

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DOORADOYLE, LIMERICK, ON MONDAY, 25TH JANUARY, 2016, AT 3.00 P.M.

PRESENT IN THE CHAIR:

Councillor L. Galvin, Mayor.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive (Mr. C. Murray), Deputy Chief Executive and Director, Home, Community and Sport (Mr. P. Dowling), Director, Service Operations/Change Management (Mr. G. Daly), Director, Economic Development and Strategic Planning (Mr. P. Daly), Director, Regional Services, (Ms. C. Curley), Director, Transportation & Travel/ Environment (Mr. K. Lehane), Director, European Capital of Culture 2020 Bid (Mr. M. Fitzpatrick), A/Head of Finance/Human Resources/Corporate/ICT (Mr. S. Coughlan), Senior Executive Technician, Service Operations (Mr. R. McDermott), Meetings Administrator (Mr. C. O'Connor), Administrative Officer, Corporate Services (Ms. T. Knox).

Adjournment of Meeting

At the outset, a Vote of Sympathy was extended to the families of former Councillor, Larry Cross, and former Deputy Mayor, Paddy Reid, both of whom had served on Limerick City Council and had passed away recently. It was unanimously agreed to adjourn the Meeting for fifteen minutes as a mark of respect.

On resumption, the Mayor welcomed Mr. Adrian Hogan, who was seated in the Public Gallery, to the Meeting. He said Mr. Hogan was planning over the following few months to attend and observe the proceedings at Council Meetings in each County. The Mayor and Members wished him well and said that they hoped he would enjoy the exercise which would give him a great insight into the workings of local democracy.

1. Adoption of Minutes

Circulated, copy of draft Minutes of the following Meetings:

- (a) Budget Meeting of the Council held on 20th November, 2015.

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

“That, the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read and adopted and signed.”

- (b) Adjourned Budget Meeting of the Council held on 23rd November, 2015.

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

“That, the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read and adopted and signed.”

- (c) Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 23rd November, 2015.

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

“That, the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read and adopted and signed.”

- (d) Special Meeting of the Council held on 8th January, 2016.

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

“That, the draft Minutes, as circulated, be taken as read and adopted and signed.”

2. Disposal of Land

- (a) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 6th January, 2016, concerning disposal of property at 1, Farranshone, Limerick City.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
Seconded by Councillor Daly;
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of the Freehold (Ground Rent) Interest in 1, Farranshone, Limerick City, to David, Suzanne, Elaine & Yvonne O’Connell, who hold a Leasehold Interest in the property by way of 99 year Lease from 1st March, 1928, for the sum of €212.78 (including legal fees), particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 6th January, 2016.”

- (b) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 8th January, 2016, concerning disposal of property at 3 Flood Street, Pennywell, Limerick.

Proposed by Councillor Byrne;
Seconded by Councillor O’Dea;
And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of the Freehold Interest in 3 Flood Street, Pennywell, Limerick, to Darragh Hayes, for the sum of €100.44, 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 8th January, 2016.”

- (c) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 8th January, 2016, concerning disposal of property at 100 Glasgow Park, Limerick.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of the Freehold Interest in 100 Glasgow Park, Limerick, to Edward Neville, Margie Neville, Yvonne Madden and Rita Neville, for the sum of €100.42, 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 8th January, 2016.”

- (d) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 12th January, 2016, concerning disposal of property at 36 Marian Avenue, 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 the Freehold Interest in 36, Marian Avenue, Roxboro Road, Limerick, to Desmond O’Grady, for the sum of €95.42, 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 12th January, 2016.”

- (e) Circulated, copy of Statutory Notice dated 14th January, 2016, concerning disposal of property at 3 Lilac Court, Keyes Park, Southill, Limerick.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the disposal of the land and dwelling at 3 Lilac Court, Keyes, Park, Southill, Limerick to Anthony Benson of 296, Larkin Drive, O’Malley Park, Southill, Limerick, the disposal to be made in consideration of Anthony Benson transferring the ownership of his property at 296, Larkin Drive, O’Malley Park, Southill, Limerick, to Limerick City and County Council and the exchange to be subject to the necessary conveyancing requirements; Limerick City and County Council to acquire the property free from any existing mortgage(s) or burden(s) and any existing mortgages or burdens on the property at 296, Larkin Drive, O’Malley Park, Southill, will be transferred to the property at 3 Lilac Court, Keyes Park, Southill, particulars of which were contained in Statutory Notice dated 14th January, 2016.”

3. Support Services Directorate

(a) Filling of Casual Vacancy

Circulated, reports of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 8th and 19th January, 2016, in relation to the casual vacancy on the Council consequent on the resignation of Councillor Shane Clifford with effect from 31st December, 2015.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor O’Hanlon, this item was deferred to the next Meeting.

(b) Filling of Vacancies on Strategic Policy Committees and Other Bodies

(i) Strategic Policy Committees

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 19th January, 2016, concerning the nomination of a replacement to the following Strategic Policy Committees consequent on the resignation of Shane Clifford, Councillor: (i) Home and Social Development SPC; and (ii) Travel and Transportation SPC.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor O’Hanlon, this item was deferred to the next Meeting.

(ii) Other Bodies

Circulated, reports of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 19th January, 2016, concerning the nomination of a Member to the following Bodies consequent on the resignation of Shane Clifford, Councillor: (i) Limerick Market Trustees; (ii) Board of Innovate Limerick; (iii) Audit Committee; and (iv) Stakeholder Group of Limerick 2020.

On the proposal of Councillor Collins (M), seconded by Councillor O’Hanlon, this item was deferred to the next Meeting.

(c) Fixing of Date

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Butler, it was agreed that the March Meeting of the Council would be held on the re-arranged date of Monday, 14th March, 2016.

(d) Granting of Loan Facility to LCO Enterprise Development Limited – Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended

Circulated, report of the A/Head of Finance dated 18th January, 2016.

The report stated that LCO Enterprise Development Limited was a company which was 100% owned by Limerick City and County Council with the objective of promoting the development of a film studio in the former Dell building in Castletroy. This would result in the creation of 700/800 jobs. LCO Enterprise Development Limited had purchased the former Dell building at a total cost, including fees and associated works, of €7,713,985.

The approval of the Council was now sought to the granting of a loan facility in the amount of €7,713,985 to LCO Enterprise Development Limited.

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

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the granting of a loan facility in the amount of €7,713,985 to LCO Enterprise Development Limited, in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.”

(e) Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 – Guarantee of Preparatory Support/Administration Payments to Implementing Partners - Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended

Circulated, report of the Director of Home, Community and Sport dated 14th January, 2016.

The report stated that confirmation had been received from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government that the submission of the Limerick Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in respect of the implementation of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020, had been successful.

Implementation of the RDP in Limerick would be under the auspices of the LCDC as the Local Action Group, with Limerick City and County Council acting as the Financial Partner. Ballyhoura Development Limited and West Limerick Resources Limited would be acting as Implementing Partners for their respective geographic areas.

A budget of €9.276 million had been allocated to the RDP for Limerick for the period 2014 – 2020 inclusive, 25% (€2.319 million) of which would be allocated for all preparatory support/administration of the Programme by the Implementing Partners, to be paid in advance on a quarterly basis. It was anticipated that the amount advanced to the Council for onward payment to the Implementing Partners would not exceed €120,000 per quarter.

Council approval was being sought for Limerick City and County Council to act as Guarantor in respect of the administration of the budget of the RDP.

Proposed by Councillor Ryan;
 Seconded by Councillor Scanlan;
 And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given for Limerick City and County Council to act as Guarantor for payment of monies associated with the Preparatory Support/Administration of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 to Ballyhoura Development Limited and to West Limerick Resources Limited, in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.”

(f) Chief Executive’s Report

Circulated, Chief Executive’s Reports for the months of November and December 2015.

The Chief Executive’s Reports were noted by the Members.

(g) Statutory Audit Report 2014

Circulated, (i) Audit Committee’s Report dated 15th January, 2016; (ii) Limerick City and County Council Audited Annual Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31st December, 2014; and (iii) Statutory Audit Report dated 30th November, 2015, to the Members of Limerick City and County Council for the Year Ended 31st December 2014.

An apology was received from Mr. John Field, Chairperson of the Audit Committee, for his inability to attend the Meeting for this item.

The Audit Committee’s report stated that the Local Government Audit Service had produced a Statutory Audit Report for the year ended 31st December, 2014, in respect of Limerick City and County Council. In accordance with Section 121(3) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended by Section 60 of the Local Government Act 2014), the Audit Committee must review those reports, assess any action taken by the Chief Executive in response to the reports, and bring its findings to the Council.

At a meeting held on 11th December, 2015, the Audit Committee met with the Chief Executive, the Head of Finance and the Local Government Auditor and had reviewed the Statutory Audit Reports for the year ended 31st December, 2014.

The position was noted by the Council.

(h) Twinning**(i) Boston Sister Cities Project**

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 19th January, 2016.

The report stated that there had been ongoing discussions between Limerick City and County Council and Boston City Council, over a number of years, in relation to the development of a Sister Cities Twinning Agreement between both Authorities. It was hoped that the formalisation of that Agreement would yield significant benefits for Limerick in the areas of Tourism, Culture, Community and Economic Development. It was proposed that Mayor Galvin would travel to Boston in March from 14th to 21st to meet with representatives of the City Council in relation to finalisation of the Sister Cities Agreement. The approval of the Council was being sought for the proposed visit at an estimated cost of €3,874.

Proposed by Councillor Leddin;
 Seconded by Councillor Daly;
 And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to proposed Sister Cities Twinning Visit to Boston, Massachusetts, in accordance with Section 142(5) of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.”

(ii) Cappamore / Langonnet (France) Twinning Project

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 19th January, 2016.

The report stated that Cappamore and Langonnet (France) had signed a friendship agreement in 2010 following a number of visits by various delegations to both locations. They had signed an official Twinning Agreement in 2011. Cappamore was seeking a financial contribution from the Council towards the cost of twinning activities. A delegation from Langonnet visited Cappamore in April 2015 and was hosted by families in Cappamore.

The total cost incurred by Cappamore for the various activities in the course of the Langonnet visit was €1,651. The report recommended that the Council fund 50% of that expenditure. Therefore, the Council’s approval for the provision of financial assistance in the amount of €826 towards the cost of the twinning initiative was being sought.

Proposed by Councillor Gleeson;
 Seconded by Councillor Teefy;
 And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the provision of financial assistance in the amount of €826 to Cappamore Twinning Committee, in accordance with the provisions of Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.”

(iii) Adare / Buckow (Germany) Twinning Project

Circulated, report of the Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, dated 19th January, 2016.

The report stated that Adare Community Council had set up a twinning arrangement with Buckow in Germany. Two members of Adare Community Council visited Buckow in June 2015 when they signed a Twinning Agreement with the Buckow Town Council. On 25th October, 2015, 12 business men from Buckow visited Adare. The report went on to say that Adare Community Council had sought financial assistance from the Council towards the cost of funding both the visit to Buckow and the visit from the delegation from Buckow. The total cost incurred by Adare Community Council for the twinning activities was €995. It was recommended that the Council fund 50% of the expenditure. Therefore, the Council’s approval to the provision of financial assistance in the amount of €497.50 towards the cost of the twinning initiative was being sought.

Proposed by Councillor Keary;
 Seconded by Councillor McMahan;
 And Resolved:

“That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to the provision of financial assistance in the amount of €497.50 to Adare Community Council, in accordance with the provisions of Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended.”

Following some general discussion on twinning arrangements, the following Motions were put forward from the floor:

Motion 1 – Proposed by Councillor Scanlan and seconded by Councillor Sheahan (J):

“I propose that each Municipal District be provided with an adequate budget on an annual basis to support Twinning Projects that may arise.”

Motion 2 – Proposed by Councillor Gilligan and seconded by Councillor Quinlivan

“That, all monies to be spent on travel outside the State should come before the Full Council prior to the proposed visit.”

Motion 3 – Proposed by Councillor Butler and seconded by Councillor Sheahan (M):

“I call on Limerick City and County Council to re-establish the twinning and sister cities committee to develop a protocol on twinning in all Municipal and Metropolitan Districts to achieve a co-ordinated approach.”

In relation to Motion 1, the Meetings Administrator referred to Standing Order Rule No. 51 which stated that *“The Mayor shall not accept any Motion involving the expenditure of money by the Council in excess of the amount provided in the Annual Budget unless Notice of such Motion has been duly given and appears on the Agenda paper.”* Accordingly, it was noted that this matter would need to be considered as part of the budget process.

In relation to Motion 2, the Meetings Administrator advised that this was already a requirement under the legislation.

In relation to Motion 3, it was agreed that this item would be referred to a future Meeting of the Party Leaders for consideration.

4. Social, Home, Community & Sport Directorate

Local Community Development Committee - Annual Report 2015

Circulated, report of the Director of Home, Community and Sport dated 14th January, 2016.

The report stated that in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 2, Section 128 B (1)(i) of the Local Government Act 2001, as inserted by the Local Government Reform Act 2014, the Annual Report on the activities of the Limerick Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) for the year ending 31st December, 2015, was attached.

The LCDC Annual Report was noted by the Members.

5. Physical, Transportation & Travel/Environment Directorate

Team Limerick Clean-Up (TLC 2)

Circulated, report of the Director, Travel & Transportation/Environment dated 15th January, 2016.

The report stated that following the huge success of the previous year’s Team Limerick Clean-up, which had secured widespread national and regional media coverage, Team Limerick Clean-up2 (TLC2) was set to take place again in 2016 on Good Friday, 25th March. The TLC website was open for registrations – www.teamlimerickcleanup.ie The TLC Steering Group, made up of Limerick City and County Council, JP McManus Benevolent Fund, DMC Communications, Mr. Binman, along with media partners (Live 95 FM and the Limerick Leader), would be encouraging volunteers of all ages to register and get involved in the 2016 campaign.

The Initiative was noted and welcomed by Members.

6. Limerick 2020 Directorate

Limerick 2020 European Capital of Culture Bid

Circulated, report of the Director, Limerick 2020 European Capital of Culture Bid, dated 14th January, 2016.

The report stated that in November 2015, the European Capital of Culture 2020 selection panel short-listed Limerick, Galway and Waterford (on behalf of Three Sisters) to go through to the second round of the competition and invited each to submit revised bids for the final selection. A report on the panel's findings had been published in December and the short-listed cities had to take into account the assessments and recommendations of the panel in that report. The deadline for submission of revised applications of the Bid Book was 17th June, 2016. The final selection meeting would be held in Dublin on 14th/15th July, 2016, which would include a presentation and Question and Answer Session by Limerick and the other candidates to the 10 person jury.

Limerick 2020 was requesting permission to utilise funding up to a maximum of €300,000 of the funds that had been set aside for the purposes of preparations for the second round. These preparations would include building capacity in the cultural sector and developing more long-term projects in a European context.

The Director, Limerick 2020, replied to a number of queries raised by the Members. Concern was expressed by some Members in relation to the lack of festivals and events for Limerick.

It was requested that the following would be circulated to the Members:

- Quarterly Reports.
- Report on the Panel's findings which was published in December.

Proposed by Councillor O'Hanlon;

Seconded by Councillor Lynch;

And Resolved:

"That, the approval of the Council be and is hereby given to utilising funding up to a maximum of €300,000 in the development of the bid process."

7. Service Operations Directorate

Limerick e-parking

The Senior Executive Technician, Service Operations, gave a presentation on e-parking. He stated that Limerick e-parking was operated by ParkMagic Mobile Solutions Limited on behalf of Limerick City and County Council. He explained that e-parking was a one-stop shop window displaying the parking offering available in Limerick City and County.

He stated that e-parking enabled users to quickly and conveniently locate, purchase and book on-street or off-street parking in Limerick City and the principal County towns of Abbeyfeale, Kilmallock and Newcastle West. He pointed out that users could pay for their parking by (a) calling a local number (b) downloading the Free Limerick e-parking app from limerickparking.ie (c) visiting the limerickparking.ie.

He added that pay-by-phone parking in Limerick was first introduced in 2006 and that Limerick was one of the first cities in Ireland to introduce the park-by-phone technology. The new rebranded Limerick e-parking service was launched on 12th November, 2015, and 17,000 registered customers had successfully moved to the new Limerick e-parking system.

Since the launch of Limerick e-parking, 2,000 new customers had downloaded the new Limerick e-parking app, there were 150 website visits per day with on average 40 new users per day. There were 1,000 daily parking events with an average on-street parking duration of 1.05 hours.

The current parking payment profile was 65% disc parking and 35% e-parking. The goal for Limerick e-parking 2016 was to grow it to over 50%. The e-parking marketing campaign 2016 in association with limerick.ie would promote e-parking using the following mediums:

- Digital – app.
- Online – website, social media.
- Radio – local radio.
- Print – local papers, informational leaflets.
- On-street City and Town promotions.

The cost of parking for 30 minutes was as little as €0.50.

He stated that other benefits of e-parking included the following:

- No windscreen sticker to display.
- Simple and quick registration procedure for new users.
- Optional text message reminders before parking expired.
- Parking could be extended remotely.

The Members complimented the Senior Executive Technician on his presentation and welcomed and supported the Limerick e-parking initiative.

8. Compassionate Communities Project

The Mayor welcomed Dr. Kathleen McLoughlin, from Milford Care Centre and Maynooth University, to the Meeting.

Dr. McLoughlin commenced by outlining how Limerick could become the first city in Ireland to gain the Compassionate City Status. She said that death, dying and loss were universal experiences. She explained that, in Ireland, approximately 28,000 – 30,000 people die every year and that 80% of those die following a period of chronic illness. For every death that took place, it had been estimated that up to 10 other people had been affected, that was potentially 280,000 people in Ireland every year. She added that most people who were living with advanced life-limiting illnesses spent their time at home and in their communities and neighbourhoods, with families, relatives, friends and work colleagues. The majority of people affected by advanced illness wanted to be cared for, and to die, at home. However, nationally, only one in four would achieve that wish.

Dr. McLoughlin went on to state that the issues of death and dying affected everyone but that there was not adequate resources to support people. She said that Irish rituals around death were good but that there was not enough time and space to grieve afterwards. The Compassionate Communities Project would try to address this imbalance and would aim to support people who were facing death or who were experiencing grief and loss.

Dr. McLoughlin delivered a PowerPoint presentation under the following headings:

- What is the Compassionate Communities Project.
- Care Orders from Britain and Europe.
- Study Protocol.
- Compassionate Cities Charter.
- What does it mean for Limerick.

Dr. McLoughlin explained that the Compassionate Communities Project was an initiative of Milford Care Centre. The project would support people across the whole of the Mid-West. She added that a small change in attitude towards death could make a big difference to how we live. She said the costs associated with the project would be low and that Milford Care Centre would assign two workers to same.

She thanked the Mayor, Management and Members for giving her the opportunity to address the Meeting and putting forward the proposal to the Council for consideration. She concluded her presentation by highlighting the following:

- What was expected from the Council.
- What Milford would do to support the process.
- Next Steps – Public Meeting and raising awareness.
- Setting up of a number of Action Groups and drawing up Action Plan.
- Official Launch.
- Work Programme.
- Forward Recognition.

Proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J);

Seconded by Councillor Byrne;

And Resolved:

“That, the Council would support the proposal for Limerick to develop a Compassionate City Charter.”

Dr. McLoughlin thanked the Members for the opportunity to address the Meeting and then withdrew.

9. Conferences

(i) Participation by Members at Conferences

Details of the following Conferences were circulated electronically to the Members: (a) Conference “Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015,” held in Carlingford, Co. Louth, from 20th to 22nd November, 2016; (b) ADAPT National Conference “The Changing Face of Domestic Abuse,” held in Limerick on 9th December, 2015; (c) Seminar “Local Government Policy: opportunities for local communities,” held in Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford, on 11th/12th December, 2015; (d) Conference “The Finance Act 2015,” held in Carlingford, Co. Louth, from 8th to 10th January, 2016; (e) Conference “Housing Grants and Schemes,” to be held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, from 22nd to 24th January, 2016; (f) Conference “Government’s Construction 2020 Strategy – Local Government Housing Supply 2016,” to be held in Wexford, from 22nd to 24th January, 2016; (g) Forum “Demystifying EU Funding – Helping Organisations to Access the Cash,” held in Sligo on 3rd February, 2016; (h) Conference “Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 – Purchase of Local Authority Houses by Tenants,” held in Galway on 5th/6th February, 2016; (i) Conference “EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020,” to be held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, from 5th to 7th February, 2016; (j) Forum “Demystifying EU Funding – Helping Organisations to Access the Cash,” to be held in Drogheda, Co. Louth, on 9th February, 2016; (k) Forum “Demystifying EU Funding – Helping Organisations to Access the Cash,” to be held in Dublin on 11th February, 2016; (l) Conference “Integrated Roads and Planning Policy,” to be held in Galway on 12th/13th February, 2016; (m) Conference “Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 – Everything you need to know!,” to be held in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, from 12th to 14th February, 2016; (n) 2 Days Microsoft Excel Workshop for Councillors to be held in Clonakilty, Co. Cork, on 17th/18th February, 2016; (o) 27th Colmcille Winter School “Democratic Government and its survival,” to be held in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, on 26th/27th February, 2016; (p) Forum “Demystifying EU Funding – Helping Organisations to Access the Cash,” to be held in Waterford on 10th May, 2016.

On the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Byrne, it was agreed that the following Members would attend:

Carlingford, Co. Louth (20th – 22nd November, 2015): Councillors Sheahan (K), Foley, Galvin.

Limerick: Councillor Sheahan (M).

Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford: Councillor Scanlan.

Carlingford (8th – 10th January): Councillors Butler, Sheahan (M), Leddin.

Dublin: Councillors O’Hanlon, Scanlan.

(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.

ADJOURNED NOTICE OF MOTION

10. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan

I will move at the next Meeting that a Quantitive Risk Assessment be immediately carried out so as to assess the risks or none of the operation of a Gasification Plant at Gortadroma.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Sheahan (J) queried as to whether there had been any recent developments regarding this matter. He added that clarification was required in relation to several issues.

Councillor Keary, in seconding the Motion, stated that local representatives were very concerned regarding the whole operation of a gasification plant at Gortadroma.

Following considerable discussion, it was agreed that a Special Meeting would be the best forum to explore the position regarding the proposed plant at Gortadroma. It was further agreed that there would be a legal representative at the Special Meeting and that it would be held “in committee.”

Further discussion ensued during which Councillor Prendiville proposed the following Motion:

“That, the Council write to Cadence EnviroPower requesting that they voluntarily agree to step back from their conditional lease and scrap it to allow for a full public consultation before the Council votes on it again.”

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Keller.

In response, the Chief Executive stated that it would be inappropriate for the Council to correspond with Cadence EnviroPower as proposed by Councillor Prendiville until such time as legal advice had been sought.

At this point, on the proposal of Cmhlr. Ó Ceallaigh, seconded by Councillor Browne, it was agreed to take a 15 minute adjournment in order to discuss the matter further and to

seek legal clarification on the proposed Motion. On resumption, the Meetings Administrator stated that the legal advice regarding the Motion was that it could not be tabled.

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:

11. Question submitted by Councillor S. Keary

I will ask at the next Meeting for the following details to be provided in relation to burial grounds in Limerick: (a) The total number of graves sold by burial ground in 2015, and the total amount raised by the Council; (b) The total number of graves opened in 2015 by burial ground; (c) The total number of requests for approvals for headstones and surrounds submitted by cemetery to Limerick City and County Council in 2015; (d) The total number of requests for headstones and surrounds granted and refused by burial ground for 2015; (e) The total number of graves where permission was refused for specific headstones and surrounds but where the headstone and surround was still erected; (f) The total number of proceedings by graveyard which Limerick City and County Council has taken since 2011 in relation to unauthorised headstones and surrounds, and the total cost to the Council of same.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council sold approximately 505 gravespaces in 2015, raising €400,780 for this period. This is broken down as follows:

- 72 gravespaces were sold in Mount St. Oliver Cemetery, giving an income of €55,880.
- 135 gravespaces were sold in Castlemungret Cemetery, with an income of approx. €107,900.
- 298 gravespaces were sold in all other cemeteries throughout County Limerick, raising €237,000.

Limerick City and County Council received 266 headstone applications in 2015. All the headstone applications received were granted with the exception of three. The applicants whereby headstones were refused were requested to re-submit their applications again based on the requirements of the Cemeteries Bye-Laws.

The Council has not initiated legal proceedings against any monumental sculptors since 2011. The Cemeteries Bye-Laws require that monumental sculptors operating in Council cemeteries register with the Council and comply with its bye-laws. There is provision in the bye-laws whereby monumental sculptors can be removed from the Council's Register of Monumental Sculptors.

In this regard, the Council has met with three monumental sculptors regarding non-compliance with its bye-laws in 2015. If there is a second breach of the bye-laws by Monumental Sculptors, the Council will arrange to remove these Monumental Sculptors from its list and they will not be able to carry out works in Council cemeteries.

12. Question submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville

I will ask at the next Meeting how many people presented as homeless in Limerick in 2014 and 2015.

REPLY: In 2014, there were 1,267 presentations to the service, which accounted for 935 individuals. In 2015, there were 1,035 presentations, which accounted for 757 individuals.

13. Question submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville

I will ask at the next Meeting for a table of how many Council-owned houses completed construction within the area of Limerick City and County Council in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, on a District basis.

REPLY:

AREA	YEAR	DESCRIPTION	NO. OF UNITS
Metropolitan District of Limerick	2011	Pike Avenue	8
	2013	Cliona Park, Phase 1	34
	2014	Colivet Court	35
	2014	Vizes Court, Phase 2	29
	2015	Waller's Well	10
Municipal District of Cappamore-Kilmallock	2011	Church Glen, Ballylanders	1
Municipal District of Newcastle West	2011	Gortboy, Newcastle West	2
Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale	2012	Cloghadoolarty, Fedamore	1

14. Question submitted by Councillor P. Keller

I will ask at the next Meeting were there any personal injury claims made against the Council in the last five years due to the poor state of the Council footpaths and, if so, what was the total cost to the Council.

REPLY: A large proportion of the personal injury claims received by Limerick City and County Council arise from trips and falls on the footpaths, particularly in urban areas. Liability for a certain number of these claims will, following investigation, be passed to a Third Party, e.g. Irish Water, Bord Gáis Networks, Eircom, etc.

There is no direct cost to the Council as cover for these claims is provided under the Council's Public Liability Policy. Ground-up cover for all claims received by this Authority is in place since January 2013.

The public liability policy premium for 2016 has increased by an average of 6%. This is in line with the increase in premiums across the insurance industry nationally.

15. Question submitted by Councillor P. Keller

I will ask at the next Meeting how many people on invalidity pension and blind pension would not be eligible for a bin waiver for this year.

REPLY: The Council has requested this information from the Department of Social Protection and will provide same as soon as it is received.

16. Question submitted by Councillor J. Collins

I will ask at the next Meeting which properties or sites are being considered by Limerick City and County Council in response to the need to provide accommodation to incoming refugees.

REPLY: Limerick City and County Council is working closely with the Department of Justice and Equality Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration. A Resettlement Interagency Working Group has been set and has met on two occasions. No decisions have been made with regard to properties or sites.

NOTICES OF MOTION

17. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Sheahan

I will move at the next Meeting that Management introduce a scheme that will attract ratepayers, who have legacy arrears that predate 31/12/2014, to engage with the Finance Department to put in place a payment plan that will clear the said same arrears.

Suspension of Standing Orders: In the course of discussion on this item, it was noted that the time was approaching 5.30 p.m. and on the proposal of Councillor Sheahan (J), seconded by Councillor Collins (M), Standing Orders were suspended in order to complete the Agenda.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Sheahan (J) and seconded by Councillor Collins (M).

REPLY: The level of arrears at 31st December, 2015, will be approximately €21.47m. This will be a reduction of 14% on the arrears figure at 31st December, 2014. This will result in a collection rate of 71% , an increase of 6% on 2014.

A full end-of-year review has been carried out for all commercial rate arrears at 31st December, 2015. A significant number of the Council's customers are now on payment plans which are designed to clear the current year rates and also reducing opening arrears. The Council will continue to initiate legal proceedings in cases where no progress is being made in recovering the arrears due.

Based on the information from the end-of-year reviews, Management will revert to Council with a proposal to continue to reduce the level of arrears.

A short discussion took place on the Motion. The A/Head of Finance stated that there had been a considerable effort put in as part of the end-of-year reviews and that he anticipated that there would be a €1.2m reduction in 2016. He agreed to submit proposals to reduce the level of arrears at the March Meeting.

18. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors Galvin, Browne, Collins (M), Foley, Scanlan, Sheahan (J)

We will move at the next Meeting that this Council call on the Government to introduce a Tax Incentive Scheme to encourage people to live in rural towns and villages.

Councillor Galvin, in proposing the Motion, stated that he was in favour of a scheme which would encourage people back into towns and villages and which would halt rural decline. He added that it would also help provide housing for local authorities while at the same time improving the appearance of the County streets.

Councillor Sheahan (J) seconded the Motion and pointed out that many of the premises in towns and villages were not conducive to families or as starter homes. He said that a tax incentive was needed to help renovate these premises to make them more suitable for families.

The Motion was agreed and it was also agreed to refer it to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee for discussion.

19. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor M. Quinlivan (to be referred to the Environment Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting that this Council extends the Bin Waiver to those on invalidity pension.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Quinlivan stated that he felt that those on invalidity pension should be included in the bin waiver scheme and should be treated in a similar manner to those on disability allowance who were in receipt of the waiver.

The Motion was seconded by Cmhrl. Ó Ceallaigh.

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

20. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor C. Prendiville (to be referred to Environment Strategic Policy Committee)

I will move at the next Meeting that the Council undertake to restore the bin waiver to those on invalidity pension and blind pension, to bring them on par with those on disability allowance who are in receipt of the waiver.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Prendiville stated that he felt that those on invalidity pension and blind pension were being treated unfairly and that they should be dealt with in a similar manner to those on disability allowance who were in receipt of the waiver. He requested that emergency funding be allocated to fund this initiative.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Keller.

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

21. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor P. Keller

I will move at the next Meeting that the Council write to Irish Water requesting that they publish the figure for how many people paid the third water bill.

The Motion was adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Keller, seconded by Councillor Prendiville.

22. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor J. Scanlan

I will move at the next Meeting that Limerick City and County Council request the Ministers responsible, namely Finance & Agriculture, to legislate for the immediate reintroduction of the Early Retirement and Farm Installation Schemes so as to ensure viability and continuity within this valuable sector of our local economy. I am also requesting that we seek the support of Councils nationwide with Farming Interests.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Scanlan outlined the importance of young farmers being in a position to take over farms in the interest of the continuity of this valuable sector of the local economy.

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

It was also agreed to circulate the Motion to all Local Authorities for support.

23. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors E. O'Brien, K. Sheahan, T. Neville, S. Keary, R. O'Donoghue, C. McMahon

We, the Members of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, call on the Council to provide continued funding for the successful Airshow on the Shannon Estuary promoted by the Foynes Flying Boat Museum.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Brien stated that Council support should be given to this very successful Airshow which was promoted by Foynes Flying Boat Museum. This would enhance tourism in the area.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan (K).

REPLY: Specific budgetary provision for the Airshow on the Shannon Estuary promoted by the Foynes Flying Boat Museum has not been provided in the Council's Annual Budget 2016. To ensure that the Council has a balanced revenue account, it is not possible at this time to provide funding towards this project.

24. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors R. O'Donoghue, K. Sheahan, E. O'Brien, T. Neville, S. Keary, C. McMahon

We, the Members of the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale, call on the Council to continue to supply full funding for the Adare and Croom Public Parks through central budget as heretofore.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor O'Donoghue called on the Council to fully fund the ongoing maintenance of the Public Parks at Adare and Croom from the main Council budget and not from the General Municipal Allocation.

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Sheahan (K).

REPLY: A specific budgetary provision to fund maintenance of Adare and Croom Town Parks was not made in Budget 2016. An amount of €40,000 has been provided in Budget 2016 for Parks, Pitches and Playgrounds, part of the GMA allocation for the Municipal District of Adare-Rathkeale.

25. Correspondence

The Correspondence circulated with the Agenda was taken as read.

Councillor Sheahan (J) referred to correspondence received from Clare County Council in relation to the proposed development of a tourist route on both sides of the Shannon Estuary similar to the Wild Atlantic Way. Following a short discussion on this item, the Members stated that they were in support of the proposal. The following was agreed:

- That the Council would correspond with Clare County Council in relation to the matter.
- That the matter would be referred to the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee for further consideration.

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 Act 2000 (as amended) was also available for inspection by the Members.

Signed:

Mayor

Date:
