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**Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held by Microsoft Teams on 25th January, 2021.**

**I LATHAIR**

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

Comhairleoiri: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, 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:** 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’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**

**1/2-1**

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

***Seconded by Cllr. Susan McCarthy***

**RESOLVED:**

“That the minutes of the Meeting held on 11th January, 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

 **[b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

**2/2-1**

**TO:** Humphrey Lynch on the death of his mother in law, Nellie Twomey

**TO:** Paddy Histon on the death of his wife, Lil Histon

**TO:** Jim Brett on the death of his brother, Michéal Brett

**TO:** The Reidy Family on the death of their sister, Catherine Reidy

**TO:** Áine O’Driscoll on the death of her father, Patrick O’Driscoll

 **[c] STATUTORY BUSINESS**

**3/2-1**

**Disposal of Property:**

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

# *Members noted the following disposals:*

**Municipal District of Macroom:**

**3(a)/2-1**

# *Grant of Wayleave at Oakwood, Macroom, Co. Cork to facilitate PPP Social Housing Project.*

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 15th January, 2021.

**SITUATION:** Grant of Wayleave at Oakwood, Macroom, Co. Cork to facilitate PPP Social Housing Project.

# CONSIDERATION: €1.00

**Municipal District of West Cork:**

**3(b)/2-1**

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# *Grant of Wayleave at Poundhill, Skibbereen, Co. Cork to facilitate PPP Social Housing Project.*

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 15th January, 2021.

**SITUATION:** Grant of Wayleave at Poundhill, Skibbereen, Co. Cork to facilitate PPP Social Housing Project.

# CONSIDERATION: €1.00

**3(c)/2-1**

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# *Grant of Wayleave at the Miles, Clonakilty, Co. Cork to facilitate PPP Social Housing.*

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 15th January, 2021.

**SITUATION:** Grant of Wayleave at the Miles, Clonakilty, Co. Cork to facilitate PPP Social Housing.

# CONSIDERATION: €1.00

**4/2-1**

**Part 8 Manager’s Reports**

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

# Part 8 Manager’s Report for 2A Glenview, Lyre, Banteer, Co. Cork. Construction of a 3 bedroom, two storey detached dwelling, site clearance, removal of existing vegetation. Construction of site entrance, Hard landscaping, including new boundary walls, Connection to existing water, waste water and surface water networks and All associated site works.

***Proposed by Councillor Tony O’Shea***

***Seconded by Councillor Pat Hayes***

**5/2-1**

**Section 85 Agreement of The Local Government Act, 2001 (As Amended)**

# Section 85 Agreement with Cork City Council – Dunkettle to Carrigtwohill Pedestrian and Cycle Route.

Connecting into the Dunkettle Cycleway and onwards into Cork City’s cycle network this scheme will provide approximately 8.3km of shared cycle and pedestrian facilities along the existing primary road network (L-2998, L-3004 & L-3678).

*That the Council agrees to the making of an Agreement between Cork County Council and Cork City Council under Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and Section 14 of the Roads Act, 1993, in the form as presented to them, for the carrying out by Cork County Council of the relevant statutory procedures, procuring the necessary design work, acquiring the land and carrying out of/procuring**the construction works and such other powers, functions and duties necessary for the design, construction and completion of the Dunkettle to Carrigtwohill Pedestrian and Cycle Route.*

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

***Seconded by Councillor Michael Hegarty***

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

**6/2-1**

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

# Members noted Quarterly Report of the Economic Development Directorate for the 6 month period up to 31st December, 2020.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members complemented the staff in the Economic Development & Finance Departments
* Welcomed the €31.3 million paid out on the Restart Grant & Restart Plus grant
* Members asked for a more detailed discussion at Development Committee for Cork County ouncil input into the reshaping of approach to festivals during the current public health emergency
* Members spoke on the need to reinvigorate towns & villages in the county
* Members expressed concern for the fishery industry and the need for a fair share of EU funding support for County Cork
* Healthy Cork Programme- more interaction needed with Municipal Districts as well as funding to install facilities
* Expressed the need for ‘Tone Zones’ to be made available
* Members asked if all playground areas were being sanitised during COVID19

***Members agreed to refer this matter to Development Committee Meeting for further discussion on how Towns and Villages can be reinvigorated.***

***It was also agreed to refer the Healthy Cork Programme to the Development Committee for further* *discussion.***

**[g] CORRESPONDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS**

**Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage: 7(a)/2-1**

**Hard Water Softeners:**

# Members noted correspondence dated 8th January 2021 in response to Council’s letter dated 23rd September 2020 in relation to the installation of hard water softeners in new Social Housing Developments.

***Members agreed to refer this matter to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee for further discussion.***

**7(b)/2-1**

**New Fire Stations:**

# Members noted correspondence dated 15th January 2021 in response to Council’s letter dated 23rd September 2020 in relation to a programme for new Fire Stations.

**8/2-1**

**Office of the Minister for Agriculture Food & The Marine**

# Members noted correspondence dated 22nd December 2020 in response to Council’s letter dated 9th November 2020 in relation to Coursing.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members said that this was an attack on Rural Ireland as coursing and Point to Point events were rural activities
* Member spoke on how social distancing measures are adhered to at these events
* Raised concerns that the livelihoods for trainers and jockeys were at stake
* Outlined that the response was outdated, inaccurate and needed more clarification

***Members agreed to write to Minister for Agriculture & The Marine to get full clarification on the lifting of restrictions by NPWS which was referred to in its correspondence dated 22nd December, 2020, and to seek with immediate effect the recommencement of Coursing.***

**9/2-1**

**Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform:**

# Members noted correspondence dated 15th December 2020 in response to Council’s letter dated 12th January 2021 in relation to Post Office Networks.

Members welcomed the response from the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform and will await response from Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications.

**[h] NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**10/2-1**

**Greenway on M20:**

*“That Cork County Council fully support the Idea that a greenway be constructed along the route of the M20. This would be a great boost to Economic Development in the region and unlock the tourism potential of the region.”*

***Deferred from Meeting of 14th December, 2020***

***Deferred from Meeting of 11th January, 2021***

***Cllr. Bernard Moynihan requested to remove his Notice of Motion.***

**11/2-1**

**Speed Control Measures:**

***Proposed by Councillor Gearóid Murphy, seconded by Councillor Gobnait Moynihan:***

*“To seek a report on proposals to institute a county-wide programme or policy for the approval and delivery of speed control measures by Cork County Council.”*

Members noted response from Mr. Padraig Barrett, Director of Roads & Transportation as follows:

**RESPONSE:**

Cork County Council have applied for funding through the Safety Improvement Scheme Grant for funding to introduce traffic calming measures on streets within a number of Towns and Villages throughout the County.  Also included in the application was a request for funding for the introduction of traffic calming measures in a number of Housing estates.  We await the determination of the projects which will be funded under this application, when the 2021 Regional and Local Road Grants are announced shortly.   Such schemes are applied for in September of the year prior to the works and are chosen by the Area Engineers on foot of requests from the Members and the general public and in conjunction with priority determination as set out in the Council’s adopted Traffic Calming policies for Traffic Calming in Towns/Villages and in Estates.

Cork County Council will also take the opportunity, where feasible, to introduce traffic calming measures as part of Town and Village renewal projects throughout the County.

Members were provided with Cork County Council’s policies for Traffic Calming.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members said speeding was a huge concern for many constituents
* Speed limits not being obeyed in towns & villages
* Members said National Roads Office should be involved
* Express the need for a “Slow Down Campaign” to be carried out by Mayor’s Office
* Schools should be educating children at a young age on the danger of speed & how to drive with caution
* Members complimented Caroline Casey on Road Safety Campaigns already carried out
* More signage and safety measures are needed to create awareness
* The need for An Garda Síochána to enforce policies that are already in place

Members agreed to refer this matter to the Roads & Transport Strategic Policy Committee for further discussion and for the National Roads Office to be included on the policy along with Driver Safety Education to be carried out in schools.

Members asked for SPC Policy making procedures to be reviewed at Corporate Policy Group.

**12/2-1**

**Covid 19 Vaccinations:**

***Proposed by Councillor Noel McCarthy, seconded by Councillor John Paul O’Shea:***

*“That this Council writes to the HSE seeking a full breakdown of plans for Covid-19 vaccinations across Cork County, with regards to locations, number of vaccines available, start dates, and information for priority individuals.”*

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members complimented front line staff for their tremendous work during this pandemic
* Commended Cork/Kerry Community Health Care for on their rollout of the vaccine
* Members expressed the need to know what is the next step on the rollout

***Members agreed to write to Minister Stephen Donnelly, Minister for Health to seek a full breakdown of plans for Covid-19 vaccination across County Cork.***

**13/2-1**

**Broadband:**

***Proposed by Councillor Frank O’Flynn, seconded by Councillor Joe Carroll:***

*“That Cork County Council would call on Mr. Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for Communications in relation to the full rollout of broadband for Cork County and request the planned programme and timeframe for the outstanding areas of Cork County and that the broadband roll out programme should be fast tracked especially as more people are working from home during COVID pandemic and students from secondary schools and third level colleges are studying and undertaking online exams and other initiatives from home which require efficient broadband coverage in all areas.”*

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members raised the importance of fast tracking the rollout in the current pandemic situation
* Members expressed frustration on the NBI rollout as being too slow
* The needs of people working from home and for students were not being met
* Described connectivity issues with service providers and said that they should improve their service
* No connectivity within some communities
* Some constituents having to go to local enterprise centres to get connectivity
* €3billion contract in place to be rolled out fully in next 5-7 years
* Members disappointed to learn that the roll out had been postponed in their constituencies
* Said rural Ireland will be left behind if the infrastructure is not in place
* The need for Senior Officials from NBI to brief Members on timelines for rollout in the county

***Members agreed to write to Minister Eamon Ryan, Minister for Communications seeking rolling review and timelines for the planned programme for the National Broadband Ireland rollout. Members also agreed to write to Senior Officials in National Broadband Ireland to address Members and to seek comprehensive time schedule on the rollout.***

**[k] VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

**14/2-1**

**TO:** James Sugrue on signing with the professional golf agency Sportyard

**TO:** Bob O’Shea on his recent retirement from Cork County Council

 **[l] ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**15(a)/2-1**

**Dog Fouling:**

# During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members highlighted the increase in dog fouling issues
* Concerns raised on the health complications of dog fouling
* Asked if Cork County Council is in a position to supply bags to dog owners to raise awareness
* On the spot fines need to be enforced
* Members requested a reinforced message would issue from Cork County Council

**15(b)/2-1**

**Canopies:**

Members asked there was any update from Minister Darragh O’Brien, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage in relation to canopies.

***Members agreed to write to Minister Darragh O’Brien, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to seek a response on the letter dated 28th July, 2020 [Our Ref: FC/Jul2.20/13/7-2] in relation to Canopies.***

**15(c)/2-1**

**Retired Staff:**

# Members spoke on how Cork County Council need to prioritise replacing retired staff vacancies due to shortage of staff on the ground in some areas.

**15(d)/2-1**

**Civic Amenity Contactless Payment:**

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members requested update on contactless payments in Civic Amenity Sites in Cork County
* Concerns on safety issues due to handling of monies

The Chief Executive informed Members that they would be updated on this matter as the rollout of contactless payment facilities was ongoing.

**15(e)/2-1**

**An Post:**

# *Proposed by Councillor Ben Dalton O’Sullivan, seconded by Councillor Mary Linehan Foley:*

# During this discussion the members made the following points:

* Members raised concerns on behalf of the elderly collecting pension payment every week
* Members seek double payment of pensions & social welfare on a fortnightly basis to reduce visits to Post Office during Covid-19
* If a person is known to a post office clerk, that they would not have to sign for their payments due to Covid 19 contamination fears
* Asked to refer to former system whereby payments were paid as a double fortnightly

***Members agreed to write to Minister for Social Protection, Minister Heather Humphrey & An Post to ask that the option be given for people to revert to the former system whereby pensions and social welfare payments would be paid as a double week every two weeks.***

**15(f)/2-1**

**Community Amenity Grants:**

# During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Member asked for flexibility for Community Groups during the covid 19 pandemic
* Members said Community Groups rely on fundraising and this has been badly impacted
* Members asked that Cork County Council allocate grants based on invoices instead of a receipts
* Members said there was huge financial pressure on Community Groups

***The Chief Executive advised Mr. Niall Healy, Director of Service, Municipal District & Operations will arrange to discuss further at February Municipal District Meetings.***

**15(g)/2-1**

**Greenway:**

# Members asked if there was any update on the Waterford to North Cork Greenway.

Members were notified that Department of Transport were carrying out a feasibility study and Waterford City & County Council were to go to tender.

**15(h)/2-1**

**Ethics Declaration & Local Election (Disclosure of Donations)**

Members were notified by Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Mairead Lucey of the following:

* Closing date for submission of completed Local Elections (Disclosure of Donations) forms is 28th January, 2021
* Closing date for furnishing the Annual Declaration to the Ethics registrar is 28th February 2021. This is a requirement under section 174 of the Local Government Act 2001.

**15(i)/2-1**

**Mother & Baby Homes:**

# During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members said that the F*inal Report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother & Baby Homes* was ‘harrowing’
* Members commended survivors
* Members expressed the importance of allowing people to have access to their records
* Requested the need to expedite legislation
* Members hoped they would have the support of Cork City Council regarding no development on the grounds of Bessboro Grounds
* Members raised concerns over issue of Direct Provision Centres

The Mayor said she gave her full support to mothers that had been in the homes and to adopted children and said that Cork County Council was also in solidarity with all survivors of such homes.

**15(j)/2-1**

**Bishop Lucey Park in cork city:**

# During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members were shocked by the announcement of the renaming of Bishop Lucey Park
* Members described it as a step too far

**15(k)/2-1**

**Motor Taxation of Coaches:**

Proposed by Councillor Declan Hurley, seconded by Councillor Kevin Murphy

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members expressed the need to change legislation for Motor Tax arrears during the covid 19 pandemic
* Members said tax arrears should be written off while vehicles are not used because of ciovd restrictions
* School busses not being used
* Costing a fortune to tax vehicles that are not used
* No response received from the Department to previous correspondence

***Members agreed to write to Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport to ask for the introduction of a temporary amendment to legislation governing Motor Taxation so that are not liable for arrears on non-used vehicles during the pandemic restrictions.***

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