

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING OF
TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES,
NENAGH AND Remotely Via Zoom
AT 10.00 AM on Monday 13TH June, 2022**

Present

Cllr. Marie Murphy, Cathaoirleach.

Cllrs: Ambrose, S; Anglim, M; Bonfield, F; Bourke K; Burgess, D; Carroll, J; Coonan, N.J; Darcy, G; Dunne, D; English, P; FitzGerald, Ml; Goldsboro, I; Hanafin, S; Hanna-Hourigan, M; Hannigan, J; Kennedy, R; Lee, S; Lowry, Ml; S; McGrath, H; McGrath, M; McGrath (Rocky), J; Moloney, A; Moran, E; O'Meara, Ml; Ryan, S; Smith; Ml.

Also Present

J. MacGrath, Chief Executive, M. O'Connor, S. Carr, C. Curley, P. Slattery, E. Lonergan, S. Carr, K. Cashen, Director of Services, B. Beck, A/Director of Services, L. McCarthy, Head of Finance, D. Dullaghan, County Librarian, L. Brett, Senior Engineer, A.M. Devaney, Senior Planner, G. Walsh, Meetings Administrator.

Remote

Cllrs: Bugler, P; Crosse, J; Dennehy, N; FitzGerald, J; FitzGerald, Mark; Molloy, R; Morris, S; Murphy, Ml; O'Meara, K; Ryan, J; Ryan, P, Ryan, AM

Apologies

Cllr. Tony Black

Item 1.1

**Welcome &
Introduction/Meetings Protocol**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed all to the June Meeting of the Council advising members present in the Chamber that their microphone had to be turned on when they spoke and referred members attending remotely of the protocol for remote meetings circulated with the agenda and asked members to observe the rules contained therein with regard to remote meetings. Members attention was drawn to Item 5 in the protocol which provided for the taking of questions from members present in the Chamber before members remotely.

The Meetings Administrator then took a roll call and commenced the meeting with the opening prayer.

**Suspension of
Standing Orders**

The Cathaoirleach referred to Item 9.1 on the Agenda "Presentation on Community National School Model" by the E.T.B. and asked that Standing Orders would be suspended to allow the taking of this item. This was proposed by Cllr J. Carroll, seconded by Cllr R. Kennedy and agreed unanimously.

9.1 Presentation on Community National School Model

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Ms. Bernadette Cullen, Chief Executive and Ms. Clodagh Kelly, Director of Schools, E.T.B to the meeting.

Ms. Cullen commenced by outlining the mission of Tipperary Education and Training Board as outlined in their Statement of Strategy 2018-2022, which was to provide a quality education and training service which created diverse opportunities enabling learners and communities to unlock their potential. The Board consisted of 21 members which included 12 local authority members and the Chairperson of the Board was Cllr R. Kennedy.

The Community National School Model was established in 2007 and was a growing model of primary education. The model differed in its ethos, sacramental preparation, functions of the Board of Management and "Goodness me Goodness you" Curriculum. Schools were state funded and state run with support from ETBs/ETBI. St. Mary's Junior Boys National School in Nenagh was the first Community National School in Tipperary. The transfer to the Tipperary ETB had been carried out in partnership with the Diocese of Killaloe Patron Bishop Monahan and St. Senan's Education Office. TETB would continue to work in partnership with 3 Dioceses and the aim was to provide more multi denominational options for parents by identifying viable schools. TETB would not engage with a school unless the Diocese was in favor of reconfiguration. A pilot reconfiguration process was launched by the Department of Education in March 2022 and Nenagh had been ahead of this pilot.

Ms. Cullen acknowledged the strong partnership the TETB had with Tipperary County Council.

Members thanked Ms. Cullen and Ms. Kelly for their informative presentation. They said that the model outlined was a new concept for education in Tipperary. Reference was made to the onerous duties of Boards of Managements and the supports that the new model would bring to the Boards was welcomed. The need for training for Board Members was also highlighted. Members raised concerns regarding the deficit of ASD units in schools in the County and the need for a review of the educational requirements for a Special Needs Education Officer and urged that these matters would be raised with the Minister for Education. Members acknowledged the important role that Religious Orders had played in the primary education of students to date.

Ms. Cullen advised that the resourcing of special education needs was ongoing and the ETB was acutely aware of the struggles of families and the need for consistency of service for these students and undertook to relay the concerns of members to the relevant Minister. Religious Orders had served the education system well and this had to be respected in any process for change. Therefore, the ETB would not work with a school unless the Diocese were in agreement. Ms. Cullen thanked the members for their time and allowing the sharing of information regarding the Community National School Model.

Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, joined with members in welcoming Ms. Cullen and Ms. Kelly and thanked them for their informative presentation. He thanked the members for their contribution and it was evident that the importance of education and the future of education was not lost in the

chamber. Mr. MacGrath thanked Tipperary ETB for the work that they did and he referred to a number of projects that the Council worked closely on with the ETB and their shared vision for the development of the Kickham Barracks site. The further development of these projects would not be found lacking in ambition but would be dependent on resources. The presentation given to the meeting had shown the future development of our schools and the protection of education of young people in the County.

Item 2.1
Disclosures/or
Conflicts of
Interest

Noted, no matters were notified to the Meetings Administrator

Item 3.1
Minutes of
Council Meeting
held on 9th May,
2022

The Minutes of the April Meeting held on 11th April, 2022 remotely via Zoom were proposed by **Cllr. S. Ryan**, seconded by **Cllr. J. Carroll** and adopted.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Item 4.1
Approval to
Attendance

It was proposed by **Cllr. S. Hanafin**. seconded by **Cllr S. Ryan** and resolved: -

“That pursuant to Section 142 (5) of the Local Government Act 2001 and having regard to (i) the benefits likely to accrue, (ii) the general interest of this administrative area and of the local community (iii) the estimated cost of the proposed attendance and the provision made for such purposes in the annual budget, hereby nominate those listed hereunder to attend the following Conferences/Seminars/Trainings: -

| Seminar/Conference/ Similar Event | Dates | Venue | Nominees |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| AILG Module 3 | 18 th June | Avalon House Hotel Castlecomer Co. Kilkenny | Cllr. Sean Ryan Cllr. Michael FitzGerald Cllr. Seamus Morris Cllr. Richie Molloy Cllr. John Carroll Cllr. Phyll Bugler Cllr. Marie Murphy Cllr. John FitzGerald Cllr. Micheál Anglim Cllr. Joe Hannigan Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro |

Proposed by **Cllr. S. Hanafin**, seconded by **Cllr. S. Ryan** and noted.

Item 4 .2
Reports on
Conferences

Item 5.1

Loan Facility – Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan and Local Authority Home Loan Scheme

It was proposed by **Cllr. S. Hanafin**, seconded by **Cllr. K. Bourke** and resolved: -

“That pursuant to the Local Government Act 2001 and subject to the sanction of the Minister of Housing, Planning and Local Government, this Council approves the raising of loans not exceeding the total sum of €3,500,000 (three million and five hundred thousand euro) from the Housing Finance Agency for the purpose of advancing mortgages under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan and Local Authority Home Loan Schemes”.

Item 5.2

Election of Chairs Designate Strategic Policy Committees

Members were advised that the SPC Scheme provided that an SPC Chair could not serve a term longer than 3 years. Nominations were sought for the following committees: -

Economic Development and Enterprise

It was proposed by **Cllr. R Kennedy**, seconded by **Cllr. S. Hanafin** and resolved: -

“That Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro be and is hereby ratified Chairperson to the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC”.

Housing

It was proposed by **Cllr. R Kennedy**, seconded by **Cllr. M. Hanna Hourigan** and resolved: -

“That Cllr. Kieran Bourke be and is hereby ratified Chairperson of the Housing, community & Culture SPC”.

Infrastructure (to include Roads, Transportation and Water Services)

It was proposed by **Cllr. D. Dunne**, seconded by **Cllr. S. Lee** and resolved: -

“That Cllr. Michael O’Meara be and is hereby ratified Chairperson of the Infrastructure (to include Roads, Transportation and Water Services SPC).

Planning & Emergency Services

It was proposed by **Cllr. R Kennedy**, seconded by **Cllr. M. Hanna Hourigan** and resolved: -

“That Cllr. Michael FitzGerald be and is hereby ratified Chairperson of the Planning and Emergency Services SPC”

Environment & Climate Action

It was proposed by **Cllr. R Kennedy**, seconded by **Cllr. J. Carroll** and resolved: -

“That Cllr. Sean Ryan be and is hereby ratified Chairperson of the Environment & Climate Action SPC”

Community Culture & Library Services

It was proposed by **Cllr. J. Hannigan**, seconded by **Cllr. S. Lee** and resolved: -

"That Andy Moloney be and is hereby ratified Chairperson of the Community Culture & Library Services SPC"

Item 5.3
Draft Annual Report 2021

The Draft Annual Report 2021 had been circulated to the members. The Cathaoirleach thanked Ms. Lucy Bourke, Corporate Services for collating the information from the various Directorates.

It was proposed by **Cllr. F. Bonfield**, seconded by **Cllr. P. English** and resolved: -

"That in accordance with Section 221 of the Local Government Act 2001, the Annual Report for year ended 31st December 2021 as presented b and is hereby adopted."

Item 6.1
Ratification of Business/Commercial Sector Nominee to Housing SPC

It was proposed by **Cllr. R. Kennedy**, seconded by **Cllr M. Hanna Hourigan** and resolved:

"That Michelle Aylward, CEO, Tipperary Chamber from the Business/Community Sector is hereby appointed as a member of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee."

Item 7.1
Consideration of Management Report

The Cathaoirleach referred to the Management Report as circulated with the Agenda noting that the reports related to the Directorates based in Nenagh and any queries/clarifications would be dealt with by the relevant Director of Services.

Roads, Transportation, Health & Safety

Mr. Marcus O'Connor, Director of Services and Mr. Liam Brett, Senior Engineer, responded to queries raised.

Public Lighting

Members requested that the existing public lighting policy would be reviewed, particularly in relation to areas with heavy footfall outside the speed limit zones and it was agreed that the SPC would review the policy and revert to the Plenary Council with proposals.

It was noted that there was a delay in response repair times of public lighting due to the difficulties in sourcing parts.

Electric Charging Point – Market Yard, Cahir.

Following a query by Cllr A. Moloney it was clarified that this Council would not be providing an electric charging point at Market Yard, Cahir. The provision of charging points would incur significant capital and ongoing costs and there needed to be a clear national policy on how these charging points were to be funded and managed.

N24 - Ballydrehid bends.

Works at this location would be carried out as part of the N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction project.

N 24 Knockagh Roundabout, Cahir.

The approval of the TII to the preliminary design report was awaited and this would allow the scheme to be progressed to the Part 8 Planning Process.

N.24

Issues relating to planning permission along the proposed 300m wide route corridor were highlighted.

Ras Tailteann

The inclusion of Horse and Jockey in the route of the Ras Tailteann was welcomed by members.

N62 Kilnoe to Thurles Road South

Construction on this scheme was due to commence in Q3 2022.

Suir Blueway

The provision of markers along the Blueway would be examined.

Provision of Ramps on Regional Roads.

It was clarified that ramps were could not be provided on Regional Roads. Reference was made to the need for traffic calming measures at schools.

R438 Athlone Road

The Council would continue to seek funding to carry out improvements to this section of road.

R503 Ballymackeogh.

The condition of this road would be monitored.

N. 62 Roscrea

Following concerns raised it was agreed to that the quality of roadworks carried out at specific locations on the N.62 in Roscrea would be followed up with Contractor.

Vegetation at Junctions

Reference was made to the need for cutting of roadside vegetation to improve sightlines at junctions and it was agreed this would be discussed with the Area Engineers.

Junction at Tullaskeagh

It was agreed to provide an update to Cllr S. Lee on works at this junction.

Active Travel Scheme

Works carried out under this scheme were welcomed.

Road Works Programme

Cllr J. Carroll expressed concerns regarding the exclusion of roads from the roads works programme in his area and it was agreed to liaise with him on this.

N.24 Carrick-on-Suir Pavement Strengthening

Tenders had been received and the preferred tender would be awarded shortly and assessed.

Speed Limit Review

A county wide speed limit review was delayed pending a national decision on the introduction of a 30km speed limit for cities, towns and villages.

Roadworks at R692 Fethard to Cloneen Road.

Reference was made to the interruption of roadworks being carried out at this location and the issues this caused to road users. It was noted that the matter had been raised with the Contractor and the works were now completed.

Road Works Programme

Members were advised that the cost of materials and fuel was impacting on the Council fleet together with the rise in bitumen costs. It was the intention to get as much as possible of the Road Works Programme completed but it was being highlighted that there may be issues in completing the programme with the funds available. It was proposed by Cllr Marie Murphy and agreed to write to the Department seeking an increase in the road works allocation due to increased costs associated with the road works programme.

Planning

Mr. E. Lonergan, Director of Services responded to queries raised.

E-Planning

It was confirmed 51% of the planning applications lodged in May had been submitted online via the new E-Planning method. A survey had been carried out in relation to customer satisfaction with the process and there was a 97% satisfaction rate and preference for lodging applications via Eplanning. Work was ongoing in preparing for online submissions to planning files and Part 8 applications and it was hoped to pilot this in Quarter 3 of 2022.

Local Area Plans

Work had commenced on the preparation of Local Area Plans for Clonmel, Nenagh, Thurles and Roscrea and Workshops at MD level would commence in September 2022. It was anticipated that these four Local Area Plans would be in place by the end of 2023.

County Development Plan

A further workshop on the County Development Plan would take place on the 29th June.

Templemore Town Hall Cultural and Enterprise Centre with Civic Plaza

This project would be proceeding to tender but it was anticipated that inflation would have a significant effect on the cost of the project which would subsequently require an application to the Department for increased funding and project scope review. Municipal District members would be kept informed.

Fire & Emergency Services

Mr. Brian Beck, A/Director of Services, responded to queries raised.

Cashel Fire Station

The expected construction start date for Cashel Fire Station was August, 2022.

Templemore Fire Station

It was agreed to follow up with the Department regarding the official opening of Templemore Fire Station.

Ukrainian Refugees

The assistance of Thurles Lions Trust and the support of the Littleton Community in the ongoing provision of emergency accommodation for Ukrainian Refugees was acknowledged.

Library & Cultural Services

Mr. Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian, responded to queries raised.

Clonmel Library

Members welcomed the launch of a Sensory Room at Clonmel Library.

It was noted that tenders for a design team for the refurbishment of Clonmel Library were being examined.

Thurles Library

It was noted that a sensory pod would be examined for Thurles Library should funding become available.

Members complimented Thurles Library on the range of activities carried out for Cruinniu na nOg 2022

Borrisokane Library.

It was noted that amenity works had commenced at Borrisokane Library.

8.1 Agree venue and time for Annual Meeting.

On the proposal of **Cllr D. Dunne**, seconded by **Cllr M. Anglim** it was agreed that the Annual Meeting would be held in St Paul's Community Centre Clogheen, at 11 a.m. on the 24th June, 2022.

8.2 Agree dates for Councillor Workshops

The following workshop dates were agreed: -

Legitimate

4th July, 2022 at 2.30 p.m.

Proposed by **Cllr R. Kennedy**, seconded by **Cllr S. Ryan**.

Tipperary Economic Development Financial Framework

12th July, 2022 at 2.30 p.m.

Proposed by **Cllr S. Hanafin**, seconded by **Cllr MI FitzGerald**.

8.3 Civic Reception Liam Fleming.

It was proposed by **Cllr. M. Anglim**, seconded by **Cllr R Kennedy** and agreed that a Civic Reception would be accorded to Mr. Liam Fleming in recognition of his contribution to society in founding the Siúl Eile social enterprise programme and helping communities come together to form a sustainable walking culture in local communities on Thursday 23rd June, 2022 at 7p.m. in Civic Offices, Clonmel.

Item 10.1
Consideration of Orders for the period to the 31st May, 2022

Chief Executive Orders and Delegated Officers Orders for the period to the 31st May, 2022 were noted.

Item 12.1
Correspondence

Correspondence as circulated was noted as follows: -

- Reply dated 16th May, 2022 from office of Minister for Housing, Local Government & Heritage HAP Rates (NOM 2382)
- Reply dated 30th May, 2022 from Office of the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment Regional Aid Map for Ireland 2022-2027

Item 13.1
Motions from other Councils.

The following resolution was noted: -

Cavan County Council.

At a recent meeting of Cavan County Council, the elected members passed a resolution asking that I write to you as Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications to state that Cavan County Council oppose the ban on the cutting and sale of turf. The members noted that ending the cutting of turf is ending a tradition in rural Ireland. The members stated that currently there is serious concerns about the ability to heat homes and in the context of the current climate, in particular wholesale oil and gas prices, if people must refrain from burning turf it is likely that many will be unable to obtain an economically viable heat source for their homes.

Cllr S. Morris spoke in support of the motion and asked that the Council would write to Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications to oppose the ban on the cutting and sale of turf.

This was agreed.

Item 14.1
Expressions of votes of sympathy

Members passed a vote of sympathy to the following: -

- The Family of Celine Kinane, former receptionist in Seán Treacy Memorial Swimming Pool, Tipperary Town
- Family of Thomas (Thos) McCormack, Cloughjordan former General Operative with North Tipperary County Council and with Tipperary County Council
- Adrian O'Mahoney, Carrigeen Recycling Centre on the death of his sister Patricia (Trish) Moore, Pearse Park, Clonmel
- The family of John Dunne, Dublin Road, Thurles.
- Ellen Dunican, Cabra Court, Thurles on the death of her mother Kitty Martin

Votes of Congratulations

- Family of former Councillor, Mary Jackman.
- Recipients of Fulbright Awards 2022-2023 – Conor Hammersley, Edel Mede and Sophie Ni Riain.
- Garda Brian Leamy, Golden who retires this week as a member of the Garda Síochána
- Stakelums Expert Electrical, Nenagh Road, Thurles named Retailer of the Year 2021
- Cara Darmody on her fund raising and awareness campaign for services for children with special needs.
- James O'Donnell, Athassel Abbey, on his election as President of the Irish Co-operative Society.
- Nancy Currivan, Golden, on her centenary birthday.
- Moycarkey Borris Hurling Seniors on winning the Division 2 League Final.
- Tipperary Town on their improved score in the IBAL Anti-Litter League.
- Drom-Inch on winning the Division 1 County Hurling League

Item 15.1 Any Other Business

AILG Survey

The Cathaoirleach reminded members of the importance of completing the Survey which had been circulated by the AILG.

Cathaoirleach – Final meeting.

Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff, thanked Cllr Marie Murphy for her extraordinary commitment and time given to the role of Cathaoirleach.

This was echoed by the Members.

Housing Crisis

Cllr P. English raised an issue relating to a number of homeless cases that had arisen in the Clonmel area that morning and called for a special meeting of the Council to discuss the housing Crisis. Cllr M. Hanna Hourigan agreed with the suggestion to hold a special meeting and queried the need for extensive works to be carried out to vacant properties which was resulting in delays in those houses being available for reletting. A number of members spoke in support of the suggestion for a Special Housing Meeting to discuss a range of topics relating to housing.

Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, acknowledged the concerns of the members in relation to housing and the homeless situation that individuals and families found themselves in. He also acknowledged the desire to have a discussion on housing issues. However there had to be a sense of balance in any discussion. The Director of Services and staff of housing were working tirelessly to deal with issues surrounding housing, issues that were both personal and difficult and the housing section were overachieving on their housing targets. The position on housing and the health service were national issues and while there was a desire to discuss these issues, members should be cautious that a special meeting would resolve these issues. Preparation would be required for such a meeting and members should contact the Director of Services with their proposals to bring forward to a meeting. The Chief Executive suggested that a detailed housing report

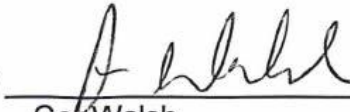
would be brought to the July Monthly Meeting with the necessary time set aside for constructive discussion. He urged members to engage with the Housing Director on issues they wanted to address to see what could be done locally and nationally. In the mean-time the Director and her team were always available.

Cllr K. Bourke, in his role as newly elected Chair of the Housing SPC undertook to contact the Director of Services for Housing to convene a meeting of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee as soon as possible to consider issues raised by the members with a view to bringing a report to the full Council for consideration at the July Meeting. This was agreed by the Council.

The Cathaoirleach referred to the requirement that any issue being raised under Any Other Business would be advised to the Cathaoirleach in advance. This had not happened on this occasion and Cllr English apologised for raising the issue without the prior consent of the Cathaoirleach and noted same for future reference.

Signed/ _____
Cathaoirleach.

Date: _____

Signed/  _____
Ger Walsh,
Meetings Administrator.

Date: