

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF SPECIAL MEETING OF
TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD BY VIDEO CONFERENCE IN CIVIC OFFICES,
NENAGH, CIVIC OFFICES, CLONMEL, THURLES MUNICIPAL DISTRICT, TIPPERARY-
CAHIR-CASHEL MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
at 11.00 AM on Monday 25th May, 2020**

Present

Civic Offices, Nenagh

Cllr. Michael Murphy, Cathaoirleach

Cllrs D. Burgess, J. Carroll, N. Coonan, G. Darcy, D. Dunne, P. English, S. Hanafin, J. McGrath, M. McGrath, S. Morris, Ml O'Meara, A. Ryan, M. Smith.

Mr. J. MacGrath, Chief Executive, Ms. C. Curley, Director of Services,
Mr. Ger Walsh, Meetings Administrator.

Civic Offices, Clonmel

Cllrs S. Ambrose, M. Anglim, Marie Murphy

Thurles Municipal District

Cllrs E. Moran, H. McGrath

Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District

Cllr T. Black

Video Link

Cllrs P. Bugler, R. Kennedy

Welcome

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the members to the Special Meeting which was convened in Nenagh Civic Offices with members joining by video link from the Civic Offices in Clonmel and Municipal District Offices in Tipperary and Thurles and remote video link via zoom. The purpose of the meeting was to agree dates and venues for meetings for the remainder of the year having regard to current Covid-19 restrictions.

2.1 Holding of Council Meetings

Mr. G. Walsh, Meetings Administrator, referred to the Covid-19 Council meeting protocol that had been circulated to the members and advised members that having regard to public health advice the following measures were recommended in relation to the holding of Council, Committee or Workshop Meetings during this Covid-19 crisis:

1. Plenary Council Meetings / Councillor Workshops

Council approval in accordance with standing order no. 6 is required to facilitate the holding of meetings in alternative locations and it is recommended that the following meetings take place as per the schedule set out in Appendix 1 attached i.e.

- June Monthly Meeting on Monday 8th June 2020 to be held in The Hillview Sports Centre, Mountain Road, Raheen, Clonmel commencing at 11am;
- Annual Meeting of Council to take place on Friday 26th June, 2020 in The Dome, Semple Stadium, Thurles, commencing at 11am;
- All further Plenary Council Meetings and workshops for

2020 (including Budget Meeting) will take place in The Dome, Semple Stadium, Thurles;

2. CPG Meetings

It is recommended having regard to the latest guidance available, that future CPG meetings as much as possible will be conducted using online remote means on the Friday morning prior to the monthly Council meeting commencing at 10am.

3. SPC / Rural Water Committee / Other Meetings

It is recommended that face to face intervention is limited as much as possible and as far as is reasonably practicable and future meetings in the short term are convened using technological alternatives where possible (i.e. Zoom; Video conferencing, teleconference)

4. Where face to face meetings are necessary, the length of the meeting and the numbers attending shall be kept to a minimum. Participants must maintain physical distancing at all times and the co-operation of the members will be required, in particular in relation to the length and number of contributions during the meeting.

On the recommendation of the Privilege and Procedure Committee, (meeting held by zoom on Wednesday 20th May 2020), the following additional measures are recommended to the Council for implementation at Plenary Council Meetings during this crisis –

a) Duration of Meeting

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

(Note: HSE Public Health advice remains unchanged and in fact there is no rule that people should spend less than 2 hours in the same room as others. There is a 2 hour rule of thumb used by public health colleagues when retrospectively assessing exposure and the consequence of the meeting lasting longer than 2 hours would be that if someone tested positive, all persons in the meeting room with them for the full 2 hours would be considered a potential contact. An assessment of the meeting venue would then be carried out by public health doctors looking at ceiling height, ventilation, dimensions etc to identify actual contacts.

It is likely to make essentially no material difference to the current risk of acquiring Covid 19 provided good meeting venue controls are in place however limiting the period in a meeting / shared space to less than 2 hours in a 24 hour period can serve as an administrative / technical solution to avoid the inconvenience of being retrospectively designated as a Covid-19 contact under the contact tracing guidelines and the Council may wish to implement this limit for this

purpose. In essence it is not an infection prevention and control issue.)

b) Order of Business

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

c) Management Report

The consideration of the Management Report, normally generates a lot of discussion each month and it is proposed that this item will be taken last on the agenda and Councillors are encouraged to submit any Questions to be raised on the Management Report in advance to the relevant Director by the previous Friday at 12 noon and a reply will be provided, where possible, before the meeting. District related matters will not be allowed and will be referred to the relevant District meeting for consideration.

d) Presentations at Meetings

No presentations by outside bodies will 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

A TCC Standard Operating Guidance - Ref: SOG No. 6a as set out in Appendix 2 – will apply in respect of all future Council, Committee & workshop meetings during this crisis and until such time as all Covid-19 related restrictions in relation to the holding of meetings are lifted.

Mr. Walsh highlighted the following sections of the protocol to members:-

- Meetings were to be kept to the shortest time possible with a limit to a two hour duration if possible. This was to avoid the possibility of designation as a potential contact if someone present was to develop the virus. It was not an infection protection issue.
- Order of Business - Statutory items would be dealt with first. The Management Report would be dealt with after these items had been agreed and as the report could generate lengthy discussion, members were being asked to submit questions on the report to the relevant Director of Services on the Friday prior to the meeting.
- No district matters would be discussed at the Plenary Meeting.
- Members would be required to complete a Covid-19 screening questionnaire 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

Mr. Walsh also advised that in the absence of a decision from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government on the validity of the Special Meeting held on the 3rd April, 2020, statutory items agreed at this Special Meeting would be relisted on the agenda for the meeting to be held on the 8th June, 2020, for adoption.

Approval to the Schedule of Plenary Council Meetings from May to

December, 2020 and Covid-19 Protocol for Council/Committee/Workshop Meetings was proposed by **Cllr J. Carroll**, seconded by **Cllr P. English** and agreed.

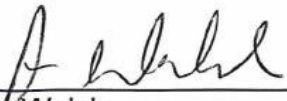
Mr. Joe MacGrath, Chief Executive, thanked the Cathaoirleach for convening the Special Meeting and the members attending. It was necessary that the Council would recommence meetings in a manner that would comply with public health guidelines and would become a new norm for the members and officials during the crisis. It was important that plenary meetings would be held in a physical location where the full membership of the council could be accommodated.

The Chief Executive acknowledged that these were trying times and officials were available to provide any assistance they could to members.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed/ _____
Cathaoirleach.

Date: _____

Signed/  _____
Ger Walsh,
Meetings Administrator.

Date: