



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

Cork County Council

Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held in the Foyer, Floor 2, County Hall, Cork on 13th July, 2020.

I LATHAIR

Comhairleoir Máire Ní Léanacháin-Foghlú, Méara Chontae

Comhairleoiri: Ó Muineacháin B, Ó Dubhghaill, Ó Sé Sean Pól, 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, Ó Coileáin N, Ó Héigheartaigh, Ní Heachthigheirn, Uí Thuama, MacCarthaigh S, Mac Uaid, Ní Cheallaigh, Ó Cearbhaill, Ó Muirthile, Uí Chaochlaioich, Uí Chochláin, Ó Colmáin, Ó Suilleabháin S, Uí Shuilleabháin M, Ó Donnabháin, Ó Coileáin D, Ó Murchú P.G, Uí Mhurchú Cáit, Ó Conaill, Mac Craith, Uí Daltún, Lombard, Ó Conchubair L, Daltún Ó Suilleabháin, Ní Cheallacháin, Barra, Sheppard, Ó Conchubair S, Ó Conchubair A, MacCarthaigh N, Ó Flionn, Uí Bhriain, Ó Laoghaire, Dawson, De Róiste.

PRESENT

Councillor Mary Linehan-Foley, County Mayor, presided.

Councillor: Moynihan B, Doyle, O'Shea J.P, Creed, Moynihan G, Looney, Coughlan M, Lynch, Lucey, Hayes Pat, Murphy Gearóid, Kennedy, Madden, O'Shea T, Linehan-Foley, Collins N, Hegarty, Ahern, Twomey, McCarthy, Quaide, Kelly, Carroll, Coakley, Coughlan G, Coleman, Murphy Kevin, O'Sullivan J, O'Sullivan M, O'Donovan, Collins D, Murphy P.G, Murphy Katie, O'Connell, McGrath, Dalton, Lombard, O'Connor L, Dalton-O'Sullivan, O'Sullivan S, Barry, Sheppard, 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

Proposed by Cllr. Declan Hurley

1/7-1

Seconded by Cllr. John Paul O'Shea

RESOLVED:

“That the minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd June 2020 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

Proposed by Cllr. Seamus McGrath

2/7-1

Seconded by Cllr. Declan Hurley

RESOLVED:

“That the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 26th June 2020 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

[b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY

TO: Vera Devlin on the death of her husband, Brendan 3/7-1

TO: To the Whyte Family on the death of wife & mother June

[c] STATUTORY BUSINESS

4/7-1

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS (S) TO THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

Proposed by Cllr. Frank O’Flynn, seconded by Cllr. Seamus McGrath

Members agreed the appointment of Cllr. Bernard Moynihan to the AILG.

[f] REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF WEST CORK

5/7-1

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

“That this Council would write to the Minister for Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport and the Gaeltacht, to request that the date for the commencement of the hedge cutting season would be brought back to August 1st from the date of September 1st as stated in the Wildlife Act, 2000.”

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

- Advised that pressure needed to be put on the government to lengthen the hedge cutting season
- Said the matter is one of urgency on health and safety grounds
- Members proposed season be brought back to August 1st instead of September 1st
- Some Members voiced their dissent to the proposed letter
- Stated that noxious weeds and ragwort and hogweed were developing in hedges also
- Expressed that urgent guidelines were required with due regard to wildlife also
- Advised the health and safety of humans was paramount

Councillor Alan O’Connor proposed amendment to wording, seconded by Councillor Liam Quaide the following proposal:

“That this Council would write to the Minister for Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sports and the Gaeltacht, to request that the date for the commencement of the hedge cutting season, road side and verges would be remain at September 1st as stated in the Wildlife Act, 2000.”

The Mayor called for a vote to be taken which resulted as follows:-

FOR: Councillors: McGrath, D’alton, O’Connor A, Twomey, Quaide

[5]

AGAINST:

Councillors: Coughlan G, Coleman, Murphy Kevin, O'Sullivan J, O'Sullivan M, O'Donovan, Collins, Murphy P.G, Murphy Katie, O'Connor L, Dalton O'Sullivan, O'Callaghan, Barry, Sheppard, McCarthy N, O'Flynn, O'Brien, O'Leary, Dawson, Roche, Moynihan B, Doyle, O'Shea J.P, Creed, Moynihan G, Looney, Coughlan M, Lynch, Lucey, Hayes Pat, Madden, O'Shea T, Linehan-Foley, Collins N, Ahern, Carroll, Hurley, Coakley

[38]

ABSTAINED:

Councillors: O'Connell

[1]

The Senior Executive Officer declared the results as follows **5 FOR, 38 AGAINST, 1 ABSTAINED.**

The Mayor declared the motion defeated.

It was agreed to write to Minister Catherine Martin, Minister for Media, Tourism, Arts, Culture, Sport and the Gaeltacht to request that the date for the commencement of the hedge cutting season would be brought back to August 1st from the date of September 1st as stated in Wildlife Act, 2000.

6/7-1

CREATIVE IRELAND GRANT SCHEME

Approval of Recommendations for Creative Ireland County Cork Grant Scheme.

Proposed by Cllr. Ian Doyle

Seconded by Cllr. Frank O'Flynn

7(a)/7-1

CORPORATE POLICY GROUP

DEVELOPER PROVIDED WATER SERVICES INFRASTRUCTURE RESOLUTIONS PROGRAMME

Cllr. John Paul O'Shea proposed, seconded by Cllr. Gobnait Moynihan

"That this Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage seeking an update on Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure Resolutions Programme 2019-2021."

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

- Members advised that Cork County Council had made applications but had received no correspondence
- Stated that an update was need on the programme
- Members acknowledge that progress cannot be made without a scheme
- Irish Water needs to take responsibility for treatment facilities as it's a huge problem
- Members said it was a challenge to residents of housing estates
- Finances not available for upgrading
- Development is limited by lack of Water Services capacity in some key villages

Member agreed to write to Minister Darragh O'Brien, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage seeking an update on Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure Resolutions Programme 2019-2021.

7(b)/7-1

LOCAL PROPERTY TAX

Cllr. Gobnait Moynihan proposed, seconded by Cllr. John Paul O'Shea

"That this Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage requesting that new homes that are currently exempt from Local Property Tax be made liable for Local Property Tax and that a timescale be given for this. The Minister is also requested to confirm that all Local Property Tax monies collected locally will be retained within the county and the schedule for this."

Members agreed to write to Minister Darragh O'Brien, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

7(c)/7-1

CONFERENCES

Approval of attendance by council members at conferences on the Conferences List for September 2020 (approved at Corporate Policy Group)

Proposed by Cllr. Seamus McGrath

Seconded by Cllr. Kevin Murphy

[g] CORRESPONDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, PLANNING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

8(a)/7-1

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Members noted correspondence dated 23rd June 2020 in response to Council's letter 8th June 2020 in relation to the issue of Affordable Housing.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

- Members acknowledge response on service sites funds
- Concerns that response was not the up to date position
- Members requested that periodical updates on the 6 Affordable Housing Schemes would be given to Divisional Committee Meetings
- Acknowledged that further solutions were needed nationally

8(b)/7-1

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

Members noted correspondence dated 25th June 2020 in response to Council's letter 10th March 2020 with regards to updating, reviewing and modernisation for the Register of Electors.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

- Acknowledged the response from the department
- Glad progress is being made to correct the inaccuracy of the Register

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AFFAIRS & SOCIAL PROTECTION

9/7-1

Members noted correspondence dated 7th July 2020 to Council's letter 24th June 2020 in relation to Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance (BSCFA).

Members welcomed the response from The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.

BUS ÉIREANN

Members noted correspondence dated 6th July 2020 to Council's letter 10th June 2020 in relation to age limit for men and women who drive school buses for Bus Éireann.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

- Expressed their dissatisfaction with the response
- Acknowledged that these drivers had passed medicals and had the qualifications required
- Wanted to know if their policy was to reject drivers aged 70 years and beyond
- Advised that Bus Éireann cannot discriminate on age grounds

Members agreed to write to Bus Éireann to follow up on the correspondence received on 6th July regarding age limit, and to ask if Bus Éireann was discriminating only on age grounds.

[h] NOTICES OF MOTION**RESIDENCY GRANT**

Cllr. Noel Collins proposed, seconded by Cllr. Ben Dalton O'Sullivan

“That this Council call on the Minister for Rural Affairs in his residency grant improvement scheme funds, to review rural locations to include areas of historic interest this helping the tourist industry.”

During this discussion, the Members made the following points:

- Members stated they welcome any support for historic sites
- Stated that villages and towns should do well in these scheme
- Acknowledge that it was hard to get businesses to reopen after Covid19
- It was suggested to that the County Archives meet with locals to get more information on local history

Members agreed to write to the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Minister Ring in his residency grant improvement scheme funds, to review rural locations to include areas of historic interest this helping the tourist industry.

ONLINE BULLYING

Cllr. Sinead Sheppard proposed, seconded by Cllr. Noel Collins

“That Cork County Council call on the Government to establish a Task Force to look at existing legislation dealing with the law on online bullying and abusive behaviour towards others in platforms and bring forward new legislation which gives adequate powers to a regulatory authority to deal with this issue.”

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

- Acknowledge there are no laws specifically addressing cyberbullying
- Advised that current legislation for harassment laws is out of date
- Urgency needed to tackle online bullying and abusive behaviour on social media platforms
- Stressed the serious effects on a person's mental health
- Voluntary compliance by social media providers was not adequate control must be mandatory
- Young people in particular are at risk

Members requested to write to The Taoiseach's Office, Mr. Michéal Martin and Minister Ms. Helen McEntee, Minister for Department of Justice and Equality requesting the establishment of a Task Force to look at existing legislation to tackle online bullying and abusive behaviour.

N/M20 PROJECT

13/7-1

Cllr Liam Madden proposed, seconded by Cllr. Tony O'Shea

"That Cork County Council would write to the N/M20 Project Coordinator to arrange a meeting for an explanation as to why area which may be used for building of the new Cork-Limerick road has widened.

This Study area now has huge implications for planning applications. There is now the urgent need for final route selection and that serious consideration be given to reducing the width of this designated area by 30 September 2020."

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

- Welcomed the announcement of government commitment to the road
- Members suggested that N/M20 Project Team should meet with people who cannot get planning
- Expressed the need for proper consultation
- Stated that all plannings in study area are deemed "premature"
- Concerns on how plannings in the study corridor will be dealt with
- Scope of study needs to be reviewed with adequate number of options

Members agreed to the N/M20 Project Coordinator to arrange a meeting.

[k] VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

14/7-1

TO: Minister Michael McGrath on being appointed as Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform

TO: Mr. Kieran O'Connor on his retirement from Cork County Council after 41 years

TO: Cappabue National School on winning schoolvision song contest & nominated as Cruinniú Na Nóg Ambassadors with Creative Ireland

TO: Mr. Paschal O'Donohue on being elected President of the Eurogroup

[l] ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15/7-1

REOPENING OF PUBS

Cllr. Danny Collins proposed, seconded by Cllr. Ross O'Connell

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

- Members suggested that an urgent cabinet meeting be held before Wednesday to discuss the reopening of pubs
- Acknowledged that publicans were in limbo with no guidelines being issued
- Advised that staff would have to be notified if returning to work on the 20th July and stock had to be ordered
- Stressed that 3-4 days wasn't enough time to get everything in order to reopen

Members agreed to write to The Office of the Taoiseach requesting that he call an emergency meeting to be held to give publicans more notice if they are to reopen on Monday 20th July.

16/7-1

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

Cllr. Gillian Coughlan proposed, seconded by Cllr. Gobnait Moynihan

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

- People with intellectual disability haven't attended day care centres since lock down
- Concerns raised as adults/children are regressing and carers are finding it hard to care and stimulate them
- Priority needed to reinstate services as a matter of urgency

Members requested that this Council write to the Minister for Children, Disability, Equality and Integration and the HSE Forum requesting that services be reinstated as a matter of urgency to prioritise their needs.

17/7-1

CAHERMEE HORSE FAIR

It was noted that the horse fair did not go ahead due to Covid-19 restrictions.

~ THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING ~