



# 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 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 11am.

### I LATHAIR

#### Comhairleoir Dónal Ó Coileáin, Méara Chontae

Comhairleoiri: Uí Chochláin G, Ó Colmáin, Ó Murchú C, Ó Suilleabháin S, Uí Shuilleabháin M, Ó Donnabháin, Ó Murchú PG, Ní Chroinín, Mac Craith, Uí Daltún, Ó Muircheartaigh, Uí Bhuachalla, De Faoite S, Daltún Ó Suilleabháin, Ní Cheallacháin, Barra, Sheppard, Rasmussen, Ó Conchubair S, Ó Conchubair A, MacCarthaigh N, Ó Flionn, Uí Bhriain, Ó Laoghaire, Dawson, De Róiste, Ó Dubhghaill, Ó Sé SP, Ó Murchú G, Críod, Ní Mhuineachain G, Ó Luanaigh, Ó Cochláin M, Uí Loinsigh, Ó Luasa, Ó Haodha Padraig, Ó Murchú Gearóid, Ó Cinnéide, Ó Madaoin, Ó Sé T, Léineacháin Uí Foghlú, Ó hÉalaithe, Ó Héigheartaigh, Ní Heachthigheirn, Uí Thuama, MacCarthaigh S, Mac Uaid, Ní Cheallaigh, Ó Cearbhaill, Ó Muirthile, Uí Chaochlaioich, Ó Haodha Pól

### PRESENT

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

**Councillor:** Coughlan, Coleman, Murphy K, O'Sullivan J, O'Sullivan M, O' Donovan, Murphy PG, Cronin, McGrath, D'Alton, Murtagh, Buckley A, White J, Dalton – O' Sullivan, O' Callaghan, Barry, Sheppard, Rasmussen, O' Connor S, O' Connor A, McCarthy N, O' Flynn, O' Brien, O' Leary, Dawson, Roche, Doyle, O'Shea JP, Murphy G, Creed, Moynihan G, Looney, Coughlan M, Lynch, Lucey, Hayes Pat, Murphy Gearóid, Kennedy, Madden, O'Shea T, Linehan – Foley, Healy, Hegarty, Ahern, Twomey, McCarthy S, Quaide, Kelly, Carroll, Hurley, Coakley, Hayes Paul

### [a] CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1/1-1

*Proposed by Councillor Michael Hegarty*

*Seconded by Councillor James Kennedy*

### RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

### [b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY

2/1-1

**TO:** Colette Palmer on the death of her husband Paudie Palmer

**TO:** Pat Hegarty on the death of his mother Maura Hegarty

**TO:** Clare Barr on the death of her father Peter Dooley

**TO:** Tomás Meaney on the death of his father Tom Meaney

**TO:** Ian Murphy on the death of his sister Anne Walsh

**TO:** Noreen Murphy on the death of her partner Michael Kearns

**TO:** Joe Fox on the death of his mother Maudie Fox

**TO:** The Fonseca family on the death of their daughter Bruna Fonseca

**[c] STATUTORY BUSINESS**

**3/1-1**

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KANTURK/MALLOW:**

*Disposal of Land at Main Street, Charleville, Co. Cork*

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

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 30<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

**Situation:** Disposal of land at Main Street, Charleville, Co Cork

**Consideration:** €1

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF FERMOY:**

*Disposal of Land at St. Bernard's Place, Fermoy, Co. Cork*

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

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 30<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

**Situation:** Disposal of land at St. Bernard Place, Fermoy, Co Cork.

**Consideration:** €1

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

**4/1-1**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL PROTECTION**

Correspondence received 14<sup>th</sup> December from the Department of Social Protection in response to the Council's letter dated 14/11/22 in relation to providing financial security for healthcare workers with Long Covid.

*Members noted the correspondence from the Department of Social Protection.*

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

- Members said they are disappointed with the response
- Said the response suggests that the Department does not believe that healthcare workers are deserving of an occupational injury scheme
- There are a disproportionate number of healthcare workers diagnosed with long Covid symptoms
- Members agreed to write back to the Department of Social Protection to ask that it comes into line with other EU nations following the recommendations of the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2021-2027 and provide an occupational injury scheme for these workers.

**5/1-1**

**HSE**

Correspondence received 16<sup>th</sup> December from the HSE in response to the Council's letter dated 14/11/22 in relation to reconsidering the implementation of distance restrictions on home births.

*Members noted the correspondence from the HSE.*

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

- Members requested to write back to the HSE to seek further clarification with regards to the 30 minutes or less blue light distance from nearest maternity service rule
- Members said the response from the HSE does not reflect the views of Members.

**6/1-1**

## **MINISTER JAMES BROWNE**

Correspondence received 19<sup>th</sup> December from Minister James Browne in response to the Council's letter dated 14/11/22 in relation to enacting the Gambling Regulations Bill as soon as possible.

*Members noted the correspondence from Minister James Browne.*

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

- Members said the contents of the letter are encouraging and hope that the regulation will be in place in 2023.

7/1-1

## **MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Correspondence received 4<sup>th</sup> January from Minister Darragh O'Brien in response to the Council's letter dated 24/10/22 in relation to the rules of engagement for Irish Water to inform elected representatives on works carried out in towns and village.

*Members noted the correspondence from Minister Darragh O'Brien.*

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

- Members said they are disappointed with the response
- Said the Irish Water councillor clinics are not functional
- Said there is no awareness in clinics of submissions received from Members
- Members said they are dissatisfied with the lack of engagement from Irish Water and proposed Liaison Officers for given areas to ensure continuity of communication
- Members agreed to write back to Irish Water to express dissatisfaction with Irish Water Councillor Clinics and to ask Irish Water to consider Liaison Officers for given areas
- Noted the name change from Irish Water to Uisce Éireann.

## **[g] NOTICES OF MOTION FOGRAÍ RÚN**

8/1-1

### **BUS SHELTERS**

“That Cork County Council call on the Minister for Transport to adopt a policy at National level to have bus shelters constructed where there is a bus stop”.

*Councillor Liam Madden proposed, seconded by Councillor Jack White*

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

- Members said this motion has also been debated by other Local Authorities
- Said there is a good bus service along the N20 and rail services have also improved

- People in rural areas need to be encouraged to use bus services, but the use of bus services will only improve if bus shelters are provided
- Said Local Link services had improved connectivity
- The NTA has installed some bus shelters that are one sided only and these are not adequate
- Bus shelters in Cork City to Cork Airport are not sheltered creating a bad impression on tourists
- Members said surveys need to be carried out before bus stops are designated and shelters are installed
- Said it is frustrating that the designation of bus poles falls under the remit of the NTA and not Bus Eireann
- Said there are blockages of delivery on the ground from the NTA
- Members expressed caution that the Minister needs to be aware of having a shelter at every bus stop as this could prevent the development of bus stops
- Said the NTA needed to engage more with Elected Members, residents and businesses
- Said physical maintenance and repairs is required at a lot of bus stops
- Members said they need to know what the programme of works are for 2023
- Members agreed to write to the Minister for Transport to request that there are bus shelters at each bus stop, to request the involvement of local communities in the consultation process and to ask for the plan of works for provision of bus shelters for 2023.

Members agreed to an amended wording of the motion as follows:

“That Cork County Council call on the Minister for Transport to adopt a policy at National level to have bus shelters constructed where there is a bus stop and to have local communities included in the consultation process. Members also requested the proposed plan of works for provision of Bus Shelters for 2023”.

9/1-1

### HARE COURSING

“That this council would write to Charlie McConalogue T.D., Minister for Agriculture, to request that a nationwide ban on hare coursing be introduced.”

*Councillor Alan O’ Connor proposed, seconded by Councillor Liam Quaide*

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

- Members said a Red C poll found that 77% of respondents believed that the Irish government should ban hare coursing
- Not justifiable that animals should be hurt for fun and traditions can change
- Hare coursing is a cruel activity, not justifiable that animals should be captured and held for entertainment
- A society that treats animals better would overall be a better society
- Members said this has been a long standing policy proposal of the Green Party
- Said hare coursing has no place in a society that considers itself civilised and modern
- Members said they do not want to present an attack on rural Ireland
- Hare coursing is a perversion of what a sport is meant to be

- Members said they have issues with this proposal and know a lot of greyhound owners who take great care of their animals
- Sick or pregnant hares are not used for coursing and hares are vaccinated if necessary
- Hare coursing is supervised by the National Parks and Wildlife Services and vets are present at coursing events
- Members said it would be more prudent to seek that legislation for illegal hunting be updated
- Said illegal hunting was rampant during the Covid pandemic
- Members said hare coursing is part and parcel of Irish heritage
- Said this is another attack on rural Ireland
- Said coursing is very well regulated and muzzles were introduced in 1993
- Said the motion could be counter productive and drive a lot of hunting underground
- Said illegal hunting is where the cruelty happens
- Said all ages enjoy the sport of regulated coursing
- Said coursing and conservation of hare population go hand in hand
- Said illegal hunting is causing a major problem in certain areas as landowners are being abused by people entering land without permission.

The Mayor called for a vote to be taken on this motion as follows:-

**FOR:** Councillor Rasmussen, O'Connor A, Quaide, Hayes Paul

[4]

**AGAINST:** Councillor Coughlan G, Murphy K, O'Sullivan J, Collins, Murphy PG, Cronin, McGrath, Murtagh, O'Callaghan, Barry, McCarthy N, O'Flynn, O'Brien, O'Leary, Dawson, Roche, Doyle, Shea JP, Murphy Gerard, Creed, Looney, Lynch, Lucey, Hayes Pat, Kennedy, Madden, O'Shea T, Linehan-Foley, Healy, Hegarty, Twomey, McCarthy S, Ahern, Kelly, Carroll, Hurley

[36]

**ABSTAIN:** Councillor Buckley, Coughlan M, Murphy Gearóid

[3]

The Mayor declared that the motion had failed.

## [1] ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10/1-1

1. Members agreed to write to the Minister for Transport to enforce regulations for E-scooters and E-bikes and propose a speed limit of 20 km per hour. Members said Ireland is behind with regulations for E-scooters and E-bikes and request that the Minister for Transport would urgently put regulations in place. Proposed by Councillor Ian Doyle, seconded by Councillor Danielle Twomey.
2. Members thanked paramedics, fire crews and frontline medical staff for their work over the Christmas period. Members commended their work and professionalism on tragic and challenging incidents.
3. Members agreed to write to the Minister for Transport to consider that Uber be allowed to operate in this country. Members said that Uber is needed to save the social fabric of rural Ireland. Members agreed to circulate this letter to all Local Authorities. Proposed by Councillor Sean O'Donovan, seconded by Councillor Joe Carroll.
4. Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, reminded Members that Ethics Declaration forms will need to be completed and submitted by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

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