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**Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held by Microsoft Teams on 12th April, 2021.**

**I LATHAIR**

**Comhairleoir Máire Léanacháin - Uí Foghlú, Méara Chontae**

Comhairleoiri: Ó Muineacháin B, Ó Dubhghaill, Ó Sé, Sean Pól, Ó Múrchú, Gearóid, Críod, Ní Mhuineacháin G, Ó Luanaigh, Ó Cochláin M, Uí Loinsigh, Ó Luasa, Ó hAodha, Padraig, Ó Múrchú, Gearóid, Ó Madaoin, Ó Sé T, Léineacháin Ui Foghlú, Ó Héigheartaigh, Ní hEachthigheirn, Uí Thuama, MacCarthaigh S, Mac Uaid, Ní Cheallaigh, Ó Cearbhaill, Ó Muirthile, Uí Chaochlaoich, Ó hAodha, Pól, Uí Chochláin G, Ó Colmáin, Ó Murchú, Caoimhín Ó Suilleabháin, Sean, Uí Shuilleabháin, Máire, Ó Donnabháin, Ó Coileáin D, Ó Murchú PG, Uí Mhurchú Cáit, Ó Conaill, Mac Craith, Uí Daltún, Lombard, Uí Bhuachalla, Ó Conchubair L, Daltún Ó Suilleabháin, Ní Cheallacháin, Barra, Sheppard, Rasmussen, Ó Conchubair S, Ó Conchubair A, MacCarthaig N, Ó Flionn, Uí Bhriain, Ó Laoghaire, Dawson, De Róiste.

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**PRESENT**

**Councillor Mary Linehan-Foley, County Mayor, presided.**

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

Chief Executive; Senior Executive Officer

**[a] CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**1/4-1**

***Proposed by Cllr. Michael Hegarty***

***Seconded by Cllr. Pat Hayes***

**RESOLVED:**

“That the minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd March, 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

**[b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

**2/4-1**

**TO:** Sinead Ambrose on the death of her mother, Kitty O’Flynn

**TO:** Tim & Louise Sherlock on the death of Ann Cronin

**TO:** Lydia Kelly on the death of her father in law, John Kelly

**TO:** Doris O’Driscoll on the death of her husband, Finbarr O’Driscoll, former member of Cobh Town Council

**[c] STATUTORY BUSINESS**

**3/4-1**

**Disposal of Property:**

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

# *Members noted the following disposals:*

**Municipal District of Kanturk/Mallow:**

# *Disposal of No. 4 Farrancotter, Lisgriffin, Mallow, Co. Cork.* 3(a)/4-1

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 1st April, 2021

**SITUATION:** Disposal of No. 4 Farrancotter, Lisgriffin, Mallow, Co. Cork

# AREA: 0.370 hectares (0.914 acres) – Part of Folio CK159102F

# CONSIDERATION: €88,000

**[f] REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES**

**4/4-1**

**Arts Grant Scheme:**

Arts Grants Scheme 2021 – Report & Recommendations.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members thanked Ian McDonagh and the Arts Office Staff for their hard work
* Members acknowledged that there was not enough funding
* Acknowledged the large amount of applications received in 2021
* Expressed the importance of Arts during pandemic
* Advised that more funding is needed in budget for Arts & Music
* Highlighted the benefits that Arts had on local communities

Members agreed to adopt the Arts Grant Scheme Report & Recommendations

***Proposed by Councillor Patrick Gerard Murphy***

***Seconded by Councillor Mary Linehan Foley***

**[g] CORRESPONDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS**

**Department of Finance: 5/4-1**

# Members noted correspondence dated 10th March 2021 in response to Council’s letter dated 22nd February 2021 in relation to Mortgage Payment Break – PUP Payment.

**6/4-1**

**Office of The Minister for Agriculture, Food & The Marine:**

# Members noted correspondence dated 23rd March 2021 in response to Council’s letter dated 22nd February 2021 in relation to point to point racing.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members welcomed the response
* Acknowledged that a full return is needed for Point to Point
* Members said that Ireland was the best country for National hunting

***Members agreed to write to Minister Charlie McConalogue, Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine requesting that restrictions with regard Point to Point be lifted to allow the full reintroduction of this sporting activity recommence.***

**[h] NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**7/4-1**

**Regional Newspapers:**

# *Councillor Eileen Lynch proposed, seconded by Danny Collins:*

*“That Cork County Council calls on the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media, Ms. Catherine Martin TD, to provide extra supports to regional newspapers who provide an essential service to many communities in County Cork during the Covid Pandemic.”*

During this discussion the Members made the following points***:***

* Members expressed the importance of local papers in providing reputable news content
* Acknowledged the fall in advert revenue during the pandemic
* Members said some local papers are finding it hard to continue services
* Acknowledged that regional papers have suffered drastically in the last year
* Members said government support is needed to continue these services
* Members said the value of local journalism is immeasurable
* Local Publication is lifeline for fundraising for local communities
* Acknowledged that the elderly are reliant on this information & allows for historical articles of local interest
* Local newspapers create community cohesion & a sense of local identity
* Provides affordable advertising for small businesses

***Members agreed to write to Minister Catherine Martin, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media requesting extra funding to support regional newspapers.***

**8/4-1**

**Land Development Agency Bill:**

# *Councillor Seamus McGrath proposed, seconded by Gerard Murphy:*

*“While welcoming the intent of the Land Development Agency Bill to fast track the delivery of much needed housing, this Council does not support the removal of powers vested in Councillors under Section 183 of the Local Government Act in relation to the disposal of property. In this respect, we would ask that Part 7 section 56 of the Bill be amended to protect the role of Councillors in the disposal of Council land.”*

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members advised this has come up in other Local Authorities also
* Acknowledged the dilution and diminution of Members powers
* Expressed the importance of key reserved functions as disposal of property is an item on every agenda
* Gave full support to the intent of the Bill regarding development of housing
* Said powers of local authorities are being diminished by Central Government
* Members were advised that AILG had prepared a note on the Bill and that same will be circulated to all Members
* Members advised that AILG and LAMA were in discussions with Minister
* Members will be left with very little authority other than budget approval
* Fundamental right of members is subsiding – Supreme Court should assess
* Acknowledged that this change was unnecessary as Members always made correct decisions to support housing development

***Members agreed to write to Minister Darragh O’Brien, Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage asking that Part 7 section 56 of the Bill be amended to protect the role of Councillors in the disposal of Council land.***

**9/4-1**

**Independent Meat Regulator:**

# *Councillor Danny Collins proposed, seconded by Frank O’Flynn:*

*“I am calling on this Council to support my motion that the department of agriculture will appoint an independent meat regulator with the main focus on the beef sector.”*

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members acknowledged that a meat regulator is needed to provide transparency & accountability for the sector
* Acknowledged that farmers were being squeezed by factories & supermarkets
* Beef farmers under financial pressure to stay in business
* Said the industry is unsustainable
* Said it had a knock-on effect locally
* Advised that anti-competitive legislation is needed
* Farmers should get fair price for products
* Irish beef is renowned for quality
* Supply and demand is the key
* Said that farming was not a sustainable form of employment for many farmers
* Huge impact on family farms as no price security
* Likely to see changes in agriculture over coming years to meet climate & environment targets
* The national herd is important part of the discussion

***Members agreed to write to Minister Charlie McConalogue, Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine, to ask him to appoint an independent meat regulator with the main focus on the beef sector, with robust legislation to back up the Regulator.***

**10/4-1**

**Planning Application Process:**

# *Councillor Liam Madden proposed, seconded by Seamus McGrath:*

*“As our Planning Application is still a paper process there is a need to digitalize this process for the future, for the positive impact on costs and carbon footprint.”*

Members noted response from Mr. Michael Lynch, Director of Service Planning & Development as follows:

**RESPONSE:**

The Local Government Management Agency is currently developing a national E-Planning Portal to facilitate the move to electronic submission of planning applications. Cork County Council is represented on the Working Group involved in the project. It is planned to roll out and implement E-Planning during 2022/2023. The Planning & Development Regulations will have to be amended to facilitate E-Planning.

While E-Planning will allow planning applications to be submitted and dealt with electronically, it is likely hard copy planning applications will continue to be accepted. In this context it would appear, initially at least, E-Planning is not a replacement, but an additional facility for the acceptance of planning applications.

It should be noted that Cork County Council’s Planning System (Odyssey) currently maximises the level of electronic processing of applications. Planning Applications are scanned within 5 working days after the day of receipt. All internal reports are uploaded directly to the system without the requirement to print them. Where an e-mail contact is provided, planning applications are also referred to external bodies electronically for comment. It is also possible for anyone wishing to make a submission on an application to do so via that Council’s Online Submission System.

The move to E-Planning will not have any significant cost saving to the Council. There will be potential cost saving for applicants/agents as there will no longer be a requirement to produce and submit six copies of the application and all accompanying documentation.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members said the current planning system was labour intensive
* Concerns on cost and carbon footprint were acknowledged
* Said there was a need for digital planning platform
* Advised that public access should be retained to hard copy files
* Acknowledged that it needed to be streamlined
* Applicant & objectors rights must be protected

**[k] VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

**11/4-1**

**TO:** Lydia Heaphy who participated in the lightweight women’s singles at the European Rowing Championships

**TO:** Emily Hegarty was part of the crew that won a silver medal in the Women’s Four at the European Rowing Championships

**TO:** Fintan McCarthy & Paul O’ Donovan won gold in the lightweight men’s double at the European Rowing Championships

**TO:** Gary O’Donovan who finished fourth in the A final of the lightweight men’s single at the European Rowing Championships

**TO:** Aoife Casey who participated in the lightweight women’s double at the European Rowing Championships

**TO:** Rachel Blackmore on becoming the first female jockey to win the Grand National at Aintree

**TO:** Jim Woulfe on departure from his role as Chief Executive Officer in Dairygold after 12 years

**TO:** Emily Lane on Irish Women’s 6 Nations Rugby Team

**TO:** John Murphy who was selected to play in the Walker Cup Team

**[l] ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

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

**Outdoor Dining:**

# During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members asked if there was any update on outdoor dining
* Expressed their frustration on only receiving €200,000 for Cork County
* Other Local Authorities received same funding
* Can Cork County Council submit an application to get more funding as it is the largest County

The Chief Executive informed Members that the Fáilte Ireland grant agreed and this will allow online applications later in the week.

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

**Physical Meetings:**

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members asked when physical meetings were likely to resume

The Chief Executive informed Members that there has been no change in health and safety guidelines and the advice is to work from home for immediate future. This will be reviewed again at Corporate Policy Group at a Special Meeting scheduled for 20th April 2021.

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

**Bring Sites:**

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members said information signage needs to be erected at bring sites throughout the county
* Advised there was no contact telephone number for the public to ring if bring sites were full
* Acknowledged that it was very frustrating for Tidy Town Committees

The Chief Executive said that he would ask the Environment Directorate to review the matter.

**12(d)/4-1**

**Resignation of Councillor Aidan Lombard:**

# During this discussion the members made the following points:

# Members paid tribute to Councillor Aidan Lombard as this was his last meeting of Council

* Tribute was paid to all the hard work he did for his constituency
* Described him as very practical and hard working
* Good wishes were given by all parties/groupings
* Said the demands of being a Councillor had increased in recent years & a challenge to balance with family and business life

The Chief Executive said that Cllr. Lombard had worked hard on behalf of constituents and the County and wished him the best for the future. Cllr. Lombard thanked all for the good wishes and said he had enjoyed working with the Members and staff of Cork County Council. He also thanked the constituents who had given him the chance to represent them.

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