



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 27th January 2025

I LATHAIR

Comhairleoir Seosamh Ó Cearbhaill, Méara Chontae

Comhairleoiri: Uí Bhambaire, Ó Colmáin, Ó Coileáin S, Uí Chochláin G, Ó Foghlú, Uí Shúilleabháin M, Ó Coileáin D, Ní Chróinín, Ó hArrahtáin, Ó Murchú PG, Uí Bhuachalla A, Daltún, Ó Súilleabháin, Donnabháin, Ó Fathaigh Ní Charthaigh U, De Faoite, Barra, Mac Iorlla, Ó Finn, Ní Cheallacháin, Sheppard, Mac Coitir, Dawson K., Uí Bhriain, Ó Donnchú, Ó Floinn, Ó Laoghaire, De Brún, Ó Dubhghaill, Ó Muineacháin B, Ní Mhurchú T, O Cochláin M, Críod, Ó Luanaigh, Ó Luasa, Uí Loinsigh, Muineacháin G, Ó Haodha, Ó Madaoin, Ó Murchú G, O Sé T, O' Síocháin, Ní Heachthigheirn, Ó Buachalla S, Cocking, Ó Héighheartaigh, O Hargáin, E., Léineacháin Uí Foghlú, Ó Maolchathaigh, Ní Cheallaigh, Ó Donnabháin, Ó Seasnáin, Towse.

PRESENT

Councillor Joe Carroll, County Mayor, presided.

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

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

[a] CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1/1-2

Proposed by Councillor Deirdre Kelly

Seconded by Councillor Ger Curley

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Meeting held on 13th January 2025 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

[b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY

2/1-2

TO: Cllr Patrick Gerard Murphy on the death of his Anne Mae Guerin.

TO: Michael Savage on the death of his mother Mrs Lily Savage.

TO: Robert O'Sullivan on the death of his son Alex O'Sullivan.

TO: O'Regan Family on the death of Paddy O'Regan.

[c] STATUTORY BUSINESS

DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001:

3/1-2

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CARRIGALINE:

Disposal of Carrigaline Area Office

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 17th January 2025.

Situation: Disposal of Carrigaline Area Office

Area: As per file plan CK156521F (part of folio)

From whom acquired: Unknown – predated council records

To whom it is proposed to dispose: Carrigaline Family Support Centre

Consideration: €275,000

SECTION 48 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

4/1-2

Nominations to Strategic Policy Committees from sectoral interests

Proposed by Councillor Frank O’Flynn

Seconded by Councillor Michael Hegarty

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

5/1-2

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF COBH

“Can consideration be given to making the grates on roads bigger in any areas to deal with the volume of water flowing due to heavy rain as it appears some of the grates at present cannot handle the volume of water.

Members agreed to defer this item.

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

6/1-2

CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S MANAGEMENT REPORT TO COUNCIL:

6(a)/1-2

Corporate Services Report for the period up to 31st December 2024.

6(b)/1-2

Economic Development Report for the period up to 31st December 2024.

6(c)/1-2

Library Services Report for the period up to 31st December 2024.

Members noted Chief Executives Management Reports to Council.

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

7/1-2

Correspondence received 18/12/2024 from the Minister of State for Disability in response to the Councils letter dated 30/05/2024 in relation to service for early intervention diagnosis.

Members noted the correspondence from the Minister of State and Disability.

[h] NOTICES OF MOTION

CLLR PETER O' DONOGHUE

8/1-2

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

“That this council would investigate and create an emergency severe weather winter road gritting scheme, which would invite capable residents of communities such as farmers and builders into the scheme for the gritting and salting of local and regional roads.”

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

RESPONSE:

Cork County Council's Roads and Transportation Directorate has adopted a detailed Winter Service Plan that provides a protocol for dealing with winter weather conditions on the roads. This document takes cognisance of the guidance and best practices provided by TII, and provides for a planned and coordinated response by Cork County Council.

The objective of this service is to provide insofar as reasonably practical, for the safe movement of road users on both National Roads and other strategic routes as identified in the plan. It is not feasible to treat all public thoroughfares, so roads are treated on a priority basis. Available resources in the form of gritting trucks (and snow ploughs), are proportional to this objective.

Certain roads, footpaths, etc outside of the priority routes are treated as local resources permit. This is evident during prolonged periods of snow/ice as was experienced earlier this month, where resources were deployed/redeployed on a targeted/priority basis.

In addition, Cork County Council called upon additional resources for assistance during the recent snow event, using existing frameworks in place for plant and contractors. Such intervention included the deployment of contractors with tractors, trucks, salt spreaders, snow ploughs, excavators, loading shovels etc. In addition, further assistance was provided by the Defence Forces and Cork City Council who provided snow ploughs and mechanical gritters/salters. This response involved significant collaboration and cooperation with the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management. The response was also assisted by the IFA who assisted in responding to animal welfare issues. All of this work was completed with the relevant and legislative Health and Safety documentation in place. Whilst all assistance during such circumstances is welcome, it would be difficult for Cork County Council to formally engage certain groups, in the absence of such documentation.

It should be noted that salt bins and a fill of salt is available to Community Groups and Residents Association on a shared funding basis. In additions, grit is made available at multiple locations across the county by use by the community, details of which are available on the Council's website.

Please visit our website for further information: <https://www.corkcoco.ie/en/resident/roads-and-transportation/severe-weather-information-warnings-road-alerts>

During this discussion, the Members made the following points:

- Suggested each community would have a resident identified for the maintenance and distribution of salt and grit in their local area. In essence this individual would be put on notice at severe weather events and would be responsible for dispensing the salt and grit.
- The individual would store the salt and grit and be paid an allowance for his services.
- There is no alternative option as the purchase of additional snow ploughs and gritters is not financially viable or value for money.
- Suggested local farmers could also help to spread grit.
- Members said the public should bear with elected members and council staff during these severe weather events as it is out of our control and it needs to be accepted that there will be inconveniences for a period of time.
- The farming community cannot be expected to deal with the issues alone and must be supported.
- Asked for the Council to issue a letter of thanks to IFA and ICSMA
- Acknowledged the work by local communities during the recent severe weather event.
- Asked if Cork County Council could issue the severe warning alerts to mobile phones.

Mr Niall Healy responded and said there is a Winter Services Plan in place which is Cork County Councils structured approach to weather alerts. Cork County Council continue to make salt and grit available to communities and during the recent severe weather event provided and delivered salt to many urban locations where community groups and rural areas requested it.

CE replied and said Weather Warning Alerts to mobile phones is a national initiative and there is a national structure in place but will refer the query raised to NEMDF

CLLR. FINBARR HARRINGTON, CLLR. DANIEL SEXTON, CLLR. NOEL O' DONOVAN

9/1-2

Cllr. Finbarr Harrington proposed, seconded by Cllr. Caroline Cronin.

“That this Council would consider adopting a collaborative “Roadside Ash Dieback Scheme” throughout Cork County in conjunction with the Dept of Agriculture, Land Owners and other State Agencies”

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

RESPONSE:

Cork County Council position is that we are awaiting guidance from central government on this matter. In addition, trees including those with Ash Dieback are the responsibility of the relevant landowner and this is the legal position as outlined in the Roads Act 1993.

We have a Tree Policy which I have attached for information.

During this discussion, the Members made the following points:

- Acknowledged this is a national issue but suggested CCC take the lead and write to the new Minister for Housing & Local Government to seek additional funding.
- This motion originated from the IFA as they are deeply concerned that it is becoming a huge issue.
- Trees and loss of life – communication required with the Dept. of Agriculture and proposed further engagement in a pilot project.
- Noted that it is costly to remove trees professionally by the individual landowner.
- This issues is not exclusive to Ash dieback and is also affecting other trees.
- A co-ordinated approach would enhance the safety on our roads.
- Roadside trees should be no more than 2 m high.
- Community groups simply do not have funding to pay for the removal of fallen trees – additional funding is required for both communities and farmers.
- Dangerous trees falling on roads and danger to life – farmers have old trees and the removal of same is cost prohibitive for those who have land along our main roads.
- Over 90% of ash is dying which is a massive problem and will impose huge financial and safety implications.
- No LA can be expected to carry the cost associated with this and it must be raised nationally and asked if CC can ask for direction from the Department.
- Some trees are over 300 and 400 years old and a national inventory of all trees should be carried out.
- Forestry near power lines, roads, entrances, all of these must be properly managed.
- Highlighted ongoing Health and Safety concerns.
- There is a requirement to support our local tree nurseries.

CE said members should be aware that under the Roads Act 1993 the responsibility and maintenance of trees falls with the landowner, however the CE responded and said she would gladly work with Dept should a scheme be put in place and agreed.

CLLR. GEAROID MURPHY

10/1-2

Cllr. Gearoid Murphy proposed, seconded by Cllr. Pat Hayes.

“To seek an update on proposals to introduce options for app-based and card-based payments at Cork County Council’s car parks and on-street parking. These options would be in addition to the current coin-based parking option.”

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

RESPONSE:

Following a successful pilot in the Cobh Municipal District Cork County Council is now progressing with plans to rollout a Parking App and dual payment machines (capable of processing cash and card transactions) to all Municipal Districts.

It is proposed that the roll out will proceed in following sequence:

1. Youghal
2. Kinsale
3. Fermoy

4. Mallow
5. Bandon
6. Macroom

The rollout is dependent on the commissioning of the dual parking machines in advance, agreement locally regarding zoning in each town and completion of works projects that may already be underway. This configuration provides multiple payment options for customers, optimal governance, and control with regard to managing parking income in each Municipal District. Current plans will see full rollout in all towns completed by the beginning of Q4 2025.

During this discussion, the Members made the following points:

- Convenience and choice are what the motion is about and suggested the Council could offer multiple payment options such as coin, card, and app.
- A parking app would make it more convenient for the public.
- It should be noted that this motion is not trying to promote a cashless society but the ability to offer options and choice to members of the public which could make our towns more attractive to visit.
- Members were informed that the Cobh MD is currently piloting an app and to date it is going extremely well.
- Asked if the Cork City and Cork County app could be integrated to make it more usable and amenable to all members of the public.

Mr. Niall Healy replied and said that the plan is to offer choice to the end user and the pilot that is currently underway in the Cobh MD is extremely successful, it is hoped to roll this out to other areas of the County by year end.

CE replied and said for now we will focus on getting the scheme up and running and once in place we can look at options to integrate the app with Cork City Council.

[k] VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

11/1-2

TO: Fr Neilus O'Donnell, Rathcormac appointed Archdeacon

TO: Community Spirit Awards 2024 - Paddy O Connell, Carrigaline Pipe Band - Individual overall Winner, Elaine Curtin - Carrigaline Basketball Club - Public Vote and Cork Stroke Support - Best Group

TO: John Leech, Club Community Officer

[i] ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12/1-2

UPDATE ON RECENT SEVERE WEATHER EVENT – STORM EOWYN

Mr Niall Healy made the following points:

Cork County Council's Community Response Forum is meeting daily in response to Storm Éowyn. The forum, which includes representatives of Cork County Council, the HSE, An Garda Síochána, Local Development Companies and support agencies will continue to meet and will respond as required to assist those who have no power or water and are experiencing difficulties following the storm.

Cork County Council is the primary authority responsible for severe weather events and the structure in place allows for a co-ordinated response.

Acknowledged the work of the Crisis Management Team during the recent severe weather response and positive action of the various protocols.

Acknowledged the proactive response of the various agencies and local communities involved which proved effective.

It is worth noting in general the public listened and heeded the weather warnings.

Thanked the Defence Forces as they were also on alert and acknowledged the community support and efforts by local groups and local farmers.

The public can contact the 24/7 emergency line which will remain in place until the end of the week.

The Department of Social Protection has advised there will be a humanitarian fund in place and CCC are awaiting further detail on this.

During this discussion, the Members made the following points:

- Welcomed the reactivation of the Community Response Forum.
- Asked if members can obtain a copy of the report.
- Acknowledged work carried out by ESB and all other emergency response units during the event.
- Highlighted concern regarding Uisce Eireann as they do not have generator backup at all reservoirs and pumping stations which is unacceptable as residents depend on water supply and wastewater supply during these events.
- LAMA diaries are available at Corporate Services, Floor 14.
- Members said huge issues have come to light during the event as many new homes now rely solely on heat pumps and as they do not have chimneys and stoves were unable to heat their home and asked if this can be reviewed.
- Members acknowledged the recent success of the Tidy Towns Event held by Corporate Services in the Foyer, County Hall.
- Members said the Foyer is a unique space and suggested it could be used to display Artwork or hold Art exhibitions in the future.
- Members wished colleagues in the upcoming Seanad Elections the very best.
- Requested the Council write to Department of Transport for extra funding for our roads due to the damage caused by severe weather events.
- Asked for the launch dated of the 2025 Streetscaping scheme.

CE replied and said CCC are in the process of identifying a list of specific roads damaged by the severe weather event and the plan is to make a comprehensive submission to the Department.

~ THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING ~