

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF SPECIAL MEETING OF
TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD BY VIDEO CONFERENCE CIVIC OFFICES, NENAGH,
CIVIC OFFICES, CLONMEL, CARRICK-ON-SUIR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, THURLES
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, TIPPERARY-CAHIR-CASHEL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
AT 11.00 AM ON FRIDAY 3RD APRIL, 2020**

Present

Civic Offices, Clonmel.

Cllr. Michael Murphy, Cathaoirleach

Cllrs S. Ambrose, P. English, R. Molloy

Mr. Ger Walsh, Meetings Administrator, Ms. S. Carr, Director of Services.

Civic Offices, Nenagh

Cllrs F. Bonfield, P Bugler, J. Carroll, H. McGrath

Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, Mr. Marcus O'Connor, Director of Services, Mr. Liam McCarthy, Head of Finance.

Carrick-on-Suir Municipal District

Cllrs D. Dunne Mark Fitzgerald, I. Goldsboro, K. O'Meara.

Thurles Municipal District

Cllrs P. Ryan, S. Hanafin, M. Lowry

Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District

Cllrs MI Fitzgerald, R. Kennedy, A. Moloney, Marie Murphy.

Welcome

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the members to the meeting which was the first meeting of Tipperary County Council to be held by video link.

3.1 Approval to convene Special Meetings by Video Conference

The Meetings Administrator advised the members that Standing Orders did not provide for meetings to be held by Video Conference. It was intended to amend Standing Orders but in the interim, the consent of the members was being sought to suspend standing orders to allow the special meeting to take place.

The suspension of standing orders was proposed by Cllr R. Kennedy and seconded by Cllr R. Molloy and agreed.

The Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that email correspondence had been received by the Meetings Administrator from Cllr N. Dennehy regarding his exclusion from attending the Special Meeting. He highlighted that no other independent Councillor was mandated to make decisions on his behalf.

It was noted that the meetings administrator had circulated an email to all Councillors advising that it was necessary to convene a special meeting of the Council to consider certain urgent items that required a resolution of the Council. Owing to the need to comply with social distancing requirements it was deemed necessary to convene the Special Meeting by video link from the Councils principal offices at Clonmel and Nenagh and its Municipal District Offices at Carrick-on-Suir, Thurles and Tipperary. As it would not be possible to accommodate all Councillors, it was proposed that each Party Whip and Independent Representative of the Privilege and Procedure Committee would identify and nominate those Councillors that

would be in a position to attend in advance so as to ensure that the necessary quorum of eleven required to constitute a valid meeting and subject to a minimum of four Councillors at each location. The following party representatives were suggested and noted.

Party	Number of Councillors	Number recommended to attend
Fine Gael	12	6
Fianna Fail	9	5
Labour	1	1
Sinn Fein	2	1
WUAG	1	1
Independents	15	6
Total	40	20

The matter of independent representation at future meetings was agreed to be referred to the Privilege and Procedure Committee for further consideration.

Item 1.1
Disclosures/
Conflicts of
Interest

Noted, no matters were notified to the Meetings Administrator.

2.1 Covid 19
(Corona Virus)
Update

The Cathaoirleach thanked the members and staff for their assistance in navigating through the current crisis and for carrying out the necessary steps to protect themselves and those they meet.

He thanked the Covid Response Team for ensuring continuance of essential services, the Customer Services Desk (CSD) staff who were working under increased pressure to deal with queries in line with current restrictions and the I.T. Section for facilitating changing work/meeting practices. Members appreciated the communications that were being issued to keep them aware of the evolving situation.

The Cathaoirleach requested that a letter of appreciation would issue to all staff on behalf of all the members of the Council acknowledging their incredible commitment and duty in responding to the Covid-19 virus. He re-iterated the vital role being played by all council staff from acting as a local hub for emergency crisis planning to keeping communities informed on Covid-19 related developments, to ensuring that vital services were available from housing to parks to e-libraries, to emergency services, to delivering water and other vital services that would underpin life in the current unprecedented conditions

Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, updated members on the current situation pertaining to Tipperary County Council in dealing with the Covid19 pandemic.

The in-house Covid Response Team met daily and there was constant

engagement with Management Team. The level of engagement across all sectors was intense and regular communications were being issued to members and staff and the Council website was constantly updated. Social Media was being used across various platforms to relay information.

It was a challenging time for communities and a community response hub had been set up. New arrangements had been put in place for staff which allowed staff work from home, office or on the ground. The focus currently was on the Council's role in the community, the health of staff and the provision of support to our colleagues in the HSE.

In relation to the financial implications on budgets, a report would be issued to members at a later date. There was an item on the agenda in relation to an increase in overdraft facilities and this overdraft was to allow for overexpenditure if required.

The Chief Executive thanked the Cathaoirleach for convening the meeting and staff for their commitment to ensure the continuation of services.

Members thanked officials and staff for ensuring the continuation of services in difficult circumstances. They applauded the work being done by frontline staff in hospitals, care facilities and supermarkets, the voluntary services being provided by community groups and the media for their reports. They sympathised with all those who lost a family member to Coronavirus. They urged all members to ensure that items being shared on social media were from trusted sources.

In response to an enquiry regarding road works, Mr. Marcus O'Connor, D.O.S., confirmed that all roadworks programmes had been suspended in accordance with government restrictions and only emergency works would be carried out if deemed critical.

A number of members referred to an increase in flytipping since the restrictions had been introduced. Mr Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, condemned the practice of illegal dumping and as this could be a public health issue it was considered an essential service. Enforcement teams were on the ground and would investigate any reports of illegal dumping.

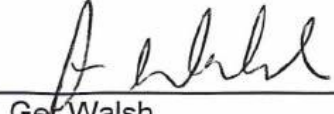
In relation to concerns raised regarding tenants whose employment was affected by the current restrictions, Ms. S. Carr, Director of Services, advised that as rent was assessed on household income, tenants should notify the rent office of their change in circumstances to allow their rent to be adjusted.

3.2 Amendment to Standing Orders of Tipperary County Council.

The Meetings Administrator informed the members that it was proposed to amend Standing Orders to provide that any reference to a "meeting" would be interpreted to include a meeting convened using information technology or other means of communications where attendance was "incorporeal" without physical existence in itself due to emergency or other urgent reasons". This amendment was to provide cover for any decisions made by the Council during the current public health crisis or any future crisis.

The amended Standing Orders would be brought before the full Council for adoption at a future date as Standing Order 89 required. It was noted and agreed that not less than three quarters (30 members) of the total number of members of the Council were required to vote in favour of

	amending Standing Orders.
<u>Item 3.3</u> <u>Overdraft facility</u> <u>for year ending</u> <u>31st</u> <u>December,2020.</u>	<p>It was proposed by Cllr Marie Murphy, seconded by Cllr S. Hanafin and resolved:-</p> <p>"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."</p>
<u>Item 3.4</u> <u>Loan facility</u> <u>Mortgages under</u> <u>Rebuilding</u> <u>Ireland Home</u> <u>Loan Scheme.</u>	<p>The approval of the Council was being sought to raise loans from the Housing Finance Agency to fund mortgage advances under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan Scheme. Repayments to the Housing Finance Agency for the mortgage related loan would be met by loan repayments from customers.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr R. Kennedy, seconded by Cllr S. Hanafin and resolved:-</p> <p>"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."</p>
<u>Item 3.5</u> <u>Part 8 of the</u> <u>Planning &</u> <u>Development</u> <u>Regulations 2001</u> <u>Killaghy</u> <u>Crescent,</u> <u>Mullinahone.</u>	<p>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 proposal comprised the development of 10 social houses on a site sized 0.4 hectares at Killaghy Crescent, Mullinahone, Co. Tipperary. The development included for 2 no. 2 storeys 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.</p> <p>The planning authority was satisfied that the proposal was in line with the policies and objectives of the South Tipperary County Development Plan 2009 as varied and it was noted that there were no proposals to not proceed with the development, therefore in accordance with Section 179 (4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, the proposed development as recommended in the Chief Executive's report to the Council dated 27th March 2020 would proceed accordingly.</p> <p>This was noted by the members.</p>
<u>Item 3.6</u> <u>Section 85</u> <u>Agreement</u> <u>between</u> <u>Kilkenny County</u>	<p>Mr. Marcus O'Connor, Director of Services, informed the members that Kilkenny County Council had been appointed by the Road Management Office (RMO) to act as the lead authority for the Eastern Region to undertake the required contract management responsibilities for the</p>

<p><u>Council and Tipperary County Council.</u></p>	<p>Public Lighting Energy Enhancement Project. It was therefore necessary for Tipperary County Council to put in place a Section 85 Agreement with Kilkenny County Council.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Michael Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr John Carroll and resolved:-</p> <p>"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".</p>
<p><u>Item 3.7 Section 183 Notice – Disposal of unused pumphouse at Grangemockler, Carrick-on-Suir.</u></p>	<p>Proposed by Cllr Mark Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr I. Goldsboro and resolved:-</p> <p>"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, Nine-mile-house and contained in Folio TY60734F, in accordance with the terms of the Notice dated 23rd March, 2020."</p> <p>The disposal related to the site of an abandoned pump house which had been sealed to the required specifications and a condition of the disposal required that the borehole not be re-used at any time.</p>
<p><u>Item 4.1 Agree dates for Council Meetings</u></p>	<p>The Meetings Administrator referred to the need to agree dates for plenary meetings for April, May and June having regard to current restrictions. It was suggested that the matter should be referred to the CPG. Cllr H. McGrath requested that consideration would be given to how independent members would be represented at meetings where numbers in attendance had to be restricted having regard to members who were not part of an independent grouping.</p> <p>Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, stated that it was not the intention to exclude any member, however regard had to be taken of social distancing requirements. Ways to have independent representation would be examined.</p>
<p><u>Any other business</u></p>	<p>A vote of sympathy was passed to the families of all those who had been bereaved as a result of Coronavirus.</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the meeting then concluded.</p>
	<p>Signed/ _____ Cathaoirleach.</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>Signed/  _____ Ger Walsh, Meetings Administrator.</p> <p>Date: _____</p>