



COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHORCAÍ

Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork on 13th January, 2020.

I LATHAIR

Comhairleoir, Cristóir Ó Suilleabháin Méara Chontae

Comhairleoiri Ó Muineacháin B, Ó Dubhghaill, Ó Sé J.P, Ó Murchú Gearóid, Críod, Ní Mhuineacháin G, Ó Luanaigh, Ó Cochláin M, Uí Loinsigh, Ó Luasa, Ó hAodha Padraig, Ó Murchú Gearóid, Ó Cinnéide, Ó Madaoin, Ó Sé T, Léineacháin Uí Foghlú, O Coileáin N, Ó Héigheartaigh, Ó Conchubair S, Uí Thuama, MacCarthaigh S, Mac Uaid, Ó Suilleabháin C, Ó Cearbhaill, Ó Muirthile, Uí Chaochlaoidh, Ó hAodha Pól, Uí Chochláin G, Ó Colmáin, Ó Murchú Caoimhín, Ó Suilleabháin S, Ó Donnabháin, Ó Coileáin D, Ó Murchú P.G, Uí Mhurchú Cáit, Mac Íomhair – Uí Chearnaigh, Mac Craith, Uí Daltún, Lombard, Uí Bhuachalla, Ó Conchubair L, Daltún Ó Suilleabháin, Barra, Sheppard, Rassmussen, Ó Conchubair S, Ó Conchubair A, MacCarthaigh N, Ó Flionn, Uí Bhriain, Ó Laoghaire, Dawson, De Róiste.

PRESENT

Councillor, Christopher O’Sullivan, County Mayor presided.

Councillor Moynihan B, Doyle, O’Shea J.P, Murphy Gerard, Creed, Moynihan G, Looney, Coughlan M, Lynch, Lucey, Hayes Pat, Murphy Gearóid, Kennedy, Madden, O’Shea T, Linehan – Foley, Collins N, Hegarty, O’Connor J, Twomey, McCarthy S, Quaide, O’Sullivan C, Carroll, Hurley, Coakley, Hayes Paul, Coughlan G, Coleman, Murphy K, O’Sullivan J, O’Donovan S, Collins D, Murphy P.G, Murphy Katie, Cairns, McGrath, D’alton, Lombard, Buckley, O’Connor L, Dalton – O’Sullivan, Barry, Sheppard, Rasmussen, O’Connor S, O’Connor A, McCarthy N, O’Flynn, O’Brien, O’Leary, Dawson, Roche.

Chief Executive, Senior Executive Officer.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1a/1-1

*Proposed by Councillor Seamus McGrath
Seconded by Councillor John Paul O’Shea*

RESOLVED:

“That the minutes of the Meeting held on 9th December, 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

2/1-1

TO: Mrs Lesley Ahern on the death of her husband, Brendan.

TO: Mrs Mary Crowley on the death of her husband, Dan.

TO: Councillor James Kennedy on the death of his mother in law, Monica O'Donovan.

TO: Chief Superintendent Con Cadogan on the death of his father, Denis.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Councillor Ben Dalton O'Sullivan requested a Suspension of Standing Orders to discuss the Health Crisis.

Seconded by Councillor Declan Hurley

The Mayor confirmed these matters would be discussed at 1pm.

STATUTORY BUSINESS

3/1-1

Disposal of Property

Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001:

Members noted the following disposals.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KANTURK

3a/1-1

DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST OF LANDS AT CHARLEVILLE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, CHARLEVILLE, CO. CORK

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 the proposed disposal of property, as set out hereunder which is not required for the purposes of the Council's powers and duties will be considered at the first meeting of the Council held after the expiration of ten clear days from the date of the notice.

SITUATION: Disposal of freehold interest of lands at Charleville Industrial Estate, Charleville, Co. Cork.

CONSIDERATION: €5.000 plus legal costs

DISPOSAL OF LANDS AT KEALE NORTH, MILLSTREET

3b/1-1

SITUATION: Lands at Keale North, Millstreet

CONSIDERATION: €1 plus Council's costs

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BANDON/KINSALE

3c/1-1

GRANT OF RIGHT-OF-WAY AT BELGOOLY, CO. CORK

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 the proposed disposal of property, as set out hereunder which is not required for the purposes of the Council's powers and duties will be considered at the first meeting of the Council held after the expiration of ten clear days from the date of this notice.

SITUATION: Grant of Right-of-Way at Belgooly, Co. Cork

AREA: 0.10 hectares/0.25

CONSIDERATION: €1.00

DISPOSAL OF LAND AT CRIPPLE HILL, BANDON, CO. CORK

3d/1-1

In accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 the proposed disposal of property, as set out hereunder which is not required for the purposes of the Council's powers and duties will be considered at the first meeting of the Council held after the expiration of ten clear days from the date of this notice.

SITUATION: Disposal of land at Cripple Hill, Bandon, Co. Cork

CONSIDERATION: €22,000.00

SECTION 38 REPORT

PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT, 1994

4/1-1

R513 Lower/Upper Cork Street, Mitchelstown Zebra Crossing

*Proposed by Councillor Frank O'Flynn
Seconded by Councillor Deirdre O'Brien*

REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES

5/1-1

NORTHERN DIVISIONAL COMMITTEE

“That this Committee write to Climate Activist Greta Thunberg inviting her to speak at County Hall on the importance of climate action. Climate change is the most pressing issue of our times and she has become a role model in the fight against it.”

*Proposed by Councillor Pat Hayes
Seconded by Councillor Noel McCarthy*

During this discussion the members made the following points:

- Cork County Council is the forefront of Climate Action
- Cork County Council was the first Local Authority to introduce a Climate Change Strategy in 2019
- Members expressed how Greta Thunberg was a great role model to the younger generation

Members agreed to write to Greta Thunberg and extend an invitation for her to speak to Members of Cork County Council on the importance of climate action either in person or by video link.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION SPC

6/1-1

Draft Policy for Traffic Calming in Towns & Villages (to be adopted)

*Proposed by Councillor Declan Hurley
Seconded by Councillor Kay Dawson*

During this discussion the members made the following points:

- Members expressed the need for a more in depth discussion
- Member acknowledged the need to utilise funding from the Department for the success of the policy
- Specified the need to implement traffic calming
- Suggested that speed limits should be reviewed every 2 years rather than every 4 years
- Specified that restrictions should be put in place for HGVs

Members agreed to refer this matter to Development Committee Meeting on 17th January for further discussion.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, TOURISM & SPORT

7/1-1

Members noted correspondence dated 30th December, 2019 in response to Council's letter of 11th September, 2019 in relation to establishing a National Transport Regional Office in Cork.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

- Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the response
- Outlined the importance of the establishment of a NTA Regional Office in Cork
- The need to assist with the growth of alternative transport for meeting needs of settlements to 2040.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

8/1-1

Members noted correspondence dated 2nd January, 2020 in response to Council's letter of 29th October, 2019 in relation to legislation being implemented to ease the human suffering inflicted on families evicted from their homes by banks and other financial institutions.

BUS ÉIREANN

9/1-1

Members noted correspondence dated 17th December, 2019 in response to Council's letter of 15th October, 2019 in relation to Bus Route 40.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

- Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the response
- Acknowledge the bus service 260 were not operating with double decker buses

NOTICES OF MOTION

LED LIGHTING

10/1-1

Cllr. Seamus McGrath, seconded by Councillor Pat Hayes.

“To request a written progress report on the LED retrofitting of public lights in Cork County. Please outline the total number of lights involved, the estimated timeline for completion and details of the implementation phase in terms of sequencing of areas within the County. Furthermore, please set out current energy costs for Cork County regarding public lighting and expected savings when the retrofitting is complete.”

Members noted the response from Mr. Padraig Barrett, Director of Service Roads and Transportation

RESPONSE

It is proposed to include approximately 33,000 existing lights in Cork County in the LED retrofitting project. It is expected that the project will commence later this year with an anticipated 26 - 34 month timeline. As of now the tender documents are being prepared and therefore there is currently no programme for the implementation phase or sequencing timeline. The design and build project will be tendered before the end of quarter 1 with an appointment expected by Q3. Post appointment, there will be an initial phase that will include condition surveys and detailed design.

It is expected that the implementation phase of the project will commence after the initial phase and will be sequenced across the region (Cork County, Kerry, Waterford, Limerick and Clare) with multiple locations being retrofitted at any one time by multiple crews. It is currently anticipated that the project will be split into Municipal District parcels (or possibly smaller parcels depending on local circumstances), but the exact sequencing and project phasing will only be known after the appointment of the contractor and the completion of detailed design and detailed programme development.

The current annual energy costs for public lighting in Cork County are of the order of €2,800,000 per annum. It is expected that this will be reduced by at least 50 % as a result of the retrofit project.

During this discussion the members made the following points:

- Members welcomed the response
- Members emphasised the need for implementation
- Delighted to hear that additional lighting is being provided

- Expressed the need to reduce our current climate change impact and improve our carbon footprint
- The need to introduce sensor lighting in public areas
- Disposal of old lantern heads needs to be considered

The Chief Executive outlined the LED Retrofitting project was a complex national undertaking and Cork County Council is the lead authority for the Southern Region.

SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENT

11/1-1

Cllr. Gearóid Murphy proposed, seconded by Councillor Seamus McGrath

“That a supplementary document be prepared for Elected Members every year to accompany each Annual Budget, giving more detailed breakdowns of each item of income and expenditure contained in the budget, where such more detailed figures are available.”

Members noted the response from Ms. Loraine Lynch, Head of Finance.

RESPONSE

The Annual Budget is prepared and presented on the basis of the statutory format set at national level and the Council has no authority to change this. In addition a comprehensive narrative detailing the practical application of the budgets allocated in each service area is provided.

The annual budget is a key driver for the Council’s operations annually. It is the Executive’s aim to ensure that the draft budget provides adequately for all the needs of the County. This is driven by the ongoing input of the MDs and the SPCs through to each directorate and consequently impacts on the priorities presented for consideration in the draft budget. The draft budget is prepared in consultation with the CPG which has representatives of each MD and also represent the views of each of the SPCs.

The detail of the budget is discussed at CPG at a series of meetings from July/September to November. The Council also holds dedicated development committee meetings to allow all Members the opportunity to feed into the budget process and strategy. In addition the Head of Finance and staff are always available to answer specific questions from any Members. This information is shared with all Members to ensure transparency and equity in information.

Given the statutory role of the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) in the preparation of the draft local authority budget we will consult with CPG at an early stage to review what changes can be introduced.

During this discussion the members made the following points:

- Members asked that additional information be included on future budget documentation
- Members expressed that there is scope for earlier engagement in CPG
- Officials were complimented for their consultation with members
- Members requested earlier engagement on the budget

Members agreed to refer this matter to February’s Corporate Policy Group for further discussion.

SALT BINS

12/1-1

Cllr. Deirdre O'Brien proposed, seconded by Cllr. Gillian Coughlan

“That Cork County Council consider the provision of Salt Bins to shop keepers who have a duty of care to their patrons by way of clearing of public foot paths in icy conditions.”

Members noted the response from Mr. Padraig Barrett, Director of Services, Roads and Transportation.

RESPONSE:

Member will note that the Council provides salt bins to Residents Associations and Community Groups at a subsidised rate. The proposal to provide salt bins to individual commercial premises has not been considered heretofore, but should a number of commercial premises wish to come together in a similar manner to a Residents Associations and Community Groups this can be considered.

The bins or the salt will not be provided for treating any private areas or private car parks and bins will not be provided to individuals or to a single commercial premises. Individual commercial property owners are obliged to have adequate arrangements in place to ensure the safety of their employees and visitors.

Application forms and details for the purchase of bins and salt are available on the Council's website and applications should be submitted to the MD Senior Executive Engineer.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

- Members expressed that Cork County Council should support the rate payers of the County
- Members specified how retailers have a duty of care to patrons
- Members requested provisions be made for schools
- Outlined that this matter should be raised at Municipal District level to see what the local arrangements.

DISABILITY ISSUES

13/1-1

Cllr. Liam Quaide proposed, seconded by Councillor Gillian Coughlan.

“That Cork County Council would write to Jim Daly, Minister of State for Mental Health/Older People and Finian McGrath, Minister of State for Disability Issues to ask the following:

How many clients with a confirmed Intellectual Disability or suspected Intellectual Disability were residing in acute or long-stay psychiatric settings in Cork City and County in 2019?

How many clients with an Intellectual Disability who are living in dangerous/precarious circumstances were being supported by Community Adult Mental Health teams in Cork City and County in 2019?

How many of these clients have no definite long-term placement pathway beyond psychiatric settings or dangerous/precarious community arrangements?

How many were being placed / are due to be placed in nursing homes?

‘Cork County Council would furthermore call on Minister's Daly and McGrath to being setting up specialised residential services with access to appropriate community supports,

including day centres, in Cork City and County to meet the long-term needs of this particularly vulnerable client group.’

During the discussion the members made the following points:

- Members acknowledged that these people are most vulnerable in our society
- Members expressed that people with intellectual disabilities are being neglected
- Specified that nursing homes may be the only option and may not be suitable for people with intellectual disabilities.

Members agreed to write to Minister Daly & Minister Finian McGrath outlining the above questions.

RETIREMENT AGE

14/1-1

Cllr. Noel Collins proposed, seconded by Councillor Kay Dawson

“That this Council call on the Minister for Social Protection to take immediate steps to protect those workers who are forced to retire at 65 but who will not reach the qualifying age for the state pension for another year.”

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

- Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the Social Welfare System
- Outlined hardship on the people who have to apply for Jobseekers Allowance while waiting for Old Age Pension
- Acknowledged the loss of €45 per week between Old Age Pension and Jobseekers allowance
- Serious anomaly in the system that needs to be addressed urgently

Members agreed to write to Minister for Social Protection to protect those workers who are forced to retire at the age of 65 and who are not at the qualifying age for the state pension.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

15/1-1

TO: Cian O’Driscoll – On winning gold at the U.S Handball Association’s National Doubles Junior 4 wall championships and Silver at the USHA Singles Junior 4 wall championships

TO: Conor Walsh – On winning gold at the U.S Handball Association’s National Doubles Junior 4 wall championships

TO: James Sugrue – On receiving an invitation to play in the Masters in Augusta, USA

TO: Tom Ryan – On being presented with a Benemerenti papal medal for his services to the church

TO: Bosco Creed – On winning Cork County U21 A 2019 Hurling Championship

TO: Councillor Declan Hurley – On his recent marriage to Catherine Biggs.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16/1-1

HEALTH CRISIS

Cllr. Ben Dalton O’Sullivan proposed suspension of standing orders to discuss the Health Crisis, seconded by Cllr. Noel Collins.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

- Members outlined the long waiting lists and issues with the Health Service
- Expressed the strain on nurses, doctors and staff in the Health Service
- Members urged the need to open primary Health Centres

Members agreed to write to the Minister for Health outlining the concerns raised by Members regarding the Health Crisis.

CONFERENCE LIST

Approval of attendance by Council members at Conferences on the Conference List for January 2020, approved by the Corporate Policy Group at their meeting on the 7th January, 2020.

*Proposed by Councillor Declan Hurley
Seconded by Frank O’Flynn*

MIXED ABILITY RUGBY TOURNAMENT (IMART)

Councillor Paul Hayes proposed, seconded by Councillor Frank O’Flynn

Members requested that we write to (IMART) inviting them to make a presentation to Members at Development Committee outlining what is involved for the International Mixed Ability Rugby Tournament (IMART) which will be held in Cork, in 2020.

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

Councillor Liam Madden proposed, seconded by Councillor Frank O’Flynn

Member requested that we write a follow up letter to Minister Eoghan Murphy regarding the need to have a proper system for reviewing, updating and adding people to the Register of Electors & asked that deceased voters be removed.

LAUNCH OF 1920 COMMEMORATION PROGRAMME

Members asked for clarification on how much funding Cork County Council is getting from the programme

Members were advised that this would be discussed at Corporate Policy Group in February.

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY (RIC)

Councillor William O’Leary commended the Mayor on refusing his invitation to attend he commemoration of the RIC.

CCTV

Members were advised that this would be discussed at Development Committee on Friday 17th January.

CORK SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Members requested that a representative from Cork Sports Partnership be invited to Development Committee Meeting to give a presentation to Members on the services that are carried out.

This concluded the business of the Meeting