



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 Monday 24th March 2025.

I LATHAIR

Comhairleoir Seosamh Ó Cearbhaill, Méara Chontae

Comhairleoiri: Uí Bhambaire, Ó Colmáin, Ó Coileáin S, Ó Foghlú, Uí Shúilleabháin M, Ó Coileáin D, Ní Chróinín, Ó hArrachtáin, Ó Murchú PG, Uí Bhuachalla A, Daltún, Ó Suilleabháin, Donnabháin, Ó Fathaigh, Ní Charthaigh Ú, De Faoite, Barra, Mac Iorlla, Ó Finn, Ní Cheallacháin, Rasmussen, Sheppard, Mac Coitir, Uí Bhriain, Ó Donnchú, Ó Floinn, Ó Laoghaire, De Brún, Ó Dubhghaill, Ó Muineacháin B Ní Murchú T, Ó Cochláin M, Críod, Ó Luasa Ní Mhuineacháin G, Ó Haodha, Ó Madaoin, Ó Múrchú G, Ó Sé T, Ó Síocháin, Ní Heachthigheirn, Ó Buachalla S, Cocking, Ó Héigheartaigh, Ó Hargáin, Léineacháin Uí Foghlú, Ó Maolchathaigh, Ó Cearbhaill, Ní Cheallaigh, Ó Seasnáin, Towse

PRESENT

Councillor Joe Carroll, County Mayor, presided.

Councillor: Bambury, Coleman, Collins J, Foley, O'Sullivan M, Collins D, Cronin, Harrington, Murphy PG, Buckley A, Dalton-O'Sullivan, Donovan, Fahy, McCarthy U, White, Barry, Curley, Finn, O' Callaghan, Rasmussen, Sheppard, Cotter, O'Brien, O'Donoghue, O'Flynn, O'Leary, Browne, Doyle, Moynihan B, Murphy T, Coughlan M, Creed, Lucey, Moynihan G, Hayes, Madden, Murphy G, O'Shea T, Sheehan, Ahern, Buckley J, Cocking, Hegarty, Horgan, Linehan Foley, Mulcahy, Carroll, Kelly, Sexton, Towse

Chief Executive, Divisional Managers, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services.

[a] CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES DEIMHNIÚ MIONTUAIRISCÍ

1/3-2

*Proposed by Cllr. Michael Hegarty
Seconded by Cllr. Frank O'Flynn*

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Meeting held on 10th March 2025 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

[b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY RÚN CHOMHBHRÓIN

2/3-2

TO: The Crowley Family on the passing of their father Seamus Crowley.

TO: Joe Kavanagh & family on the passing of his father & Husband Brendan Kavanagh.

TO: Kathryn Fitzgerald and family on the passing of Ger Fitzgerald.

TO: Adrian Tyner on the passing of his father George Tyner.

**[c] STATUTORY BUSINESS
GNÓ RÉACHTÚIL**

DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001:

3/3-2

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KANTURK MALLOW:

Disposal of No. 5 George's Street, Churchtown, Mallow

3(a)/3-2

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 March 14th 2025.

Situation: Repossessed Property at 5 George's Street, Churchtown, Mallow, Co. Cork.

Area: As outlined in File Plan CK6050F

From whom acquired: Acquired by Cork County Council 02/12/2002.

Consideration: €95,000

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF WEST CORK:

Disposal at Lambe Street, Clonakilty, Co Cork

3(b)/3-2

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 March 14th 2025

Situation: Lambe Street, Clonakilty, Co Cork

Area: 0.062 hectares (0.154 acres)

From whom acquired: Unknown – predated Council Records

Consideration: Litigation Settlement – nominal amount

**[f] REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF OFFICERS
TUAIRISCÍ AGUS MOLTAÍ Ó OIFIGIGH**

4/3-2

Presentation of the Corporate plan 2025-2029

*Proposed by Cllr. Frank O'Flynn
Seconded by Cllr. Patrick O'Donovan*

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

UACHTARAN, GAA

5/3-2

Correspondence received 04/03/25 from Iarlaith O'Broin, Uachtaran, GAA in response to the Councils letter dated 17 February 2025, in connection with broadcast media rights and the full transfer of sale of shares from RTE to GAA Go.

Members noted the correspondence from Iarlaith O'Broin, Uachtaran, GAA.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IRELAND

6/3-2

Correspondence received 06/03/25 from, Suzanne Cahill of Transport Infrastructure Ireland in response to the Councils letter dated 17 February 2025, in connection with the proposed speed limit reductions on our National Secondary Roads from 100kmh to 80kmh.

Members noted the correspondence from the Transport Infrastructure Ireland

Niall Healy Divisional Manager responded and said although changes on rural roads have taken place we are awaiting guidance on urban local roads and national secondary roads from the Department of Transport. No timelines for the roll out of these two phases are currently available.

UISCE ÉIREANN

7/3-2

Correspondence received 07/03/25 from, Uisce Éireann in response to the Councils letter dated 17 February 2025, in connection with the request for capital investment for generators to be installed in all water plants.

Members noted the correspondence from Uisce Éireann

**[h] NOTICES OF MOTION
FOGRAÍ RÚN**

ROAD LINING

8/3-2

Cllr. Jack White proposed, seconded by Cllr Sinead Sheppard

“That this Council request information on how often road lining contractors were in each Municipal District in 2024? Can a system be developed where elected members and Area Office staff know that the contractors will be present for a block of work in each MD at least once per quarter? This will allow more efficient planning of works and set predictable expectations for the public.”

Members noted the response from Niall Healy Divisional Manager as follows:

RESPONSE:

Road marking is undertaken as part of road pavement renewal which is grant funded or as part of ordinary road maintenance which is funded out of our maintenance budgets. The amount of pavement renewal carried out in any calendar year is dependent on grant allocations and approximately 5% of our road network pavement is renewed on an annual basis. Maintenance funding is limited and must cover pothole repairs, patching, drainage, hedge cutting, emergency call outs and other day to day expenses associated with the maintenance and management of our county roads.

The carrying out of road marking is dependent on many factors including weather, location, and available budgets. Due to the weather and temperature constraints, it is not typically carried out on a continuous basis throughout the year and the vast majority would be carried out in tandem with the resurfacing programmes typically April to September each year. The location and existing traffic volumes on roads where it is proposed to undertake lining may also impact on when lining can be carried out as frequently in busy locations lining has to be undertaken outside of normal working hours.

Arrangements for quarterly MD reporting on road lining will be put in place going forward whereby Area Engineers will provide MD members with information with regard to planned road lining works. It should be noted that while every effort will be made to provide advance notification to members given the lead in times for contractors, it should be noted that in some cases works may be scheduled at short notice. Members should also be cognizant of the budgetary limitations in terms of road maintenance generally. Furthermore, the Council is currently examining options in terms of procurement and delivery of road lining services and will report to members in this matter in due course.

During this discussion, the members made the following points:

- The length of time that road lining takes can be frustrating.
- Cork County Council need to find a process that allows elected members the information needed on timelines in order to report back effectively to constituents.
- Bringing road lining in-house may be beneficial but contractors could work has effectively if managed correctly.
- This issue relates to all MDs.
- It is difficult to get contactors to do smaller jobs.
- An arrangement has been created in some MDs whereby elected members compile a list of areas where road lining is needed and the district engineer will arrange for this work to be done in blocks.
- Elected members should be informed by their Area Office in advance of Road lining contractors visits.
- It is a health and safety issue in some areas especially at junctions where lines are worn.

Divisional Manager Niall Healy responded as follows:

All National Road lining is funded and managed by TII. There is no dedicated funding for regional and local roads in regards to road marking therefore many improvement work projects include road lining as a means of cost effective maintenance. Budgetary constraints are our main obstacle in relation to road lining and the council is currently investigating procuring its own road lining machine. MD officers will ensure all quarterly reports going forward will include road lining works.

SEAI GRANTS FOR WINDOWS & DOORS

9/3-2

Cllr. Audrey Buckley proposed, seconded by Cllr. Sile O’Callaghan

“That Cork County Council write to Minister Darragh O Brien 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:

- The one stop shop does not suit older homes.
- The overall SEAI grant costing of 70,000 plus is not viable for older people and people without access to the match funding.
- Financial restraints should not be placed on people who are trying to upgrade their homes.
- Incremental change is what is most affordable for people, the scheme should work within each households financial circumstances.
- Obtaining a BER certificate through the SEAI can take 1 to 2 years, an unnecessary wait if they accepted certificates from external assessors.
- The solar panel grant offers €300 less than previous years due a predicted reduced costs of solar panels although an increase in solar panel cost is the actuality.

Councillors agreed to write to Minister Darragh O Brien 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.

CHILD MAINTENANCE & RENT CALCULATIONS

10/3-2

Cllr. Isobel Towse proposed, seconded by Cllr. Ger Curley

“That Cork County Council would disregard child maintenance payments from rent calculations and social housing assessments.”

Members noted the response from Michael Lynch Divisional Manager as follows:

RESPONSE:

The Council’s Rent Scheme includes Child Maintenance payments as assessable income, and any changes will require an amendment to the Scheme. There would appear to be some inequities in retaining maintenance payments as part of the calculation of weekly rent. They are declared voluntarily and can take different forms. Maintenance may be the purchase of shoes, clothes or payment for holidays, for example. Payments may be made in cash and may be intermittent rather than regular. It is proposed to review the Scheme and consider its possible amendment. The Scheme and any suggested revision will then be discussed at the next meeting of the Housing SPC, which will take place on Monday 28th April 2025.

Applications for social housing support are assessed in accordance with eligibility criteria set out in the Social Housing Assessment Regulations 2011. The Regulations prescribe maximum net income limits

for each local authority, in different bands according to the area concerned, with income being defined and assessed according to a standard Household Means Policy. Except for specific payments listed in the Policy as being disregarded, all income from social insurance and social assistance payments, allowances and benefits, and maintenance payments received is assessable. It is understood that the Department of Housing is currently in the process of reviewing assessable and non-assessable income under the Policy to ensure it continues to be appropriate.

During this discussion, the members made the following points:

- When child maintenance is considered an income it can effect chances of getting necessary supports and push vulnerable households over the threshold for housing support.
- Child maintenance is not a reliable source of income.
- Making and amending the social housing rent scheme is at the discretion of the local authority.
- Child maintenance payments are not considered an income in any other regard when applying for loans or a mortgage.
- Receipts to be shown to prove that maintenance was spent on the child when requesting that child maintenance is omitted from household income.
- A large cohort of families are living within social housing units and discretion needs to be shown when calculating the household income threshold in regards to increases in welfare or additional working hours.

Divisional Manager Michael Lynch responded as follows:

Cork County Council will look to amend the Rent Scheme with regard to maintenance income and discuss at the next meeting of the Housing SPC, on Monday 28th April. The Department of Housing is currently in the process of reviewing Household Means Policy.

Councillors agreed to write to Minister for Social Protection, Dara Calleary to state that this council supports the motion of disregarding Child Maintenance payments from Social housing assessments which we ask the department to consider when reviewing assessable and non-assessable income under the Household Means Policy.

SEAI GRANTS FOR WINDOWS & DOORS

11/3-2

Cllr. Peter O'Donoghue proposed, seconded by Cllr. William O'Leary

"That considering it is 5 years since the introduction of the Covid Lockdowns, Cork County Council would write to the Taoiseach and request that a fully transparent, Independent public inquiry into the previous government's reaction to the Covid 19 virus be held within the coming 3 months and that this inquiry would also investigate the causes of the major increase in excess deaths in the last 3 years and if these deaths are linked to the covid restrictions."

During this discussion, the members made the following points:

- *That any enquiry needs to be public, transparent and independent.*
- *A moment should be given to acknowledge the deaths during the pandemic.*
- *Cost of living continues to increase since 2020.*
- *It is best practice to have a public enquiry after any such event to identify where we went right and wrong.*

- *The motion was not supported by some members and some stated that hindsight is something that we should all be aware of when discussing covid.*
- *A government review is currently underway by a multi-disciplinary panel and members trust that the outcomes will be honest and help to inform best practice when dealing with any similar pandemics in the future.*
- *This is a public health issue rather than a political issue.*

Under standing orders an amendment to the motion was proposed by Cllr Patrick Mulcahy and seconded by Cllr Mary Linehan Foley to amend the motion to the following:

“That the council would hold off on the original motion until the current public enquiry has been undertaken, concluded and published”

The Mayor requested that a vote be taken on the amendment, which resulted as follows:

FOR: Councillors: Bambury, Coleman, Foley, O’Sullivan M, Cronin, Harrington, Buckley A, Donovan, Fahy, McCarthy U, White, Barry, Curley, Finn, O’ Callaghan, Rasmussen, Sheppard, Cotter, O’Brien, Browne, Doyle, Moynihan B, Murphy T, Creed, Looney, Lucey, Moynihan G, Hayes, Murphy G, O’Shea T, Sheehan, Ahern, Cocking, Hegarty, Horgan, Linehan Foley, Mulcahy, Carroll, Kelly, Sexton, Towse

[41]

AGAINST: Councillors: O’Donoghue, O’Leary, Buckley J

[3]

[k] VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

12/3-2

TO: Crosshaven Rugby Club for winning the Munster Plate Final in Thomond Park on Saturday 22nd.

TO: Crosshaven Festival Committee on running such a successful St. Patricks Day Festival.

TO: Kinsale Vex Robotics Team at Kinsale Community School.

TO: Youghal4All for running a successful Patricks Day event.

TO: Irish Special Olympics floorball team for winning a Bronze at the World Winter Games.

TO: Sacred Heart Secondary School for winning the Munster Senior & Munster Junior Cup final.

TO: Clonakilty Soccer Club on winning the Bemish Cup Final.

TO: Nicola Tuthill for winning Gold at the European Throwing Cup in Cyprus in the Under 23s.

TO: The Carrigaline St Patricks Day Parade committee for organising a successful St Patricks Parade.

[i] ANY OTHER BUSINESS

CORK TRAINS

13/3-2

Members asked that Cork County Council write to Iarnród Éireann to request additional train services on the 6th of April to accommodate Cork fans attending the League Final in Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

Councillors agreed to write to Iarnród Éireann to request additional train services on the 6th of April.

AOB

14/3-2

Members were reminded to bring AOB to the Mayor and the meeting administrator prior to Full Council.

BILINGUAL AGENDA

15/3-2

Members requested that the Agenda be bilingual going forward and a list of Irish phrases that Councillors can use in the chamber should be readily available on Sharepoint.

MAYORS CHARITY GALA

16/3-2

Members were informed that the Mayors Charity Gala will be taking place in Skibbereen on Saturday, May 3rd.

~ THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING ~