

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 25TH MAY, 2015, AT 3.00 P.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor J. Crowley, Deputy Mayor.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillors Browne, Butler, Byrne, Clifford, Collins (M), Daly, Donegan, Foley, Galvin, Gilligan, Gleeson, Hourigan, Hurley, Keary, Keller, Leddin, Loftus, McCreesh, McMahon, Mitchell, Neville, O'Brien, Ó Ceallaigh, O'Dea, O'Donnell, O'Donoghue, O'Hanlon, Prendiville, Quinlivan, Ryan, Scanlan, Secas, Sheahan (J), Sheahan (M), Sheehy, Teefy.

Apologies for their inability to attend the Meeting were received from the Mayor, Councillor Sheahan (K) and Councillor Lynch.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive (Mr. C. Murray), Deputy Chief Executive (Mr. P. Dowling), Director, Economic Development and Planning (Mr. P. Daly), Director, Environment and Water (Mr. K. Lehane), Director, Home and Social Development (Ms. C. Curley), A/Director, Travel and Transportation (Mr. V. Murray), Head of Finance, Motor Tax and ICT (Mr. T. Gilligan), Meetings Administrator (Mr. C. O'Connor), Senior Executive Planner (Ms. M. Woods), Chief Officer, Local Community Development Committee (Mr. S. O'Connor), Heritage Officer (Mr. T. O'Neill), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. T. Knox).

Presentation to Eugene Griffin, SEO, Corporate Services

At the outset, the Members welcomed Mr. Eugene Griffin, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, to the Meeting and the Deputy Mayor made a presentation to him to mark his retirement from the Council.

Following the presentation of the gift, the Chief Executive addressed the Meeting and said that Eugene had given 40 years service of the highest quality and integrity. He added that he had played a critical role in the previous three years in terms of the merger. He had worked through a period of exceptional change and had remained one of the most professional and courteous public servants that anybody could meet. The Chief Executive added that Eugene would be an enormous loss to the organisation and would be sorely missed.

Mr. Griffin thanked the Members for the presentation. He stated that he had worked as Meetings Administrator for the last 10 years and during that time he had enjoyed a good working relationship with the Members and had made many good friends. He said that he had found the last three years particularly challenging from a work perspective. He said he would take away many good memories with him and wished the Members and staff all the best for the future.

Mr. Griffin left the Meeting to a standing ovation from the Members and staff.

Votes of Sympathy

With the permission of the Mayor, sympathy was extended to the following on their recent bereavements:

- Mrs. Teresa O'Connell and Family, Castletroy, Limerick, on the death of Andy O'Connell, former County Engineer, Limerick County Council.
- The Quaid Family, Direen, Athea, on the death of Denis Quaid.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copies of draft Minutes of the following Meetings:

- (a) Special Meeting of the Council held on 18th March, 2015.
- (b) Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 23rd March, 2015.
- (c) Special Meeting of the Council held on 15th April, 2015.

The Meetings Administrator stated that an amendment to the Minutes of Meeting of 23rd March, 2015, was required in relation to the Standing Orders for the Full Council.

He stated that the following amendment to Standing Orders had been proposed, seconded and agreed at that Meeting:

That the proposer of a Motion placed on the Clár be allowed to move said Motion and that the said Motion be allowed to be seconded. The mover of said Motion be allowed to attend the relevant Strategic Policy Committee Meeting that the Motion is referred to if not already a Member."

The Meetings Administrator explained that this amendment in its current format required a change to both the Standing Orders for the Full Council and those for the Strategic Policy Committees and should be split accordingly. The amendments should read as follows:

Amendment to Standing Order No. 49 for the Full Council

"That the proposer of a Motion placed on the Clár be allowed to move said Motion and that the Motion be allowed to be seconded."

The Meetings Administrator stated that this part was in order and that Standing Order No. 49 would read as follows:

“All Notices of Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order No. 47 above will appear on the agenda at the next appropriate meeting of the Council. The proposer of a Motion placed on the Clár will be allowed to move said Motion and that the said Motion will be allowed to be seconded. The Motions will then be referred by the Council to the appropriate committee of the Council for consideration.”

Amendment to Standing Orders - Strategic Policy Committees

“The mover of said Motion be allowed to attend the relevant Strategic Policy Committee Meeting that the Motion is referred to if not already a Member.”

The Meetings Administrator stated that this was a matter for the Strategic Policy Committees and would require an amendment to the SPCs Standing Orders. It was agreed that this amendment would be referred to the relevant Strategic Policy Committees for attention.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor O’Hanlon;
And Resolved:

“That the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read and adopted and signed, subject to the amendments outlined above to the Minutes of Meeting of 23rd March, 2015.”

Councillor Prendiville referred to Minutes of Meeting of 23rd March, 2015, in relation to the disposal of lands, by way of lease, at Gortadroma Landfill for a Gasification Plant. He asked if the Council could defer signing the lease, if not already signed, until after the public consultation process had taken place.

In response, the Chief Executive confirmed that the lease had been signed. He added that the Section 183 Notice had been passed by the Council at the March Meeting and that he had no authority other than to proceed in accordance with the decision of the Council.

2. Disposal of Land

- (a) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 27th April, 2015, concerning disposal of land at Plassey Park Road, Castletroy, Co. Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Byrne;
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of 55 metres square at Plassey Park Road, Castletroy, Co. Limerick, to Suzanne Bugler, Doneraile, Co. Cork, with access being granted to Limerick Smarter Travel to land bounding the River Shannon for the purpose of providing temporary access to the proposed upgrading works to the towpath, a licensing agreement to be signed for the duration of the contract, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 27th April, 2015.”

- (b) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 5th May, 2015, concerning disposal of the leasehold interest in 38, Hennessy Avenue, Kileely, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Byrne;
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of the leasehold interest in 38, Hennessy Avenue, Kileely, Limerick, to Elizabeth Griffin for the sum of €411.62, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 5th May, 2015.”

- (c) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 5th May, 2015, concerning disposal of the leasehold interest in 20, Linden Court, Kennedy Park, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Byrne;
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of the leasehold interest in 20 Linden Court, Kennedy Park, Limerick, to Mark and Antoinette Higgins, for the sum of €413.98, the disposal to be by way of Deed of Conveyance of the interest of Limerick City and County Council in the property, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 5th May, 2015.”

- (d) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 12th May, 2015, concerning disposal of land at Bunlicky, Limerick.

The Director of Economic Development and Planning replied to queries in relation to the proposed disposal of land at Bunlicky.

Councillor Prendiville stated that he wished to register his opposition to this disposal. In this regard, he asked if a park-and-ride facility had been considered for this location.

A number of Members stated that this disposal had been considered at a Meeting of the Metropolitan District and therefore should not require discussion at a Meeting of the Full Council.

At this point in the Meeting, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor O’Hanlon, to take a 5 minute adjournment.

On resumption of the Meeting, a vote was taken in the form of a show of hands in relation to the proposed disposal of land at Bunlicky. The majority of the Members were in favour of the disposal.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Byrne;
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of land consisting of an area comprising 4.37 hectares at Bunlicky, Limerick, to Valcroft Limited (trading as Mr. Binman), for the sum of €655,850, subject to a right-of-way being retained by Limerick City and County Council which will allow access to Council lands at the rear of the lands which are to be disposed of, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 12th May, 2015.”

- (e) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 12th May, 2015, concerning disposal of land at Southill House, Roxboro Road, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Byrne;
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of an area of land comprising 1.75 hectares situated at Southill House, Roxboro Road, Limerick, to Southill Development Co-Operative Society Limited (t/a Tait House Community Enterprise), by way of sub-lease, for a period of 25 years, for the sum of €1 per annum (if demanded), subject to the conditions and covenants contained within the Sub-Lease Agreement; and a right-of-way being retained in favour of Southill Credit Union; with the land being disposed of for less than market value as (i) Southill Development Co-Operative Society Limited provide important community services in this area of the city and (ii) the land is not required by the Council for any of its functions, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 12th May, 2015.”

3. Corporate Services

(a) Chief Executive’s Report

Circulated, Chief Executive’s Reports for the months of March and April.

The Chief Executive’s Reports for the months of March and April were noted by the Members.

(b) West Limerick Resources

The Meetings Administrator referred to the appointments made to West Limerick Resources at Meeting of 7th July, 2014, and clarified that where two or more persons were to be appointed, the Grouping system in accordance with Paragraph 18 of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act, 2001, (as amended) applied. As the Grouping system had not been applied when these appointments were being made, the nomination of Members needed to be re-visited. Accordingly, the Council was required to consider the nomination of 4 Members to the Board of West Limerick Resources Limited.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
 Seconded by Councillor O'Hanlon;
 And Resolved:

“That, Councillors Collins (M), Foley, Sheahan (J) and O'Brien be appointed to the Board of West Limerick Resources Limited.”

As there were no other nominations, the Mayor declared Councillors Collins (M), Foley, Sheahan (J) and O'Brien appointed to the Board of West Limerick Resources.

(c) Annual Report

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 20th May, 2015, together with draft Annual Report 2014.

The report stated that the draft Annual Report had been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended), and set out details of the various activities of the Council for 2014. The final version of the Annual Report would be brought before the July Meeting for adoption.

The draft Annual Report 2014 was noted by the Members.

(d) Audit Committee

- (i) Circulated, report of the Director of Corporate Services, Human Resources and Change Management dated 13th May, 2015, together with copy of Draft Charter for Limerick City and County Council's Audit Committee as agreed by the Audit Committee at meeting held on 8th May, 2015.

The report stated that Section 8 (1) of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations, 2014, provided that the Audit Committee should operate in accordance with a written Charter adopted by the Local Authority, with or without amendment. The adoption of the Charter was now required.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
 Seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J);
 And Resolved:

“That, the Charter for Limerick City and County Council Audit Committee, as circulated, be and is hereby adopted.”

- (ii) Circulated, report of the Director of Corporate Services, Human Resources and Change Management dated 13th May, 2015, together with copy of Draft Limerick City and County Council Audit Committee Work Programme for 2015 and Quarter One 2016, as agreed by the Audit Committee at meeting held on 8th May, 2015.

The report stated that Section 9 of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations, 2014, provided that the Audit Committee should prepare an Annual Work Programme to be adopted by the Local Authority, with or without amendment. The adoption of the Annual Work Programme was now required.

Proposed by Councillor O’Hanlon;
 Seconded by Councillor Leddin;
 And Resolved:

“That, the Audit Committee Annual Work Programme, as circulated, be and is hereby adopted.”

(e) Invitation

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 20th May, 2015, in relation to invitation to the Mayor of the City and County of Limerick from the City of Calais, France, to visit Calais from 19th to 21st June, 2015.

Councillor Prendiville, on behalf of his Party, raised queries in relation to cost, duration of the visit and itinerary.

In response, the Meetings Administrator confirmed that an invitation had been received from the City of Calais, France, for the Mayor to attend the inauguration of a new multi-cultural building. It was noted that the Mayor of Calais had visited Limerick in December 2014 where he had launched the Exhibition and Publication *Amazing Lace: A History of the Limerick Lace Industry*. The Meetings Administrator went on to state that Calais, like Limerick, had a long tradition in lace, with around 2,000 employed in the industry at the present time. He stated that it was hoped that a meeting would take place during the visit to consider possible partnerships around the area of lace production which would have a long-term economic benefit for Limerick. In reply to the query on cost, he stated that the visit by the Mayor and 1 official would cost approximately €1,355.00.

Following further discussion on the visit, it was agreed that a vote would be taken in the form of a show of hands. The majority of the Members were in favour of the visit and the Deputy Mayor declared the visit by the Mayor and 1 official to the City of Calais, France, approved.

Proposed by Councillor O'Hanlon;
Seconded by Councillor Daly;
And Resolved:

"That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to visit Calais, France, in accordance with Section 142(5) of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended)."

4. Community, Leisure and Emergency Services

The Limerick Local Economic and Community Plan – Draft Socio-Economic Statement and High Level Goals

Circulated, report of the Director of Community, Leisure and Emergency Services enclosing a copy of the Limerick Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) Draft Socio-Economic Statement and High Level Goals.

The report stated that Section 36 (1) of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014, provided for the establishment of a Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in each local authority area "*for the purpose of developing, co-ordinating and implementing a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.*" The primary function of the LCDC was to prepare and adopt a 6 year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). The purpose of the LECP was to set out the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. Both the LCDC and the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC had adopted the Draft Statement and High Level Goals and it was now proposed that these would go to public consultation.

The Chief Officer, LCDC, delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the Draft Socio Economic Statement and High Level Goals.

The Members noted the report. In response to queries, the Chief Officer, LCDC, outlined the role of the Elected Members in the preparation and adoption process of the Local Economic and Community Plan. He advised that the public consultation process would commence shortly and that the Plan would be brought before the Full Council in early 2016 for adoption.

Further information in relation to the Rural Development Programme and Leader Funding was provided by the Chief Officer, LCDC.

5. Economic Development and Planning

(a) Development Contribution Scheme 2015

Circulated, report of the Director, Economic Development and Planning, dated 15th May, 2015, setting out proposed allocations from the Development Fund 2015.

The report stated that 69 projects had been put forward for consideration for funding. The Council was in a position to fund 30 projects. The criteria for assessment of projects included meeting the City/County split and meeting the allocations of funding for Transport, Recreation/Amenity and Community/Ancillary as had been set out in the various Contribution Schemes. The proposal also took into account a geographical split of available monies. The €1.4m figure was an estimate based on what the Council believed would be collected from development contributions during 2015.

A full breakdown of the allocations for 2015 was attached to the report.

In noting the allocations, the Members raised queries in relation to the following:

- Traffic Management Plan, Abbeyfeale.
- Cois na Féile, Abbeyfeale.
- Rathronan Estate, Athea.
- The former Vocational School, Abbeyfeale.
- Willowbrook Estate, Abbeyfeale.

In relation to Rathronan Estate, the Director of Economic Development and Planning stated that, given the extreme difficulties that had arisen in relation to the completion of the estate, a sum of €56,000 was now being provided from the Development Fund to bring the estate up to a satisfactory standard. He added that the possibility of taking legal proceedings would be investigated under the relevant planning legislation.

It was noted that a report would be prepared and brought before a meeting of the Municipal District of Newcastle West in relation to Willowbrook Estate which would include information in relation to footpaths, roads, public lighting etc.

The A/Director of Travel and Transportation stated that it was intended to complete the footpath at Cois na Féile, Abbeyfeale. He stated that it would cost in the region of €120,000 and that there was no indication that a compulsory purchase order would be required in relation to its completion.

The Director added that work was ongoing in relation to the preparation of a traffic management plan for Abbeyfeale.

The Mayor stated that Items 5 (b) and (c) would be taken together:

(b) Proposed Variation No. 3 to Limerick County Development Plan 2010-2016 to incorporate the Shannon Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary

Circulated, report of the Director, Economic Development and Planning, dated 14th May, 2015, enclosing copy of the Chief Executive's Report dated 23rd April, 2015, on the proposed Variation No. 3 to the Limerick County Development Plan 2010-2016 to incorporate the Shannon Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary.

(c) Proposed Variation No. 5 to Limerick City Development Plan 2010-2016 to incorporate the Shannon Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary

Circulated, report of the Director, Economic Development and Planning, dated 11th May, 2015, enclosing copy of the Chief Executive's Report dated 11th May, 2015, on the proposed Variation No. 5 to the Limerick City Development Plan 2010-2016 to incorporate the Shannon Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary.

The Senior Executive Planner stated that the proposed Variations comprised of the incorporation of the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary into both the City and County Development Plans.

The land and marine-based plan, which was the first of its type to be developed in the country, was launched in late 2013 by a multi-agency steering group comprising Clare County Council as lead authority, Kerry County Council, Limerick City and County Councils, Shannon Development and Shannon-Foynes Port Company. It was a major strategic plan for the future development and management of marine-related industry and tourism along Ireland's largest estuary.

The variation to the County Development Plan comprised of additional text changes and additional zoning of land at Foynes, Foynes Island and Aughinish and zoning of additional land at Askeaton to incorporate the existing Nestle plant, formally Wyeth. The variation was placed on public display from 28th February, 2015, to 30th March, 2015, during which time 10 written submissions were received.

The variation to the City Development Plan comprised of a change of zoning from Mixed Use to Light Industry to facilitate industrial growth of the docklands. The variation was placed on public display from 28th March, 2015, to 27th April, 2015, during which time 11 written submissions were received.

A number of changes were made to both variations as a result of submissions received and these were outlined in the Chief Executive's Reports.

It was recommended that the variations be made as they were important documents for guiding the future development and management of the Estuary.

During discussion on this item, Councillor Gilligan read a letter received from the former Harbour Master, Captain Alan Coghlan, in relation to river tides and queried why this letter had not been included in the public consultation process.

The Chief Executive replied by stating that the letter had not been received during the public consultation period. He added that the letter could not legally be included at this stage as a result of the statutory process involved.

Following further discussion, it was agreed to bring the letter to the attention of the next SIFP (Shannon Integrated Framework Plan) Steering Committee meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
And Resolved:

"That, the proposed Variation No. 3 to the Limerick County Development Plan 2010-2016, to incorporate the Shannon Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary, as recommended in the Chief Executive's Report dated 23rd April, 2015, be made in accordance with Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)."

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
And Resolved:

"That, the proposed Variation No. 5 to the Limerick City Development Plan 2010-2016, to incorporate the Shannon Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary, as recommended in the Chief Executive's Report dated 11th May, 2015, be made in accordance with Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)."

As the time was approaching 5pm, it was agreed to take Item No. 10 at this point.

10. Great Limerick Run

The Deputy Mayor introduced Mr. John Cleary, Race Director, Great Limerick Run, and said that Mr. Cleary was in attendance to give a progress report on the Annual Great Limerick Run.

The Members welcomed Mr. Cleary who then delivered a PowerPoint presentation under the following headings:

- Background.
- Number of Participants.
- Economic Impact to the City.
- Social Aspects.

- Marketing.
- Key Stakeholders, Partners and Sponsors.

In relation to the background, Mr. Cleary pointed out that this was the 6th year of the Great Limerick Run and that it was now the 3rd largest event in the Country. He outlined that participants from all 32 counties and over 23 countries took part in the 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 events.

As regards the number of participants, he explained that this was increasing each year. The following figures were noted by the Members:

- 2010 - 5,000 participants.
- 2015 - 13,600 participants.
- 2017 - 15,000 participants projected.

Mr. Cleary acknowledged the support of the key stakeholders, Limerick City and County Council, the Gardaí and the University of Limerick. He referred to the huge marketing element to the event and, in this regard, acknowledged the support of the Irish Times as a national partner.

He concluded by stating that there were many reasons for the success of the event, which included the following:

- Huge levels of support from the people of Limerick.
- Support and commitment of key stakeholders, partners and sponsors.
- The inclusiveness of the event with 3 separate races to cater for people across all social and demographic backgrounds.

The Members complimented Mr. Cleary on his presentation and were unanimous in their support for the Great Limerick Run.

Mr. Cleary thanked the Members for their attention and he then withdrew from the Meeting.

With the permission of the Deputy Mayor, it was agreed to take Item No. 16 at this time.

16. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Byrne (To be referred to Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning SPC)

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council call on Fáilte Ireland to extend the “Wild Atlantic Way” tourism trail to Limerick.

Councillor Byrne, in proposing the Motion, said that there was not one single mention of ‘Riverfest’ or any other Limerick festival on the “Wild Atlantic Way” website. She added that Limerick had many wonderful visitor attractions but again, not one was mentioned on the website. She asked for a letter to be sent to the Minister and Fáilte Ireland asking them to include Limerick on the site and the map.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J) and unanimously agreed.

Councillor Leddin further requested that the Chief Executive of Fáilte Ireland be invited to the next Meeting of the Council to answer the Members' questions in relation to this issue. This was agreed.

It was also agreed to send a copy of the resolution to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport.

6. Environment and Water

Litter Report on Activities for 2014

Circulated, report of the Director, Environment and Water, dated 15th May, 2015, enclosing report on the measures taken by the Council in 2014 in accordance with Section 10 of the Litter Pollution Acts, 1997-2009.

The report was noted by the Members.

7. Finance, Motor Tax and ICT

Small and Medium Enterprise Support Scheme 2015

Circulated, report of the Head of Finance seeking the Council's approval to the adoption of the Small and Medium Enterprise Support Scheme 2015.

The report stated that in 2014, the Council had set up the Small and Medium Enterprise Support Scheme to help rate customers. The fund was paid as a financial support to occupiers of commercial properties with total annual commercial rate bills up to and including €10,000 and not less than €750 in 2014.

As a result of the scheme proving to be very successful, it was proposed to re-introduce the scheme for the current year 2015. Members were requested to consider the adoption of the Small and Medium Enterprise Support Scheme for 2015.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
And Resolved:

"That, the Small and Medium Enterprise Support Scheme for 2015 be and is hereby adopted, in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001 (as amended)."

8. Home and Social Development

(a) Appointment of Chairperson to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee

Circulated, report of the Director, Home and Social Development, dated 14th May, 2015, in relation to the appointment of a Chairperson to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

The report stated that Section 22(1) of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act prescribed that the appointment of a Chairperson of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee was a Reserved Function of the Council. The members of the Committee had been appointed at the September Council Meeting where it was further agreed that the Committee would nominate a Chairperson at its first meeting. This meeting was held on 18th December, 2014, and Councillor McMahon had been nominated.

Proposed by Councillor Galvin;
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);

“That, Councillor McMahon be appointed as Chairperson of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.”

As there were no other nominations, the Mayor declared Councillor McMahon appointed as Chairperson of the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.

Suspension of Standing Orders: The Deputy Mayor drew attention to the time which was approaching 5.30pm and on the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Byrne, Standing Orders were suspended in order to complete the Agenda.

(b) Raising of Loan

Circulated, report of the Director, Home and Social Development, seeking the Council's approval to the raising of a loan of €739,188 from the Housing Finance Agency for the additional approved funding of Cois Na Feile, Abbeyfeale (Clúid Housing Association).

The report stated that Clúid Housing Association had been approved for a loan of €2,374,967. Payments of €1,444,573 had been made to Clúid Housing. Revised costings had been required for the completion of the project. Additional funding of €256,983 had been approved by the Department to complete the project. Loan charges incurred by the Council of €482,205 had also been provided for in the amended budget.

The Director was seeking the approval of the Council to draw down the additional funding of €739,188 from the Housing Finance Agency. All repayments

made by the Council in respect of the loan from the Housing Finance Agency would be recouped in full by the Council from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

The Director, Home and Social Development, responded to queries raised by the Members in relation to the following:

- Details of loan.
- Cost per unit (€219,000).
- Footpaths/Public Lighting.

Following further discussion, the Chief Executive said that he had noted the views of the Members. It was his view that the Council should proceed with the completion of the estate and he committed to working with the Members in relation to items of concern.

Proposed by Councillor Foley;
Seconded by Councillor Collins (M);
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the raising of a loan of €739,188 from the Housing Finance Agency for the additional approved funding of Cois Na Feile, Abbeyfeale (Clúid Housing Association).”

9. Travel and Transportation

30 km/h Speed Limits in Housing Estates

Circulated, report of the A/Director, Travel and Transportation, dated 15th May, 2015, in relation to proposal for the introduction of 30 km/h speed limits in Housing Estates.

A short discussion took place on this item during which issues raised by the Members were responded to by the A/Director of Travel and Transportation. He explained that the current guidelines provided for 30 km/h limit and that a reduction to 20 km/h would have no legal standing and would not be enforceable by the Gardaí.

In response to further queries, the A/Director, Travel and Transportation, stated that the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) had recently published Speed Limit Guidance giving guidance to local authorities in relation to setting speed limits, including the introduction of 30 km/h speed limits in housing estates. Limerick City and County Council proposed to introduce this limit as a pilot project in a limited number of housing estates prior to a more widespread rollout of 30 km/h speed limits in 2016.

He added that the Council proposed that a 30 km/h speed limit would be introduced in five housing estates in each Municipal District and 15 in the Metropolitan District (5 per electoral area) in 2015. The Travel and Transportation Department would meet with Members in each District to agree the estates.

The Members welcomed the pilot project and looked forward to the roll-out of the reduced speed limit in housing estates in 2016.

10. Great Limerick Run

It was noted that this Item had been dealt with earlier in the Meeting.

11. Conferences

(i) Participation by Members at Conferences

Details of the following Conferences had been circulated electronically to the Members: (a) Seminar "Equal Status Right Explained," held in Galway, on 17th/18th April, 2015; (b) Seminar "Animation in Volunteerism" held in Galway on 1st/2nd May, 2015; (c) IRL Event "Eirgrid Public Consultation," held in Cork City on 8th May, 2015; (d) Seminar "Crime Prevention and Community Safety" held in Galway, on 8th/9th May, 2015; (e) Conference "West Cork Tourism Conference on Internet Marketing," held in Clonakilty, Co.Cork, from 8th to 10th May, 2015; (f) Seminar "Reserved and Executive Functions at Local Government Level," held in Wexford from 8th to 10th May, 2015; (g) Seminar "Working Sensitively and Effectively with Refugees and Asylum Seekers who have experienced Sexual Violence and other Trauma" held in Dublin on 13th/14th May, 2015; (h) Seminar "The New Companies Act 2014" held in Horse and Jockey, Co. Tipperary, from 15th to 17th May, 2015; (i) Conference "EU Support Programmes for Irish Regions" to be held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, from 5th to 7th June, 2015.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor O'Donnell, it was agreed that the following Members would attend:

Galway (17th/18th April, 2015): Councillor Butler.

Galway (8th/9th May, 2015): Councillor Lynch.

Dublin: Councillor Hourigan.

(ii) Reports on Conference/Seminar/Meeting/Event

Circulated, reports by Members who had participated at Conference/ Seminar/ Meeting/Event.

The reports were noted by the Members.

Change of Date for July Meeting of Council

With the permission of the Mayor and on the proposal of Councillor Galvin, seconded by Councillor Quinlivan, it was agreed to re-fix the date of the July Council Meeting to Tuesday, 21st July, at 3pm.

QUESTIONS

Replies to the following Questions on the Agenda were circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting and the Questions were therefore considered as having been dealt with:

12. Question submitted by Councillor T. Neville

I will ask at the next Meeting for the following: (a) In 2014, how much was collectively allocated for private housing adaptation grant, mobility grant, housing aid for the elderly; (b) how much was allocated to the Adaptation for Local Authority Housing; and (c) the timeline in which the grant allocations will be made for both private and local authority housing in 2015.

REPLY: (a) The total amount allocated for private housing adaptation grant, mobility grant, housing aid for the elderly was €2,961,549 for 2014; (b) the total amount allocated for Adaptation of Local Authority Housing was €505,919.67 in 2014; (c) Limerick City and County Council has not been advised by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government of its allocation for funding under the above headings for 2015.

13. Question submitted by Councillor T. Neville

I will ask at the next Meeting for an update on the Council housing maintenance audit as was discussed at a recent meeting of the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee.

REPLY: As discussed at the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting on Tuesday, 3rd March, 2015, a position paper/report into the issue of storage heating in Limerick City and County Council's housing stock will be available at the next Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting on 23rd June, 2015.

14. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting (a) how many qualified applicants our Authority has awaiting housing; (b) does this number include those who have gone over to HAP; (c) if not, how many have moved; and (d) what is the current wait time between validation of applications and assessment.

REPLY: (a) 4,768; (b) and (c) Yes, it does – the figure for HAP is 506;
 (d) Assessments are currently being processed within 9 weeks.

15. Question submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will ask at the next Meeting as to the number of statutory hedge-cutting notices issued by our Authority's Roads Section in each of the last 3 years.

REPLY:

Year	No. of Statutory Notices Issued
2013	1
2014	0
2015	4

NOTICES OF MOTION

It was noted that Item No. 16 – Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Byrne – had been dealt with earlier in the Meeting.

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Quinlivan

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council call on the Government to: (1) immediately stop domestic water charges which are an unfair and unjust double charge being forced on already struggling households; (2) immediately stop the installation of meters across the country; (3) recognise that Irish Water is not fit for purpose and that it should be abolished; and (4) cease the threat of taking water charges from people's salary, pension and/or benefits.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Quinlivan, stated that the taking of water charges directly from people's wages or social welfare payments would cause greater hardship for those on the margins. He said that people simply did not have the means to pay the charge. Councillor Quinlivan added that water metering and water charges did not encourage conservation. On behalf of his Party, he said what was needed was investment in the water sector, reduction in the unacceptable high percentage of leaks and the introduction of water harvesting

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Browne.

Councillor Prendiville said that while he welcomed and supported the Motion, he was proposing the following amendment and this was seconded by Councillor Loftus:

"I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council wholeheartedly support those actively resisting the introduction of water charges, organising the largest possible non-payment of the bills and halting the installation of water meters and call on the Government to: (1) immediately stop domestic water charges which are an unfair and unjust double charge being forced on already struggling households; (2) immediately stop the installation of meters across the country; (3) recognise that Irish Water is not fit for purpose and that it should be abolished; and (4) cease the threat of taking water charges from people's salary, pension and/or benefits."

A vote in the form of a show of hands was taken on the amendment proposed by Councillor Prendiville and seconded by Councillor Loftus.

The Deputy Mayor declared the amendment defeated as there was not a majority in favour. Accordingly, he declared the Motion proposed by Councillor Quinlivan and seconded by Councillor Browne carried.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L.M. Sheehy (To be referred to Environment SPC)

I will move at the next Meeting that an in-depth review of dog control be carried out by Limerick City and County Council, by the Environment Strategic Policy Committee, particularly with respect to our poor comparable statistics to the Counties of Kerry and Cork, with the aim of improving the management and welfare of dogs and for the safety of the public.

It was agreed to refer this Motion to the Environment Strategic Policy Committee.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T. Neville (To be referred to Travel and Transportation SPC)

I will move at the next Meeting that, similar to Wexford County Council, Limerick City and County Council adopt "Stayin' Alive at 1.5" campaign in promoting awareness and safety measures for cyclists.

It was agreed to refer this Motion to the Travel and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee.

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Browne (To be referred to 1916/2016 Commemoration Committee)

I will move at the next meeting that this Council erect a memorial at the birth place of Con Colbert which reflects the significant role he played in the 1916 Rising.

It was agreed to refer this Motion to the 1916/2016 Commemoration Committee.

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor L. Galvin

I will move at the next Meeting that the relevant Ministers for Agriculture and Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht are contacted about the unsatisfactory situation regarding the marketability of lands designated for the hen harrier; in particular, where a farmer wants to upgrade his/her farm by purchasing non-designated agricultural lands from the sale proceeds of the designated land, I am calling on the State to either purchase the relevant land at forestry value or remove the designation so the forestry companies can purchase and plant same.

Councillor Galvin, in proposing the Motion, stated that as a result of farmers' lands being designated a Special Protected Area (SPA) for the hen harrier, the lands were almost worthless and that the State should either purchase the relevant land at forestry value or remove the designation so that forestry companies could purchase and plant those lands.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J) and agreed.

It was further agreed to circulate the Motion to all local authorities for support.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Ó Ceallaigh

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council provide a facility on the Council website to allow the public view Council and Municipal Agendas, as well as how each Councillor voted on each Motion; information will also include each Councillor's political party, if any, as well as the area which the Councillors represent.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ó Ceallaigh was of the view that the public should be better informed as to how a Member voted, his/her political affiliation and the District they represented. He considered that it was important that this information would be recorded in the minutes of meetings.

REPLY: The website already provides a facility to view Council and Municipal agendas and the Minutes of the various Meetings held. What is included in the Minutes is set out in the Standing Orders and Minutes shall include:

- (a) The date, place and time of the Meeting.
- (b) The names of the Members present at the meeting.
- (c) The names of the Senior Employees of the Local Authority present at the Meeting.
- (d) Reference to any report submitted to the Members at the Meeting.

- (e) Where there is a roll-call vote, the number and names of Members voting for and against the motion and of those abstaining.
- (f) Particulars of all Resolutions passed at the Meeting.
- (g) Such other matters considered appropriate.

In the Minutes, Members are listed by name and no party political affiliation is given.

In relation to items discussed or voted on, the individual Member is voting as an Elected Representative on the Council, not as a representative of a political party, or a particular Municipal or Metropolitan District, and so the question of adding their political party affiliation does not, and should not, arise.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Browne.

Following some discussion on the issue, the Motion was agreed.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council make a public statement calling on the Government to abolish all remaining legislative barriers to equality for LGBTQ people, including: (i) the ban on blood donations from men who have had sex with men; (ii) the exemptions from equality legislation which allow religious-run schools and hospitals to fire someone on the basis of their sexuality; (iii) the continued legal impediments to gender recognition for trans people as a step to ridding society of homophobia.

Councillor Prendiville, in proposing the Motion, said that he was calling on the Government to abolish all remaining legislative barriers to equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. He added that it was now clear that the vast majority of people wanted to move away from the discrimination and it was up to the political establishment to do that. He stated that there were still significant areas of discrimination, in particular the legislation which exempted schools and hospitals religiously-run from equality legislation.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Loftus.

A number of Members objected to the Motion.

In the absence of agreement on the Motion, the Deputy Mayor instructed that a Vote be taken in relation to Councillor Prendiville's Motion.

The result of the voting was as follows:

For

Councillors Browne, Keller, Loftus, McCreesh, Ó Ceallaigh, Prendiville, Quinlivan, Sheehy. (8)

Against

Councillors Collins (M), Crowley, Galvin, Keary, Mitchell, O'Donnell, Scanlan, Sheahan (J). (8)

There were no abstentions.

As there was no clear majority in favour of the Motion, the Deputy Mayor declared the Motion defeated.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor S. Keary (To be referred to Home and Social Development SPC)

I will move at the next Meeting that the payment system for grants under the current housing adaptation schemes for private households would be changed to allow building contractors be paid directly by this Authority by agreement of all parties concerned

It was agreed to refer this Motion to the Home and Social Development Strategic Policy Committee.

25. Correspondence

The Correspondence circulated with the Agenda was taken as read.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ORDERS:

The Register of Orders made by the Chief Executive up to the date of the Meeting was available for inspection by the Members.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT:

The Register of Decisions on applications under the Planning and Development Acts, 2000-2014, was also available for inspection by the Members.

Signed:

Mayor

Date:
