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**Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held by Microsoft Teams on 10th May 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 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, Sean, Uí Shuilleabháin, 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, 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 J, O’Sullivan M, O’Donovan, Collins D, Murphy P.G, Murphy Katie, O’Connell, McGrath, D’Alton, 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, Ms. Sharon Corcoran, Director of Service, Economic & Development, Enterprise & Tourism

**[a] CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**1/5-1**

***Proposed by Cllr. Gerard Murphy***

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

**RESOLVED:**

“That the minutes of the Meeting held on 26th April, 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

**[b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

**2/5-1**

**TO:** Mr.Donal Hickey on the death of his wife, Mary Hickey

**TO:** Mr. Michael Lynch DOS Planning & Development on the death of his aunt, Ann Coughlan

**TO:** Mr. John Scully on the death of his wife, Eileen Scully

**[c] STATUTORY BUSINESS**

**3/5-1**

**Disposal of Property:**

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

# *Members noted the following disposals:*

**Municipal District of Cobh:**

***Disposal of Property at Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork***

# 3(a)/5-1

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 30th April, 2021.

**SITUATION:** Disposal of property at Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork

**AREA:** 0.363 hectares (2.83 acres)

# CONSIDERATION: €114.25 per annum

# 3(b)/5-1

***Disposal of Property at Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork***

**SITUATION:** Disposal of property at Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork

**AREA:** 0.9105 hectares (2.25 acres)

# CONSIDERATION: €285.74 per annum

**Municipal District of Kanturk/Mallow:**

# *Disposal of Property at Glencarney, Rockchapel, Co. Cork* 3(c)/5-1

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 30th April, 2021.

**SITUATION:**Disposal of Property at Glencarney, Rockchapel, Co. Cork

**AREA:** File Plan CK23854F

# CONSIDERATION: €53,000

**3(d)/5-1**

***Grant of Right of Way at 2 No Wayleaves at Market Place, Kanturk, 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 30th April, 2021.

**SITUATION:**Grant of Right of Way at 2 No Wayleaves at Market Place, Kanturk, Co. Cork

# CONSIDERATION: €7,800

**Municipal District of Bandon/Kinsale:**

# *Disposal of House and Site at Lacknacummeen, Belgooly, Co. Cork* 3(e)/5-1

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 30th April, 2021.

**SITUATION:**Disposal of House and Site at Lacknacummeen, Belgooly, Co. Cork

**AREA:** 0.24 hectares/0.59 acres

# CONSIDERATION: €130,150

# *Disposal of Land at Abbey Street, Timoleague, Co. Cork* 3(f)/5-1

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 30th April, 2021.

**SITUATION:**Disposal of Land at Abbey Street, Timoleague, Co. Cork County

**AREA:** 0.0043 hectares/0.0106 acres

# CONSIDERATION: €5,000

**4/5-1**

**Cork Sports Partnership:**

# Members resolved to approve the replacement of Councillor Gobnait Moynihan by Councillor Deirdre Kelly on the Cork Sports Partnership Committee.

***Proposed by Councillor Seamus McGrath***

***Seconded by Councillor Frank O’Flynn***

**5/5-1**

**Local Government Act 2001-section 18(4)(c):**

Members resolved to approve the extension of the continuous period of absence from meetings of Cork County Council of Councillor Noel Collins for a period of six months.

***Proposed by Councillor Michael Hegarty***

***Seconded by Councillor Declan Hurley***

Members extended their good wishes to Councillor Collins.

**6/5-1**

**Section 9(7) of The Planning & Development Act 200 (As Amended):**

# Members noted letter of 22nd April 2021 from the Minister for Local Government and Planning.

**[d] FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

**7/5-1**

**Unaudited Annual Financial Statement:**

Members noted the Unaudited Annual Financial Statement of Cork County Council for year ended 31st December 2020 and resolved to approve additional expenditure as set out below for that year per Local Government Act, 2001-section104 (as amended):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Description | Comment | € |
| Miscellaneous Services | Government funding of €34.7m was received to provide a 75% waiver of commercial rates to qualifying businesses as a result of COVID 19. | 39,561,540 |
|  |  |  |
| Development Management | An amount of €34.1m was paid to small businesses as part of the Government's initiative to help with additional costs as a result of COVID19. The amount was received in full from Enterprise Ireland. | 34,939,340 |
|  |  |  |
| Roads, Transportation & Safety | Additional roads grant spend covered by increased allocation. | 4,804,614 |
|  |  |  |
| Recreation & Amenity | Parks & Open Spaces, Capitalise Town Development Fund/GMA/TDF/Pay Parking Dividend/Arts | 640,491 |
|  |  |  |
| Agriculture, Education, Health & Welfare | Management of Ballycotton Shipwreck | 185,460 |

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

***Seconded by Councillor Michael Hegarty***

**8/5-1**

**Rates Report:**

Members noted Rates Report – Schedule of Uncollected Rates 2020.

**9/5-1**

**Audited Annual Financial Statement:**

Members noted Audit Committee Report on the Audited Annual Financial Statement 2019 and the Local Government Audit Report, pursuant to Section 121 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

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

**10/5-1**

**Roads & Transportation SPC:**

# Members noted report from Mr. Padraig Barrett, Director of Services, Roads & Transportation on Speed Control Measures that had been considered by the Roads & Transportation SPC after referral from Full Council on 25th January, 2021.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members expressed the need for speed controls for towns & villages centres
* 30kph speed limit should be introduced to housing estates
* Members said there is a need for additional funding to implement projects for traffic calming measures
* Acknowledged the importance of reducing speed to facilitate pedestrians who shop locally in town and village centres

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

**11/5-1**

**National Planning Framework Housing Delivery Challenges:**

“Understanding Cork County Council NPF Housing Delivery Challenges: From Strategy Formulation to Activation” – Mr Michael Lynch, Director of Services, Planning & Development.

* Members expressed the need for a Special Meeting to further discuss the matter
* Acknowledged the need to discuss many serious issues
* Asked if there was any correspondence was received from Government on housing density

Members agreed that a Special Development Committee would organised and the Chief Executive informed Members that they would be briefed on the Housing Density letter and guidelines from the Minister.

**12/5-1**

**Briefing on ‘Explore Cork’ App:**

Ms. Sharon Corcoran, Director of Service, Economic & Development, Enterprise & Tourism briefed Members on the demonstration and launch of the ‘Explore Cork’ app.

Cork County Council has launched a unique, ‘one-stop-shop’ tourism app, featuring over 850 places to see and things to do throughout County Cork.

The ‘Explore Cork’ app is the first of its kind by any Local Authority in Ireland and was developed following the success of the web-based ‘Rediscover Cork County’ GIS Tourism Map, launched by the Council last Summer. The free app, which is available in both the English and Irish languages, has replicated key elements of the web-based GIS map, but with additional functionality and user-friendly features.

The app allows users to browse tourism activities from a range of 850 attractions and 18 categories, which can be filtered by areas of interest such as Beaches, Visitor Attractions, Heritage Sites, Islands, Arts & Culture and more.

‘Explore Cork’ shines a spotlight on each of the county’s main 23 towns and a key feature of the app is the ‘What’s Near Me?’ function, which allows the user to identify nearby attractions within a radius of up to 100 km. Visitors can then generate directions to a location or activity of choice, enabling them to ‘Explore Cork’ and its many hidden gems at the touch of a button.

As well as offering visitors an array of tourism activities, the app is linked to an extensive database of dining and accommodation options via the Pure Cork website.

The Mayor welcomed the external members of the Tourism Strategic Policy Committee to the meeting.

Mr. Dan Mitchell of Vitamin Cornwall demonstrated the main features of the app to the meeting.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members complimented all staff involved with the development of the ‘Explore Cork’ app
* Members said the app was very beneficial for tourism in Cork County
* Said it was a fantastic initiative that will benefit local communities
* Is a building block for developing of Cork Tourism brand and had an easy to use interface
* Said it was an important tool for lessor known tourism attractions
* Very beneficial for staycations this summer
* Great promotion for towns and villages within the county
* Members asked if public toilets could be included on the app also
* Asked that signage for the start of the Wild Atlantic Way at Kinsale is improved
* Said it was a tourist office in your pocket
* Asked how businesses could be listed on the App
* Complemented Seamus Heaney on the work being done by ‘Pure Cork’.

The Chief Executive said the app will be instrumental in this critical stage of recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, initially by encouraging people to realise the value of staying closer to home and enjoy the many outdoor activities throughout County Cork, and later on, as businesses re-open, by supporting the economies in towns and villages and welcoming domestic tourists.

Cork County Council developed this tool not only to assist in the economic recovery of the county from the global pandemic, but also to further the ambitions of County Cork in the area of destination development.

Ms. Sharon Corcoran, Director of Services, said that playgrounds and public toilets will be included in a future version. She said that there will be a marketing campaign to promote the app. Work was continuing with Pure Cork to add services and attractions to the app. The Tourism section will review all feedback to continue to improve the app and to keep information up to date.

**[g] CORRESPONDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS**

**13/5-1**

**Department of Finance:**

Members noted correspondence dated 29th April 2021 in response to Council’s letter dated 8th March 2021 in relation to Bank of Ireland Closures.

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the response
* Advised that ATMs are also being removed in towns and villages and the bank is disposing of properties
* Said they were walking away from towns and villages and leaving citizens and businesses with no banking facilities
* Acknowledged that there is little communications between BOI & An Post
* An Post will find it difficult to take on large transactions previously dealt with by BOI

**[h] NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**14/5-1**

**Warmer Homes Scheme:**

# *Councillor John Paul O’Shea proposed, seconded by Councillor Ben Dalton O’Sullivan:*

*“That Cork County Council write to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications Eamon Ryan TD requesting that he urgently deals with the backlog of approving and carrying out works as part of the Warmer Homes Scheme.”*

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members expressed their dissatisfaction with 18 month waiting list and said it should be dealt with quickly
* Acknowledged that some people were in fuel poverty
* Said many applicants were in receipt of fuel allowance
* Very positive scheme mainly for elderly
* Warmer homes are more energy efficient
* Said proper insulation is also needed to bring up to modern standards
* Acknowledged that it would reduce emissions & carbon footprint
* Advised that clarification is needed on eligibility for the scheme
* Said applicants should be dealt with before winter

***Members agreed to write to Minister for the Environment, Climate & Communications Mr. Eamon Ryan T.D requesting that he urgently deals with the backlog of approving and carrying out works as part of the Warmer Home Scheme. It was also agreed that a copy of the letter would be circulated to Cork Oireachtas Members.***

**15/5-1**

**Harassment:**

# *Councillor Deirdre Kelly proposed, seconded by Councillor Gillian Coughlan:*

*“That Cork County Council would call on the Minister for Justice to reconsider the Department’s decision in relation to stalking. Harassment under the Non-Fatal Offences Against the Person Act is not sufficient to cover stalking. Not only is it necessary to have stalking as a stand-alone offence on the statute books, it is also necessary to introduce longer sentences.”*

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Member expressed that stalking needs to be clearly defined as a separate crime to harassment
* Acknowledged the high-profile cases of late
* Said victims are at risk of violence from stalkers and it causes huge distress
* Members acknowledged the importance of the garda role in these cases
* Advised that a clear road map for victims is needed for reporting stalkers
* Members commended bravery of people who have spoken out
* Said that a virtual world makes stalking easier
* Recommended that Councillors need to take steps to highlight issue also

***Members agreed to write to Minister Heather Humphrey, Minister for Justice to reconsider the Department’s decision in relation to stalking.***

**[k] VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

**16/5-1**

**TO:** Ms. Niamh Ryan on being appointed as deputy editor of the Cork Independent Newspaper

**TO:** To the Cork Hurling Team who won the Allianz Hurling League

**TO**: Darkness into Light 2021 organising committees within Cork County

**TO**: Zoe Fitzpatrick who produced a short film of outstanding quality which has recently been selected by the Toronto International Women’s Film Festival

**TO:** Councillor Cathal Rasmussen on his upcoming marriage

**TO:** Crosshaven Templebreedy SOS for winning the Month of April on SoundTowns TodayFM

**[l] ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**17(a)/5-1**

**An Taisce**

# *Councillor Ian Doyle proposed, seconded by Councillor Deirdre O’Brien:*

During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members expressed their anger at An Taisce’s attitude to dairy industry
* Dairy farming was a great asset for Cork County Council and huge advances in waste management had been made
* Acknowledged that farmers were embracing best practices to adhere to emissions levels
* Said farmers were protectors of environment and products full traceable
* Discrimination towards rural Ireland-dairy farming the backbone of rural Ireland
* Farming & dairy sector huge employers in Cork County and huge demand for Irish dairy products
* Said An Taisce has a role in protecting the environment including raising issues regarding water quality
* Said that issues must be flagged and checks and balances needed
* Said high court decision will damage economy of the region
* Said dairy industry was very highly regulated already and farmers were embracing change
* Said that structure of certain state bodies should be reviewed

Members agreed to write to Minister Charlie McConalogue, Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine to emphasise that An Taisce’s decision to appeal the high court judgement on planning permission for the Glanbia cheese plant at Belview, County Kilkenny is damaging the dairy industry and is stemming growth and will have a negative impact on rural Ireland.

**Extension of Time:**

# *Proposed by Councillor Ian Doyle*

# *Seconded by Councillor Seamus McGrath*

**17(b)/5-1**

**Litter Management:**

# During this discussion the Members made the following points:

* Members requested an update on litter management
* Acknowledged that since last full Council meeting €5m additional funding was announced for litter management, street cleaning
* Work of volunteers was acknowledged and praised by Members
* Asked for Councillors to be briefed on how Cork County Council is going to use additional funding

The Chief Executive informed Members that the funding had been announced under a scheme entitled *Anti-Littering Infrastructure / Capital Supports - Outdoor Spaces and Covid 19* but further development of specific funding proposals was to be undertaken. He told Members he would update the Development Committee Meeting when more information on the funding scheme was available.

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