



# 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> October 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, Ó Conaill, 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, Ó Luasa, Ó Haodha Padriagh, Ó Murchú Gearóid, Ó Cinnéide, Ó Madaoin, 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 Chaochlaioich, 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, O'Connell, 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, Lucey, Hayes Pat, Murphy Gearóid, Kennedy, Madden, O'Shea Tony, Linehan-Foley, Healy, Hegarty M, Ahern, Twomey, McCarthy S, Quaide, Kelly, Carroll, Hurley, Coakley, Hayes Paul

Chief Executive, S/Senior Executive Officer Corporate Services.

#### **[a] CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

*Proposed by Councillor Karen Coakley*

**1/10-1**

*Seconded by Councillor Michael Hegarty*

### **RESOLVED:**

“That the minutes of the Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.”

#### **[b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

**2/10-1**

**TO:** Ronnie McKeogh on the passing of her father Billy Barry.

**TO:** Mary Kelleher on the death of her husband Con Kelleher.

**TO:** Jerry Kelleher on the death of his brother Denis Kelleher.  
**TO:** Claire Murray on the death of her husband Tom Murray.  
**TO:** Gretta Nash on the death of her husband Joe Nash.

**[c] STATUTORY BUSINESS**

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

**3/10-1**

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BANDON/KINSALE:**

*Disposal of lands at Kilcawha, Kinsale, Co. Cork*

**3(a)/10-1**

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 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

**Situation:** Disposal of land at Kilcawha, Kinsale, Co. Cork

**Area:** 0.2324 hectares/0.5742 acres

**Consideration:** €5,700

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF EAST CORK :**

*Grant of Wayleave at Broomfield, Midleton, Co. Cork*

**3(b)/10-1**

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 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

**Situation:** Grant of wayleave in favour of Uisce Eireann at Broomfield, Midleton, Co. Cork.

**Area:** Wayleave coloured yellow marked X-Y Area measuring 180m approx. x 10m average as per map attached.

**Consideration:** €1.00

**FILLING OF CASUAL VACANCY ON THE NORTH CORK LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES:**

**4/10-1**

**Section 4(2) and Sections 32-35 of the North Cork Community Development Committee (Section 128E) Regulations 2014 (SI No. 234 of 2014):**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 4(2) and Sections 32-35 of the South Cork Local Community Development Committee (Section 128E) Regulations 2014 (SI No. 234 of 2014).

Members resolved to approve the appointment of Ms. Denise Brosnan as a replacement representative for Dept Social Protection on the North Cork LCDC. The previous nominee (Ms. Majella Murphy) is hereby de-selected.

*Proposed by Councillor John Paul O'Shea*

*Seconded by Councillor Seamus McGrath*

**[d] FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

**5/10-1**

**APPROVAL SANCTION TO BORROW FOR COST RENTAL HOUSING SCHEMES UNDER SECTION 106 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM ACT 2014):**

“That Cork County Council is authorised to borrow a sum not exceeding €80.5 m, from Housing Finance Agency, to support the delivery of Cork County Council’s Cost Rental Schemes, per Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001(as amended).”

*Proposed by Councillor Seamus McGrath*

*Seconded by Councillor John Paul O'Shea*

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

**6/10-1**

**CORPORATE POLICY GROUP**

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

*Proposed by Councillor Gearóid Murphy*

*Seconded by Councillor John Paul O'Shea*

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

**7/10-1**

**CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**

Briefing to Members in advance of public consultation on the Draft Climate Action Plan.

*Proposed by Councillor John Paul O'Shea*

*Seconded by Councillor Kevin Murphy*

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

- Members said it is a very important document to come before them in the Chamber
- Said the climate plan needs to be properly promoted to the public

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

**AN TÁNAISTE**

**8/10-1**

Correspondence received 20/09/2023 from An Tánaiste in response to the Council's letter dated 25/07/23 in relation to querying why a Citizen's Assembly was not established on Irish neutrality and security policy and investment.

*Members noted the correspondence from An Tánaiste.*

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

- Members said the response received does not fully explain why a Citizens Assembly was not pursued
- Said security cannot be taken for granted
- Said there is no denying the complexity of the issues here and a Citizens Assembly is the best forum to discuss these issues

- Said the issue needs debate and that it should be discussed within formal, constitutional structures

*Members agreed to write back to An Tánaiste to request that a Citizen's Assembly be established on Irish Neutrality and security policy and investment.*

#### **MINISTER FOR FINANCE**

**9/10-1**

Correspondence received 21/09/2023 from the Minister for Finance in response to the Council's letter dated 11/09/2023 in relation to giving full equality to all those over 80 with regards to the "Over 80's pension increase" in October's budget.

*Members noted the correspondence from the Minister for Finance*

#### **MINISTER FOR PUBLIC EXPENDITURE**

**10/10-1**

Correspondence received 25/09/2023 from the Minister for Public Expenditure in response to the Council's letter dated 11/09/2023 in relation to giving full equality to all those over 80 with regards to the "Over 80's pension increase" in October's budget

*Members noted the correspondence from the Minister for Public Expenditure.*

#### **CENTRAL BANK**

**11/10-1**

Correspondence received 28/09/2023 from the Central Bank in response to the Council's letter dated 11/09/2023 in relation to requesting clarity on the status of our national tender.

*Members noted the correspondence from the Central Bank.*

### **[h] NOTICES OF MOTION**

#### **LIS SCHEMES**

**12/10-1**

*Cllr. Ben Dalton O'Sullivan proposed, seconded by Cllr John O'Sullivan*

Can the Roads Directorate clarify:

1. The number of LIS schemes currently on a waiting list (total and by M.D)
2. The amount of funding applied for to the Dept for 2024
3. According to the Roads Director, how many schemes has Cork County Council the capacity to deliver in 2024.

**RESPONSE:**

Members noted the response from Pdraig Barrett, Roads Directorate, as follows:

1. The number of LIS schemes currently on a waiting list (total and by M.D)

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	ENGINEERING AREA	NO. OF APPLICATIONS	Current Estimated GRANT AMOUNT REQUIRED
Bandon Kinsale	Bandon	6	267,283
	Kinsale	2	214,608
<b>Bandon Kinsale Total</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>481,891</b>
Carrigaline	Carrigaline	3	64,059
<b>Carrigaline Total</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>64,059</b>
Cobh	Cobh	1	143,040
<b>Cobh Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>143,040</b>
East Cork	Youghal	4	294,580
<b>East Cork Total</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>294,580</b>
Fermoy	Fermoy	1	103,200
	Mitchelstown	2	51,944
<b>Fermoy Total</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>155,144</b>
Kanturk/Mallow	Mallow	8	535,424
	Newmarket/Kanturk	8	271,388
<b>Kanturk/Mallow Total</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>806,812</b>
Macroom	Macroom	19	1,239,120
	Millstreet	8	654,040
<b>Macroom Total</b>		<b>27</b>	<b>1,893,160</b>
West Cork Bantry	Bantry	22	943,075
	Castletownbere	10	610,007
	Schull	15	842,952
<b>West Cork Bantry Total</b>		<b>47</b>	<b>2,396,034</b>
West Cork Skibbereen	Skibbereen	2	122,040
<b>West Cork Skibbereen Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>122,040</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>111</b>	<b>6,356,760</b>

2. The amount of funding applied for to the Dept for 2024? **€5,100,000**

3. According to the Roads Director, how many schemes has Cork CoCo the capacity to deliver in 2024. **79 – these schemes have been identified by the Area Engineers.**

See below details in relation to Q2 & Q3 for your own information, I slightly rounded up the grant amount when requesting same to the DRCD.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT	ENGINEERING AREA	NO. OF APPLICATIONS	Current Estimated GRANT AMOUNT REQUIRED
Bandon Kinsale	Bandon	3	139,797
<b>Bandon Kinsale Total</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>139,797</b>
Carrigaline	Carrigaline	3	73,351
<b>Carrigaline Total</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>73,351</b>
Cobh	Cobh	1	143,040
<b>Cobh Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>143,040</b>
East Cork	Youghal	3	172,880
<b>East Cork Total</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>172,880</b>
Fermoy	Fermoy	1	103,200
	Mitchelstown	2	67,140
<b>Fermoy Total</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>170,340</b>
Kanturk/Mallow	Mallow	8	700,721
	Newmarket/Kanturk	8	501,024
<b>Kanturk/Mallow Total</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>1,201,745</b>
Macroom	Macroom	3	236,700
	Millstreet	3	187,785
<b>Macroom Total</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>424,485</b>
West Cork Bantry	Bantry	22	1,332,759
	Castletownbere	10	610,007
	Schull	10	492,821
<b>West Cork Bantry Total</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>2,435,587</b>

West Cork Skibbereen	Skibbereen	2	141,840
<b>West Cork Skibbereen Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>141,840</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>79</b>	<b>4,903,065</b>

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

- Members said it is positive to see that Cork County Council can deliver 79 of these schemes based on the available funding
- Members thanked the Director of Services, Road Directorate and staff in the Roads Directorate for their work
- Said consideration should be given to releasing tranche 2 funding earlier in the year needs to allow proper use of the funding throughout the County
- Said Minister Humphreys gave funding at the start of the year and any additional funding will be done and completed by the end of the November
- Members said there are a lot of roads requiring improvement in West Cork
- Said since the criteria for funding changed, there are roads in the County that do not qualify and people have not been made aware of this
- Said that people need to be notified if roads do not qualify for the funding

The Mayor thanked the Roads Directorate for all of their work and noted the great work being done in his own Municipal District of Fermoy.

**VACANT PROPERTY AND DERELICT GRANT (CROÍ CÓNAITHE SCHEME)**

**13/10-1**

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

“Vacant Property and Derelict Grant (Croí Cónaithe Scheme) I am asking this Council to talk to relevant authorities to see how this scheme can be made more effective in relation to planning process and also to introduce stage payments for this scheme rather than once off payment.”

**RESPONSE:**

Members noted the response from Liam Ahearn, A/County Engineer, as follows:

**Planning Process**

The refurbishment of a vacant property may involve development that requires planning permission. An applicant under the scheme is required to submit evidence that planning permission has been attained prior to final grant approval. In cases where a question arises in relation to whether a proposed development needs planning permission or is an exempted development, an applicant under the scheme is required to submit a declaration of exemption under Section 5, of the Planning and Development Act. If planning permission is required an owner can submit their grant application prior to receiving a decision on their planning so long as they have a planning application reference number. In exceptional circumstances the Local Authority can consider issuing an “approval in principle” with full approval only given on confirmation of a grant of planning. However, Cork County Council request that applicants wait until they have full planning permission in place prior to



applying for the grant to avoid situations where approval in principle might be given to grants where planning is subsequently refused. There is no facility under the scheme currently for an owner to apply for a Croí Conaithe grant and get approval/approval in principle prior to applying for planning permission.

### **Stage Payments**

The structure of the Croí Conaithe grant scheme and the process of approval and drawdown do not facilitate stage payments being made. This request can be raised with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. From our experience of managing the grant, if stage payments were considered, this would require fundamental changes to the structure and operation of the scheme and they could not be implemented within the current grant process. A stage payment facility could also significantly impact on the costs and resources required of administering the scheme.

Cork County Council Croí Conaithe team provide feedback to DHLGHs Vacant Homes Unit on the operation of the Vacant Home Refurbishment scheme on a regular basis and we can include this Notice of Motion in our feedback. We have been informed that DHLGH will be carrying out a comprehensive review and evaluation of the schemes under the Croí Cónaithe Towns Fund, including the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant, by mid-2024.

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

- Members said results from the 2011 & 2016 Census showed that 10 – 15% of properties in the countryside were vacant
- Said that the scheme has brought significant changes
- Said it has been an excellent scheme to tackle vacant properties
- Members said the amount of applications is testament to the success of the scheme
- Said it would be beneficial if a facility was put in place to allow the payments in stages
- Said it would be beneficial for applicants if the current planning guidelines could be updated to extend the exemption from planning criteria beyond 40 m
- Said part draw down funding needs to be made available for applicants and stage payments would be more beneficial
- Members said the scheme needs to be revised to reflect stage payments for applicants

The Mayor said this scheme is one of the best actions that was ever taken in relation to housing.

*Members agreed to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to ask that the Minister would consider revising Croí Cónaithe scheme to allow stage payments to applicants and consider extending the planning guidelines for exemption beyond 40m.*

### **HEALTHCARE WORKERS – LONG COVID SYMPTOMS**

**14/10-1**

***Cllr. Liam Quaide proposed, seconded by Cllr. Gillian Coughlan***

“That Cork Co. Council acknowledges the immense sacrifice made by healthcare workers, particularly those based in high-risk settings, on all of our behalf during the most critical stages of Covid-19 pandemic; and further recognises that many healthcare workers who contracted the virus in these settings and who later developed severe and persistent Long Covid are suffering a major

injustice in the context of government plans to suspend their special Covid leave with pay from October 31st despite a significant cohort of these workers continuing to experience debilitating symptoms; and that Cork Co. Council would write to Bernard Gloster, HSE CEO, to request that he would meet a group of affected healthcare workers in private to hear of their predicament and that he would consider his duty of care to those HSE staff who have essentially suffered a workplace injury with chronic health consequences that are set, in the absence of a fair resolution to current pay negotiations, to be further compounded by loss of career and loss of financial security.”

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

- Members said healthcare workers who have Long Covid put their lives at risk during the Covid 19 pandemic
- Said their quality of life is now greatly diminished
- Said workers with Long Covid are unsure about their ability to return to work
- Said a special financial arrangement had been put in place for these workers but this will be suspended from October 31<sup>st</sup>
- Said the suspension of this pay will cause additional stress to healthcare workers impacted by Long Covid
- Members said it is concerning that there is no public campaign on this issue
- Said it will be unfair if this cohort of workers have to pursue their payment
- Said that Long Covid has been recognised as a debilitating illness
- Said that those in other sectors who are suffering from Long Covid are getting supports
- Members said these workers need the same supports

*Members agreed to write to the HSE CEO Bernard Gloster to request that he would meet a group of affected healthcare workers in private to hear of their predicament and that he would consider his duty of care to those HSE staff who have essentially suffered a workplace injury with chronic health consequences that are set, in the absence of a fair resolution to current pay negotiations, to be further compounded by loss of career and loss of financial security.*

**[k] VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

**15/10-1**

**TO:** Sean Sherlock on his years of service as a Labour TD in the Cork East constituency

**TO:** Patricia Liddy on her years of great service as Director of Corporate Services & wishing her well in her new role as Director of Services, Municipal District Operations & Rural Development

**TO:** Councillor Cathal Rasmussen on his recent birthday celebrations

**TO:** O'Donovan Rossa Junior Ladies Team on their win at the County Junior Championship

**TO:** To Cork County Towns and Villages on their success at the Tidy Towns Awards.

**TO:** Effie Neill on the launch of her new album

**[i] ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**16/10-1**

**SECTION 39 WORKERS**

***Cllr. Ian Doyle proposed, seconded by Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen***

Members said these workers are not in pay parity with their colleagues. Members said Cobh Hospital is at risk and families of patients are concerned about who will provide care for them.

*Members agreed to write to the Minister for Health and the Minister for Public Expenditure to ask for a resolution in the proposed upcoming strike of Section 39 workers.*

**KINSALE GREENWAY**

Members asked for a common sense approach to the Kinsale Greenway. Members said they should be notified in advance about date and location of the signing of any agreement with TII.

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