



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 10th February 2025

I LATHAIR

Comhairleoir Seosamh Ó Cearbhaill, Méara Chontae

Comhairleoiri: Uí Bhambaire, Ó Colmáin, Ó Coileáin S, Uí Chochláin G, Ó Foghlú, Uí Shuilleabháin 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, Sheppard, Mac Coitir, Dawson, Uí Bhriain, Ó Donnchú, Ó Floinn, Ó Laoghaire, De Brún, Ó Dubhghaill, Ní Murchú T, Ó Cochláin M, Críod, Ó Luanaigh, Ó Luasa Ní Mhuineacháin G, Ó Haodha, Ó Madaoin, Ó Murchú 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, Coughlan G, 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, Sheppard, Cotter, Dawson, O'Brien, O'Donoghue, O'Flynn, O'Leary, Browne, Doyle, Moynihan B, Murphy T, Coughlan M, Creed, Looney, 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

1/2-1

*Proposed by Councillor Michael Hegarty
Seconded by Councillor Deirdre Kelly*

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Meeting held on 27th January 2025 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

[b] VOTES OF SYMPATHY

2/2-1

TO: John Moloney on the passing of his mother Mary Molony
TO: Tom Gaffney on the passing of his wife Marie Gaffney
TO: Gary Daly from the Bandon Office on the passing of his father Noel Daly

DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001:

3/2-1

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF MACROOM:

Transfer of land at Doonbeg, Killarney road, Macroom, Co. Cork

3(a)/2-1

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 31st January 2025.

Situation: Transfer of land at Doonbeg, Killarney Road, Macroom, Co. Cork

Area: Land measuring (c.0.005 hectares/ 0.011 acres)

From whom acquired: In CCC ownership since 1986

Consideration: €1

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KANTURK MALLOW:

Disposal of land at Ballinla, Freemount, Charleville, Co. Cork

3(b)/2-1

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 31st January 2025.

Situation: Disposal of Land at Ballinla, Freemount, Charleville, Co. Cork

Area: As outlined in File Plan CK159001F

From whom acquired: Registered to CCC since 1953

Consideration: €5,000

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

4/2-1

The SEO advised members that under the Local Government Act 2011, Paragraph 18 of Schedule 10 group voting applies when 2 or more members are to be appointed to a body.

Members confirmed they did not wish to form groupings.

Appointment of 2 members to the Housing SPC.

Position 1: Councillor Deirdre Kelly proposed Councillor Patrick Gerard Murphy for the role of Chair of the Housing SPC, seconded by Councillor Gobnait Moynihan.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 1 is filled by Councillor Patrick Gerard Murphy.

Position 2: Councillor Michael Hegarty proposed Councillor Kay Dawson for a position on the Housing SPC, seconded by Councillor Caroline Cronin.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 2 is filled by Councillor Kay Dawson.

Appointment of 2 members to the Social Inclusion, Community & Rural Development SPC.

Position 1: Councillor Michael Hegarty proposed Councillor John Michael Foley for the role of Chair of the Social Inclusion, Community & Rural Development SPC, seconded by Councillor Jack White.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 1 is filled by Councillor John Michael Foley.

Position 2: Councillor Michael Hegarty proposed Councillor Kay Dawson for a position on the Social Inclusion, Community & Rural Development SPC, seconded by Councillor Tony O'Shea.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 2 is filled by Councillor Kay Dawson.

Appointment to the Roads & Transportation SPC.

Position 1: Councillor Ann Bambury proposed Councillor Ronan Sheehan for a position on the Roads & Transportation SPC, seconded by Councillor Martin Coughlan.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 1 is filled by Councillor Ronan Sheehan.

Appointment of 2 members to the Planning & Strategic Development SPC

Position 1: Councillor Deirdre Kelly proposed Councillor Patrick Donovan for a position on the Planning & Strategic Development SPC, seconded by Michael Looney.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 1 is filled by Councillor Patrick Donovan.

Position 2: Councillor Ann Bambury proposed Councillor Eamonn Horgan for a position on the Planning & Strategic Development SPC, seconded by Councillor Finbarr Harrington.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 2 is filled by Councillor Eamonn Horgan.

Appointment of 1 member to the Environment, Climate Action & Biodiversity SPC

Position 1: Councillor Ann Bambury proposed Councillor Eamonn Horgan for a position on the Environment, Climate Action & Biodiversity SPC, seconded by Martin Coughlan.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 1 is filled by Councillor Eamonn Horgan.

Appointment of 2 members to the Arts, Culture & Languages SPC

Position 1: Councillor Michael Hegarty proposed Councillor Aileen Browne for a position on the Arts, Culture & Languages SPC, seconded by Councillor Rory Cocking.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 1 is filled by Councillor Aileen Browne.

Position 2: Councillor Ann Bambury proposed Councillor Ronan Sheehan for a position on the Arts, Culture & Languages SPC, seconded by Councillor Finbarr Harrington.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 2 is filled by Councillor Ronan Sheehan.

Appointment of 1 member to the Historic Monuments Advisory Committee

Position 1: Councillor Ann Bambury proposed Councillor Eamonn Horgan for a position on the Historic Monuments Advisory Committee seconded by Finbarr Harrington.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 1 is filled by Councillor Eamonn Horgan.

Appointment of 2 members to the Commemorations Committee

Position 1: Councillor Michael Hegarty proposed Councillor Kay Dawson for a position on the Commemorations Committee, seconded by Councillor Tony O'Shea.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 1 is filled by Councillor Kay Dawson.

Position 2: Councillor Ann Bambury proposed Councillor Eamonn Horgan for a position on the Commemorations Committee, seconded by Councillor Finbarr Harrington.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 2 is filled by Councillor Eamonn Horgan.

Appointment of 1 members to the LCDC South

Position 1: Councillor Deirdre Kelly proposed Councillor Patrick Donovan for a position on the LCDC South, seconded by Councillor Michael Looney.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 1 is filled by Councillor Patrick Donovan.

Appointment of 2 members to the Cork Education Training Board

Position 1: Councillor Michael Hegarty proposed Councillor Kay Dawson for a position on the Cork Education Training Board, seconded by Councillor Tony O'Shea.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 1 is filled by Councillor Kay Dawson.

Position 2: Councillor Finbarr Harrington proposed Councillor Ronan Sheehan for a position on the Cork Education Training Board, seconded by Councillor Martin Coughlan.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 2 is filled by Councillor Ronan Sheehan.

Appointment of 2 members to the Southern Regional Assembly

Position 1: Councillor Michael Hegarty proposed Councillor Kay Dawson for a position on the Southern Regional Assembly, seconded by Councillor Marie O'Sullivan.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 1 is filled by Councillor Kay Dawson.

Position 2: Councillor Michael Hegarty proposed Councillor Anthony Barry for a position on the Southern Regional Assembly, seconded by Councillor Marie O’Sullivan..

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 2 is filled by Councillor Anthony Barry.

Appointment of 2 members to the CASP

Position 1: Councillor Deirdre Kelly proposed Councillor Patrick Donovan for a position on the CASP, seconded by Councillor Gearoid Murphy.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 1 is filled by Councillor Patrick Donovan.

Position 2: Councillor Michael Hegarty proposed Councillor Rory Cocking for a position on the CASP, seconded by Councillor Tony O’Shea.

The Senior Executive Officer confirmed Position 2 is filled by Councillor Rory Cocking.

SECTION 48 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001

5/2-1

Nominations to Strategic Policy Committees from sectoral interests

*Proposed by Ann Marie Ahern
Seconded by Deirdre Kelly*

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

6/2-1

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF COBH

6(a)/2-1

“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 until next Full Council.

Corporate Policy Group

6(b)/2-1

Approval of attendance by Members at Conferences/Training on the Conference list for February

*Proposed by Cllr. Martin Coughlan
Seconded by Cllr. Finbarr Harrington*

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

7/2-1

Presentation of the 2025 Arts Grants Scheme

*Proposed by Cllr. Deirdre Kelly
Seconded by Cllr. Danny Collins*

[h] **NOTICES OF MOTION**

CLLR ANN MARIE AHERN

8/2-1

Cllr. Ann Marie Ahern proposed, seconded by Cllr. Gearoid Murphy

“That this council write to the RTE, Croke Park GAA and the incumbent Minister for Sport that in the event of the full transfer of sale of shares from RTE to GAA Go that the current level of free to air coverage by RTE is to be maintained. This is to include all GAA senior championship, Club Championship and League matches continue to be televised live on terrestrial TV”.

Patrick Mulcahy declared a conflict of interest and removed himself from the discussion.

During this discussion, the Members made the following points:

- Noted that it must be ensured that the general public and grassroot members will still be able to view our National sport.
- Loss of any matches on terrestrial channels will effect the elderly community disproportionately.
- Noted that GAA Go was a success in promoting GAA globally.

Members agreed to write to An Taoiseach, RTE, Croke Park GAA and Minister for Sport Patrick O'Donovan that in the event of the full transfer of sale of shares from RTE to GAA Go that the current level of free to air coverage by RTE is to be maintained

CLLR. GOBNAIT MOYNIHAN

9/2-1

Cllr. Gobnait Moynihan proposed, seconded by Cllr Audrey Buckley.

“Request that Cork County Council provide free sanitary products in all public building under its remit”

Members noted the response from Kevin Morey, Divisional Manager as follows:

RESPONSE:

Cork County Council Library and Arts Service provides free sanitary products across its network of 25 branch libraries and 4 mobile libraries.

The pilot project was initiated in response to a 2021 report by the Department of Health and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth which highlighted the prevalence and impact of period poverty in Ireland and acknowledged the potential adverse consequences of period poverty which can include exclusion from activities of daily living during menstruation and physical and mental impacts from both exclusion and the use of unsuitable period products.

The Council initiative was launched in Autumn 2022 following a successful application to the Department to roll out the pilot programme providing free sanitary products in library branches.

Dispensing units were installed where publicly accessed toilets were available, while packs have been made available in mobile libraries and branches without public toilets.

Following on from this, Cork County Council will undertake an assessment of its remaining public buildings, and will introduce the provision of free sanitary products on a prioritisation basis on further public buildings taking cognisance of the costs of implementing the scheme.

During this discussion, the Members made the following points:

- The motion had been brought to Full Council in 2021 and received full support at the time. It was disappointing to see more action had not been taken.
- Commended the library services for putting a free period products programme in place, very positive response from the public.
- Queried how long an assessment of a pilot programme within County Council buildings would take.
- How much did the libraries period product programme cost, how much would it cost to roll out across all buildings.

CE responded and said that an assessment and prioritisation will take place and a scheme will be rolled out.

CLLR. IAN DOYLE

10/2-1

Cllr. Ian Doyle proposed, seconded by Cllr. Frank Flynn.

“That Cork County Council would write to Irish Water Uisce Eireann, Minister Jack Chambers and Minister James Browne that as part of capital investment Generators should be installed in all water plants”

During this discussion, the Members made the following points:

- Backup generators needed both in the cases of storms and to allow general maintenance work to take place without disruption in service.
- Asked if we should be looking at grants for farmers to give households capacity to switch to diesel generators during times of power loss.

Councillors agreed to write a letter to Irish Water Uisce Eireann, Minister Jack Chambers and Minister James Browne to ask for capital investment in Generators for all water plants.

CLLR. FINBARR HARRINGTON

11/2-1

Cllr. Finbarr Harrington proposed, seconded by Cllr. Peter O’ Donoghue.

“That this Council would write to the Minister for Transport Darragh O’Brien to ask if he would reconsider the proposed speed limit reductions on our National Secondary Roads from 100kmh to 80kmh later this year, and that we maintain the current limit on these roads.”

During this discussion, the Members made the following points:

- Changes are having a bigger impact on rural communities.

- The action will divert traffic to regional roads causing congestion issues.
- It will result in a negative impact on tourism, increase delivery costs and commute times.
- Better enforcement of speed limits currently in place is needed.
- An increase in funding for better infrastructure such as ring roads and maintenance might have a greater impact.
- Asked to defer until impact assessment undertaken.
- Changes might increase dangerous overtaking and increase accidents.
- Causing some confusion on local roads.
- A welcome reduction on some roads going from 80 to 60

Padraig Barrett informed the Members that changes are currently taking place in terms of the Traffic Act. Further changes are planned for urban areas. Council can put forward its position on the changes however TII will make all final decisions.

Councillors agreed to write to Minister for transport and TII to ask if he would reconsider the proposed speed limit reductions on our National Secondary Roads from 100kmh to 80kmh later this year, and that we maintain the current limit on these roads due to A) the financial impact on rural areas B) people will divert to regional roads with unchanged speed limits.

CLLR. WILLIAM O’LEARY

12/2-1

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

“That Cork County Council would form the opinion and send a memo to the Minister for Housing Planning and Local Planning, that the removal of fossil fuel heating from new builds, existing council stock, and future developments will cause undue hardship on households be it financially or in time of power outages due to adverse weather events, and that Cork County Council would request the minister to reverse his departments negative policy towards fossil fuel heating for homes.”

During this discussion, the Members made the following points:

- Concern over older homes and legacy dwellings that need energy upgrades and the burden of cost being placed upon the community.
- SEI, Warmer Home Scheme, has a waiting list of up to 2 years.
- Queried if any current restrictions are in place for planning applications that have a chimney.
- Council houses being retrofitted add an extra 12 to 18 months in turn over time.
- It is important to future proof our housing stock.
- Fossil fuel is not a renewable energy and the cost will become prohibitive over time.

Councillors agreed to write to Minister for Housing Planning and Local Planning, that the removal of fossil fuel heating from new builds, existing council stock, and future developments will cause undue hardship on households be it financially or in time of power outages due to adverse weather events, and that Cork County Council would request the minister to keep all options open on heating of houses.”

[k] VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

13/2-1

TO: Cllr. Eileen Lynch and Noel O’Donovan on their election to the Seanad.

- TO:** TD Christopher O’Sullivan on his appointment to Jr Minister at the Department of Housing.
- TO:** TD Jerry Buttimer on his appointment to Jr Minister at the Department of Rural and Community Development.
- TO:** TD Michael Moynihan on his appointment to Jr Minister of State at the Department of Education.
- TO:** Cian Ducrot on his recent Grammy Award.

[i] **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

14/2-1

ETHICS REGISTER DEADLINE

Members were reminded of the upcoming deadline for the Ethics register on the 28th of February 2025.

~ THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING ~