



# Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

---

## 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 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

### I LATHAIR

#### Comhairleoir Proinsias Ó Flíonn, Méara Chontae

**Comhairleoiri:** Uí Chochláin G, Ó Colmáin, Ó Murchú C, Ó Suilleabháin S, Uí Shuilleabháin M, Ó Donnabháin, Ó Coileáin D, Ó Murchú PG, Ní Chroinín, Mac Craith, Uí Daltún, Uí Bhuachalla, De Faoite, Daltún-Ó Suilleabháin, Ní Cheallacháin, Barra, Sheppard, Rasmussen, Ó Conbhubhair Sean, Ó Conchubair Alan, MacCarthaigh N, Uí Bhriain, Ó Laoghaire, Dawson, De Róiste, Ó Muineacháin B, Ó Dubhghaill, Ó Sé Sean Pól, Ó Murchú Gearóid, Críod, Uí Muineacháin G, Ó Luanaigh, Cochláin M, Uí Loinsigh, Ó Luasa, Ó Haodha Padriagh, Ó Murchú Gearóid, Ó Cinnéide, Ó Sé Tony, Léineacháin Uí Foghlú, Ó hÉalaithe, Ó Héigheartaigh, Ní Heachthigheirn, Uí Thuama, MacCarthaigh Susan, Mac Uaid, Ní Cheallaigh, Ó Cearbhaill, Ó Muirthile, Uí Chaochlaoidh, Ó Haodha Pól.

### PRESENT

#### Councillor Frank O'Flynn, 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, Buckley A, White, Dalton O'Sullivan, O'Callaghan, Barry, Sheppard, Rasmussen, O'Connor S, O'Connor A, McCarthy N, O'Brien, O'Leary, Dawson, Roche, Moynihan B, Doyle, O'Shea JP, Murphy Gerard, Creed, Moynihan G, Looney, Coughlan M, Lynch, Lucey, Hayes Pat, Murphy Gearóid, Kennedy, O'Shea Tony, Linehan-Foley, Healy, Hegarty M, Ahern, Twomey, McCarthy S, Quaide, Kelly, Carroll, Hurley, Coakley, Hayes Paul

Chief Executive, Senior Executive Officer Corporate Services.

### [a] CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

*Proposed by Councillor Michael Hegarty*

**1/9-1**

*Seconded by Councillor Noel McCarthy*

### RESOLVED:

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

### [b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY

**2/9-1**

**TO:** Jimmy Egan on the death of his wife, Margaret Egan, a current employee of Cork County Council.

**TO:** Noreen McKeone on the death of her husband, Kieran McKeone, a current employee of Cork County Council.

**TO:** Josie Flynn on the death of her husband Paddy Flynn

**TO:** Eileen Lucey on the death of her husband Seán Lucey.

**TO:** The Roman Family on the death of their daughter Emili Roman.

**TO:** The O'Sullivan Family on the death of their son Jack O'Sullivan.

**TO:** Désirée Bailey on the death of her mother Nuala Murphy.  
**TO:** The Ladeiro Family on the death of their son André Castro Ladeiro.  
**TO:** Maria O'Connor on the death of her brother Brendan Wall.

**[c] STATUTORY BUSINESS**

**DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY**

**SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001:**

**3/9-1**

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF MACROOM:**

***Disposal of lands at Coolyhane, Macroom, Co. Cork***

**3(a)/9-1**

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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023.

**Situation:** Disposal of lands at Coolyhane, Macroom, Co Cork (as per condition of original land acquisition contract to facilitate N22 Baile Bhuirne-Macroom Road Project).

**Area:** 0.391 hectares/0.996 acres and 0.695 hectares/1.717 acres

**Consideration:** €1

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CARRIGALINE:**

***Grant of Wayleave at Church Bay Road, Crosshaven, Co. Cork***

**3(b)/9-1**

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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023.

**Situation:** Grant of wayleave in favour of O'Flynn Group at Church Bay Road, Crosshaven, Co. Cork.

**Area:** Wayleave coloured yellow marked X-Y Area measuring 40m x 6m as per map attached.

**Consideration:** €7,500.00.

***Grant of Right of Way over Council-owned, non-public road at Rochfordstown, Bandon Road, Co. Cork***

**3(c)/9-1**

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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023.

**Situation:** Grant of Right of Way over Council-owned non public road at Rochfordstown, Bandon Road, Co. Cork to facilitate access to a private property.

**Area:** 107 m x 8 m wide approx.

**Consideration:** €1.

**APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CORK COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**SECTION 145 (6) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001**

4/9-1

Members noted under Section 145(6) of the Local Government Act, 2001, the appointment of Ms. Valerie O’Sullivan, Divisional Manager, Southern Division, as Cork County Council Chief Executive temporarily with effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023.

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

5(a)/9-1

**CORPORATE POLICY GROUP**

Approval of attendance by Members at Conferences/Training on the Conference list for September 2023.

*Proposed by Councillor Ben Dalton O’Sullivan*

*Seconded by Councillor Mary Linehan Foley*

5(b)/9-1

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2023 GRANTS FOR EVENTS & PROJECTS THROUGH IRISH**

Approval of Recommendations for 2023 Grants for Events & Projects through Irish

*Proposed by Councillor Ben Dalton O’Sullivan*

*Seconded by Councillor Mary Linehan Foley*

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

## **ESB**

6/9-1

Correspondence received 24/07/23 from ESB in response to the Council's letter dated 10/07/23 in relation to recent network outages in Cork.

*Members noted the correspondence from the ESB.*

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

7/9-1

Correspondence received 27/07/23 from Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage in response to Council's letter dated 05/07/23 in relation to seeking that all efforts be made to ensure the proposed Nature Restoration Law does not compromise the productive farmland.

*Members noted the correspondence from the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.*

## **HSE & COILLTE**

8/9-1

Correspondence received 28/07/23 from HSE in response to Council's letter dated 05/07/23 in relation to requesting a campaign to raise awareness of the possibility of contracting lyme disease at parks and walkways.

*Members noted the correspondence from the HSE.*

Correspondence received 15/08/23 from Coillte in response to Council's letter dated 08/05/23 in relation to requesting a campaign to raise awareness of the possibility of contracting lyme disease at parks and walkways.

*Members noted the correspondence from Coillte.*

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

- Members said the campaign in respect of lyme disease on the HSE website is not visible enough to the public
- Said lyme disease is an insidious disease
- Members said they cannot understand why there is not proper signage on walkways and public pathways

*Members agreed to write back to the HSE to ask it to promote greater awareness of Lyme Disease and to consider signage in public pathways and walkways.*

## **RSA**

9/9-1

Correspondence received 04/08/23 from the RSA in response to Council's letter dated 25/07/23 in relation to using every means possible to reduce the unacceptable waiting times for driving tests.

***Members noted the correspondence from the RSA.***

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

- Members said the response indicates movement in the right direction

*Members agreed to send a reminder letter to the Minister for Transport to ask for a reply on the previous letter sent on this matter.*

### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**10/9-1**

Correspondence received 08/08/23 from Department of Health in response to Council's letter dated 08/05/23 in relation to expanding the ban on E Cigarettes similar to the ban in place at present for cigarettes.

***Members noted the correspondence from the Department of Health.***

### **NATIONAL PLOUGHING ASSOCIATION**

**11/9-1**

Correspondence received 31/08/23 from National Ploughing Association in response to Council's letter dated 25/07/23 in relation to reversing the decision to make tickets for the National Ploughing Championships 2023 available for online pre-purchase only.

***Members noted the correspondence from the National Ploughing Association.***

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

- Members said they are happy with the response and delighted that cash will now be accepted at the gates
- Said they are disappointed that the National Ploughing Association is using health and safety as an excuse for not taking cash
- Said the cash amount should be reduced down from €30 to €25
- Members said it is becoming a rollercoaster with businesses taking card
- Asked for clarity on where the national tender stands
- Said that cash is the national tender
- Said that card payments are coming in 5/10 years too soon

*Members agreed to write to the Minister for Finance and the Central Bank to ask for clarity on where our national tender stands.*

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

**12/9-1**

Correspondence received 04/09/23 from Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage in response to Council's letter dated 25/07/23 in relation to expressing concern at the escalation in the Retained Firefighters dispute.

***Members noted the correspondence from the Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage.***

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

- Members said it is positive that discussions are taking place and that the planned escalation was suspended on August 17<sup>th</sup>
- Members said they are hoping that retained firefighters get the proper numeration and conditions that they are entitled to

**[h] NOTICES OF MOTION**

**PRE PLANNING MEETINGS**

**13/9-1**

*Cllr. Danny Collins proposed, seconded by Cllr Joe Carroll*

“That all Pre Planning meetings in future will revert to what they were previous to covid which was around the table one to one with the planners, the applicant and the applicants engineer at a scheduled time suitable to both parties”.

**RESPONSE:**

Members noted the response from Mr. Michael Lynch, S/County Engineer, as follows:

In the period since the 1 January 2021 to 31 August 2023 the Planning Authority has facilitated 2,782 preplanning meetings, which is approx. 1000 per annum – it should be noted this statistic does not reflect the interactions between the Planning Authority and the prospective applicant and their representatives/agents that take place prior and post the formal meeting.

This represents a comprehensive service that can include multi-disciplinary inputs in the form of expertise across multiple Directorates.

Arising from the impacts of the COVID 19 Pandemic and the Government Policy response to same the Planning Authority introduced an online preplanning service such that the planning system could continue to provide such a service and adhere to best practice guidelines.

In the period since best practice guidelines and Government Policy reintroduced person-to-person work practices, Cork County Council has continued to provide the online preplanning option to prospective applicants. It should be noted many prospective applicants and their representatives/agents continue to opt for the online service, as it offers opportunities for a wide range of efficiencies, including in terms of travel time for all Parties, the number of attendees that can be facilitated online relative to in-person, and the number of meetings that can be facilitated by the Planning Authority in any given day such that all the necessary reporting sections can have the required input.

While the online preplanning service continues to be an option made available by the Planning Authority, the in-person service is also available. However it must be acknowledged that prospective applicants and their representatives/agents that seek an in-person meeting may experience longer waiting times relative to the online option owing to logistics and ensuring all necessary Council personnel, and indeed the prospective applicant and their representative(s) are available to meet in person at a mutually convenient time and date.

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

- Members said they have had numerous representations from constituents who are waiting months for a pre planning meeting

- Said they have had examples from constituents where unscheduled phone calls are the pre planning meetings
- Members said they are asking that the planners would meet with the applicant as a lot of issues could be resolved during a face to face meeting
- Said it is important to get planning applications approved
- Said in moving planning applications forward, houses are freed up for the rental market
- Members said everything needs to be done to increase housing supply
- Said pre planning meetings are a time saving measure and also help with engineer costs
- Said that there are other consequences to delays with pre planning meetings as it delays mortgage applications
- Members said applicants need to be given the option between an online and a face to face pre planning meeting

The Mayor welcomed the reply from the Director of Services, Planning Department.

The Chief Executive said there is a dual system in place. He said the online system is efficient. Mr. Lucey said there is a significant increase on planning queries and there are resource challenges around the planning system. Mr. Lucey said the quality of a pre planning meeting depends on the quality of the information brought by the applicant and their agent. He said applicants will have to wait longer if they want a face to face meeting rather than an online meeting.

Members agreed to amend the wording of the motion as follows:-

*“That all Pre Planning meetings in future will revert to what they were previous to covid which was around the table one to one with the planners, the applicant and the applicants engineer at a scheduled time suitable to both parties but that the option of online meetings would also be available to applicants”.*

***Cllr. Seamus McGrath proposed, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson***

### **OVER 80S PENSION INCREASE**

**14/9-1**

***Cllr. Ben Dalton O’Sullivan proposed, seconded by Mayor Frank O’Flynn***

“To write to the Minister for Finance and Minister for Public Expenditure to ask them to give full equality to all those over 80 with regards to the “Over 80’s pension increase” in October’s budget which is disproportionately affecting women pensioners in particular”.

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

- Members said women who worked in the home and do not have stamps will be disproportionately affected
- Women who worked in the home will be classed as dependents of their husband
- Said that women’s equality should apply to women who are over 80
- Said the Irish Rural Association are also asking for equality for women over the age of 80
- Members said women often gave up their jobs outside the home when they got married
- Said that female pensioners should not be treated badly at the end of their lives and there should be equality with men and women

- Said there is a difference between a contributory and non contributory pension
- Said the dependents amount is what some wives are getting and this needs to be addressed

*Members agreed to write to the Minister for Finance and Minister for Public Expenditure to ask them to give full equality to all those over 80 with regards to the “Over 80’s pension increase” in October’s budget which is disproportionately affecting women pensioners in particular.*

### **YOUR OPINION COUNTS HSE STAFF SURVEY**

**15/9-1**

***Cllr. Liam Quaide proposed, seconded by Cllr. Alan O’Connor***

“That Cork Co. Council would write to HSE CEO Bernard Gloster in light of the finding from the Your Opinion Counts HSE staff survey that 27% of respondents have experienced bullying or harassment from team leaders / managers or other colleagues and 34% of respondents have witnessed colleagues experiencing such bullying or harassment, and request the following:

- 1) That basic data on the numbers of Grievance / Dignity At Work cases submitted by HSE employees be maintained by each CHO and Hospital Group, including numbers of cases, and length of time the complainant has been waiting for a hearing at each stage of the complaint process.
- 2) That each CHO and Hospital Group HR Dept would provide the CEO's office with a bi-annual summary report of Grievance / Dignity At Work cases currently active, along with details of efforts by the HR Dept to support the complainant and work with the different parties to progress the complaints / resolve the issues in accordance with the HSE's Grievance and Dignity At Work policies”.

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

- Members discussed a feature from Newstalk that highlighted bullying in the HSE
- Said that current & past employees shared their experiences
- Said the scale of the problem is serious
- Said that 27% of HSE employees have experience bullying in the workplace and 34% of HSE employees have witnesses bullying in the workplace
- Members said after submitting a complaint about bullying, a hearing is meant to be scheduled within 7 days but the employee is often left waiting for months without an update
- Said they are asking the CEO to keep waiting times as short as possible
- Said bi annual progress reports are needed
- Members said the statistics reported are very stark

*Members agreed to write to the HSE CEO Bernard Gloster to ask that basic data on the numbers of Grievance / Dignity At Work cases submitted by HSE employees be maintained by each CHO and Hospital Group and request that each CHO and Hospital Group HR Dept would provide the CEO's office with a bi-annual summary report of Grievance / Dignity At Work cases currently active.*

### **FUNDING FOR EARLY CHILDCARE PROVIDERS**

**16/9-1**

The Mayor outlined that agenda items 17, 18 & 23 would be taken together.

***Cllr. Eileen Lynch proposed, seconded by Cllr. Kay Dawson***



“Cork County Council calls on the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Roderick O’Gorman to actively engage with the providers of early learning childcare and school age childcare to ensure that adequate funding is made available for the services that are being provided”.

***Mayor Frank O’Flynn proposed, seconded by Cllr. Seamus McGrath***

“That Cork County Council would call on An Taoiseach, Mr Leo Varadkar, An Tanaiste Mr Micheal Martin TD, Mr Michael McGrath TD Minister for Finance and Mr Roderic O’Gorman TD Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to meet with the Federation of Childcare Providers to address the urgent service issues in relation to the challenges of funding, staffing, administration and waiting times for the assessment of children's needs as a matter of urgency as many childcare facilities are closing down and the difficulties in Early Learning and Childcare and School Age Childcare are a huge issue”.

***Cllr. Marcia D’Alton proposed, seconded by Cllr. Gillian Coughlan***

“That Cork County Council would ask the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to take a realistic re-evaluation of Core Funding to childcare providers such that it genuinely supports the financing, staffing and operation of childcare facilities which are critical to society, to our economy and to this country’s future”.

*The Mayor welcomed to the Chamber two representatives from the Irish Childcare Federation.*

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

- Members said they raised this motion following numerous representations from childcare providers in their constituencies
- Said childcare providers are often living week to week
- Said they are not entitled to maternity leave and their job is not recognised by financial institutions for loans or mortgages
- Said that the core funding model is the issue here as providers cannot increase fees
- Said that childcare providers want to run a viable service but are unable to without sufficient funding
- Members said they have had representations from childcare providers who are experiencing high levels of burnout
- Said staffing is an issue in the sector
- Said providers are dealing with children with special needs and there is not enough funding to support children with additional needs
- Said providers have a high level of administrative work due to regulatory requirements and many providers have to do this work after hours
- Stated a high number of providers have closed and services in the childcare sector are becoming scarce
- Members said core funding needs re-evaluation
- Said it was intended to be a genuine support
- Said regulation is a huge burden to providers and not financially viable
- Said the 2% proposed increase will not cover inflation costs
- Said the core funding model favours larger facilities
- Members said the planned strike this month will impact on families
- Said the service that provided by this sector is vital to the development of children
- Said the Department needs to fully engage with providers

The Mayor said there are four main issues for childcare providers. He said funding, staffing, administration and waiting times for assessment are all issues for the sector. He said four providers in Cork have closed recently. The Mayor wished the Federation every success and thanked them for their attendance in the Chamber.

*Members agreed to amalgamate the three motions and write to An Tánaiste, An Taoiseach, the Minister for Children, Minister for Finance to address the urgent service issues in relation to the challenges of funding, staffing, administration and waiting times for the assessment of children's needs as a matter of urgency. Members further ask Ministers to actively engage with the providers of early learning childcare and school age childcare to ensure that adequate funding is made available for the services that are being provided. Members ask that there is a realistic re-evaluation of Core Funding to childcare providers such that it genuinely supports the financing, staffing and operation of childcare facilities which are critical to society, to our economy and to this country's future.*

### **RETROFITTING SCHEME**

17/9-1

***Cllr. Audrey Buckley proposed, seconded by Cllr. Gearóid Murphy***

“That Cork County Council write to Minister Eamon Ryan and ask that the retrofitting scheme, part of the SEAI grant for retrofitting be reconsidered, allowing homeowners who are retrofitting their homes to apply for stand-alone SEAI grants for windows and doors”.

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

- Members said they did research on the grant scheme and there are a lot of companies around
- Said they are very disappointed that there was no grant available for windows and doors
- Said the average cost for work on a 3 bed house is between €52,000 and €60,000 , likely to get €19,000 back from the grant
- Said there should be a stand alone grant available for doors & windows as otherwise the average cost is too high for many
- Members said people are doing one job at a time as it is more achievable
- Said there is a grant available by the SEAI where the entire house can be done but it takes time

*Members agreed to write to Minister Eamon Ryan and ask that the retrofitting scheme, part of the SEAI grant for retrofitting be reconsidered, allowing homeowners who are retrofitting their homes to apply for stand-alone SEAI grants for windows and doors.*

### **SCHOOL TRANSPORT SYSTEM**

18/9-1

***Cllr. William O’Leary proposed, seconded by Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern***

“That this Council would call on the Minister for Education to immediately put in place whatever resources are necessary to rectify the continuous ongoing issues surrounding the school transport system and if she will consider the following:

- 1: The voices of elected representatives who have first hand knowledge of the issues effecting school going families
- 2: If the Minister will agree and acknowledge that the current school transport system is broken beyond repair and a report commissioned to review same has not yet been published despite been launched 3 years ago
- 3: If the Minister will acknowledge the turmoil this is causing working families with regards to their children’s drop off and pick up times and the impact this is having on their employment

4: If the Minister will accept that a demand led service is now what is required owing to changing in population trends and demographics over the past decade”.

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

- Members said it is frustrating to see that this issue cannot be resolved
- Said it is a shocking situation that students cannot get to school
- Said there are students unable to get on buses where generations of their families have previously been on buses
- Said the difficulty with school transport puts unbelievable pressure on hardworking families
- Members said families are not able to function without getting their kids to school
- Said it is a worsening situation year on year
- Said there is a lack of engagement from the Department and Bus Éireann in resolving this issue
- Said that children cannot be left on the side of the road and the entire system needs an overhaul
- Members said the County Development Plan shows that the whole County is changing and therefore transport must change
- Said that parents and children have a right to choose schools of their choice
- Said that school transport should be a stand alone department in the Department of Transport
- Said it needs to be a stand alone sustainable project
- Members said it is too late for school tickets to be assigned at the end of August
- Said that if people have paid for a school ticket in April, Bus Éireann should know how many students will need a place on each school bus
- Said that the term “concessionary” is not being explained in advance of taking people’s money
- Said that concessionary tickets should be scrapped
- Said it is shocking that people pay money for tickets in April and only find out in August that the service is not available
- Members said Bus Éireann said they need to remember that they are dealing with parents and children not units
- Said that parents will have to miss work to get their kids to school
- Said the School Transport Manager from Bus Éireann will be attending the next meeting of the Roads & Transport Committee
- Said this situation is untenable for families and is soul destroying for parents and children

The Mayor said he does not want to wait for a report on this issue as children and parents are being affected. He said there should be no issue with money as the country has large reserves. He said it is a no brainer to solve and the Minister needs to make the decision to provide additional buses.

*Members agreed to write to the Minister for Transport, Bus Éireann and the Dáil Education Committee to immediately put in place whatever resources are necessary to rectify the continuous ongoing issues surrounding the school transport system.*

**EXTENSION OF TIME**

Members agreed to an extension of time to 13.45.

*Proposed by Councillor Michael Hegarty*

*Seconded by Councillor Seamus McGrath*

### **VAT INCREASE**

**19/9-1**

***Cllr. Marie O’Sullivan proposed, seconded by Cllr. Susan McCarthy***

“I would ask the Minister for Finance Minister McGrath to review the recent increase in VAT for food related and other industries as this will have a detrimental effect on smaller independent businesses as it is not fair to apply a general rate for all”.

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

- Members said this is an issue affecting small business owners
- Said that one size does not fit all in this case and cannot compare cafés to hotels
- Said the cost of doing business has increased enormously due to the Ukranian war
- Said that staff issues have increased and staff have to be paid accordingly to retain them
- Members said small businesses are the heart of every town
- Said they need to ensure it is viable to keep businesses open
- Said the small cafes that are really struggling and have a lot more challenges just to make ends meet
- Members said the higher VAT rate should be brought in for the larger hotel chains only
- Said the VAT rate needs to be reduced to support smaller businesses

*Members agreed to write to the Minister for Finance Minister McGrath to review the recent increase in VAT for food related and other industries as this will have a detrimental effect on smaller independent businesses as it is not fair to apply a general rate for all.*

### **ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

**20/9-1**

***Cllr. Gearóid Murphy proposed, seconded by Cllr. Tony O’Shea***

“To write to the Electoral Commission expressing Cork County Council's disappointment at the recommendation that Mallow Town be placed in Cork North Central for the next General Election and expressing the Council's belief that Mallow should be placed in a rural-based constituency in order to ensure proper representation for the town and surrounding areas”.

With the agreement of the Members, notice of motion 22 was withdrawn.

### **CHILD BENEFIT**

**21/9-1**

***Cllr. Deirdre O’Brien proposed, seconded by Cllr. Gillian Coughlan***

“That this Council support calls to increase the Child Benefit in respect of full time students who are over the age of 18 years and in full-time education”.

With the agreement of the Members, this motion was moved.

**[k] VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

22/9-1

- TO:** Passage West GAA Club organising committee of Ladies Football Blitz on organising a fantastic blitz
- TO:** Skibbereen Rowing Club on qualifying for the Olympics
- TO:** Neil Sargent on being awarded the 8<sup>th</sup> Dan Black Belt
- TO:** Katie Power on winning gold at the IMMAF Worlds Youth Mixed Martial Arts Championships in Dubai with Team Ireland
- TO:** Whitegate Rowing Club on winning the Club of the Championship at the National Coastal Rowing Championships
- TO:** Grace Hurley & Finnian Mannix of Rosscarbery Rowing Club on coming 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Home International Rowing Regatta
- TO:** Caroline Roche on winning the All Ireland Junior Girls Tetrathlon Championships
- TO:** Keilin Coleman on winning a Bronze Medal in Bucharest.
- TO:** Youghal Karate Club on winning the 14<sup>th</sup> World Championships in Hungary

**[i] ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

23/9-1

**KINSALE LIBRARY**

Members said Cork County Council should make every effort to progress Kinsale Library to national or international awards. Members said it is a magnificent building and agreed to pass it to the Director of Services for Municipal Districts to progress the matter and to seek suitable competitions.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME**

Members asked if there was a delay on the affordable housing scheme in Kinsale.

**PROPOSED SPEED LIMITS**

Members acknowledged the recent tragic deaths on the roads. Members said the proposed speed limits are not workable for some areas. Members said that 60 km/h speed limits would be very restrictive on local and rural roads throughout the County. They said that investment in roads reduces accidents and there are a range of issues to be looked at including road design. Members asked for clarification on it.

**CIVIC RECEPTIONS**

Members resolved to hold a civic reception for the Fermoy Brass Band & Stephen O'Leary.

*Proposed by Councillor Seamus McGrath*

*Seconded by Councillor Michael Looney*

**MINISTER OF TRANSPORT**

Members agreed that a letter would issue to the Minister for Transport requesting that he consider the contents of the letter sent to him on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023 seeking a meeting.

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