



# Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

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## Cork County Council

Minutes of Proceedings at Meeting of Cork County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Cork and by Microsoft Teams on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

### I LATHAIR

#### Comhairleoir Dónal Ó Coileáin, Méara Chontae

**Comhairleoiri:** Uí Chochláin G, Ó Colmáin, Ó Murchú C, Ó Suilleabháin S, Uí Shuilleabhájin M, Ó Donnabháin, Ó Coileáin D, Ó Murchú PG, Ní Chroinín, Mac Craith, Uí Daltún, Ó Muircheartaigh, Uí Bhuachalla, De Foite Sean, Daltún-Ó Suilleabháin, Ní Cheallacháin, Barra, Rasmussen, Ó Conbhubhair Sean, Ó Conchubair Alan, MacCarthaigh N, Ó Fionn, Uí Bhriain, Ó Laoghaire, Dawson, De Róiste, Ó Muineacháin, Ó Dubhghaill, Ó Sé Sean Pól, Ó Mhurchú Gearóid, Críod, Ní Mhuineacháin Gobnait, Ó Luanaigh, Ó Cochláin M, Uí Loinsigh, Ó Luasa, Ó Haodha Padriagh, Ó Cinnéide, Ó Madaoin, Léineacháin Uí Foghlú, Ó hÉalaithe, Ó Héigheartaigh, Ní Heachtigheirn, Uí Thuama, MacCarthaigh Susan, Mac Uaid, Ní Cheallaigh, Ó Cearbhaill, Ó Muirthile, Uí Chaochlaoich, Ó Haodha Pól.

### PRESENT

#### Councillor Danny Collins, County Mayor, presided.

**Councillor:** Coughlan G, Coleman, Murphy K, O'Sullivan J, O'Sullivan M, O'Donovan, Collins D, Murphy PG, Cronin, McGrath, D'Alton, Murtagh, Buckley A, White J, Dalton-O'Sullivan, O'Callaghan, Barry, Rasmussen, O'Connor S, O'Connor A, McCarthy N, O'Flynn, O'Brien, O'Leary, Dawson, Roche, Moynihan B, Doyle, O'Shea JP, Murphy Gerard, Creed, Moynihan Gobnait, Looney, Coughlan M, Lynch, Lucey, Hayes Pat, Kennedy, Madden, Linehan-Foley, Healy, Hegarty M, Ahern, Twomey, McCarthy S, Quaide, Kelly, Carroll, Hurley, Coakley, Hayes Paul.

Chief Executive, Head of Finance, Senior Executive Officer Corporate Services

#### [a] CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

*Proposed by Cllr. Michael Hegarty*

1/5-1

*Seconded by Cllr. Pat Hayes*

### RESOLVED:

“That the minutes of the Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

#### SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

*Proposed by Cllr. Joe Carroll*

*Seconded by Cllr. Michael Hegarty*

To discuss the lack of television coverage of the Cork & Tipperary match on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

*Proposed by Cllr. Audrey Buckley*

*Seconded by Cllr. Seamus McGrath*

To address concerns that Camden Fort Meagher will not reopen during the summer season.

Members agreed to discuss the matters at 1pm.

**[b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

2/5-1

**TO:** Matthew Galvin on the death of his parents Matthew and Joan Galvin.

**TO:** Bishop Emeritus Dr John Buckley on the death of his brother Nealy Buckley.

**TO:** Anne Keating on the death of her husband Derek Keating, former TD.

**[d] FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

3/5-1

**UNAUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT:**

Members noted the Unaudited Annual Financial Statement of Cork County Council for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

Members resolved to approve additional expenditure as set out below for that year per Local Government Act, 2001-section104:

*Proposed by Councillor Seamus McGrath*

*Seconded by Councillor John Paul O'Shea*

<b>Description</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>€</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Services</b>	Government funding of €19.1m was received to provide waiver of commercial rates to qualifying businesses as a result of COVID 19.	- 21,774,665
<b>Housing and Building</b>	The increase in Expenditure in Housing and Building is driven by the newly launched PPP scheme €4.8m and an increase to the Payment & Availability scheme €1.8m, both of these schemes are fully funded	- 7,253,179
<b>Development Mangement</b>	An amount of €1.9m 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. There was an increase in the amount for funding to LEO Enterprises this was received in full from Enterprise Ireland.	- 3,912,062

<b>Roads, Transportation &amp; Safety</b>	Additional roads grant spend covered by increased Grant allocation.	- 13,014,350
<b>Recreation &amp; Amenity</b>	Parks & Open Spaces, Capitalise Town Development Fund/GMA/TDF/Pay Parking Dividend/Arts	- 2,683,568
<b>Environmental services</b>	Street cleaning, CAS and Fire services	- 165,403
<b>Water services</b>	Irish Water SLA and public conveniences	- 264,426

4/5-1

### **RATES REPORT:**

Members noted Rates Report – Schedule of Uncollected Rates 2022.

Head of Finance, Ms. Loraine Lynch said that some funds were unspent in 2022 as specific project plans and the budget did not transpire as planned. She said any unspent funds will be capitalised for specific projects and outlined the proposals in this regard. Ms. Lynch noted the allocations of funds in the Library Services towards works on Kinsale Library and the Briery Gap, Macroom. She said that there had been buoyancy in both rates and rents collection during 2022.

### **[e] REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES TÚAIRSCÍ AGUS MOLTAÍ Ó CHOISTÍ**

5/5-1

### **COMMEMORATION GRANT SCHEME 2023**

Members resolved to approve the County Cork Commemorations Grant Scheme 2023 which had been considered by Commemorations Committee and also by the Corporate Policy Group at its meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2022.

*Proposed by Councillor Gbnait Moynihan*

*Seconded by Councillor Deirdre O'Brien*

6/5-1

### **HERITAGE GRANT SCHEME 2023**

Members resolved to approve the Cork County Heritage Grant Scheme 2023 which was considered by the Corporate Policy Group at its meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2023.

*Proposed by Councillor Gbnait Moynihan*

*Seconded by Councillor Michael Hegarty*

- Members acknowledged Conor Nelligan's work as the Heritage Officer and Commemorations Coordinator and that of then Heritage Unit and commended the way in which the available funding was distributed to community groups to allow projects be completed
- Said the grants gave great encouragement to local groups

- Members said funding the Commemorations Committee should continue after the end of the *Decade of Centenaries*

**[g] CORRESPONDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS  
COMHFHREAGRAS Ó RANNA RIALTAS**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT**

**7/5-1**

Correspondence received 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023 from Department of Transport in response to the Council's letter dated 09/01/23 in relation to the proposed plan of works for provision of Bus Shelters for 2023.

*Members noted the correspondence from the Department of Transport*

**During this discussion, the Members made the following points:**

- Members said that the reply from the Department of Transport is a standard reply
- Members had asked for an in-committee meeting to discuss bus shelters and how the programme works
- Said they cannot understand why bus shelters cannot be rolled out here similar to how they are rolled out in Northern Ireland
- Said that when a bus shelter is put in place a survey needs to be carried out
- Said there is misunderstanding out there as to who carries out the survey
- Said school bus stops should be sheltered stops

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT & HERITAGE**

**8/5-1**

Correspondence received 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 from Department of Housing in response to the Council's letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 in relation to the WWTP upgrade projects for Cork County under the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme under the Capital Programme 2020-2024.

*Members noted the correspondence from the Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage.*

**During this discussion, the Members made the following points:**

- Members agreed to write back to the Department of Housing requesting that the programme be expedited and said the reply does not address their most recent queries

**TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IRELAND**

**9/5-1**

Correspondence received 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023 from Transport Infrastructure Ireland in response to the Council's letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023 in relation to the grant allocations to Cork County Council.

*Members noted the correspondence from Transport Infrastructure Ireland.*

**[h] NOTICES OF MOTION**

**PROPOSED ROUTE BY EIRGRID**

**10/5-1**

*Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern proposed, seconded by Cllr. Sheila O'Callaghan*

“That this Council write to the Minister(s) for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Minister(s) for Transport and Minister(s) for Public Expenditure regarding the proposed “off road” route being taken by Eirgrid at Churchtown North, Midleton for the laying of the Celtic Interconnector cable and the increased cost, disruption and long term effects associated with this compared to the alternative direct routes”.

**During this discussion, the Members made the following points:**

- Members said they are not against the Celtic Interconnector cables
- Said residents in East Cork have not received up to date communication from Eirgrid
- Said that the choice of route proposed by Eirgrid for the Celtic Interconnector has been heavily contested
- Members said they are unsure why Eirgrid has put forward the proposed route
- Said the cost to take the project off route now is €17 million and that cost does not account for compensation costs
- Eirgrid has not discussed why the N25 cannot be used
- There are contradictions in Eirgrid position regarding route selection
- Members said they cannot understand why the N25 is not being used as works that were proposed on the N25 are no longer going ahead
- A report from Eirgrid says the proposed route is a flood risk which is untrue
- Said the proposed route will impact on farming and nesting birds and other wildlife in the area as hedgerows will need to be removed
- The route will impact on rural housing development and planning permissions
- Members asked Eirgrid for copies of letters from TII & Iarnród Éireann and have not received these letters

Members agreed to write to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Public Expenditure to highlight the increased cost, disruption and long term effects associated with the proposed “off road” route compared to the alternative direct routes.

**UPDATE ON STATUS OF EXISTING CCTV SYSTEMS**

**11/5-1**

***Cllr. Ian Doyle proposed, seconded by Cllr. Frank O’Flynn***

“That Cork County Council would give update on status of our existing CCTV systems and proposed systems in our Towns to combat criminality and anti social behaviour. What is the future of this project in Cork County going forward.”

**RESPONSE:**

Members noted the response from Ms Patricia Liddy, Director of Services Corporate Services as follows:

Community based CCTV schemes are required to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation, with Section 38 of the Garda Síochána Act 2005, and with S.I. No. 289/2006 – Garda Síochána (CCTV) Order, 2006.

The Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) Bill 2022 is currently before the Oireachtas, if passed it will govern the installation and operation of Community CCTV schemes going forward.

In 2019 Cork County Council carried out an audit of the Community CCTV in its administrative area using specialist CCTV consultants. The report identified 15 existing Community CCTV schemes in

Cork County. Of these 15 schemes, 8 are operational, 7 are non-operational. There are 7 additional proposed Community CCTV schemes.

Cork County Council is awaiting the approval of the Garda Síochána (Recording Devices) Bill 2022 before considering the implementation of additional Community CCTV schemes. Funding mechanisms for Community CCTV schemes are contiguous with the passing of this Bill.

**During this discussion, the Members made the following points:**

- Members said this is a very important issue and welcomed the response from the Director of Services
- Said this issue has been ongoing for many years and has been brought up previously at Municipal District Meetings and Joint Policing Committee Meetings
- Said it is important that the Bill is going through the Oireachtas and will give more powers to the Gardaí in their duties
- Members said some towns have had their CCTV systems turned off due to the anomaly of the system
- CCTV systems are important in fighting crime and antisocial behaviour
- Said the issue of who will be responsible for funding needs to be discussed
- Said private CCTV is often used by Gardai when incidents happen
- Asked for clarity as to who the Data Controller is
- Members said there should be provisions within the annual budget for CCTV systems in towns around the County

The Mayor said CCTV has prevented crimes in Bantry. He acknowledged the importance of CCTV systems as a business owner.

The Chief Executive said the legislation needs to be passed through the Dáil and will present challenges for Cork County Council. He said clarity re responsibilities would be welcomed. He said funding of €500,000 is needed to remedy existing systems.

**NCT CERTIFICATE**

**12/5-1**

***Cllr. John Healy proposed, seconded by Cllr. Michael Hegarty***

“That Cork County Council request that the Minister for the Environment instructs Applus to apply a 2-year NCT Certificate for vehicles that pass the test from the commencement date of the certificate regardless of the year of the vehicle.”

**During this discussion, the Members made the following points:**

- Members complimented the staff who work at NCT Centres around the County
- Said there are currently 375,000 vehicles that are overdue an NCT
- Applus have acknowledged the issues they are experiencing with bringing this backlog up to date
- Said that car owners are getting NCT certificates that are shorter because of the backlog in tests
- Members said that a 2 year NCT certificate would help with the delay in getting a test date
- Said that driver error accounts for 51.9% of all accidents
- Said that inferior vehicles account for just .02% of accidents
- Said it may not be appropriate for older cars to qualify for a 2 year NCT certificate
- Members said that the wording of the NCT letter is inappropriate for older and vulnerable drivers
- Said it is unacceptable that there is such a delay in getting a test date

- Said there are students who cannot drive to college because they do not have a valid NCT certificate and cannot get a test date

Members agreed to write to the Minister for the Environment to instruct Applus to apply a 2-year NCT Certificate for vehicles that pass the test from the commencement date of the certificate regardless of the year of the vehicle.

### **E CIGARETTES BAN**

13/5-1

*Cllr. Liam Madden proposed, seconded by Cllr. John Paul O'Shea*

“Ask Minister for Health on urgent need to expand the ban on E Cigarettes similar to ban in place at present for Cigarettes which are banned fully in general public workplace, enclosed public places, restaurants, bars, education facilities, healthcare facilities and public transport, this should also include some outdoor areas, matches and racing events.”

#### **During this discussion, the Members made the following points:**

- Members said there are over 16,000 vape flavours available according to the World Health Organisation
- Said that children who have vaped are 5 times more likely to start smoking
- Said E cigarettes are a culture among young people now
- Said there is a huge increase in the number of people vaping in pubs and restaurants
- Members said E cigarettes will cause multiple health problems in the long term
- Said that Australia are leading the way in banning E Cigarettes and Ireland needs to follow suit
- Said the popularity of vapes is increasing litter on roadsides
- Stated that disposable vapes will cause environmental issues in the long term
- Members said that non-smokers should not be forced to inhale passive vape odours

Members agreed to write to the Minister for Health to expand the ban on E Cigarettes similar to the ban in place at present for Cigarettes which are banned fully in general public workplaces, enclosed public places, restaurants, bars, education facilities, healthcare facilities and public transport, this should also include some outdoor areas, matches and racing events. Members also agreed to ask the Minister to consider banning single use/disposable vapes and noted the negative environmental impact caused by disposable vaping devices.

### **[k] VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

14/5-1

- TO:** Aidan Burke on the recent video premiere for his song ‘We Ain’t Mad At Ya’ in memory of his best friend
- TO:** Cork Minor Camogie Team on winning the All Ireland Minor league
- TO:** Crosshaven Senior Branch Guides on completing the Darkness into Light walk and fundraising for Pieta House.
- TO:** Fountainstown Flippers on organising Darkness into Light at Fountainstown Beach.
- TO:** Royal Cork Yacht Club on the first Darkness into Light Charity Flotilla which raised over €51,000 for Pieta House
- TO:** All groups who organised Darkness into Light, on the excellent preparation and organisation of Darkness into Light walk to all groups in Cork County.
- TO:** Brian Dunne and all the staff in the Kinsale MD office on the excellent way the Rugby 7’s event was coordinated, ensuring the town was cleaned and impeccable for tourists.
- TO:** The ‘Frank & Walters’ to mark the bands 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the considerable positive contribution they have made to music and culture
- TO:** Maurice Gubbins on his retirement from the Echo after over 40 years of service

**TO:** Fermoy Concert Band on the celebration of their centenary anniversary  
**TO:** Christopher O’Sullivan TD on his recent marriage to Sarah Redmond

## **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

**15/5-1**

### **LACK OF GAA COVERAGE**

Members agreed to discuss the lack of television coverage of the Cork & Tipperary match on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

#### **During this discussion the Members made the following points:**

- Members said people were outraged that RTÉ did not cover this game
- Said that this game was an important game and should have been covered by RTÉ
- Said it is unfair to elderly GAA followers who could not attend the game in person or watch it online
- Members said that seats sold out quickly for the game and elderly people could not be expected to stand for the length of the game
- Said the GAAGO app froze during the game and people watching the game online missed parts of the game
- Said that the GAAGO app is not compatible with iPhones
- Members said that GAA have a great product and should consider setting up their own channel

Members agreed to write to the GAA, RTÉ and the Minister for Sport to request an explanation as to why the game was not covered. Members asked that it be noted that the “GAAGO” App functionality needs to be reviewed.

**16/5-1**

### **CAMDEN FORT MEAGHER**

Members agreed to discuss concerns that Camden Fort Meagher will not reopen during the 2023 summer season.

#### **During this discussion the Members made the following points:**

- Members asked will Camden Fort Meagher be open for the summer as it was open this time last year
- Said the Fort was a jewel in the crown of Cork Harbour
- Members were aware that a health and safety review was carried out
- Said that Camden would not be what it is today without the work of the volunteers
- Said that Camden has been a great success and great progress has been made and that the volunteers as well as Cork County Council had done huge work
- Said that there is huge frustration locally that Camden Fort is not open
- Members asked if the gates should be open so that people can go to Camden to enjoy the views, even if the buildings on site remain closed
- Members said they need to be kept informed on the progress of Camden Fort and all Council companies so that they can update the public
- Said that Elected Members should be on the board of Camden Fort Meagher
- Members said that the Crosshaven community was very supportive of Camden Fort Meagher

The Chief Executive said Members will be fully updated on Camden Fort Meagher at next week’s Southern Divisional Meeting. He said the Directors have done a great job and unsafe practices at Camden are being addressed. He said the volunteers were a key part of the structure for operating the



fort. While the fort is closed, a range of structural work is being undertaken that will improve the visitor experience when the fort reopens. Mr. Lucey said a manager for Camden needs to be recruited. He outlined that the company has fulfilled its work and that for the future, the fort will be managed by the Carrigaline Municipal District.

**[i] ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**17/5-1**

**MAYOR'S CHARITY DINNER**

The Mayor reminded Members of his upcoming Charity Dinner in Westlodge Hotel in Bantry on 27<sup>th</sup> May in aid of Hyperbaric Oxygen Centre and Cancer Connect.

**18/5-1**

**SOUTHDOC SERVICES**

Members agreed to write to Southdoc Management again as there were issues with Southdoc in Fermoy during the weekend of 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> May. Members said that patients in Kinsale are relying on Southdoc services in Bandon.

**19/5-1**

**KINSALE MUSEUM**

Members said that Kinsale Museum is currently not wheelchair accessible. Members agreed to write to the Kinsale Museum management to request that access for wheelchairs to the museum be implemented.

**~ THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING ~**