

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING OF
TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD
IN HILLVIEW SPORTS CLUB, MOUNTAIN ROAD, CLONMEL,
AT 11.00 AM ON 8TH JUNE, 2020**

Present

Cllr. Michael Murphy, Cathaoirleach.

Cllrs: Ambrose, S; Anglim, M; Black, T; Bonfield, F; Bourke K; Bugler, P; Burgess, D; Carroll, J; Coonan, N.J; Crosse, J; Darcy, G; Dennehy, N.; Dunne, D; English, P; Fitzgerald, M; FitzGerald, MI; Goldsboro, I; Hanafin, S; Hannigan, J; Hanna-Hourigan, M; Kennedy, R; Lee, S; Lowry, M; McGrath, H; McGrath (Rocky), J; McGrath, M; Molloy, R; Moloney, A; Moran, E; Morris, S; Murphy, Marie; Ryan (Shiner), A; Ryan, J; Ryan, P; Ryan, S; Smith, M.

Also Present

J. MacGrath, Chief Executive, S. Carr, C. Curley, K. Cashen, M. O'Connor, S. Keating, Directors of Services, E. Lonergan A/Director of Services, M. Scott, Arts Officer, G. Walsh, Meetings Administrator.

Deputies A. Kelly, M. McGrath, M. Browne. Senator G. Ahearne.

Apologies

Cllrs. O'Meara K; O'Meara MI

Invited Guests

Seamus O'Doherty, Honorary Member, Mr. Noel Byrne, Club President. Hillview Sports Club

Mattie McGrath, T.D., Alan Kelly, T.D., Senator Garret Ahearn

Fr. Michael Toomey, SS Peter and Pauls Parish, Clonmel

Opening Prayer

The Cathaoirleach invited Fr. Michael Toomey, SS Peter and Pauls Parish to commence the meeting with the opening prayer.

Meeting Protocol

The Meetings Administrator referred to the Council's Covid-19 Protocol re. Attendance at Council Meetings and advised of the following measures which would apply for this meeting: -

a) Duration of Meeting

The meeting would be kept to the shortest time possible and the Council would seek to limit the duration of the meeting to 2 hours, if possible.

b) Order of Business

All matters requiring a decision either statutorily or corporately would be dealt with first on the agenda;

c) Management Report

The consideration of the Management Report and any Councillor that submitted questions in advance will be dealt with first. District related matters would not be allowed and would be referred to the relevant District meeting for consideration.

d) Presentations at Meeting

No presentations by outside bodies would be allowed during the current Covid-19 crisis and the option of presentations being provided remotely to be explored further.

e) Council Meeting Operating Guidance

The TCC Standard Operating Guidance – Ref: SOG No. 6a will apply in respect of this Council meeting.

The members attention in particular was drawn to the following matters: -

- All Councillors positions will be designated; ensure that you sit as per your designated position
- A record will be taken of all Councillors in attendance and will be noted into the Attendance Register, to be signed by each relevant Councillor once the restrictions are lifted
- Hand sanitiser, wipes and tissues will be available at each venue
- A hand disinfection point will be sited immediately inside the venue entrance door. Ensure hands are disinfected on arrival into the building
- Do not shake hands or make close contact with other persons
- During any movements one makes within the room, remain at least 2m from other persons
- Avoid unnecessary touching of surfaces (e.g. stairwells, doors, etc.)
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when you cough and sneeze. Put used tissues into a bin and wash hands.

Welcome

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the members and officials to Hillview Sports Club on the occasion of his final meeting as Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council. The club, of which the Cathaoirleach had been a member, played an important part in his formative years and he held great memories of his time there.

In appreciation of the Club facilitating the meeting in their Sports Hall, the Cathaoirleach made a presentation to Mr. Noel Byrne, Club President. He thanked Club Secretary Dave Barry and member Siobhan Slater for their assistance in organising the meeting.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Deputies, A. Kelly, M. McGrath, M. Browne and Senator G. Ahearne and Mr. Darren Hassett, the newly appointed editor of The Nationalist newspaper to the meeting. He congratulated Deputy Kelly on his election as leader of the Labour Party and Deputy Ahearn as his election to the Seanad.

Mr. Seamus O'Doherty, Honorary Life Member of Hillview Sports Club welcomed the Cathaoirleach and Members to Hillview Sports Club and thanked Cllr MI Murphy for the honour of holding a meeting of Tipperary County Council in their Club.

Mr. O'Doherty outlined a brief history of the Club.

The Club was originally a tennis Club that commenced activities in 1939. The 9 hole Pitch and Putt course was added in 1955 and a new clubhouse, badminton hall and bar were added in 1974. The opening of the new Clubhouse coincided with the name change from Hillview Lawn Tennis and Pitch & Putt Club to Hillview (Clonmel) Sports Club. The first convention of the Pitch and Putt Union of Ireland was held in the Club in Clonmel in 1960.

Vote of Sympathy

The Cathaoirleach proposed a vote of sympathy to the families of those who tragically lost their lives to the Covid-19 virus. A vote of sympathy was also proposed to Liam Walsh, former member of Carrick-on-Suir Town Council, on the death of his wife Helen. A minutes silence was observed.

Item 1.1 Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest

Noted, no matters were notified to the Meetings Administrator.

Item 2.1 Minutes of Special Meeting held on the 3rd April, 2020.

Proposed by **Cllr. P English**, seconded by **Cllr. J. Carroll** and resolved "That the minutes of the Special Meeting held on the 3rd April, 2020, by video link in various locations, as presented be adopted".

Members were informed that clarification from the Attorney General regarding the legality of the special meeting held on the 3rd April was awaited.

Item 2.2 Minutes of Council Meeting held on the 9th March, 2020

Proposed by Cllr R. Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Marie Murphy and resolved: -

"That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 9th March, 2020 in Civic Offices, Clonmel, as presented be adopted."

Item 2.3

Minutes of Special Meeting held on the 25th May, 2020

Proposed by Cllr I Goldsboro, seconded by Cllr M. Smith and resolved: -

“That the minutes of the Special Meeting held on the 25th May, 2020 in Civic Offices, Nenagh and various locations by video link, as presented be adopted.”

Items 3.1 to 3.5

The Cathaoirleach informed members that items 3.1 to 3.5 had been adopted at the Special Meeting held on the 3rd April, 2020. However in the absence of clarification from the Attorney General and having regard to guidance issued by the Department to the AILG and LAMA regarding statutory decisions being taken in a physical venue, it had been decided to relist the statutory items dealt with at the Special Meeting for approval at this meeting to avoid legal doubt arising in the future.

The approval of items 3.1 to 3.5 on the agenda would supersede the decisions taken at the Special Meeting held on the 3rd April, 2020.

Item 3.1 Overdraft facility for year ending 31st December, 2020.

It was proposed by **Cllr Marie Murphy**, seconded by **Cllr S. Hanafin** and resolved: -

“That pursuant to the Local Government Act 2001 and subject to the sanction of the Minister of the Environment, Community and Local Government, this Council authorises the temporary borrowing by way of overdraft from the Council’s Treasurer of a sum not exceeding €25,000,000 (twenty five million euro) during the year ending 31st December, 2020.”

This resolution supersedes the resolution passed at the Special Meeting held on the 3rd April, 2020.

Item 3.2 Loan facility Mortgages under Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme.

It was proposed by **Cllr R. Kennedy**, seconded by **Cllr M. Hanna Hourigan** 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 €3,600,000 (three million and six hundred thousand euro) from the Housing Finance Agency for the purpose of advancing mortgages under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme.”

This resolution supersedes the resolution passed at the Special Meeting held on the 3rd April, 2020.

Item 3.3 Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 Killaghy Crescent, Mullinahone.

The Chief Executive’s Report on the proposed Part 8 Development of 10 houses at Killaghy Crescent, Mullinahone had been circulated to the members. The development of 10 social houses on a site sized 0.4 hectares at Killaghy Crescent, Mullinahone, Co. Tipperary was proposed by **Cllr Mark Fitzgerald**, seconded by **Cllr I. Goldsboro**. The development included for 2 no. 2 storey 2 bedroom houses, 8 no. 2 storey 3 bedroom houses, open space areas to serve the development and roads, footpaths, lighting and all necessary water supply and drainage infrastructure. Public consultation had taken place from the 16/1/20 to 14/2/20. No submissions had been received.

This resolution supersedes the resolution passed at the Special Meeting held on the 3rd April, 2020.

Item 3.4
Section 85
Agreement
between
Kilkenny County
Council and
Tipperary County
Council.

It was proposed by **Cllr J. Carroll**, seconded by **Cllr P. English** and resolved: -

“That Tipperary County Council agrees to the making of an Agreement, as presented to it under Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended) with Kilkenny County Council, in respect of the Public Lighting Energy Enhancement Project”.

This resolution supersedes the resolution passed at the Special Meeting held on the 3rd April, 2020.

Item 3.5
Section 183
Notice – Disposal
of unused pump
house at
Grangemockler,
Carrick-on-Suir.

Proposed by **Cllr Mark Fitzgerald**, seconded by **Cllr I. Goldsboro** and resolved: -

“In accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of property at Grangemockler to Margaret Power, Ninemilehouse and contained in Folio TY60734F, in accordance with the terms of the Notice dated 23rd March, 2020.”

This resolution supersedes the resolution passed at the Special Meeting held on the 3rd April, 2020.

Item 4.1
Conferences
/Seminars
/Training

Owing to Covid-19 restrictions, no conferences, seminars or training took place since the last meeting of the Council.

Item 5.1
Casual Vacancy
Co-option

Members had been advised by Notice dated 6th April, 2020 that a casual vacancy had arisen in the membership of Tipperary County Council as a result of the election of Cllr Garret Ahearn to Seanad Eireann on the 3rd April, 2020. Section 16(1) of the Local Government Act 2001 provided that a person ceases to be a Member of a Local Authority and a casual vacancy arises in its membership immediately upon he or she becoming disqualified from membership of a Local Authority under Section 13(a) of the Local Government Act 2001 i.e. a person who stands elected to either Houses of the Oireachtas.

It was noted that the vacancy would be filled at the next meeting of the Council after the expiration of fourteen days from the occurrence of the vacancy or as soon after the expiration of the fourteen days as circumstances permit. This in effect meant that the vacancy was to be filled at the County Council monthly meeting to be held on Monday 20th April 2020. However owing to the ongoing Covid-19 Emergency Restrictions, it was necessary to defer the Council's meetings for April and May and the matter was now being re-listed for consideration at the June meeting of the Council.

Standing Order No. 83 provided for the filling of a casual vacancy, to be filled by the co-option by the Council of a person to fill the vacancy subject to such person being nominated by the same registered Political Party who nominated Cllr. Garret Ahearn for election to the Council i.e.

Fine Gael.

It was also noted that owing to circumstances beyond their control as a result of the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, it had not been possible to date for the Fine Gael Party to hold their convention to select their nominee and therefore it was recommended that this matter, be deferred for consideration to the next monthly meeting of the Council, scheduled to take place on Monday 13th July 2020.

The deferral of the co-option of the Casual Vacancy in the membership of Tipperary County Council to the July Monthly Meeting was proposed by **Cllr Marie Murphy**, seconded by **Cllr M. Hanna Hourigan**

Item 5.2
Section 183
Notice – Disposal
of property at
Ballyclerihan,
Clonmel.

Proposed by **Cllr S Ambrose**, seconded by **Cllr P. English** and resolved: -

“That in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of land at Ballyclerihan, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary to Ballyclerihan National School, Ballyclerihan, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above Section, as circulated on the 25th May 2020”

This disposal was required to facilitate the provision of a sensory garden and playground for children on the autism spectrum.

Item 5.3
Section 183
Notice – Disposal
of land at
Glenconnor,
Clonmel

Proposed by **Cllr S Ambrose**, seconded by **Cllr P. English** and resolved: -

“That in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of lands at Glenconnor Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary to Clúid Housing Association, 159 – 161 Sheriff Street Upper, Dublin 1 in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above Section, as circulated on the 25th May 2020.”

This disposal was required to facilitate the provision of housing.

Item 5.4
Section 183
Notice – Disposal
of property at
Brickendown,
Cashel

Proposed by **Cllr R. Kennedy**, seconded by **Cllr D. Burgess** and resolved: -

“That in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of land at Brickendown, Cashel, Co. Tipperary to Chantal Cleary, Cashel, Co. Tipperary in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above Section, as circulated on the 28th May 2020”

The property was no longer required for social housing purposes.

Item 5.5
Section 183
Notice – Disposal
by lease
agreement of
office space
Carrick-on-Suir

Proposed by **Cllr S Ambrose**, seconded by **Cllr P. English** and resolved: -

“In accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal by lease agreement of office space to the top floor of Carrick on Suir Town Hall to Carrick on Suir Tourism and Economic Development Committee, in accordance with the terms of the Notice under the above Section, as

Town Hall.

circulated on Thursday 28th May 2020.

Lease of office space on top floor of Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District offices.

Item 5.6 Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 Twomileborris, Co. Tipperary

The Chief Executive's Report on the proposed Part 8 Development of 22 houses at Twomileborris, Co. Tipperary had been circulated to the members. The proposal comprised the development of 22 no. houses and associated works on lands at Ned Hayes Park, Two Mile Borris, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. The development included for the demolition of existing disused and dilapidated dwelling and construction of:-

- 1 No. 4 bedroom, two storey terrace house
- 6 No. 3 bedroom, two storey terrace houses,
- 10 No. 2 bedroom, two storey terrace houses and
- 5 No. 2 bedroom, single storey houses,

Roads, footpaths, underground services, drainage systems, car parking, boundary treatments, landscaping, open spaces and all associated site works. The development would also include the connection to the existing foul drainage in the Ballyduff Road and the connection to the existing storm drainage in Ballyduff Road.

Public consultation had taken place from the 13/2/20 to 13/3/20. One submission had been received.

The Planning Authority was satisfied that the proposal, subject to considerations outlined in the report circulated being implemented, was in accordance with the North Tipperary County Development Plan 2010 (as varied) would not impact on the visual amenity of the area, was acceptable in terms of access, was acceptable in terms of drainage, presented no significant impact on the conservation objectives of any Nature 2000 site and presented no flood risk issues.

The development as set out on the plans and particulars was considered acceptable and was consistent with the principle of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. Therefore, it was recommended that the proposed development should proceed subject to recommended requirements and conditions.

This was noted and agreed by the members.

5.7 Draft Service Delivery Plan 2020.

The Meetings Administrator advised that the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, established the requirement for each Local Authority to prepare an Annual Service Delivery Plan identifying the services that it proposed to deliver to the public in the year ahead. The draft Plan had been circulated to the members and highlighted the services that would be provided by Tipperary County Council across all directorates in 2020 and had been prepared based on the provisions of the adopted budget of Tipperary County Council for 2020. It was noted that in normal circumstances, the plan would have been submitted to the council for consideration at the April monthly meeting following the adoption of the various schedules of Municipal District works, however owing to the covid-19 crisis, it was not possible to bring the Plan before the council until this June Meeting.

It was highlighted also that the delivery of the service delivery plan would be dependent on government support as part of the recovery process to

enable it to meet its objectives and given that the full extent of the cost of the pandemic had yet to be measured and would depend to a large degree on the duration of the crisis and the rate of recovery, certain aspects of the service delivery plan may require to be reviewed and amended if a supplementary budget was required to be agreed by the council later in the year.

It was proposed by **Cllr. R. Kennedy** seconded by **Cllr. Marie Murphy** and resolved

“That the Draft Service Delivery Plan 2020 as presented be adopted by the Council in accordance with Section 134A of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended”.

5.8 Audit Committee Report

The Annual Audit Report 2019 and Report pursuant to Section 121 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended by Section 60 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 had been circulated to the members.

Ms. Clare Curley, Director of Services, conveyed the apologies of Prof. Denis Harrington, Chair of the Audit Committee who was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Curley confirmed that the report had been approved by the Audit Committee and thanked the committee for their work during 2019. It was evident from the report before the members that 2019 had been a constructive year and continued to ensure the activities of the Council were carried out in an open and transparent manner with the Risk Register being highlighted as an example of this.

The reports as presented were approved by **Cllr R. Kennedy** and seconded by **Cllr Marie Murphy** and agreed.

5.9 Draft Annual Report 2019

The Meetings Administrator advised the members that the council was required to prepare and adopt an annual report on the performance of its functions by the end of June each year. A draft was normally submitted to the council for consideration by the end of April however owing to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis and the cancelling of the April and May plenary council meetings, it was not possible to bring the draft plan before the council prior to the June Meeting.

It was proposed by **Cllr.S. Hanafin**, seconded by **Cllr. J. Ryan** and resolved

“That in accordance with Section 221 of the Local Government Act 2001, the Annual Report for year ended 31st December 2019 as presented be and is hereby adopted”.

Item 5.10 Arts Grants 2020

Ms. Melanie Scott, Arts Officer outlined the rationale to the Arts Act Grant Recommendations as circulated to the members. The recommended total grant allocation under the Arts Grant Scheme for 2020 was €33,400 across 25 groups and associations. Where community/voluntary arts groups had to cancel their main activity due to the COVID-19 pandemic (6 groups), these groups/organisations would still have annual costs to be met such as overheads etc. In this regard a once off contribution of up to €500 (based on production of receipted expenditure) was recommended to support the sustainability of the sector locally and in acknowledgement of their importance to our communities and cultural life.

Members acknowledged the challenges that those involved in creative industries faced as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and expressed concern at the loss of funding, sponsorship and venues for the artists/groups. Reference was made to the important role that arts played through various mediums in the lives of people during the recent lockdown and were appreciative of initiatives in local areas that had taken place using alternative methods of engagement in the Arts.

It was proposed by Cllr S Hanafin, seconded by Cllr S. Ambrose and resolved

That allocation of grants to the sum of €33,400 as per the schedule below under the Arts Act 2003 are approved.

No.	Group	Description	Recommended A 2020
1	The Nenagh Players	Theatre	€1,000
2	Cashel Choral & Dramatic Society	Theatre	€500
3	Scoil Ailbhe, Thurles	Multi-disciplinary Arts	€500
4	Aras Mhuire Day Care Centre, Nenagh	Visual Arts	€1,000
5	Nenagh Arts Centre	Multi-disciplinary Arts	€4,000
6	Clontempo Choir, Clonmel	Music	€1,200
7	Dementia Friendly Choir Thurles/Templemore	Music	€500
8	Uproar Rock Chorus, Clonmel	Music	€500
9	Thurles Musical Society	Musical Theatre	€500
10	Cahir Comhaltas	Music	€500
11	Nenagh Choral Society	Musical Theatre	€1800
12	Fionn MacCumhaill Players, Mullinahone/Fethard	Theatre	€500
13	Tipperary Musical Society	Musical Theatre	€1800
14	Cloughjordan Circus Club	Circus	€3500
15	South Tipperary Arts Centre,	Multi-	

	Clonmel	disciplinary Arts	€4000
16	Nenagh Community Training Centre	Visual Arts	€1450
17	Irish Wheelchair Association, Roscrea	Multi-disciplinary Arts	€1400
18	Newport Musical Society	Musical Theatre	€500
19	Roscrea Musical Society	Musical Theatre	€1800
20	Conradh na Gaeilge, Aonach Urmhumann.	Irish Language Arts	€650
21	Dreamtime Theatre, Annacarthy.	Theatre	€600
22	Nenagh Ormond Brass Band	Music	€1200
23	Burncourt Community Council	Music	€1500
24	Creative Minds Productions, Clonmel	Musical Theatre	€500
25	Youth Work Ireland Tipperary-Rural Outreach Projects (Newport/Borrisokane/Cashel)	Music	€2000

Item 6.1
Consideration of
Management
Report

In response to queries raised under the Management Report, the relevant Director responded as follows:

Roads, Transportation, Health & Safety – Marcus O’Connor

Japanese Knotweed – A contract had been completed for the treatment and management of Invasive Alien Plant Species on National Route in Tipperary which included the treatment of Japanese Knotweed over a 3 year period. 37 sites have been treated. 20 of these are now satisfactory and 17 require further treatment. Separately €60,000 has been allocated to the Districts to treat non national roads.

In response to a query regarding Japanese Knotweed at Riverside Park, Ballina - It was agreed that the District Engineer would examine this and respond to Cllr Bugler who raised the issue.

Bus Shelter locations –A number of members welcomed the provision of bus shelters in conjunction with the NTA at various locations and it was agreed to issue members with the current status on the provision of bus stops and shelters throughout the County.

Bog Roads – Reference was made to the condition of bog roads and to

works being carried out by Offaly County Council to bog roads in their remit. It was agreed to contact Offaly County Council to discuss funding options for the repair of bog roads.

Retrofit fencing – it was noted that a particular design of fencing was erected instead of post and rail fencing at locations where road safety was an issue.

Hedge cutting – A number of members referred to locations in their districts where hedges/trees were a possible hazard to road users. Members were advised that the responsibility for the maintenance of hedges/tress was a matter for the landowner/occupier. Areas of concern should be notified to the District Engineer.

It was confirmed that a Roadside Hedge cutting Pilot Working Group was established between Tipperary County Council and Donegal County Council and a project report was being prepared.

Shannon Bridge Crossing – it was confirmed that this project was progressing and it was anticipated that it would be undertaken as one project, amalgamating the Killaloe By-pass, Shannon Bridge Crossing and R494 Improvement Scheme.

R692 – maintenance works to this road would be considered if funding became available.

Planning – Eamon Lonergan (Acting) D.O.S.

It was agreed on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach to take Items 8.1 Notice of Motion Ref. 1876, Item 8.2 Notice of Motion Ref 1883 and Item 8.3 Notice of Motion Ref 1884, as part of the Management Report on Planning.

Item 8.1

Notice of Motion

Outdoor public seating – restaurants/bars

Motion Ref. No. 1876 was proposed by **Cllr A. Moloney.**

“That this Council give the opportunity to restaurants and pubs to use the car space outside their premises for tables and chairs to achieve social distancing in order to help get them back up and running again.”

The motion was seconded by **Cllr J. Ryan.**

The reply to the Notice of Motion was noted as follows: -

The use of outdoor public spaces was included in Tipperary County Council's recent report setting out a framework and proposals for the post Covid-19 recovering, reopening and revitalising of our town centres in Tipperary.

The Framework was designed to ensure that as many businesses as possible and consumers return to our town centres as well as helping people to think about what type of town centre they want in the future. There was an opportunity now for town centres to regain lost business by creating safe spaces for consumers and an opportunity for people and

communities to re-engage while fully complying with public health guidance.

The report identified that there were opportunities to assist our local restaurants and cafes with their reopening plans by facilitating requests from business owners to place tables and chairs in our outdoor public spaces which would also enhance the streets in our towns through the creation of an on-street atmosphere which in turn would attract shoppers and tourists to the County and extend the town centre function beyond the traditional retail hours.

Section 254 of the Planning & Development Act allows applicants to request permission from local authorities to use outdoor public spaces under a licensing system.

When assessing such applications there was a need for a balanced approach that considered the needs and rights of all parties, i.e. the applicants and the street users.

A decision to grant a licence was done on a case by case basis, and it was important that any use of public outdoor spaces would not impact negatively on the following:

- other retail businesses (disturbance, access to parking)
- business deliveries
- neighbouring and abutting properties
- pedestrians, wheelchair users, visually impaired
- road safety and traffic management

Parking must to be kept available for shoppers and consumers; a high turnover of on-street parking spaces would encourage increased use and spend within the town.

Each District would also work with Town Forums to create *Town Action Plans* around the use of Outdoor Public Spaces, examining each key town in the District and identifying specific public areas and streets that would be suitable for and benefit from the appropriate and safe outdoor placement of tables and chairs by businesses as part of the recovery and reopening of their businesses and our towns.

Cllr. Moloney while welcoming the content of the response, sought clarification as to the function to be provided and relevant contact point in each Municipal District.

In response, Mr. Eamon Lonergan referred to the ongoing consultation with the Town Forum Groups and also advised of the traffic management proposals as set out in the framework documents.

Motion Ref. No. 1883 was proposed by **Cllr J. Ryan**.

Item 8.2

Notice of Motion **Street Furniture**

“In response to the devastation that the Covid-19 Pandemic has had on the hospitality sector I am calling on Tipperary County Council to implement a street furniture and shop front grant

**and Shop Front
Grant Scheme**

scheme for our pubs, cafes, restaurants and hotels in this county to help them with the huge costs that social distancing will have on their business once they are allowed to reopen.”

The motion was seconded by **Cllr A.M. Ryan**.

The reply to the Notice of Motion was noted and welcomed as follows: -

Tipperary County Council's recent report setting out a framework and proposals for the post Covid-19 recovering, reopening and revitalising of the town centres in Tipperary examined the opportunities associated with the use of outdoor public spaces. The report included the full range of Government and other supports available to businesses including the supports available for the revitalisation of our town centres that were being administered by Tipperary County Council and the Tipperary Local Enterprise Office.

With respect to the placement of street furniture by businesses on outdoor public spaces, the report recommends the introduction of a refund grant for businesses that apply for a section 254 licence to use public streets and footpaths. This grant would provide a full licence fee refund to a business subject to that business complying with the conditions of the granted licence.

The Retail Support Enhancement and Painting Scheme was offered by all five Municipal Districts in 2019. The Maximum Grant for each of the MD's was for 50% of the approved cost of the works to a maximum €500. A revised scheme is being offered in 2020 based the suite of measures in the Framework Response to reopening town centres. In this regard, the condition limiting the grant was removed and a maximum grant award must equate to no more than 50% of the overall costs submitted by each applicants. Each MD would use their discretion to leverage the greatest value from the grant Scheme, and efforts must be made to ensure many applicants receive grant aid given the limited resources available.

Item 8.3

Motion Ref. No. 1884 was proposed by **Cllr M. McGrath**.

**Notice of Motion
Vacant Sites
Register**

“That Tipperary County Council would keep an up to date and comprehensive Vacant Sites Register and begin collecting fees through the Vacant Sites Levy in 2020, especially as the overall council revenue is expected to be significantly reduced due to the Covid-19 outbreak.”

The motion was seconded by **Cllr Anne Marie Ryan**

The reply to the Notice of Motion was noted as follows: -
Under the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015, planning authorities were required to establish a register of vacant sites in their functional area, commencing on 1 January 2017. The Vacant Site Levy is designed to disincentivise land hoarding and to act primarily as a site activation measure, rather than an income generating mechanism. For a site to be considered vacant, it must meet certain criteria:

For **residential land**, the site must be situated in an area in which there is a need for housing and suitable for the provision of housing, and the majority of the site must be vacant;

For **regeneration land**, the vacant site must exhibit adverse effects on existing amenities, or reduce the amenity provided by existing public infrastructure and facilities.

The 2015 Act defines a site as 'any area of land exceeding 0.05 hectares, excluding a person's home' which is defined as a 'dwelling in which a person ordinarily resides'.

A total of 28 notices pursuant to Section 7(1) of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 (notice to the owner of proposed entry on the register) issued in respect of 20 sites under consideration. Six sites have entered into or were in the planning process or now have activity on site under an Extension of Duration or existing permission and would not qualify for the levy. The Planning Section issued letters in March 2020 to a number of owners who were at various stages of engagement with us stating that we would review the situation in 2020. There have been appeals to An Bord Pleanála on a number of planning applications – stalling any potential development.

There were two sites currently on the Vacant Sites Register since 2019. The Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2018 increased the Vacant Site Levy rate from 3% of the market value of a vacant site for 2018, to 7% for 2019. The revenue from the levy is to be used by local authorities for the provision of housing and regeneration development in the local areas in which the vacant sites are located.

The levy was charged in respect of the preceding year therefore invoices could not be issued until 2020 and Planning Section were currently in the process of preparing these.

Planning Related Matters

County Development Plan

A number of members expressed their wish to commence discussion on the preparation of the new County Development Plan as soon as possible and stressed the importance of member's views being factored into the formulation of the plan. They had a number of issues to address including rural housing, restrictions on farmers, housing densities, road infrastructure, wastewater costs and Greenfield sites. The length of the process was a concern as certain aspects of the current plans were urgently in need of review.

Mr. Eamon Lonergan A/Director of Services informed members that two workshops were being held in July and members would have the opportunity to voice their views at these. The dates suggested were: -

Wednesday 22nd July, 2020 at 10 a.m.

Thursday 23rd July, 2020 at 2 p.m

Both workshops would be held in the Dome, Thurles.

Fire & Emergency Services – Karl Cashen, D.O.S.

Fire Appliance

The Cathaoirleach welcomed delivery of a new Class B Fire Appliance for Tipperary Fire and Rescue Service which would go into service in Clonmel Fire Brigade.

Library & Cultural Services

Clonmel Library

It was confirmed that notification of funding for the extension and refurbishment of Clonmel Library was awaited.

Finance and Information Technology

Car Parking

In response to a query regarding the recommencement of enforcement of on-street car parking, Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, confirmed that this formed part of the overall reopening of town centres. Enforcement of off street car parking would not be implemented until the 29th July. On-Street car parking enforcement was critical to ensure street safety and had been requested by a number of businesses.

Re-start Grant Scheme

The revenue section had commenced processing applications for the Re-start Grant Scheme. National funding for this scheme had not been received to date.

Rate Demands

Members were informed that the remainder of rate demands for 2020 would issue in June. Details of the Early Payment Scheme for 2020 would be issued to all ratepayers with their rate demands.

Communication from the Department was awaited on the National Rates Waiver Scheme.

Item 7.1 **Consideration of** **CE Orders for the** **period to the 29th** **February 2020**

Chief Executive Orders and Delegated Officers Orders for the period to 29th February were noted.

Item 10.1-10.2 **Correspondence**

Correspondence as circulated was noted.

Item 11.1 – 11. **Resolutions from** **Other Local** **Authorities**

The following resolutions from other Local Authorities as circulated with the Agenda were noted.

Cork County Council

That Cork County Council write to Department of Health, the Department of Justice and Equality and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs

and request recognition be given to Parental Alienation as a child-welfare issue and to call on the Government to implement the recommendations of The Report on Reform of the Family Law System, October, 2019.

Sligo County Council

I propose that local authorities be funded by the Government, in order to maintain the services to make good the rates shortfall in a similar manner in which Government have supported SME's with regard to Covid payments. Can this be shared with other local authorities throughout the Country.

Votes of Congratulations.

Congratulations were extended to Jane Fitzgerald, mother of Cllr Michael Fitzgerald on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

Item 11.1 Votes of Sympathy

Votes of Sympathy were extended to the following:

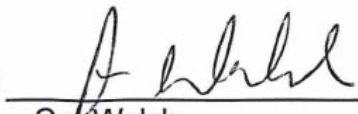
- Marcus O'Connor, Director of Services, on the death of his mother in law Kitty Looby.
- Paddy O'Dwyer, Environment & Climate Action on the death of his mother Patricia (Pattie) O'Dwyer.
- Family of Robbie Fahey, Driver, Machinery Yard, Clonmel.
- Robbie Hogan, Clonmel Borough District on the death of his mother Kathleen.
- Donie Ryan, G.S.S. Water Services and Sean Ryan G.S.S. Roads on the death of their mother Margaret (Peggy) Ryan.
- Marie McGivern, retired Administrative Officer on the death of her brother John Homes.
- Emma Ladden, Clonmel Borough Council on the death of her grandfather Jim Costigan.
- Family of John Barrett, Carralough, Cashel, former employee.
- P.J. Ahearne, Clonmel Borough District and Stephen Ahearne, Tipperary/Cahir/Cashel Municipal District on the death of their brother Noel.

Any Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting then concluded.

Signed/ _____
Cathaoirleach.

Date: _____

Signed/  _____
Ger Walsh,
Meetings Administrator.

Date:

