



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHORCAÍ

Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork on 12th June, 2017.

I LATHAIR

Comhairleoir S. MacCraith, Méara Chontae

Comhairleoiri Mac Seafraida, Daltúin, Ní Fhúarthain, Ni Dheasmhumhnaigh, Ó Cainte, S. Ó Coileán, M. Ó Murchú, Ó hEarchaí, R. Mhic Cárthaigh, C. Ó Murchú, Ní Cochláin, G. Ní Mhuimhneacháin, Críod, Ó Gráda, Ó Luasaigh, Ó Riain, Ó Conbhuí, C. MacCárthaigh, Ó Ceocháin, Sheppard, De Barra, Rasmussen, N. Ó Coileán, Uí Thuama, Ó hEigearthaigh, Léanacháin-Foghlú, N. MacCárthaigh Ní Bhrian, Ó Floinn, Ó Dúghaill, Mhic Dháibhí, J. Uí Mhurchú, Ó Sé, G. Ó Murchú, G. Ó Murchú, B. Ó Muimhneacháin, Uí Mhaoláin, T. Ó Coileán, D. Ó Coileán, Ó Cearúill, S. Ó Suilleabháin, C. Ó Suilleabháin, P.G. Ó Murchú, Ó hAodha, Ó hUrthuile.

PRESENT

Councillor S. McGrath, County Mayor presided.

Councillors Jeffers, D'Alton, Forde, Desmond, Canty, J. Collins, Ml. Murphy, Harris, R. McCarthy, K. Murphy, Coughlan, G. Moynihan, Creed, O'Grady, Lucey, Ryan, Conway, K. McCarthy, G. Keohane, Sheppard, Barry, Rasmussen, N. Collins, Twomey, Ml. Hegarty, Linehan-Foley, N. McCarthy, O'Brien, O'Flynn, Doyle, Dawson, J. Murphy, O'Shea, G. Murphy, G. Murphy, B. Moynihan, M. Mullane, T. Collins, D. Collins, Carroll, J. O'Sullivan, C. O'Sullivan, P. G. Murphy, Hayes, Hurley.

Chief Executive, Senior Executive Officer.

The Mayor requested Members to note Standing Order 62, which refers as follows

“No cameras of any kind or sound recording or communication Equipment may be used at meetings of the Council without the prior approval of the Council.”

The Mayor asked Members for their agreement to allow TG4 to video the chamber and meeting proceedings at approximately 12pm. The Mayor informed Members that an audio recording of the meeting would not be made.

Proposed by Councillor Frank O'Flynn

Seconded by Councillor Michael Hegarty

The Mayor thanked Members for their attendance at the specially convened Council Meeting held at 9.30am on the 12th June, 2017, and stated that a statement regarding the Report of the Expert Advisory Group on Local Government Arrangements in Cork would issue in due course as supported by Cork County Council.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1/6-1

Proposed by Councillor Kevin Murphy

Seconded by Councillor Timmy Collins

RESOLVED:

“That the minutes of meeting of the Council held on 22nd May, 2017, be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

2/6-2

- TO: Mr. Eugene McCarthy, Bandon, on the death of his sister, Mary.
- TO: Mr. Martin Kingston, Former Clonakilty Town Councillor, on the death of his wife, Catherine.
- TO: Karina Cremin, Housing Department, on the death of her mother in law, Catherine.
- TO: Mr. Jim Halligan, Former Cobh Town Councillor, on the death of his wife, Aileen.
- TO: Mrs. Kathleen Deasy, on the death of her husband, Austin (former T.D and Minister).
- TO: Ms. Aoife O’Sullivan, Corporate Services, on the death of her father, Pat Joe.

STATUTORY BUSINESS

Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001:

Members noted the following disposals.

DISPOSAL OF 12 OAKBROOK, CASTLELAKE, CARRIGTWOHILL, CO. CORK.

3(a)/6-1

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 19th May, 2017.

DISPOSAL OF 9 BELMONT AVENUE, ROCHESTOWN, CO. CORK

3(b)/6-1

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 23rd May, 2017.

AMENDMENT TO DISPOSAL OF LAND AT DUNGOURNEY, CO.CORK

3(c)/6-1

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 23rd May, 2017.

DISPOSAL OF BOATHOUSE AT RATHCOURSEY WEST, MIDLETON, CO. CORK

3(d)/6-1

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 25th May, 2017.

GRANT OF WAYLEAVE AND RIGHT-OF-WAY AT DOUGLAS, CO CORK

3(e)/6-1

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 19th May, 2017.

GRANT OF WAYLEAVE AND RIGHT-OF-WAY AT DOUGLAS, CO CORK

3(f)/6-1

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 19th May, 2017.

DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST AT 77 LOVE LANE, CHARLEVILLE, CO. CORK

3(g)/6-1

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 23rd May, 2017.

AMENDMENT TO DISPOSAL OF LAND AT ROUGHGROVE, BANDON, CO.CORK

3(h)/6-1

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the disposal of property as shown hereunder shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the notice issued to members dated 1st June, 2017.

FILLING OF VACANCIES ON COMMITTEES AND EXTERNAL BODIES

4 /6-1

On the proposal of Councillor Declan Hurley, seconded by Councillor Frank O’Flynn, Councillor Alan Coleman was reappointed to the Board of Comhar na nOileán Teo.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

BRIDGING LOAN

5/6-1

On the proposal of Councillor Frank O’Flynn, seconded by Councillor Kevin Murphy, Members agreed the raising of loan up to €10 million from the Housing Finance Agency plc for the purposes authorised under the Housing Acts and per Section 106 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2016

6/6-1

Proposed by Councillor Frank O’Flynn

Seconded by Councillor Kevin Murphy

RESOLVED:

“That the Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31st December 2016 be approved, and that the following additional expenditure be hereby approved in accordance with Section 104 of the Local Government Act 2001”.

Description	Comment	€
Housing & Building	NARPS, Payment & Availability, CALF schemes	3,926,119
	Land loan redemptions	
	Voids (Contra income)	
Roads, Transportation & Safety	Additional roads grant spend covered by increased allocation	21,536,138
	Redemption of Midleton NNR Loan	
	Funding of Carrigaline Relief Road	

Development Management	LEO /LEADER (CONTRA INCOME)	1,726,183
	Wild Atlantic Way, Cruise Cork	
Recreation & Amenity	Town Development Fund & Swimming pools	727,135

The Head of Finance Ms. Loraine Lynch, presented the Annual Financial Statement for year ended 31st December, 2016.

Members thanked the Head of Finance for the report, and made the following points:-

- In 2016, expenditure was €25 million over the budgeted figure.
- Members said that the income surplus was positive.
- The Local Government Auditor's reports for 2015 and 2014 highlighted significant variances between the audited and budget figures.
- In 2015 there was a variance of approximately €15 million expenditure, and €18 million income.
- In 2014, expenditure and income were significantly over.
- Was a trend developing of the budget figures being off.
- The budgeted figures being provided do not reflect an accurate position of the Council's finances.

The Head of Finance informed Members that page 4 of the AFS provides details of the additional expenditure incurred and the main reasons are elaborated on. The Head of Finance advised members that the amalgamation of the town councils and Cork County Council in 2014 meant that the AFS figures were prepared not having full financial details at the time for 2014 and 2015. In 2016, the Council was able to prepare a more accurate AFS.

Members asked the Head of Finance if anything could be done to ensure that more accurate figures are provided in the book.

The Head of Finance said the Council when preparing the annual budget does not have prior knowledge of what grant income may be allocated to Council later on in the relevant financial year. The monthly management information income & expenditure reports, which budget versus performance, together with the budget estimates submitted by each directorate ensure a budget that is as accurate as possible.

The Chief Executive said the variances in the budget figures are from areas that are not funded through the Council's own resources, and that the additional amounts outlined in the report all corresponded to grants.

Members asked the Chief Executive if he would respond to the Local Government Auditor.

The Chief Executive said that in the 2015 audit response, a response in relation to the town councils and Irish Water was provided to the Local Government Auditor.

RATES REPORT –SCHEDULE OF UNCOLLECTED RATES (2016)

7/6-1

Councillor John Paul O'Shea proposed, seconded by Councillor Kevin Murphy the Rates Report 2016.

Members noted the rates report from the Head of Finance, which outlined as follows:-

While Cork County Council is obliged to maximise its collection of our local commercial property tax to ensure that funding is in place to provide services to the people of County Cork, it is conscious of the challenging circumstances in which certain businesses find themselves. The rate collection staff continues to engage with c. 14,200 ratepayers and agree payment plans, if appropriate, on a case by case basis.

Rate income accounted for c.41% of total Revenue income in 2016 and is therefore the most important source of the Council's own funding. The following are the gross amounts collected in rates in recent years:

Year	€m
2010	90.1
2011	95.7
2012	98.8
2013	101.8
2014	110.3
2015	119.9
2016	117.4

The collection performance for the year was very satisfactory and a number of significant factors contributed to this outcome.

A recovering economic environment together with improved financial circumstances resulted in more engagement by ratepayers in addressing both current and historic liabilities & greater capacity to meet payments/payment commitments.

The trend of increasing level of property transfers across sectors was sustained and resulted in the discharge of rate liability, and resolved, in some cases, previously problematic accounts.

Streamlined Collection Office (incl. dedicated legal unit) processes have achieved significant results. While the Office endeavoured to facilitate businesses in difficulty, including through flexible payment arrangements, legal action was required in certain instances. Many cases were resolved following the issue of pre 6 Day & 6 Day Notices, with 111 cases being resolved after the issue of summons, but prior to Court Hearing. Of the cases entered for Hearing, 171 judgments were obtained in 2016.

2016 marked the second year of application of a Rate Relief Scheme whereby a grant was given to all compliant ratepayers once certain criteria were met. The primary focus of this initiative is to assist Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's), which comprise the majority of Ratepayers. 5,957 Rate payers qualified for the grant in 2016, which was credited to rate accounts before year end. Continued improved collection performance in 2016 is reflected in the closing arrears figure of €17.09m, a reduction on the opening balance of €20.8m. While every effort will be made to recover the outstanding arrears, the Council has made a bad debt provision of €1m.

Such provision primarily reflects levels of business closures, liquidations, receiverships, extended payment plans & cases the subject of legal proceedings.

Given the improving, but still challenging economic circumstances, I am satisfied with the level of collection achieved in 2016 and that the overall trend in compliance is positive.

Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Rate Collection Report 2016

	€m	€m
Arrears Brought forward		20.80
Opening Debit		127.78
Amendments during the year		(0.31)
Struck off as irrecoverable/vacant		(13.44)
Total to be collected		<u>134.83</u>
Total Rates collected to 31/12/2016	117.40	
Amount refunded	(0.34)	
Transferred to decree account	0.69	
Net arrears at 31/12/16	17.09	
Total		<u>134.83</u>

Percentage collected compared to amount to be collected is 88% compared to 86% in 2015.

REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES

CORPORATE POLICY GROUP:

CONFERENCE LIST FOR JUNE, 2017

8(a)/6-1

Members agreed the Conference list for June, 2017

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT (PURSUANT TO SECTION 121 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT) ON AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2015

8(b)/6-1

Councillor Des O’Grady raised the following points;

- Page 2 of the report outlines that €3.5million is outstanding to Cork County Council under the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water.
- Queried how this came about and is there now standoff between the Council and Irish Water.
- The report makes no reference as to how the amount outstanding is be recouped from Irish Water.

The Head of Finance informed Members that the Council continues to recoup monies monthly from Irish Water and that the €3.5 million is outstanding a number of years. The Head of Finance said she was satisfied that all monies outstanding from Irish Water would be recouped to the Council, and the Council was currently in negotiations with Irish Water in relation to the matter. The Head of Finance said there is a Tier System in place to address issues under the Service Level Agreement with Irish Water and the €3.5 million is currently at Tier 2.

Councillor Mary Rose Desmond informed Members she is on the Council's Audit Committee and is confident there is no standoff with Irish Water.

Proposed by Councillor Mary Rose Desmond,

Seconded by Councillor John Paul O'Shea,

RESOLVED:

"The report of the Audit Committee (pursuant to Section 121 of the Local Government Act) on audited Annual Financial Statement 2015 be hereby approved."

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS REGULATING THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL

8(c)/6-1

Councillor Timmy Collins proposed, seconded by Councillor Anthony Barry, the following amendments to Cork County Council Standing Orders Regulating the Proceedings of the Council

- i. Proposed Amendment of Standing Order No.37:- To amend "subsequent speakers" time from 2 minutes to 1 minute, and to amend the time for the "Proposer", in replying "from 2 minutes to 1 minute.
- ii. Proposed Amendment of Standing Order No.42:- To amend subsequent speakers times from 2 minutes to 1 minute.

Speaking time for the Proposer of a motion to remain unchanged at 3 minutes

During the discussion that followed, Members made the following points

- Member opposing a motion should also be given 3 minutes.
- Members exiting and entering the Chamber during meetings continues to be an issue.
- Members queries how would speaking times would be measured.

Councillor Des O'Grady opposed the proposed amendment and referred to Standing Order 93 which requires that a proposal to amend or review the Standing Orders requires a motion signed by three Members

The Members agreed not to proceed with the proposed amendment of Standing Orders at this time.

BALLINCOLLIG/CARRIGALINE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT:

MANAGER'S REPORT UNDER SECTION 179 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000

9/6-1

Members noted the report for the proposed development of a new combined Walking & Cycling Route from the Regional Park, Ballincollig to proposed Amenity Park at Fionn Laii.

Proposed by Councillor Derry Canty

Seconded by Councillor John A. Collins

RESOLVED:

“Noting that in accordance with Article 179 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 2000, notice of the proposed development was published, that 9 No. submissions were received in respect of the proposal, approval pursuant to Article 179 of the said Act is given for the following:-

Combined Walking & Cycling Route from the Regional Park, Ballincollig to proposed Amenity Park at Fionn Laoi

FERMOY MUNICIPAL DISTRICT:

10/6-1

MANAGER’S REPORT UNDER SECTION 179 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000

Members noted the report for the proposed construction of 46 No. residential units and 1 No. community room together with associated site works at Duntahane, Fermoy, Co. Cork.

Proposed by Councillor Frank O’Flynn

Seconded by Councillor Noel McCarthy

RESOLVED:

“Noting that in accordance with Article 179 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 2000, notice of the proposed development was published, that 1 submission was received in respect of the proposal, approval pursuant to Article 179 of the said Act is given for the following:-

Construction of 46 No. residential units and 1 No. community room together with associated site works at Duntahane, Fermoy, Co. Cork

BANDON/ KINSALE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT:

11/6-1

MANAGER’S REPORT UNDER SECTION 179 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000

Members noted the report for the proposed construction of 40 No. residential units at Cappagh, Ballynacubby, Kinsale, Co. Cork.

Proposed by Councillor Kevin Murphy

Seconded by Councillor Rachael McCarthy

RESOLVED:

“Noting that in accordance with Article 179 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 2000, notice of the proposed development was published, that 11 No.

submissions were received in respect of the proposal, approval pursuant to Article 179 of the said Act is given for the following:-

Construction of 40 No. residential units at Cappagh, Ballynacubby, Kinsale, Co. Cork

WEST CORK MUNICIPAL DISTRICT:

12/6-1

MANAGER'S REPORT UNDER SECTION 179 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000

Members noted the report for the proposed Schull Harbour Pontoon and Gangway, Schull, Co. Cork

Proposed by Councillor Joe Carroll

Seconded by Councillor Declan Hurley

RESOLVED:

“Noting that in accordance with Article 179 of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 2000, notice of the proposed development was published, that no submissions were received in respect of the proposal, approval pursuant to Article 179 of the said Act is given for the following:-

Schull Harbour Pontoon and Gangway, Schull, Co. Cork

CORRESPONDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, PLANNING, COMMUNITY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

National Rent Differential Scheme

13(a)/6-1

Members agreed the letter dated 29th March, 2017 from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government would be taken in conjunction with item 23 on the meeting agenda in relation to the National Rent Differential Scheme.

Affordable Housing and Affordable Sites Scheme

13(b)/6-1

Members noted letter dated 16th May, 2017, from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, in response to the Council's letter dated 28th February, 2017, regarding the restoration of the Affordable Housing and Affordable Sites Scheme.

During the discussion that followed, Members made the following points;

- Members expressed their disappointment with the Department's response
- There are currently no affordable sites are for sale, and Members queried what is the current status of the affordable sites.

- Could the council develop and put forward an affordable scheme of its own.
- Large numbers of people cannot get on the scheme as their income is over the scheme's threshold limit, yet their income is not enough to afford a mortgage on their own.

The Chief Executive said that nothing formal has been received from the Department in relation to introducing an affordable housing and affordable sites. There would be significant financial cost for the Council funding any type of affordable scheme on its own, and there is a need for a national scheme. The Chief Executive stated that the points raised by Members would be referred to the Council's Housing Directorate.

Members agreed to write back to the Minister seeking clarification if it is within Cork County Council's remit to introduce an affordable scheme of its own.

PRIVATE RENTED INSPECTION PROCESS

13(c)/6-1

Members noted letter dated 17th May, 2017, from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, in response to the Council's letter dated, 2017 regarding funding of the Private Rented Inspection Process.

During a discussion that followed, Members made the following points;

- Members welcome the announcement of the introduction of the new Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regulations that will come into operation on the 1st July, 2017.
- Funding for carrying out inspections will be provided through the Residential Tenancies Board.
- The inspection rented properties should commence immediately in January 2018.
- The 25% inspection coverage rate is too low.
- There is a need to clamp down on poor rental accommodation conditions.
- Will inspections be carried out on landlords' properties that not registered with the Residential Tenancies Board.
- Who will cover the cost of carrying out inspections.

The Chief Executive informed Members that the Council has not received formal confirmation from the Department regarding funding to carry out the inspections. The Chief Executive said that the Department's letter refers to "specific ring-fenced funding" to be provided for carrying out inspections and that he was hopeful that funds to carry out the inspections would not be deducted from the Local Property Tax.

LOWERING OF THE VOTING AGE

13(d)/6-1

Members noted the letter dated 17th May, 2017, from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, in response to the Council's letter of 15th May, 2017 regarding lowering of the voting age to sixteen for elections and referenda.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL PROTECTION

14/6-1

Members noted letter dated 30th May, 2017, from the Department of Social Protection in response to Council's letter of 18th May, 2017 regarding the Community Employment Scheme.

During a discussion that followed, Members made the following points;

- Members welcome the Department's response and the new measures planned under the CE Scheme.
- There is huge work being done under the CE scheme.
- People are not finding placements through the JobPath service.
- There is inflexibility in the scheme
- The vast majority of people are on the Tuas scheme and not the CE scheme
- The response does not refer to any new measures under the Tuas Scheme
- The Department need to provide clarification on all of the schemes.

Members agreed to write back to the Minister seeking further clarity on all of the job schemes, and that greater flexibility be introduced to allow people on Job Path to be eligible for the CE scheme.

OFFICE OF THE TÁNAISTE AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

15/6-1

Members noted letter dated 1st June 2017, from the Office of the Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality in response to Council's letter of 27th April, 2017 regarding the Valuation Act 2001 and that rates would be payable on constituency offices.

During a discussion that followed, Members made the following points;

- T.Ds, Senators and MEPs constituency offices are exempt from commercial rates.
- Councillor's offices provide a valuable community service, however they are not exempt.
- The aim of the Member's original resolution was to change the existing statutory instruments of the Valuations Acts.

Members agreed to write back to the Minister requesting that the Valuation Act be amended in order that it is equally supportive of all public representatives, and that Councillors be treated the same as T.Ds, Senators and MEPs with respect to rates on their constituency offices.

Suspension of Standing Orders

At 12pm, Councillor Declan Hurley proposed, seconded by the Mayor, the suspension of Standing Orders in order to make a presentation to Councillor Noel Collins in recognition of half a century of service as an elected member of Cork County Council.

Cllr. Declan Hurley congratulated Noel for his unbroken service since 8th June, 1995, and said that Noel shows total passion for his work and acknowledged Noel's lifetime dedication to his county.

Mayor Seamus McGrath said Noel has a generosity of spirit and is an exceptionally diligent and passionate councillor. It was a tremendous achievement by Noel in such a difficult and demanding role.

Cllr. Michael Hegarty said Noel is an exceptional character, a tremendous representative for the East Cork Area and has proven this at the ballot box so many times.

Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley said that everyone in East Cork knows Councillor Noel Collins, and thanked Noel for his 50 years service.

Cllr. Des O'Grady said that Noel is insightful, sharp and unique, and Noel is known throughout all of Cork as being on the side of social justice

Cllr. Anthony Barry said that Noel's work rate is phenomenal and his life time of service was a fantastic achievement.

Cllr. Frank O'Flynn said that Noel is a man of the people, it was right that we honour this special occasion, and on behalf of the Fianna Fail Party thanked Noel for all his years of service to the people of Cork.

Cllr. John Paul O'Shea congratulated Noel for 50 years of unbroken service.

Cllr. Timmy Collins congratulated Noel and said Noel was highly educated and a unique way of working.

Cllr. Gobnait Moynihan said that she, her brother, father and grandfather have all had the privilege of working with Noel.

Cllr. Kevin Murphy said it was a special day for Cork County Council; Noel's tremendous achievement will never be reached again, and thanked Noel on behalf of the Fine Gael Party.

Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien said that Noel is a true gentleman and extended her best wishes on behalf of her father and brother, Ned and Kevin O'Keeffe.

Cllr. Christopher O'Sullivan said that Noel has always strived to represent the marginalised in society.

Deputy Mayor Kevin Conway offered his congratulations to Noel.

Cllr. Derry Canty said that Noel was a father figure to all.

Cllr. Sinead Sheppard said that Noel has vast experience and always commands the attention of the chamber so well.

Cllr. Mary Rose Desmond said Noel is the most articulate and eloquent of speakers and he has always held true to his principles and true to the people he represents.

Cllr. Joe Harris said he wanted to congratulate Noel on behalf of the Social Democrats Party.

The Chief Executive on behalf of staff and management congratulated Noel for his phenomenal service. The Chief Executive said that Cork County Council has been in existence for 118 years and that Noel has been a serving Member for 50 of those years, which was 42% of the life time of the Council and that Noel has worked with no less than 6 County Managers. The Chief Executive said the fact you have been re-elected so many times is a testament to you.

Cllr. Noel Collins said he was deeply humbled, and deeply appreciated all of the kind words.

NOTICES OF MOTION

AMENDMENTS TO THE LITTER POLLUTION ACT 1997

16/6-1

Councillor John Paul O'Shea proposed, seconded by Councillor Antony Barry, the following notice of motion:-

"That Cork County Council would write to the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government requesting amendments to the Litter Pollution Act 1997 as follows:

- To increase the on-the-spot fine of €150 to €300 for leaving or throwing litter in a public place.
- Approval for local authorities to publicise, every three months, the names, addresses and penalties handed out to those fined and convicted of a littering offence".

During a discussion that followed, Members made the following points:

- Littering is a huge problem across the County.
- The on the spot fines are not enough and clearly need to be increased.
- Fines should be increase to €600.
- People caught need to be named and shamed in newspapers.
- Dublin City Council publicises details of those prosecuted in court.
- The cost of obtaining prosecutions through the courts is far too high for local authorities.
- Majority of court cases result in fines of €100 being imposed instead of the max €3,000 fine.
- Local authorities are faced with massive cleaning up costs in dealing with illegal dumping
- Our Litter Wardens are providing a tremendous service.
- Members appreciated that the Council has appointed litter wardens; however, more wardens are needed.
- An increase in charges in the Council's Civic Amenity Sites has lead to an increase in illegal dumping.
- The €150 fine is equivalent to 50 entry fees into a civic amenity site.
- Fly tipping completely contradicts the hard of work of community and Tidy Town groups and is a kick in the teeth to those that volunteer.
- Illegal dumping is a huge problem in forests.
- CCTV cameras need to be set up in litter black spots.
- Greater deterrents are needed to tackle the litter problem.
- The Department of Social Protections publically names fraudsters.
- A number of Members expressed reservations about publicise names.
- Would the council also start publicising the names of those issued with parking fines.
- The Council's Environment SPC has obtained legal advice that it would not be appropriate to publish details of persons.
- An amendment to Litter Pollution Act 1997 would provide the Council with a stronger position to address littering.

Members agreed to write to the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government requesting the Minster to oblige local authorities to publicise details of persons fined and convicted of a littering offence.

The remaining items on the agenda were deferred until the next council meeting to be held on the 26th June, 2017.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

22/5-2

- TO: Corporate Services Department on the tremendous success of the County Mayor's Ball 2017.
- TO: Blue Haven Hotel Kinsale on winning the Best Boutique Hotel prize at The Irish Hospitality Awards 2017.
- TO: Coady Barrett on his recent success on winning gold and silver medals at the Munster Karate Championship.
- TO: Brian Kenny on his recent success at the Clarke Golf Cup in Portlaoise
- TO: Richie Forde on winning bronze and silver medals at the European Taekwondo Championships in Bulgaria.

This concluded the business of the Meeting