disposal enquiring if it is possible for council to add special condition as part of the sale any property.

Cllr. Fitzgerald requested that members are informed of the cost of wall at Leoville.

Cllr. Murphy queried why not adding same clauses onto CPO properties that are sold to private individuals so as to get properties developed in a timely manner.

K. Kehoe, DoS clarified that clause inserted in conditions of completion of sale of the Knockboy site (D739) to encourage development of the site and noted similar clauses in the contracts for sale of CPO properties could be considered. Will confirm cost of wall when costs available.

4. Monthly Management Report

Cllr. Tobin enquired about the Count Development Plan process and when the regulator would get the opportunity to request changes to it. He and Cllr. Phelan have particular concerns on how it might impact rurally with planning applications for houses by multiple family members on their home land where the regulator is specifying a single new dwelling is allowed.

Cllr. Phelan asked about the number of HAP, new build and other inspections that were non compliant and if information was available on the issues found.

Cllr. E. Quinlan raised the problem event and festival organisers were having with insurance cover and if the IPB could be used. He also had concerns that victims of domestic violence could not get emergency housing support at weekends or in locations that might be anonymous rather than the publicly known locations.

Cllr. Gallagher enquired about the situation with occupational therapist assessments for blind and visually impaired people and if the council had any social inclusion role in assisting in this area. She also stated that she would like the Housing application process clarified as she found it difficult to navigate on the website when she was dealing with constituents.

In response M. Quinn (DoS) explained that;

- The draft County Development Plan would be on public display in June and the regulator would have sight of that version and may correspond directly. The official review would not be until the final version was approved by council at which point the regulator could issue directions to change it. In the interim officials will use the workshops to highlight regulatory challenges and requirements of the planning framework to the members to help formulate a potentially compliant plan.
- He stated that event insurance was a challenge across the country and that the IPB could not offer cover at present. They were looking at a co-op model and would speak to a broker about it.

I Grimes (DoS) responded as follows

- He explained that the Housing Inspections report was submitted to the Department quarterly but there is no ranking of regulatory compliance. He is happy to include this report data in the Management report when it is published.
- He pointed out that provision is made for victims sheltered accommodations which was secure and well serviced. There is an out of hours service available so no waiting over weekend should occur.
- He will arrange for Cllr. Gallagher to be taken through the Housing Applications process by a member of the team.

Cllr. Pat. Fitzgerald pointed out that the enforcement of litter fines did not look good with 52 issued and 9 paid. He also enquired if there was any regulation on the brightness of retro fitted LED street lighting.

F. Galvin, DoS, outlined that about 70% of litter fines were paid and that time lags existed through the 28 days period where people were allowed to pay, together with an appeals process that might be undertaken. The earlier retro fitted LED lights had harsher lights, the more recent ones have a warmer tone with brightness dimmed at night.

Cllr. Daniels enquired about the role of the council in the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and was there any departmental update. He requested update on status of CPO properties that were sold on and if planning permission was in place for the Michael St. development.

Cllr. Conway noted that Waterford was one of only four councils that had a system for collecting the vacant sites levy in operation and would like to know how much was levied in 2019 and 2020 and how much had been collected in 2020 and to date in 2021.

Cllr. Clune noted the aging analysis of council debt showed €12m overdue for over 12 months and asked what the impact of not collecting this money might have on Council finances. He also suggested that the council might consider employing a business development executive to help attract businesses to Waterford in the absence of progress from the IDA.

Cllr. Kelly outlined that taking into account the 2170 active HAP tenancies did it imply that more than 4,000 were waiting on council housing. He noted that there might be a HAP trap for some tenants that cannot afford to move out of substandard accommodation given the gap between that HAP payment and market rents. He stated that a higher HAP ceiling on HAP payments is needed.

Cllr. Ryan enquired if there were any co-living accommodation solutions proposed for Waterford and asked if the housing application form could be made available online. He suggested that consideration should be given to showing available properties as either council owned or long-term lease. He called on people to bring their rubbish home and not to litter beauty spots.

In responding I. Grimes (DoS)

- Committed to providing an update on the 5 recent CPO properties that had been sold on.
- Stated that there were no plans for co living accommodation that the council were aware of.
- There was a three-month trial being conducted on CBL advertising and identifying the council owned and the long-term lease offerings after which time a review would be held.

- There is over 1.2k on the council house waiting list. 95% of those were currently in HAP have requested to transfer to Council Housing. This would put current demand and over 3,000.
- The application form for housing is a paper one as required by regulation but there is a working group looking at this nationally.
- HAP rates are set nationally but that there was scope for top ups.
- The nature of the CPO properties acquired often means that they are slow to turn around and there are often delays with title that need to be resolved and instances of sale falling through.

B. Pollard, HoF, explained that the €12m of debt over 12 months old was 90% provided for in the council books. He added that he hoped to recover much more than 10% but Covid was delaying progress.

K. Kehoe, DoS, agreed to speak to National Council for the Blind and further stated that there were improvement works in train on the Council in the coming months.

F. Galvin, DoS, welcomed Cllr. Ryan's call for people to bring home their litter and said that communities had been doing great voluntary clean-ups in their localities which the council supported.

M Quinn (DoS) provided the following responses:

- There were two teams in the council dealing with the Town and Village renewal scheme.
 - Large project through a project office
 - Smaller rural development schemes
 - The new schemes were being scrutinised to ascertain if anything else could be added.
- The Michael St. site has not had a planning application as they were currently working on the content to make it as commercially attractive as possible.
- He does not have the vacant sites data to hand but will make it available to Cllr. Conway and he pointed out that the process of imposing and collecting the levy was very cumbersome and slow.
- Creating a Business Development role to attract investment had been considered but the issue was how such a person could get to investors that the IDA could not meet. It was something that needed further consideration under the 2040 Programme.
- Confirmed no current planning applications for co-living spaces in Waterford at the moment.

Cllr. Brennan asked if the stated increase in traffic on the council website for St. Patricks day was correct. She was delighted that there were no malicious fire call outs for the Metro area in the month and complemented the library staff for their great service in the lockdown.

Cllr. Hearne called for an Anti Social Behaviour workshop to be held as there was a view that the council was charging rent but not giving the service in some cases. He stated that there were some issues like prisoners with serious convictions being released and going back to previous dwellings and transferred tenants causing trouble in new locations similar to that in their previous areas. Further support for such a workshop was given by Cllrs. Barry, Doocey and Cronin.

Cllr. Barry enquired about the availability of Occupational Therapists (OT) for housing adaption assessments asking if it is possible for those in need to employ OTs privately or to undertake adaptability work at the tenant's own cost to speed up the process.

Cllr. D. McGuinness enquired as to the plans for housing retro fitting. He also enquired about addition to the housing stock and how many applications for funding to build were in progress. He stated that the existence of voids causes friction in the community. He further enquired if there were any regulations relating to dangerous dog breeds in council tenancy agreements. He complimented the Irish Language Officer and Library services for their work for Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Cllr. Murphy asked if RAS tenants cannot have the same rights as HAP tenants. With regard to busking, he asked what was needed to qualify for a licence and if anything could be done to address a recent case reported in the media. Cllr. O'Donnell also raised the busking case.

In response Mr Grimes stated

- He was sure the website hit figures were correct for St Patricks Day and will have them checked.
- An Anti-Social Behaviour workshop could be considered at district level.

- There was a national shortage of occupational therapists and the council tries to accumulate a number of cases for an OT to deal with when one is available. He stated that self-funded adaptability must have housing department approval before going ahead as well as any applicable Planning Permission.
- Rent arrears is a big priority and sanctions such as withholding maintenance was in place for those who did not engage and make repayment arrangements.
- With regard to the Deep Retro fit of housing stock a proposal was submitted to the department.
- In expanding the housing stock, the emphasis was on construction rather than purchasing existing housing units. He will provide details of the numbers under construction to Cllr. D. McGuinness.
- In transferring troublesome tenants' consultation with the Gardai occurred
- The council is not always told if prisoners were returning to council houses on release when they shouldn't be.

Fergus Galvin (DoS) responded as follows:

- There is a national schedule of dangerous dog breeds which deals with public places but not specifically council property.
- There is a ban on busking that involves amplified music on council property if you don't have a licence. He is happy to engage on the requirements in respect of the current case in the media, but the issue was one of people congregating in contravention of Covid regulations rather than a busking license.

Cllr. Griffin supported Cllr. Barry on OT difficulties. He also asked if key handover could be speeded up under the CBL scheme. Additionally, he pointed out that we would have more visitors to beaches and other sites from 12th of April and if more outdoor staff and enforcement staff could be made available to support the increased numbers.

Cllr. Jody Power enquired about the status of the wetland survey. He would like to see more clarity on the breakdown of littering and fly tipping and where it was occurring. He suggested that increased signage regarding littering was needed in the vicinity of take away premises and asked if there could be shields added to the LED lighting to reduce harshness in residential areas.

Cllr. Mulligan pointed out that there was a 33% increase in dog pound cases and enquired about the number of dogs in the pound and how many needed to be put to sleep. There was a 44% increase in fouling incidents and asked what deterrents could be put in place to address the issue. He enquired about the current allocation time from the council housing list in light of the approximately 1000 houses under construction. A further enquiry was made as to the costing of webcasting plenary meetings from the chambers and associated facilities.

Cllr. Barron raised an issue with regard to inspections and would like to see a report by district and problem type. He is aware that there are issues with mould and dampness due to enhanced insulation and lack of ventilation.

Cllr. O'Sullivan stated that many of the housing developments seemed to be at the Design and Tender Stage and she would like a better view of their status. She also enquired as to the cost incurred by the council in removing waste from halting sites and if it was recoverable.

Cllr. Wyse enquired about the new Outdoor Dining Funding and how the decision on the two areas of choice could be made.

Cllr. O'Leary asked about the new €1bn regeneration fund including Digital Working Hubs and to where it could be applied in Waterford as it was a great opportunity for rural areas.

Cllr. F Quinlan acknowledged the voluntary work on litter collection in local areas recently and if anything could be done to acknowledge the children involved and help create awareness. He asked if we could do anything to increase our IBAL ranking. He also suggested that the Greenway signage could be improved to add more keep left signs and arrows.

In response I. Grimes (DoS) stated:

- Waterford was one of the fastest councils at turning around voided properties.

- The time on the waiting list was not a simple number as it was case dependant in terms of location and type of housing required (3 bed, 2 bed 1 bed units).
- With regard to inspections, he will look at the amount of work required to get district version of report. He pointed out that ventilation, including opening windows, was key to getting rid of the common issue of mould and damp in most cases although there are occasional structural issues.
- The Tender Design phase of capital housing projects was very important but there was no standard time that could apply as each project was unique.
- The cost of removing waste from halting sites was not recoverable.

F Galvin (DoS) provided the following responses.

- The cleaning of beaches and similar areas would be a seven day a week operation from start of the summer season.
- The data on litter is from this year in comparison with last year, incidences are difficult to further categorise and will speak directly to Cllr. J. Power on the matter.
- The issue of LED light shielding could be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- With regard to the dog pound figures the case numbers include people looking for pets and he will send on more data. There are only 6-8 dogs in the pound at a given time and only a handful ever need to be put to sleep and it is generally for health reasons. There is a new anti-dog fouling campaign in process across the media, social media and schools.
- Waterford is 8th in the IBAL ranking but there are factors outside our control which impact scoring such as the issues with privately owned sites.
- He would look at the extra 'keep left' signage on the Greenway.

M Quinn (DoS) gave the following replies:

- He will share the wetland survey results when complete.
- The outdoor dining funding has two elements where businesses need to make an application. There is a €200k fund per local authority for significant sites that comply with specific Faite Ireland conditions. The council would be looking at potentially compliant sites and would revert to the relevant SPC if there were a number to be chosen from.
- Digital Hubs were not just a case of establishment and had significant running costs afterwards. The council would be considering suitable locations in the West of the county in conjunction with the Leader Partnership.

K. Kehoe, DoS outlined that the costing of webcasting solutions was in progress and will revert with details when available. A known example of South Dublin was given where around €250k was required for their single chamber solution.

Cllr. Doocey pointed out that there will be many visitors in the coming months but there is an issue with people blocking roads and gateways requiring signage and enforcement. He also wanted to thank RTE for the Iranród Enda programme showcasing the Greenway.

Cllr. Cronin outlined his concern with the Development Plan and the regulators desire to only allow one family member to build on homeland given there were issues with alternatives for those people.

5. WCCC Annual Report 2020

K. Kehoe, DoS introduced Annual Report.

Cllr. Roche proposed acceptance of report noting the excellent achievements of the Council in Covid times and commended all staff, supported by Cllr. Daniels. Seconded by Cllr. Phelan and agreed by all.

6. LCDC Annual Report

Cllr. Geoghegan thanked all for the contribution, noting Johnny Codd's work.

7. Draft Beach Bye Laws

Cllr. O’Leary as member of Transportation SPC outlined the details of the draft byelaws and proposed their approval by the members.

Cllr. O’Sullivan seconded the proposal, requesting Water Safety Ireland name to be used in the report instead of Irish Water Safety, requested inclusion of pier in Tramore.

Cllr. Barron queried the hours that dogs were allowed on the beach.

Cllr. Fitzgerald welcomed byelaws requesting clarity on enforcement including who to contact regarding casual trading licences in these areas. Supported by Cllrs. Roche & Hearne.

Cllr. Phelan asked if requirement for dogs to be on leads could be added to the signage, noted disposable coffee cups were an issue enquiring if they could be banned at these locations.

Cllr. Gallagher enquired if the prohibition on the removal of seaweed applied to small amounts.

Cllr. Griffin noted that foraging was not prohibited under the bye laws.

Cllr. Nugent enquired if the time when horses were allowed on the beach had changed.

Cllr. D. McGuinness also supported acceptance of the new bye laws and asked if Ferrypoint could be added. He also enquired if a bigger fine could be imposed for interfering with lifesaving equipment.

In responding F Galvin (DoS) clarified

- The keeping of dogs on leads was covered by separate bye laws and he was happy to add this on new signage including times that dogs can be there.
- He would get the name changed to Water Safety Ireland
- He agreed to add Tramore Pier and Ferrypoint
- Enforcement was via the local Gardai who had been involved in the process and writing of the byelaws. They should be contacted in the first instance for enforcement and will look at how the council can deal with less serious issues.
- There are separate casual trading bye laws referenced in the beach bye laws. These are to cover a small number of vendors who hired out water sports equipment.
- There were no excuses for people dumping disposable coffee cups and proposals for a levy on them were being made at national level.
- The prohibition on seaweed was to protect from large scale removals not foraging.
- The time for horses on the beach had not changed.
- The fine for damaging lifesaving equipment is set at €75 nationally.

Cllr Mulligan observed that only three submissions were made even though there are regularly many representations made on the subject.

8. Supporting Waterford Community Fund 2021

I.Grimes, DoS, introduced the Supporting Waterford Community Fund as developed and agreed by the Housing, Community, Culture, Sport & Recreation SPC.

Cllr. Brennan proposed acceptance as presented, thanking the council staff involved and in particular Colette O’Brien for their work on it. Cllr Ryan seconded the proposal and agreed by all.

Cllr. E. Quinlan pointed out that some applicants were excluded because they had a central bank account nationally.

9. Correspondence

Proposed by Cllr. Roche, seconded by Cllr. Daniels and agreed by all.

10. Notice of Motions.

1. Motion in the name of Cllr. Susan Gallagher (Deferred from March Meeting)

“That Waterford City and County Council declare a climate and biodiversity emergency and commit to taking measures to address the climate and biodiversity crisis within Waterford City and County.”

Reg. No. 174 (dated, 31st January 2021)

This was introduced and proposed by Cllr. Gallagher and seconded by Cllr. J Power and agreed by all present.

2. Motion in the name of Cllr. Mary Roche (Deferred from March Meeting)

“That Waterford City & County Council calls on the government to clarify the funding and configuration arrangements for their proposed Technological University before dissolving Waterford Institute of Technology.”

Reg. No. 175 (dated, 30th January 2021)

This was introduced and proposed by Cllr. Roche who asked for a recorded vote and seconded by Cllr. Phelan. A roll call vote was recorded as follows:

Name:	Voted	Name:	Voted
Ger Barron (Lab)	For	Eddie Mulligan (FF)	For
Donal Barry (Ind)	For	Jason Murphy (FF)	Not Present
Liam Brazil (FG)	Not Present	Pat Nugent (FG)	For
Breda Brennan (SF)	For	Seamus O’Donnell (Ind)	For
Declan Clune (Ind)	For	John O’Leary (FF)	For
Joe Conway (Ind)	For	Lola O’Sullivan (FG)	For
Tom Cronin (FF)	For	Thomas Phelan (Lab)	For
Conor D. McGuinness (SF)	For	Jody Power (GP)	For
Davy Daniels (Ind)	For	Seanie Power (FG)	For
Declan Doocey (FG)	For	John Pratt (Lab)	Not Present
Pat Fitzgerald (SF)	For	Eamon Quinlan (FF)	For
Susan Gallagher (GP)	For	Frank Quinlan (FG)	For
Damien Geoghegan (FG)	For	Seamus Ryan (Lab)	For
Jim Griffin (SF)	For	Mary Roche (Ind)	For
John Hearne (SF)	For	James Tobin (FF)	For
Joe Kelly (Ind)	Not Present	Adam Gary Wyse (FF)	Not Present

The motion was carried with 27 votes in favour which included all those present for the vote.

3. Motion in the name of Cllr. Jody Power (Deferred from March Meeting)

“That Waterford City and County Council formally requests that the Minister of Housing, Planning and Local Government includes as a matter of urgency, Schools, Local Authority and Community Buildings in the exemptions from planning permission for the installation of Solar Panels through a Statutory Instrument, an exemption currently enjoyed by Commercial and Industrial Buildings, as specified in Part 3 of the Planning and Development Act 2000.”

Reg. No. 176 (dated, 1st February 2021)

The motion was introduced and proposed by Cllr. J. Power and seconded by Cllr Gallagher. It was not opposed.

4. Motion in the name of Cllr. Mary Roche (Deferred from March Meeting)

“That Waterford City & County Council, in partnership with the Horticulture Department at Waterford Institute of Technology, agrees to identify suitable public lands and verges with a view to creating corridors of habitats suitable for native wildflowers and to encourage bio-diversity. We further commit to playing our part with interested partners to educate our citizens as to how they too can be a part of making Waterford a bio-diverse City and County.”

Reg. No. 177 (dated, 30th January 2021)

In proposing this motion Cllr. Roche noted that works were in progress on public lands and verges. It was seconded by Cllr. Barron. The motion was passed.

5. Motion in the name of Cllrs. Eddie Mulligan & Lola O’Sullivan (Deferred from March Meeting)

“That Waterford City & County Council, recognises that period poverty is a very real issue for women in low-income households. As a Local Authority, we have a responsibility to break down the stigma around period and tackling period poverty. Waterford City and County Council agree to have free, adequate, safe and suitable sanitary products available in all public buildings, including community centres, swimming pools and libraries”.

Reg. No. 178 (dated, 30th January 2021)

This was introduced and proposed by Cllr. Mulligan and seconded by Cllr. O’Sullivan and in passing the motion it was agreed that it should be referred to appropriate SPC for budget assessment and approval.

6. Motion in the name of Cllrs. C. D McGuinness, B. Brennan, P. Fitzgerald, J. Griffin, J. Hearne, S. Gallagher, T. Phelan, J. Pratt, G. Barron & S. Ryan. (Deferred from March Meeting)

“That Waterford City & County That Waterford County Council

- acknowledges and values the role of the Oireachtas in scrutinising international agreements.*
- calls on the Government to allow pre-legislative scrutiny on the potential impacts of ratification of the CETA Investment Court System on areas such as health, housing, environment and agriculture.*
- calls on the Government to refer CETA for further investigation to the Committee on Health, Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Committee on Climate Action and Committee on Agriculture and the Marine.*
- to allow a full, open and democratic debate of adequate time, ahead of the Dáil vote on ratification of CETA; and*
- issues correspondence citing the text of this motion to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment; Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications; and An Taoiseach.”*

Reg. No. 179 (dated, 9th February 2021)

Cllr. D. McGuinness introduced and proposed the motion which was seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald and agreed by the meeting.

7. Motion in the name of Cllr. Eamon Quinlan (Deferred from March Meeting)

“That Waterford City and County Council carry out a review of all Council owned car parks to report on the feasibility of introducing a yearly parking pass to address the concerns of local business and service providers along with our current pricing model to ascertain if longer stay, discounted prices can be afforded.”

Reg. No. 180 (dated, 9th February 2021)

This motion was introduced and proposed by Cllr. E. Quinlan and seconded by Cllr. Clune. An amendment to include residents close to the car parks was put forward by Cllr. Phelan and seconded by Cllr D. McGuinness. The amendment was accepted with Cllr. F. Quinlan speaking in support. The matter is to be referred to the appropriate SPC for action.

8. Motion in the name of Cllr. John Hearne (Deferred from March Meeting)

“Waterford city and county council recognizes the appalling way in which women and children were treated by this state in the mother and baby homes and the Madeline laundry’s and in many maternity hospitals. And this council calls on the government to use every resource of the state to reunite families where the parents and children are alive and locate the body’s and return them to the families where the children are dead. And to have a National day of commemoration to show them they are valued and to educate future generations, so it never happens again.”

Reg. No. 181 (dated, 17th February 2021)

Cllr. John Hearne introduced the motion and proposed it with Cllr. Brennan seconding which was supported by Cllr. Roche and agreed by all.

9. Motion in the name of Cllr. Breda Brennan (Deferred from March Meeting)

“That Waterford City and County Council:

- unequivocally supports the right to Personal Assistance Services (PAS) for disabled people to have freedom, choice and control over all aspects of their lives, and to enable them to fully participate in an inclusive society as equals.*
- notes that Dáil Éireann unanimously passed a motion in support of a right to PAS in 2020.*
- notes that Ireland ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2018, and that Article 19 of the Convention states that disabled people have the right to a range of supports to support their full inclusion and participation in the community.*
- calls on the Government to introduce legislation to ensure PAS is delivered for those that require it.*
- writes to the Minister of State with responsibility for Disability, Anne Rabbitte TD, informing her of this motion.*

Reg. No. 182 (dated, 17th February 2021)

The motion was introduced by Cllr. Brennan who proposed it and seconded by Cllr. D. McGuinness. The meeting agreed the motion.

10. Motion in the name of Cllr. Declan Clune (Deferred from March Meeting)

“That Waterford City & County Council calls on the Minister for the Environment Eamon Ryan TD to immediately increase the penalties laid out in the Litter Pollution Act 1997 (as amended in 2017) for persons found to be carrying out illegal dumping to:

- €1500 for first offence*

- €3000 for second offence
- €5000 for any subsequent offence”

Reg. No. 183 (dated, 17th February 2021)

Cllr. Clune brought forward and proposed the motion which was seconded by D. McGuinness and passed by the meeting.

11. Motion in the name of Cllr. Joe Conway

“I am calling on Waterford City & County Council to make a formal submission to the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage outlining our opposition to the proposed provisions of the Land Development Agency Bill 2021. (LDA)”

Reg. No. 184 (dated, 3rd March 2021)

This motion was introduced and proposed by Cllr. Conway, seconded by Cllr Barry and agreed by all.

11. AOB

Cllr. Geoghegan stated the Iarnród Enda programme on RTE was a credit to Gavin Cummins and to all the other local contributors to it. He also welcomed the creation of the Walton Institute at WIT from TSSG.

Cllr. Nugent raised the hold up with planning permission for the milk processing factory at Belview by An Bord Pleanála due to An Taisce objection based on dairy herd numbers in the south east. Cllr. Geoghegan suggest that a letter be written to An Taisce to ask them to remove their objection given that if the milk is not processed locally at Belview it would be transported to other plants by road out of the south east and could even be sent to Northern Ireland for processing.

Cllr. S. Power supported this view also.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____