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**Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held by Microsoft Teams on 22nd March, 2021 at 11am.**

**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 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, Uí Shuilleabháin S, Máire, Ó Donnabháin, Ó Coileáin D, Ó Murchú PG, Uí Mhurchú Cáit, Ó Conaill, Mac Craith, Uí Daltún, 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, 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 J, O’Sullivan M, O’Donovan, Collins D, Murphy P.G, Murphy Katie, O’Connell, McGrath, Dalton, 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**

**1/3-2**

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

***Seconded by Cllr. Frank O’Flynn***

**RESOLVED:**

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

**[b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

**2/3-2**

**TO:** Tara Kenneally on the death of her grandmother, Philomena Kenneally

**TO:** Grace Lawton on the death of her grandmother, Philomena Kenneally

**TO:** The O’Mahony Family on the death of their mother, Phyllis O'Mahony

**TO:** Detective Sergeant Sean Leahy on the death of his mother, Rita Leahy

**[c] STATUTORY BUSINESS**

**3/3-2**

**Disposal of Property:**

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

# *Members noted the following disposals:*

**Municipal District of West Cork:**

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

# *Disposal of land at Air Hill, Schull, 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 March, 2021.

**SITUATION:** Disposal of land at Air Hill, Schull, Co. Cork

# CONSIDERATION: €1.00 plus Council’s cost of €1,500

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

# *Grant of Right of Way at Church Road, Goleen, 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 March, 2021.

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**SITUATION:** Grant of Right of Way at Church Road, Goleen, Co. Cork

# CONSIDERATION: €1.00

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

# *Lease of Land Trustees Skibbereen RFC, Gortnaclohy, 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 March, 2021.

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**SITUATION:** Lease of Land Trustees Skibbereen RFC, Gortnaclohy, Co. Cork

**AREA:** 1.498 hectares (3.701 acres)

# CONSIDERATION: €200.00 per annum

**Municipal District of East Cork:**

**3(d)/3-2**

# *Disposal of Land at Ashe Street, Youghal, 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 March, 2021.

**SITUATION:** Disposal of Land at Ashe Street, Youghal, Co. Cork

**AREA:** 0.2065 acres/0.0836 hectares

# CONSIDERATION: €2,000

**3(e)/3-2**

# *Disposal of Land at Ballyvegan West, Youghal, 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 March, 2021.

**SITUATION:** Disposal of Land at Ballyvegan West, Youghal, Co. Cork

# CONSIDERATION: €1.00 plus discharge of Council’s costs

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

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

Members noted quarterly report of Corporate Services Directorate for the 3-month period up to 31st December 2020.

***Proposed by Councillor Pat Hayes***

***Seconded by Councillor Declan Hurley***

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

Members noted quarterly report of Library Services for the 3-month period up to 31st December 2020.

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

***Seconded by Councillor Ian Doyle***

**5/3-2**

**Office of the Minister of State:**

# Members noted correspondence dated 10th March 2021 in response to Council’s letter dated 26th February 2021 in relation to exemption from planning requirements for awnings and canopies.

During this discussion the members made the following points:

* Members expressed their dissatisfaction with response
* Acknowledged that an exemption would be helpful for restaurants & cafes in these unprecedented times
* Flexible measures needed for businesses
* Said it would be a short-term measure and can be looked at again once pandemic is over
* The need to put a measure in place to help small businesses who are struggling
* Small businesses are on their knees and need help

***Members agreed to write to Minister Peter Burke, Minister of State for Local Government & Planning. Members expressed their dissatisfaction with both responses and asked that an exception on planning requirements for awnings and canopies be put in place to help small businesses in the short term during the Covid 19 pandemic as this will give businesses that are struggling a chance to survive.”***

**6/3-2**

**Department Of Finance:**

# Members noted correspondence dated 3rd March 2021 in response to Council’s letter dated December 17th 2020 in relation to the unfair Property Tax (SVT) and calls for a site valuation tax to replace existing system.

**7/3-2**

**Jury Summons Unit:**

# Members noted correspondence dated 11th March 2021 in response to Council’s letter dated 26th February 2021 in relation to Jury Summons for people aged over seventy.

**[h] NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**8/3-2**

**Upgrade of Playgrounds:**

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

*“That this Council identifies a funding stream for the upgrade of existing older Playgrounds across the County.”*

Members noted response from Mr. Niall Healy, Director of Service, Municipal District and Operations as follows:

**RESPONSE:**

There is a total of 75 no. playgrounds that are maintained by Cork County Council across the county. All playgrounds are inspected on a weekly basis. In addition, independent inspections are carried out by an external company on an annual basis. The playgrounds are maintained by the local municipal district office. In recent years new playgrounds have been developed in partnership with local community groups. The only government grant funding streams available for the provision of playgrounds is a small grant every year for 1 playground per local authority from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth. Separately, the Rural Development (LEADER) Programme may also be in a position to contribute funding for proposals that are community led and locally developed.

As regards upgrade of existing playgrounds, equipment is maintained/ replaced on a case-by-case basis by each municipal district within the budgets available. Municipal District members can allocate part of their General Municipal Allocation if they wish to undertake upgrades of specific playgrounds/playground equipment which cannot be funded within the maintenance budgets available.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members expressed the need for upgrade of some of the playgrounds across Cork County
* Acknowledged the importance of these amenities during Covid 19
* Said the equipment is aged in some playgrounds
* Funding is required to revamp, upgrade and redesign some of the playgrounds
* Expressed the importance of adapting playgrounds for children with additional needs
* Acknowledged the proud record Cork County Council has for providing facilities
* Members complimented voluntary groups & Leader programme for input to playgrounds
* Members noted that CLAR funding applications were now open

The Chief Executive said that equipment replacement and maintenance is done on an on going basis. The Director of Services for Municipal District and Operation will prepare a framework for an approach to this work programme and the playground upgrade will require capital funding. Members were informed that Cork County Council was working on the capital programme and members would be briefed once completed.

**9/3/2**

**Housing of People Released from Prison:**

# *Cllr. Joe Carroll, seconded Cllr. Gearóid Murphy:*

*“I am calling on the housing department of Cork Council Council to discuss the situation of housing for people being released from prison – people who would find it very difficult to find accommodation and would be at risk of reoffending again if not properly housed.”*

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

**RESPONSE:**

A process is in place between Local Authorities and the Prison Service to deal with the release of prisoners.  Four to six weeks prior to release, a Prison Resettlement Officer contacts the Local Authority on behalf of a client where it has been established that the client will be homeless on release. The Local Authority works with the Resettlement Officer to facilitate the completion of an application form for social housing support.  If the prisoner is approved they can avail of the Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP) subject to finding a suitable property.  Depending on the offence prisoners may have the assistance of a Probation Officer to support them on release.  If no suitable property is available an assessment for emergency accommodation can be arranged on the day of release by the Housing Department.  The client can avail of temporary emergency accommodation while sourcing a private rented property.  The Council’s Tenancy Sustainment Officer and HAP Placement Officer may also assist clients. In the case of certain offences the prisoner will be referred to the Council’s Sexual Offence Liaison Officer who will discuss the case at the local Sex Offender Risk Assessment & Management meeting.  This forum focuses on an interagency approach to dealing with a client’s release from prison and future housing accommodation, membership consists of representatives of An Garda Síochána, the Probation Service and the Local Authority.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members said proper accommodation will reduce chances of reoffending
* Members acknowledged that this was to be discussed at the next Housing SPC
* Make rehabilitation viable for people
* Acknowledged that people have a past and need a future

It was agreed the matter would be discussed at the next Housing SPC as part of the discussion on Garda Vetting.

**10/3/2**

**Victims of Violence:**

# *Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley, seconded Cllr. Liam Quaide:*

*“That this Council write to Department of Health, Minister Stephen Donnelly to help Victims of Domestic, sexual and gender-based violence access free psychological support and counselling, bearing in mind this is a free service for perpetrators while in prison.”*

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members expressed the importance of continuing free support to people after case is finished
* Acknowledged the long waiting list for counselling services
* Limited funding available for services
* Free services available to perpetrators
* Government should take responsibility to provide this fundamental right to victims
* Recognised the urgency for staffing and funding for these services
* Agreed an amendment to the notice of motion to include a range of therapeutic options

***Members agreed to write to the Department of Health, Minister Stephen Donnelly to help Victims of Domestic, sexual and gender-based violence access free psychological support and counselling, that are tailored to the needs of each individual, both in terms of duration of support and with regard to availability of a range of therapeutic options, bearing in mind this is a free service for perpetrators while in prison.***

**11/3/2**

**Comprehensive Economic & Trade Agreement (CETA):**

# *Cllr. Liam Quaide, seconded Cllr. Gerard Murphy:*

*"Cork County Council calls on the government to subject the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) international trade deal and, in particular, its Investment Court System (ICS), to full Oireachtas scrutiny, which would include referral to the Oireachtas Justice Committee, the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Climate Action and the Oireachtas Committee on Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and allow unrestricted debate in the Seanad and Dáil prior to any vote on its ratification; Cork Co. Council furthermore calls on the Government to allow TDs a free vote of conscience on ratification of CETA given its potentially far-reaching implications for environmental and social justice."*

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* CETA free trade deal needs to be passed at national level in EU member states
* Acknowledged it was the role of Oireachtas Members to pass legislation
* Committees of Oireachtas should examine the CETA deal carefully
* Proper debate is needed in both houses by TDs & Senators
* Concerns that too much power is given to multinationals
* State must serve citizens first
* Should clarify issues before agreeing
* Advised that it may require a referendum
* Legislator should seek legal advice on constitutionality and sourvenity
* Serious concerns for Investment Court System
* Animal welfare and food quality issues arise

***Members agreed to write to the Government to subject the Comprehensive Economic & Trade Agreement international trade deal and, in particular, its Investment Court System to full Oireachtas scrutiny.***

**12/3/2**

**Stay & Spend:**

# *Cllr. Ben Dalton O’Sullivan, seconded Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley:*

*“That Cork County Council would write to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment,*

*The Minister for Finance & The Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform asking them to extend the ‘Stay and Spend’ scheme until 31st December 2021. It is currently due to end on 30 April.”*

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members acknowledge the huge impact on hospitality during Covid 19 pandemic
* The Stay & Spend scheme needs to be encouraged after restrictions are lifted
* Would help the survival of businesses
* Tax credit needs to be extended until 31st December 2021
* Acknowledged the great incentive to staycations
* The scheme needs to be promoted and needs to encourage businesses to register`
* Suggested that some aspects of the scheme need to be changed
* Raised the importance of the media highlighting the scheme

***Members agreed to write to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment,***

***The Minister for Finance & The Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform asking them to extend the ‘Stay and Spend’ scheme until 31st December 2021.***

**[k] VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

**13/3-2**

**TO:** Tom McCarthy on his recent retirement from Cork County Council

**TO:** Myra Heffernan on her recent retirement from Cork County Council

**TO:** Each Municipal District on celebrating St. Patrick’s Day by lighting up landmarks and buildings green

**TO:** Rachel Blackmore on being the first ever female jockey to win the Gold Cup in Cheltenham

**TO:** Billy Good who will enter the Celtic Ross Hotel West Cork Sports Star Hall of fame

**TO:** Phil Healy on winning 4th place in the 400m final at European Indoor Championships

**TO:** Nicola Tuthill who was crowned 2020 West Cork Junior Sports Star

**TO:** Cobh St. Patrick’s Committee on a successful virtual St. Patrick’s Day parade

**TO:** Bandon St. Patrick’s Committee on a successful virtual St. Patrick’s Day parade

**TO:** Crookhaven St. Patrick’s Committee on a successful virtual St. Patrick’s Day Parade

**TO:** The Fermoy International Choir & Fermoy Musical Society for organising a fantastic virtual St. Patrick’s Day

**TO:** Sorcha O’Rourke on making history for Kyle National School in this year’s SOPHia Project Competition

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