**COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHORCAÍ**

**Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork on 14th April, 2020.**

**I LATHAIR**

**Comhairleoir Ian Ó Dubhghaill, Méara Chontae**

**Comhairleoiri:** Ó Sé J.P., Ó Cochláin M, Ó Madaoin, Ó Héigheartaigh, Ní Heachthigheirn, Uí Thuama, Ó Muirthile, Uí Chaochlaoich, Uí Chochláin G, Ó Coileáin D, MacCraith, Uí Bhuachalla, Rasmussen, Ó Conchubair A, Dawson.

**PRESENT**

**Councillor Ian Doyle, County Mayor, presided.**

**Councillor**: O’Shea J.P, Coughlan M, Madden, Hegarty, Ahern, Twomey, Hurley, Coakley, Coughlan G, Collins D, McGrath, Buckley, Rasmussen, O’Connor A, Dawson.

The Chief Executive, Senior Executive Officer.

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

Councillor Danny Collins requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss Commercial Rates for businesses seconded by Councillor Declan Hurley.

The Mayor confirmed these matters would be discussed at the end of the meeting.

**[a] CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

***Proposed by Cllr. Michael Hegarty* 1/1-4**

***Seconded by Cllr. Frank O’Flynn***

**RESOLVED:**

“That the minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd March, 2020 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

**[b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

**2/1-4**

**TO:** The Hind Family on the death of former colleague, Andrew

**TO:** Mrs. Mary Hickey on the death of her husband, Christy.

**TO:** The Family of Rev. Fr Michael O’Donovan

**TO:** Councillor Gillian Coughlan on the death of her aunt, Sr. Eilish O’Mahoney

**TO:** 334 Deceased Citizens who have lost their lives to Covid-19

**[c] STATUTORY BUSINESS**

**3/1-4**

**Disposal of Property**

**Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001:**

# Members noted the following disposals:

**Municipal District of Kanturk/Mallow**

**3(a)/1-4**

***Grant of Right of Way at Lissard, Burnfort, Mallow, Co. Cork***

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 31st March, 2020.

**Situation:** Grant of Right of Way at Lissard, Burnfort, Mallow, Co. Cork

**Consideration:** €1.00

**Municipal District of Macroom**

**3(b)/1-4**

***Disposal of lands at Ballymakeera, Co. Cork to facilitate Ballyvourney/Ballymakeera Sewerage Scheme***

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 31st March, 2020.

**Situation:** Disposal of lands at Ballymakeera, Co. Cork to facilitate Ballyvourney/Ballymakeera Sewerage Scheme.

**Consideration:** €1.00 plus discharge of Council’s costs.

**Municipal District of Carrigaline**

**3(c)/1-4**

***Grant of Right of Way at Graball Road, Crosshaven, Co. Cork***

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of the property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 4th April, 2020.

**Situation:** Grant of Right of Way at Graball Road, Crosshaven, Co. Cork

**area:** 0.013 acres/0.005 hectares

**Consideration:** €1.00 plus discharge of Council’s costs.

**Section 48 of the Local Government Act 2001:**

**4/1-4**

**Appointment of external members to roads and transportation strategic policy committee.**

Superintendent Brendan Fogarty, Bandon Garda Station, Cork West Division has been nominated to the Roads & Transportation Strategic Policy Committee.

***Proposed by Councillor Gillian Coughlan***

***Seconded by Councillor Seamus McGrath***

**[d] FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

**5/1-4**

**Section 106 of the local government act, 2001**

**(as amended by the local government reform act 2014)**

The raising of a loan of up to €15 million from the Housing Finance Agency PLC for the purposes authorised under the Housing Acts and per section 106 of the Local Government Act was approved.

***Proposed by Councillor John Paul O’Shea***

***Seconded by Councillor Michael Hegarty***

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members requested more information regarding the offer of a three month payment break on Council mortgages with no interest to be charged during this period

The Head of Finance, Ms. Loraine Lynch announced that a circular was received from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government outlining mortgage support for those in need of financial assistance due to Covid 19.

It was agreed that the Head of Finance would prepare a briefing note for Members on the Covid-19 Mortgage Payment Break for Local Authority Borrowers.

**[l] ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**BROADBAND**

# Councillor Gillian Coughlan proposed, seconded by Seamus McGrath

***That the Minister of Communication be asked to ensure that the broadband infrastructure is adequate for the demands placed on it.***

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members raised the issue of inadequate broadband services
* Expressed the urgency of productive work that needed to be done to solve this matter

It was agreed to write to the Minister to act as a matter of urgency to address the inadequate broadband services.

**FRONTLINE STAFF**

Councillor Gillian Coughlan proposed, seconded by Councillor Seamus McGrath

***That a letter issue to the Minister of Children requesting a scheme to support childcare for frontline workers.***

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members raised concerns over frontline staff having to take annual leave due to no childcare being available to them
* Emphasised the importance of accommodating frontline staff with childcare issues

It was agreed to write to the Minister for Children requesting a scheme to support childcare for frontline staff.

**COVID-19 COMMUNITY CALL HELP LINE**

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Requested briefing note on what supports are available for people
* Concerns raised that volunteer fatigue could set in
* Complemented staff on the Community Response programme

It was agreed to circulate a briefing document to Elected Members on the Covid-19 Community Response and Helpline.

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

**COMMERCIAL RATES**

Councillor Danny Collins requested a suspension of standing orders to discuss Commercial Rates for businesses seconded by Councillor Declan Hurley.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members described the deferral or suspension of rates as a “holding measure” as Rates will still need to be paid at the end of the day
* Requested a full write off of Rates for six months for business survival
* Discussed the challenging times ahead for businesses and said that clarity is needed from government on the deferral of Rates
* Members described the vital role of Rates payments in the running of the local authority
* Members stressed that hoteliers and publicans are at breaking points
* It was suggested that National Government should compensate local authorities for Rates written off.

The Chief Executive outlined that over the initial three month deferral period the Council stood to lose out on €12 million in Rates collection. He said if measures extended for twelve months, the cost would be €49 million which would be very significant factor in terms of Cork County Council being able to continue to deliver services.

It was agreed to write to Minister Eoghan Murphy, Minister for Planning, Housing and Local Government, Minister John Paul Phelan, Minister of State for Local Government & Electoral Reform and Minister Pascal O’Donoghue, Minister for Finance.

**~ This concluded the business of the Meeting ~**