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**Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held by Microsoft Teams on 22nd February, 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 Cinnéide, 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 S, 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, Kennedy, 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 M, O’Sullivan J, 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**

**1/2-2**

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

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

**RESOLVED:**

“That the minutes of the In Committee Meeting held on 5th February 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

**2/2-2**

***Proposed by Cllr. Kevin Murphy***

***Seconded by Cllr. Alan Coleman***

**RESOLVED:**

“That the minutes of the Meeting held on 8th February 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

 **[b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

**3/2-2**

**TO:** Tony Holohan on the death of this wife, Emer Holohan

**TO:** Remembering those who lost their lives in the Mourneabbey Ambush, Michael Looney, Patrick Ronayne, Patrick Dorgan, Patrick Flynn, Thomas Mulcahy and Edmond Creedon

**TO:** Cathal De Baróid on the death of his mother, Máire De Baróid

**TO:** Remembering those who lost their lives at the Clonmult Ambush on 20th February 1921

**TO:** Mary Bohane on the death of her husband, Con Bohane

**TO:** Fiona Corcoran on the death of her mother, Monica Donnelly

**TO:** The Vaughan Family on the death of their father, Dan Joe Vaughan

 **[c] STATUTORY BUSINESS**

**4/2-2**

**Disposal of Property:**

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

# *Members noted the following disposals:*

**Municipal District of West Cork:**

**4(a)/2-2**

# *Disposal of land at Ardaturrish More, Glengarriff, 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 12th February, 2021.

**SITUATION:** Disposal of land at Ardaturrish More, Glengarriff, Co. Cork

**AREA:** 0.0783 hectares (0.1934) acres

# CONSIDERATION: €5,000 (including fees)

**4(b)/2-2**

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# *Grant of Right of Way at Ardgroom, Beara, 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 12th February, 2021.

**SITUATION:** Grant of Right of Way at Ardgroom, Beara, Co. Cork

# CONSIDERATION: €1.00

**4(c)/2-2**

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# *Disposal of Substation Site at Beechgrove, Clonakilty, 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 12th February, 2021.

**SITUATION:** Disposal of Substation Site at Beechgrove, Clonakilty, Co. Cork with Grant of 3m wide Right of Way from public road and Grant of general Wayleave to place and retain electric lines.

# CONSIDERATION: €1.00

**5(a)/2-2**

**Part 8 Manager’s Reports**

**Section 179(3) of The Planning & Development Act 2000 (As Amended)**

**Municipal District of Kanturk/Mallow:**

Part 8 – Chief Executive Report for Proposed Development of Public Park in Ballydesmond

***Proposed by Councillor Pat Hayes***

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

**RESOLVED:**

Noting that in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, (as amended), notice of the proposed development was published, no submissions were received in respect of the proposal, approval pursuant to Section 179 of the Act is given for the following:

The development of public park in Ballydesmond.

**5(b)/2-2**

**Municipal District of East Cork:**

Part 8 – Chief Executive Report for Ballinacurra to Midleton Pedestrian and Cycle Route

***Proposed by Councillor Mary Linehan Foley***

***Seconded by Councillor Michael Hegarty***

**RESOLVED:**

Noting that in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), notice of the proposed development was published, 41 submissions were received in respect of the proposal, approval pursuant to Section 179 of the Act is given for the following:

Construction of a pedestrian and cycle route which will connect Ballinacurra, Midleton and Water Rock including the residential areas in Ballinacurra and future residential development in Water Rock with the Town Centre.

**6/2-2**

**The Planning & Development Act 2000 (As Amended) & Planning & Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006:**

*Consideration of the Planning Authority’s report to Elected Members in accordance with the requirements of Section 37E (4) and 37E (5) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Strategic Infrastructure Development Application – Coom Green Energy Park Ltd for the construction of up to 22 No. Wind Turbines.*

Councillor John O’Sullivan disclosed to the meeting that he was a shareholder in a company with an arrangement with the developer and withdrew from the meeting. The Meetings Administrator confirmed that Cllr O’Sullivan had then departed from the meeting and would be notified that he could re-join when discussions on the matter had concluded.

The Chief Executive told the meeting that the Planning Authority’s report to An Bord Pleanála had been prepared  in accordance with the requirements of Section 37E (4) and 37E (5) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) on the Strategic Infrastructure Development application to An Bord Pleanála  from Coom Green Energy Park Ltd for the construction of up to 22 No. Wind Turbines.

He said the report was presented to Members for their consideration and that he was seeking the views of the Members on the proposed development.

The Chief Executive said that this application was discussed at a recent Development Committee meeting. The Planning Authority must submit a report to An Bord Pleanála and Members can, by resolution, append recommendations to the report to An Bord Pleanála. The Meetings Administrator record of the meeting will also be attached to the report.

During a discussion, Members made the following points:

* Members expressed concerns about the impact that the development would have on the area especially for the residents of Glenville, Kilavullen and Ballyhooly
* Members said that meeting energy goals is important but can’t override planning concerns
* Members said the area was known for its scenic and environmental importance and this would be impacted by the development
* Threatens survival of hen harrier
* Members said wind energy guidelines needed to be updated
* Similar development proposed in 2002 in general area was turned down
* Expressed the serious ecological impacts it would have in a sensitive area
* Members said it would have a huge impact on health of the community & the environment
* Members acknowledged that planning permission has been refused in this area recently for houses
* Concerns raised on the noise that the turbines would generate
* Raised concern about the visual impact of the proposed development
* Raised concerns regarding the consultation carried out with the communities
* The proposed location is known for its prime agricultural land for dairy farming and the development would impact this
* Some Members said that while in favour of wind energy, turbines should be placed offshore
* Members said it supported wind energy, but the current application was the wrong location
* Members spoke on how offshore wind energy would affect fishermen’s livelihoods

***Proposed by Councillor William O’Leary***

***Seconded by Councillor Noel McCarthy***

**RESOLVED:**

That this Council recommends rejection of this application from Coom Green Energy Park Ltd based on concern for human health, and on environmental and ecological grounds and its negative impact on designated areas of special conservation, and that this recommendation is attached to the Planning Authority’s report to An Bord Pleanála together with the Meetings Administrator’s record of the meeting.

**7/2-2**

**Section 4(2) and Sections 32-35 of the Local Community Development Committee (Section 128E) Regulations 2014 (SI No. 234 of 2014:)**

**Filling of casual vacancy on the North Cork Local Community Development** **Committees**

***Proposed by Councillor Gerard Murphy***

***Seconded by Councillor Pat Hayes***

**RESOLVED:**

A casual vacancy has arisen on the North Cork LCDC. In accordance with the provisions of Section 4(2) and Sections 32-35 of the Local Community Development Committee (Section 128E) Regulations 2014 (SI No. 234 of 2014), the appointment of Ms. Tracie Williams as a replacement representative for the DEASP on the North Cork LCDC, is hereby approved. The previous nominee (Ms. Marie O’Flynn) is hereby de-selected.

**8/2-2**

**Nomination to The Board of Comhar na Oileán:**

# It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda prior to the meeting.

**9/2-2**

**Electoral Acts 1992-2001 & Electoral (Polling Scheme) Regulations 2005:**

# Members noted the report from Ms. Patricia Liddy, Director of Service, Corporate Support Services.

***Proposed by Councillor Alan Coleman***

***Seconded by Councillor Pat Hayes***

**RESOLVED:**

The making of the Polling Scheme for Cork County Council is hereby approved.

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

**10/2-2**

**Western Divisional Committee:**

# *Cllr. Joe Carroll proposed, seconded by Councillor Paul Hayes:*

*“That this Council would urgently look to initiate plans to extend Union Hall Pier, as it is no longer fit for purpose, due to growth in the fishing industry. There is also space needed for rowing, sailing, the RNLI and a range of other activities.”*

During this discussion them Members made the following points:

* Members said urgent work needs to be carried out on the pier
* Acknowledge the severe damage done by high tides with the pontoon distorted
* Expressed concerns for the fishing industry as it is under pressure
* Members said the department needs to realise more investment is needed for fishermen throughout the coastal areas
* Members were advised that EU funding was available to government to support fisheries after Brexit and asked if local authorities had been notified
* Plans for all piers and harbours in the county should be actioned
* Other users of piers include RNLI and Recreational users
* Asked if there was funding for coastal erosion work

The Chief informed Members that he would seek details of what funding might be available to support piers through Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine.

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

**11/2-2**

**Chief Executive’s Management Report to Council:**

# Members noted Chief Executive’s Management Quarterly report of the Finance Directorate up to 30th September, 2020.

The Chief Executive informed Members that the Quarterly report was for the period of 3 months up to 30th September, 2020 as the AFS is currently being prepared for end of year 2020.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members asked for an update on the capital budget
* Clarity needed on the footpath programme funding as vital work needed in certain areas
* Asked why Environment expenditure was under spent

Head of Finance, Ms. Loraine Lynch informed Members of the following:

* Members would be briefed on quarter 2 on capital budget
* Informed Members the footpath programme will proceed
* Environment funding for legacy landfills is not always fully required but has to be provided
* Reduction of activities in burial ground due to Covid restrictions and expects this budget will be used by end of year

 **[g] CORRESPONDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS**

**12/2-2**

**Department of Social Protection:**

Members noted correspondence dated 4th February 2021 in response to Council’s letter dated 3rd February 2021 in relation to the Social Welfare fortnightly payments.

**13/2-2**

**Office of the Minister of State:**

# Members noted correspondence dated 10th February 2021 in response to Council’s letter dated 3rd February 2021 in relation to the awnings and canopies.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members were hoping for a change in planning requirements
* This would help businesses during Covid 19 restrictions
* Outdoor dining is the new norm
* Members asked that exemption be put in place for the summer
* Temporary measures are needed to support towns & villages
* Outdoor meetings are safer

***Members agreed to write to Minister Peter Burke, Minister of State for Local Government & Planning requesting an exemption on planning requirements for awnings and canopies.***

**14(a)/2-2**

**Department of Housing, Local Government & HERITAGE:**

**Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure Resolution Programme:**

# Members noted correspondence dated 12th February 2021 in response to Council’s letter dated 20th January 2021 in relation to the Department’s Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure Resolution Programme 2009-2021.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members asked submission to Department on 10th February be circulated to Members
* Members said people were suffering because of delays
* Preventing of estates being taken in charge
* Should keep pressure on the department
* Timeframe for work is critical
* Malfunctioning plants causing stress to residents

***Members agreed to write to Minister Darragh O’Brien, Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage requesting that the Developer Provider Infrastructure Resolution programme be progressed urgently.***

**14(b)/2-2**

**Derelict Sites Act:**

Members noted correspondence dated 15th February 2021 in response to Council’s letter dated 16th December 2020 in relation to Derelict Sites Act.

**[h] NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**15/2-2**

**ASD Equipment**

# *Councillor Ben Dalton O’Sullivan proposed, Seconded by Councillor Mary Linehan Foley*

*“That Cork County Council would adopt a county wide policy where every playground would have communications boards installed and consideration would be given to install ASD friendly play equipment at each county playground and also that wheelchair swings would be installed when playgrounds are being upgraded in the future.”*

Member noted response from Mr. Niall Healy, Director of Service, Municipal District & Organisation as follows:

**RESPONSE:**

Cork County Council recently became aware of the concept of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) communications boards and is proposing to trial the concept in the Carrigaline MD. The matter has been referred to the Social Inclusion, Community & Rural Development SPC for consideration and discussion. The Council is committed to promoting social inclusion in the services that it delivers and will establish feedback in relation to the extent to which the proposed trial proves to be effective. The contention is that such communication boards would help to make playgrounds more ‘ASD friendly’ and also help to overcome language barriers, as well as encouraging imaginative play. Following consideration by the SPC, a recommendation will be made as to their suitability and effectiveness. It is at that stage that any wider rollout will need to be considered by each Municipal District in the context of local arrangements and the availability of funding at individual Municipal District level.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members welcomed pilot scheme for Carrigaline Municipal District
* Expressed the need for ASD Equipment to be installed in all playground
* Acknowledged that all playgrounds should provide for wheelchair activities and should install a wheelchair swing where playgrounds are being upgraded
* Advised that ASD equipment was fully supported at Social Inclusion SPC Meeting
* Described it as a lifeline to children with disabilities and others with communication difficulties
* Great initiative for communities
* Members asked for a policy that all major towns have a proper playground
* Members praised community groups for fundraising carried out
* Suggested the outcome from pilot projects be renewed

**16/2-2**

**Housing Allocation Process:**

***Councillor William O’Leary proposed, seconded by Councillor Deirdre O’Brien***

*“That the Housing Directorate would provide a report regarding the role Garda Vetting plays in the housing allocation process.”*

Member noted response from Mr. Maurice Manning, Director of Service, Housing as follows:

**RESPONSE:**

All allocations are made in accordance with Cork County Council’s Allocation Scheme.

As per the Allocation Scheme, all Allocations shall be subject to principles of good estate management.

*Notwithstanding anything contained in the Housing Acts 1966 to 2009 or in an Allocation Scheme made under section 22 of the 2009 Act, the Housing Authority may use its right under Section 14(1) (as amended) of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1997 to refuse to allocate or defer the allocation of a dwelling to a person where –*

1. *the authority considers that the person is/has been engaged in anti-social behaviour or that an allocation to that person would not be in the interest of good estate management,* ***or***
2. *the person fails to provide information, including information relating to persons residing or to reside with that person, which is requested by the housing authority and which the authority considers necessary in connection with an application for an allocation,* ***and***
3. *subject to any further provisions contained within Cork County Council’s Adopted Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy*

In this regard Cork County Council applies to An Garda Síochána for the provision of information on applicants under consideration for the allocation of a vacant Cork County Council or Approved Housing Body property.  This information is sought solely for the purposes of Section 15 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1997.

The information subsequently provided is a contributory factor in whether an Applicant proceeds to the offer of a property.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members said there is no mention of Garda Vetting in the Council Social Housing Scheme
* Members said housing allocation guidelines need to be reviewed and discussed at next Housing SPC
* Advised that people with serious convictions should be monitored in order of priority on Housing list
* Members commended Housing Officers in Cork County Council
* Acknowledge the affects anti-social behaviour has on neighbouring residents
* Council needs to ensure that it achieves good estate management
* Noted the majority of Council tenants were excellent

The Chief Executive advised that there was a robust allocation scheme in place and addition information is sought from other agencies.

***Members agreed to refer the matter to the Housing SPC for further discussion.***

**17/2-2**

**Hotel Quarantine:**

***Cllr Danny Collins proposed, seconded by Ben Dalton O’Sullivan***

*“I am calling on this Council to support my motion that we write to the government and request that they implement mandatory quarantine to all people from countries all over the world coming into Ireland. This would mean everyone would have to quarantine in a hotel which would be kept in a high security system to get this country into a zero Covid Country.”*

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members spoke of how we have had a year of uncertainty
* Hotel quarantine has been recommended put government failed to implement
* Members spoke on how the country could be looking a continuous lockdown because of different variants
* Advised that better communication is needed from the Government as people are uncertain about requirements
* Members expressed concerns about rural isolation, depression and anxiety on the rise
* Life and death issue for some and mandatory quarantine needed to protect all
* Over 4000 cherished citizens have died because of covid 19

**Extension of Time:**

*Proposed by Councillor Kevin Murphy*

*Seconded by Councillor Danny Collins*

**18/2-2**

**Shipping Licence**

*“To ask Minister to amend the Environment Protection Agency Act 1992 to include “shipping” as an activity licensable under the Act. This would require all ports above a certain size throughout Ireland to operate in accordance with an Industrial Emissions licence.”*

***Deferred to Meeting of 8th March, 2021***

***Cllr. Marcia Dalton***

**19/2/2**

**Mortgage Break:**

***Cllr Danielle Twomey proposed, seconded by Cllr. Susan McCarthy***

*“That this Council will write to the Minister for Finance, requesting that the banks be instructed to implement an immediate mortgage break for all customers on the PUP payment and out of work due to current restrictions.”*

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members asked for mortgage break to be extended where people have suffered loss of income due to covid
* Acknowledged that people were under financial pressure
* Businesses as well as residential mortgages are impacted
* Government need to get banks to have a policy to defer mortgages if needed
* Banks are giving mortgage break on case by case basis involves a lot of red tape
* Hospitality and Arts Sector need flexibility from banks

***Members agreed to write to Minister Paschal Donohoe, Minister for Finance requesting banks be instructed to implement an immediate mortgage break for all customers on the PUP payment and out of work due to current restrictions.”***

**20/2/2**

**Sanitary Products:**

*"Cork County Council recognises that period poverty is a very real issue for women in low income households. And that Cork County Council agrees to have free sanitary products available in the toilets of all Cork County Council buildings, including community centres, swimming pools and libraries."*

***Deferred to Meeting of 8th March, 2021***

***Cllr. Gobnait Moynihan***

**21/2/2**

**Marquee:**

# *Cllr. Seamus McGrath proposed, seconded by Councillor Frank O’Flynn*

*“That Cork County Council would purchase a large Marquee and associated equipment which could be used by community groups around the County at various times for festivals and other outdoor activities.”*

Members welcomed response from Mr. Niall Healy, Director of Service, Municipal District & Organisational as follows:

**RESPONSE:**

Cork County Council is currently in the process of purchasing a marquee and associated equipment through funding received in late 2020 under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. The initial purchase is intended to be available for use countywide and will inform how Cork County Council can best respond to the needs of communities in terms of recreational infrastructure. It is accepted that 2021 will not be a typical year, with many outdoor events and festivals being cancelled/deferred. It may, therefore, be next year before the equipment is properly tried and tested, and the outcome of the initiative becomes evident. The initiative will equip Cork County Council with valuable information and insights of what works well, lessons learned etc, and will help to inform the council of the specific requirements of communities in this regard.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members welcomed positive response
* Members said this will provide for flexible infrastructure for communities
* Acknowledged that it will be huge benefit to communities
* Members asked if it was possible to look for further marquees under the outdoor public space scheme 2021
* Provide support to communities in Rural Ireland e.g. festivals, carnivals

The Chief Executive informed Members that a new funding scheme called the Outdoor Public Space Scheme dedicated to providing support for arts, culture and festivals was launched and Cork County Council can apply for a grant of up to €250,000 for a single project. The Chief Executive told Members that the executive was seeking clarification regarding the ‘one project per fund’ rule.

***Members asked to write to Minister Catherine Martin, Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media asking for flexibility on the ‘one project per fund’ rule in the Outdoor Public Space Scheme as Cork County is the largest county in the country.***

**22/2/2**

**Dog Fouling:**

# *Cllr. Ian Doyle proposed, seconded by Cllr. Pat Hayes:*

*“That Cork County Council would in conjunction with Environmental Division adopt a green friendly approach to dog fouling in our Council owned public areas. I propose we set aside a budget to stencil dog fouling signs on all walkways in our public areas thus eliminating need for hard signage adding to our litter control programme.”*

Members noted response from Mr. Niall Healy, Municipal District & Organisational Development & Mr. Louis Duffy, Director of Service, Environment and Emergency Services:

***Response from Mr. Louis Duffy, Director of Services, Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Services as follows:***

The Environment Directorate would welcome any initiative that encourages responsible pet ownership and be supportive of the stencilling of footpaths.  There is limited evidence of the effectiveness of it, but it certainly reinforces the message.

***Response from Mr. Niall Healy, Director of Services, Municipal District & Organisational Development as follows:***

The matter would be best considered at individual Municipal District level in the context of identifying the most appropriate response to known blackspots at a local level.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Member praised Tidy Town committees for erecting signage
* Propose the Council stencil anti dog fouling and anti-litter messages on paths as known black spots
* Members described it as a blight in all communities
* Acknowledged that traffic wardens have powers for litter enforcement
* Members said signage has an important role in tackling this issue
* Acknowledged the health hazards from dog fouling
* Said dog ownership had increased during the pandemic and the message about dog fouling needs to go out

**23/2/2**

**Independent Scientific Advisory Group:**

***Cllr. Liam Quaide proposed, seconded by Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley:***

“That Cork Co. Council would write to each government Cabinet member urging them to engage with the Independent Scientific Advisory Group (ISAG) on COVID-19 with a view to devising a COVID elimination strategy for Ireland that draws on international examples from a variety of countries such as Taiwan, Australia, New Zealand and Vietnam. There is an urgent need for a change in COVID strategy in order to prevent further unnecessary loss of life, as well as far-reaching societal and economic damage.”

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members expressed the importance of implementing zero Covid strategy
* The need to address the Covid emergency urgently
* Acknowledge that Ireland was lagging behind other countries
* The need for an All-Ireland approach for the North & South
* Should emulate New Zealand and Vietnam where numbers of covid cases were low and life was continuing as normal

**[k] VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

**24/2-2**

**TO:** Phil Healy who will compete in the women’s 400m for Ireland in European Indoors Championships

**TO:** Joan Healy who will compete in the women’s 60m for Ireland in European IndoorsChampionships

**TO:** Darragh McElhinney who will compete in the men’s 3000m for Ireland in European Indoors

Championships

 **[l] ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**25(a)/2-2**

**Orange Weather Warning:**

The Chief Executive advised Members that an orange weather warning was in place for Monday 22nd February at 7.00pm and the flood defences was being erected around County Hall campus to prevent flooding with 10 additional staff members deployed to help with the critical operation. No public access on Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th February and all staff will be notified. He said assessment were being carried out in other towns.

**25(b)/2-2**

**Flood Issues:**

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members expressed concerns for Ballinhassig
* Asked for pumps and sandbags be made available to these residents

**25(c)/2-2**

**Construction:**

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members expressed concerns for couples in the process of construction where construction was now stopped
* Acknowledged that leases on rented properties were running out
* Advised there was a supply delay of construction material due to Brexit
* Asked that the government put in some sort of permit system in place
* Urgent clarity is needed on what construction is allowed

The Chief Executive advised that the communication about the construction guidelines was a matter for national government and not appropriate for Cork County Council.

**25(d)/2-2**

**Hedge Cutting:**

# *Councillor Frank Roche proposed, seconded by Councillor Mary Linehan Foley*

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members advised that Farm Contractors Ireland (FCI) has written to government to extend hedge cutting season
* Acknowledged that contractors cannot get out due to Covid Restrictions
* Urgency needed for main roads hedge cutting
* Members requested for a two-week extension on hedge cutting

***Members agreed to write to Minister Darragh O’Brien, Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage*** ***requesting that the hedge cutting season be extended for a further two weeks***.

**25(e)/2-2**

**Point to point:**

# *Councillor Frank O’Flynn proposed, seconded by Councillor Mary Linehan Foley*

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Member called for immediate resumption of Point to Point racing
* Asked for recommencement of sport without public attendance
* Acknowledged that livelihoods of breeders, trainers, jockey were at stake
* Members said it played an important role in the economy & Rural Ireland

***Members agreed to write to Minister Charlie McConalogue, Minister for Agriculture, Food & the to reconsider the restrictions with regard point to point to allow this sporting activity recommence without public attendance.”***

**25(f)/2-2**

**Jury Duty:**

# *Councillor Declan Hurley proposed, seconded by Councillor Mary Linehan Foley*

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members advised that over 70’s were being called for jury duty
* Members said under government guideline people aged 70 and over should be cocooning
* Acknowledged that necessary checks would need to be carried out by court services

***Members agreed to write to Court Services asking they carry out the necessary checks on all those that are asked to carry out jury duty services to avoid calling people that aged over 70 during the current health emergency.***

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