

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING OF
TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES,
CLONMEL AND Remotely Via Zoom
AT 11.00 AM on Monday 16TH January, 2023.**

Present

Cllr. R. Kennedy, Cathaoirleach.

Cllrs: Ambrose, S; Anglim, M; Bourke, K; Bugler, P; Burgess, D; Coonan, N; Crosse, J; Darcy, G; Dunne, D; English, P; FitzGerald, MI; Fitzgerald, Mark; Fitzgerald, J; Hanafin, S; Lee, S; Lowry, MI; McGrath, H; McGrath, M; Molloy, R; Moran, E; Morris, S; Murphy, Marie; Murphy MI; O'Meara, K; Ryan, S; Smith; MI.

Remote

Cllr. Black, T; Bonfield F; Carroll, J; Dennehy, N; Goldsboro I; Hannigan, J; McGrath, JR; Hanna Hourigan, M; Moloney, A; O'Meara, MI; Ryan A.M.; Ryan, J; Ryan, P;

Mr. B. Beck, Acting Director of Services.

Also Present

Mr. J. MacGrath, Chief Executive, Ms S. Carr, Director of Services, Mr. E. Lonergan, Director of Services, Mr. J. Cooney, S.E., Ms. C. Morrissey, S.E.O., Mr. G. Walsh, Meetings Administrator.

Item 1.1

**Welcome &
Introduction/
Meetings
Protocol**

The Cathaoirleach welcomed all to the January Meeting of the Council and wished members and officials a Happy New Year. He advised 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.

**Vote of
Sympathy**

The Cathaoirleach proposed a Minutes Silence as a mark of respect on the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict, former T.D. and Councillor Carrie Acheson and former Councillor Liam O'Dwyer. A vote of sympathy was also extended to Cllr John Crosse on the death of his sister Mrs. Helen Concannon.

Cllrs J. FitzGerald, S. Ambrose, M. McGrath, R. Molloy, MI. Murphy and MI. FitzGerald, expressed their sadness at the passing of Carrie Acheson who was synonymous with the town of Clonmel, a former member of Clonmel Corporation, South Tipperary County Council and T.D. for Tipperary South Constituency. She was a former Mayor of Clonmel. Reference was made to her business acumen and her many interests including being a member of the Clonmel Show Committee and her involvement in the National Ploughing Championships and the Tullamore Show. Members remembered

her infectious personality, her positive nature, her courage, wisdom, style and excellent penmanship. Members joined in expressing their sympathies to her son Brian, sister former senator Tras Honan, brother Aidan and wider Acheson family. A special meeting of Clonmel Borough District would be held for Mrs. Acheson.

A minute's silence was observed.

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

Trade Delegation - Cathaoirleach

The Meetings Administrator advised members that the Cathaoirleach had received an invitation to join a Trade Delegation to Philadelphia from the 20th February to the 24th February, and that the delegation would have a particular focus on the equine industry.

Governor of Maryland, Larry Hogan, Secretary of State John Wobensmith and a number of the Maryland Horse Board (MHIB – see website below) completed an equine trade mission to Ireland visited Ireland in June 2022. As part of their itinerary, they paid a private visit to Coolmore and the Fethard Horse Country Museum in Fethard.

As a follow up to the June 2022 visit, Mrs Candice Kelly and Mr. Patrick Cupurro representing the US State of Maryland visited Ireland from 5th to 11th January, 2023. The overall goal was to follow-up on the relationships forged by Governor Hogan, Secretary Wobensmith and MHIB members during their equine trade mission visit to Ireland in June 2022, by establishing Sister States partnerships with Counties, Kildare, Longford and Tipperary. In addition, the committee wanted to re-connect with County Cork where a Sister State agreement has been established since May 2013.

Candice Q. Kelly is on the Board of Directors of the Maryland Sister States and co-chair of the Hauts-de-France Committee. Mr. Patrick Capurro co-chair the Hauts-de-France Sister States Committee.

Cathaoirleach Roger Kennedy, Maurice Moloney and Anthony Fitzgerald met with Candice Kelly and Patrick Cappurro and their respective spouses at the Cashel Palace Hotel on Tuesday, January 10th.

A trade visit has been organised with Philadelphia and the Lehigh Valley Economic Area in North Pennsylvania for February 20th to 24th, 2023. Two businesses from Tipperary will partake in the trade visit which is being co-ordinated through the local Enterprise Office and Littus Business Consultants in Philadelphia. Clare, Sligo and Mayo LEOs are also part of the Trade Visit. From a Tipperary perspective, 1 day will be allocated to a visit to the neighbouring State of Maryland and meeting with the Maryland Sister State Committee who have experienced a strong desire to sign a Friendship agreement with County Tipperary with a particular focus on the equine sector, for which Maryland has a particular focus on the Sports horse (Show jumping etc) sector. The Cathaoirleach will be travelling on behalf of the Council as part of this Trade visit to Philadelphia which was approved by the Council at its January meeting held on Monday 16th January, 2023.

The attendance by the Cathaoirleach was proposed by Cllr K. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. M. FitzGerald.

Item 2.1
Disclosure/or
Conflicts of
Interest

Noted, no matters were notified to the Meetings Administrator

Item 3.1
Minutes of
Council Meeting
held on 12th
December, 2022

The Minutes of the October Monthly Meeting held on 12th December, 2022 were proposed by **Cllr. P English**, seconded by **Cllr. S. Ryan** and adopted.

Matters Arising

None

Item 4.1
Approval to
Attendance

There had been no conferences/seminars/training events attended by Members in December, 2022.

Item 5.1
Ethics
Framework
Compliance.

Mr. Ger Walsh, Meetings Administrator, referred to Part 15 of the Local Government Act 2001 (the 2001 Act) which set out the ethical framework for all those involved in the Local Government Service, both members and employees. The framework imposed a statutory duty on all in the service to maintain proper standards of integrity, conduct and concern for the public interest.

Members were informed that Annual Declarations under Section 171 of the 2001 Act, were required to be submitted to the Ethics Registrar in writing on or before the last day in February 2021 containing particulars of his or her declarable interests and an undertaking to have regard to and be guided by the relevant Code of Conduct in the exercise of his or her functions.

Also, in accordance with electoral legislation members were required to submit a Donation Statement in respect of donations received, the value of which exceeded €600.00. These statements were to be furnished to the Ethics Registrar not later than 31st January 2023.

Item 6.1
Ratification of
Nominees to
LCDC and
Tipperary
Energy Agency

It was proposed by **Cllr. Pat English**, seconded by **Cllr. David Dunne** and resolved: -

“That in accordance with Section 36 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended by Section 49A (1), Chapter 2 of Part 6 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and Article 4 (1) of the Local Community Development Committee (Section 128E) Regulations 2014, and Statutory Instruments No. 314 of 2014 the Local Community Development Committee (Section 128E) (Amendment) (No. 1) Regulations 2014 and that:

The following name be ratified a member of the Tipperary Local Community & Development Committee (TLCDC).

Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive Tipperary County Council”.

It was proposed by **Cllr. Sean Ryan**, seconded by **Cllr. Seamus Hanafin** and resolved: -

“That **Cllr. John Carroll** be nominated to the Tipperary Energy Agency (TEA)”.

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 Clonmel and any queries/clarifications would be dealt with by the relevant Director of Services. The meeting was informed that it was proposed to take Item 7.2 Update on the development of the Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2029 with the Economic/Community/Rural Services Development Report and Item 10.1 Notice of Motion Ref 2535 with the Environment & Climate Action Report.

Item 7.2

Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2029 Update.

Mr. Brian Beck, A/Director of Services provided an update to the members on the process involved in the compilation of the Local Economic & Community Plan 2023-2029.

He confirmed that High Level Goals had been identified as follows: -

- Community Resilience and Wellbeing
 - That all communities in Tipperary would move forward in terms of their resilience and their capacity to contribute to the wellbeing of their members
- Economic Development
 - That Tipperary would contain a diverse, innovative and environmentally aware economy in which enriching employment opportunities are available for all its citizens and the necessary education and training opportunities are easily accessible by all
- Climate Action and Biodiversity
 - That Tipperary would, at a minimum, contribute its fair share to national targets for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, that its households, communities and businesses would be active in adapting to climate change and that environmental impact considerations would inform all decisions in the county

A submission and consultation Portal were being developed and consultations (both online and physical/in room) would take place from February to May 2023.

Economic/Community/Rural Services Development

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

“You’re the Business” Awards

Congratulations were extended to Ryan Thomas Jewellers, Clonmel, who were one of 10 “You’re the Business” winners in the country for the most Innovative and Inspiring SME’s in relation to digital upskilling initiatives

Community/ Voluntary Groups Energy Bills

Members were advised that the fund ringfenced to support community and voluntary groups with energy bills and running costs was open for applications with a closing date of the 31st January, 2023. Applications could be made towards running costs and also towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, energy efficient type projects and operating costs.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure

Cllr Ml. Fitzgerald sought further detail on the following projects: -

Soloheadbeg Greenway and Water Park – Funding had been allocated to carry out a feasibility study for this project.

Tipperary Town to Limerick Junction Trail – Funding had been allocated to carry out improvement works to upgrade the Tipperary Town to Limerick Junction Walkway and Cycleway.

It was noted that more comprehensive detail on the scope of the works was available through the Municipal District.

It was also outlined that in order to maximise funding and due to a limit on the number of applications that Tipperary County Council could submit, North Tipperary Development Company were the lead partner on two projects.

Clonmel to Carrick-on-Suir Blueway – In response to an enquiry by Cllr Ambrose, it was confirmed that there was no land acquisition required to carry out the upgrading works to the Blueway

Community CCTV

A number of members queried the current status of Community CCTV Projects in their respective areas. It was noted that final documentation was awaited from the Garda Commissioner in relation to Community CCTV for Littleton, Fethard, Borrisokane, Burgess/ Birdhill/Cooleens and Nenagh. A number of other projects were at various stages of the application process. The progression of CCTV schemes had been discussed at a recent Joint Policing Committee Meeting and members had highlighted the importance of CCTV to the Chief Superintendent at this meeting. Members discussed policy and funding options for Community CCTV and it was agreed that a workshop would be arranged to discuss this in detail.

Business Park, Thurles and Business Innovation Centre, Thurles

The progression of both these developments were being kept under review.

Lough Derg Signage and Access Promenade Ballina

The District Engineer would be requested to provide Cllr Bugler with an update on these matters.

Clar Designation

Cllr Ambrose requested that clarification would be sought regarding the criteria used for Clar designation for Killaloe.

Trading Online Voucher Scheme.

Businesses wishing to develop an online trading presence were advised to contact their Local Enterprise Office which delivered a Trading Online Voucher Scheme and information seminars.

Housing/Ukrainian Refugees

Ms. Sinead Carr, Director of Services and Mr. J. Cooney, S.E. responded to queries raised: -

Ukrainian Refugees.

Ms. Carr complimented housing staff for their management of pledges, Rest Centres and refurbishment of properties for Ukrainian Refugees. She addressed recent social media posts regarding Ukrainians utilising and upsurping supports designated for Irish Citizens and stressed that this was a minority view. Ms. Carr clarified that none of the housing supports that were available under Housing for All were available to any individual from Ukraine who was a beneficiary of temporary protection. This included HAP, RAS, units under long term lease, local authority purchased units, social housing stock or AHB Housing Stock, homeless supports or houses built under the local authority housing programme. She acknowledged the community support received in Tipperary for the BOTB (beneficiaries of temporary protection) both from businesses and private individuals which was indicative of how the Irish people generally responded to these refugees who were fleeing a war in their own country. Ms Carr thanked in particular the people who had offered a home to the refugees.

It was clarified that there were different programmes in place which dealt with different type of refugees. Tipperary County Council, at this point in time was responsible only for those beneficiaries who were fleeing the war in Ukraine. Supports for Asylum seekers and those seeking international protection were the responsibility of the Department of Justice and Department of Children and the Local Authority had no role in either their accommodation provision or supports.

Vacant Housing Officer

In response to queries raised in relation to the position of Vacant Housing Officer, members were advised that the vacant post in this position was being filled and in the interim, existing housing staff were dealing with issues pertaining to this remit.

Housing Grants

It was confirmed that P2 and P3 housing grant applications would be considered in 2023 following the prioritisation of P1 applications and in line with the formula agreed by the Housing S.P.C.

Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme

The Housing Section were liaising with the Municipal Districts to capture dwellings that were outstanding in schemes that had availed on the Energy Retrofit Scheme, subject to funding.

Choice Based Letting

Members were informed that approximately one third of housing applicants had not engaged with the Choice Based Letting Scheme and this would be

reviewed by the Housing SPC to consider further initiatives that may be required.

Notice to Quit – RAS and HAP properties.

In 2022 there was approximately 300 Notice to Quits issued by Landlords of RAS and HAP properties. Tenants were urged to engage with the local authority as soon as the Notice to Quit was received in an effort to allow adequate time to access additional accommodation.

It was confirmed that the Council were currently allowed to purchase HAP properties up to the middle of 2023 but this was subject to assessment on a case by case basis.

Housing Inspections.

It was noted that the local authority was obliged to carry out housing inspections of RAS, HAP, Private Rented, Long term lease and Mortgage to Rent properties. Where properties fail the inspection, a programme of works was agreed with the landlord.

First Home Scheme

Members welcomed the increase in the ceiling for Tipperary for new builds from €250,000 to €325,000 and as a result of this the Council would be engaging with private developers to encourage the activation of their planning permissions.

Homeless

Reference was made to media reporting of a recent homeless case. It was acknowledged that the media had an important role in the reporting of issues and to ensure that the local authority were carrying out their functions in a correct manner. However, the local authority was restricted in what information they can divulge to the media due to the vulnerabilities of the persons they are dealing with and in particular where children were part of the unit. The manner in which cases were reported in the media did not alter the way the local authority process was carried out.

Social Housing Income Thresholds

It was clarified that following the increase in the social housing assessment income thresholds, the Council would now contact and assess approximately 120 applicants who did not qualify due to income under the social housing needs assessment.

Voids

It was acknowledged that the turnaround time for voids had improved significantly and this year the Housing SPC would examine the costs involved in the completion of voids to the standard required.

Demountables

The general practice was to transfer occupants of demountable dwellings into more appropriate type accommodation but each case was examined on its own merits.

Serviced Sites

Housing Section would revert to Members in Q1 regarding the locations selected for the provision of housing on serviced sites under the affordable housing programme.

Croi Conaithe Fund

Members welcomed the expansion of the Croi Conaithe scheme to include rural dwellings.

Housing Delivery

Two Mile Borris - This scheme would be made available for Choice Based Letting in the coming weeks

Portroe – The estimated completion date was Q2 2023

CarrickBeg – Contracts were signed at the end of 2022 and the contractor was expected on site shortly.

Ardfinnan - The estimated completion date was Q3 2023.

Abbey Street, Cahir - This scheme would be made available for Choice Based Letting in the coming weeks

Cullen – contracts were awaited for the scheme.

Prior Park Grove, Clonmel – this was a Turnkey Development with a phased delivery.

Environment & Climate Action

It was agreed to take Item 10.1 Notice of Motion Ref 2535 with the Environment & Climate Action Report.

Motion Ref. No. 2535 was proposed by **Cllr MI O'Meara**

Item 10.1

Notice of Motion Ref. 2535

Dangerous Dogs Act.

"I am looking for support from Tipperary County Council to strengthen the Control of Dogs Act Legislation in Ireland. A complete reform of dog owner's responsibilities must take place immediately for public and animal safety. An immediate review of the Dangerous Dogs Act must also take place banning ownership of these dogs in the State. A proper public indemnity insurance requirement must also be enshrined in new legislation for all dog owners. I am asking this Local Authority to write to the Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Rural and Community Development and Minister for Housing on this issue.

The motion was seconded by **Cllr G. Darcy**.

The reply to the motion was noted as follows: -

Subject to Council approval this Motion will be referred to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine, the Minister for Rural and Community

Development and the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage on agreement of the members.

Cllr O'Meara in speaking to the motion sympathised with the families in Lorrha and Moneygall who recently had large sheep losses on their holdings due to dog attacks. Members supported the motion calling for more stringent dog control laws and urged that a national public awareness campaign would take place.

Environment & Climate Action

Mr. Eamon Lonergan Director of Services and Mr. MI Moroney, S.E.O., responded to queries raised:

Japanese Knotweed.

It was agreed to examine the presence of Japanese Knotweed in Riverside Park, Ballina.

Ash Dieback

It was agreed to liaise with the Roads Section regarding the need to carry out an inspection of roadside trees to ascertain the level of ash dieback.

Item 8.1

Dates for Workshops

It was agreed that a remote workshop would be held on the 30th January, 2023 at 2.30 p.m. to facilitate the following presentations: -

- HSE Mid-West - briefing on relevant HSE matters from Community Healthcare Mid-West and the Department of Public Health Mid-West.
- LAWPRO update
- Residential Zoned Land Tax Briefing

Items 11.1 & 11,2

Correspondence

Correspondence as circulated was noted as follows: -

- Reply dated 7th December, 2022 from Mr. Niall Collins, T.D., Minister of State for Skills and Further Education
- Letter dated 19th December, 2022 from Dr. Carmel Mullaney, Area C Director of Public Health, HSE.

Item 13.1

Expressions of votes of sympathy

A vote of sympathy was passed to the following: -

- Cllr. John Crosse on the death of his sister Helen Concannon
- Former Councillor Joe Brennan on the death of his father Denis
- Family of Liam O'Dwyer, former member of Carrick-on-Suir Town Council.
- Family of Carrie Acheson, former member of Clonmel Borough Council
- Cllr N. Dennehy on the death of his aunt Theresa Lonergan.
- The family of Billy Mackey, former Revenue Collector with Carrick on Suir Town Council
- Jacqueline McGrath, Roads Procurement Co-ordinator and Philip McGrath, Executive Engineer, Nenagh MD on the death of their mother and mother in law Kathleen (Kit) Ryan
- Dermot Tobin, IT Section on the death of his father Dermott
- Joe Barry, Community Employment Supervisor, Cashel/Tipperary on the death of his wife Jean

- Elaine O’Driscoll & Margaret Buckley HR on the death of their Mother Maura
- Justine Haugh, Environment, Nenagh on the death of her mother Mary
- Ann McVicker, Former Staff Member, Housing, Clonmel on the death of her husband James
- Dermot Connolly, Executive Engineer, Water Services on the death of his mother Catherine
- Former Councillor Denis Ryan on the death of his brother Paschal Ryan, Drom, Templemore
- The family of John Joe McKeogh, former President of Ballina GAA Club and Chair of County Board
- Ann Marie Devaney on the death of her father in law Jer Gleeson, Moneygall
- John Clancy, former Rate Collector, on the death of his brother Paddy.

**Votes of
Congratulations**

- A vote of congratulations was passed to the following: -
- Shane O’Connor and Liam Carew, Abbey School, Tipperary Town who won the BT Young Scientist Exhibition 2023
- Presentation Secondary School, Thurles, Borrisokane Community College, St. Josephs College Tipperary and CBS Thurles on being highly commended in the BT Young Scientist Exhibition 2023.
- Kerry Condon on her Golden Globe nomination for Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role.

Best Wishes

Members wished Mr. Noel Dundon well in his new career and thanked him for his exceptional service with the Tipperary Star.

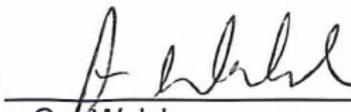
Item 14.1

The meeting then concluded.

**Any Other
Business**

Signed/ _____
Cathaoirleach.

Date: _____

Signed/  _____
Ger Walsh,
Meetings Administrator.

Date: