

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING OF
TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD
Remotely Via Zoom ON 8th February, 2021**

Present

Cllr. Michael Smith, Cathaoirleach.

Cllrs: Ambrose, S; Anglim, M; Black, T; Bonfield, F; Bourke K; Bugler, P; Carroll, J; Coonan, N.J; Crosse, J; Darcy, G; Dennehy, N.; Dunne, D; English, P; Fitzgerald, J; FitzGerald, MI; Goldsboro, I; Hanafin, S; Hannigan, J; Hanna-Hourigan, M; Kennedy, R; Lee, S; Lowry ML; McGrath, M; McGrath, H; McGrath (Rocky), J; Moloney, A; Moran, E; Morris, S; Murphy, MI; Murphy, Marie; O'Meara, K; Ryan (Shiner), A; Ryan, J; Ryan, P; Ryan, S.

Also Present

J. MacGrath, Chief Executive, Directors of Services; M. O'Connor, S. Carr, E. Lonergan A/Director of Services, L. McCarthy, Head of Finance, B. Beck, A/Director of Services, G. Walsh, Meetings Administrator.

Apologies

Cllrs. D. Burgess. Mark Fitzgerald, R. Molloy, M. O'Meara

Item 1.1

Welcome and Introduction

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Michael Smith welcomed all to the February meeting of the Council and referred members to the meeting protocol for virtual meetings which had been circulated as part of the Agenda.

Item 1.2

Report of the Commission of Investigation into the Mother and Baby Homes

The Cathaoirleach Cllr M. Smith informed the members that he wished to take the opportunity to acknowledge and welcome the publication of the report of the Commission of Investigation into the Mother and Baby Homes.

He stated that North and South Tipperary County Councils, like other local authorities had a role in the provision of healthcare and hospital services until 1970 when health boards took over these functions.

Sean Ross Mother and Baby Home opened in 1931 in Roscrea. During that time, 6414 women were admitted to the home and 6079 children were born or admitted there. It was owned and run by the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

The report highlighted a profound failure of empathy, understanding and compassion over a long period. Taoiseach Michael Martin apologised on behalf of the State for the generational wrong visited upon Irish mothers and their children in Mother and Baby Homes and County Homes. Society must hold itself to account. The report highlighted a very dark and disturbing time in our history.

The Government had stated it intended to develop a comprehensive action plan following the publication of this report, addressing survivor centred approach to include An Apology, Access to Personal Information,

Archiving and Databases, Education and Research, Memorialisation, Restorative Recognition and a Dignified Burial. Tipperary County Council would fully and actively participate with Government in all matters relating to local Government to develop this action plan.

He noted that the publication of Mother and Baby Homes and its findings into Sean Ross was only the start of the process. It was the intention of the Cathaoirleach, with the members agreement to hold a Special Meeting of the Council on Monday 15th February, 2021 to discuss and allow members express their views and consider resolutions. Members of the Sean Ross Survivors Group would be invited to participate.

Cllr Smith sincerely on behalf of all members paid tribute to the former residents of Sean Ross and acknowledged their courage and thanked them for their testimonies. He was very conscious of the pain involved, particularly for the survivors. They must have our utmost respect and support in their quest for discovery, take the steps to alleviate the burden and ensure that nothing like this happens again.

Members unanimously agreed to the holding of a virtual special meeting on Monday 15th February, 2021, at 2.30 p.m.

Vote of Sympathy

A vote of sympathy was proposed to the family of Richard (Dick) Tobin, Glenbower, Carrick on Suir who served as a Fianna Fáil member of South Tipperary County Council 1974-1991 representing the Fethard Electoral Area and was its Chairman 1986-1987.

Minutes Silence

A minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect to all those impacted by the Mother and Baby Homes and the late Richard Tobin.

Item 2.1 **Disclosures/Conflicts of Interest**

Cllr John Fitzgerald notified the Cathaoirleach of an interest in Item 5.1 on the Agenda. This item referred to the disposal of a property at Ballyclerihan, Clonmel, which Cllr Fitzgerald would have been involved in his role as Auctioneer. Cllr Fitzgerald would excuse himself from the meeting when the item was being dealt with.

Item 3.1 **Minutes of Council Meeting held on the 11th January, 2021.**

Proposed by **Cllr. John Carroll**, seconded by **Cllr. Marie Murphy** and resolved: -

“That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 11th January, 2021, as presented be adopted”.

Matters Arising

The Meetings Administrator advised the meeting that Cllr N. Dennehy had queried the legislation regarding incorporeal meetings of Tipperary County Council.

Mr. Walsh referred to standing orders that were adopted at a plenary meeting of Tipperary County Council held on the 14th December, 2020 which allowed for the holding of remote meetings At this meeting, members were advised that a Ministerial Order had been signed on 20th

October 2020 designating local authorities under Section 29 of the Civil Law and Criminal Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020, which would allow for council meetings and sub committees of the Council to be held remotely. All decisions or votes taken by elected members at such meetings (whether physically or remotely present) would have the same status in law as decisions or votes taken at a physical meeting. The Council could avail of this order as required, to facilitate attendance and participation at meetings to ensure the efficient carrying out of council business while also protecting the health and safety of elected members and local authority staff. It was a matter for the Council to decide if and how Plenary and District meetings would be held remotely and whether they wished to hold meetings remotely.

The Meetings Administrator also advised that the revised standing orders were considered and endorsed by the Privilege and Procedure Committee on 9th November and the Corporate Policy Group further considered the matter at their meeting on 11th December and recommended the said standing orders for adoption by the Plenary Council at their December meeting. The main changes were summarised as follows;

- Standing Order No. 2 - amended to facilitate meetings taking place physically, remotely or a combination of both;
- Standing Order, No. 7 - The default position of the Council was that they would continue to meet physically in person in the Council Chambers but may by resolution agree an alternative arrangement as provided for in Standing Order No 2 for a particular meeting/or meetings.

It was noted that a resolution was passed by the Council earlier in the year to facilitate the meetings taking place in the Sports and Community Centre in Littleton while Covid-19 restrictions were still in place. Provision had been allowed in SO No. 2 where exceptional/emergency circumstances arise and the Council was prohibited or prevented from meeting physically, then the meetings administrator in consultation with the Cathaoirleach and CPG could convene a meeting of the Council by remote means.

A decision was taken by the Cathaoirleach in early January in consultation with the Chief Executive and the CPG, following the decision of the Government to move the entire country into Level 5 Covid-19 restrictions, to convene future Plenary and Other Committee meetings virtually while the current level 5 restrictions continued in place and the critical need to restrict movement around the county. This decision was conveyed to all Councillors by email dated 4th January 2021.

Item 4.1
Approval to
Attendance at
Conferences/Se
minars/Training/
Further
Education

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

Item 4.2

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

Reports on Conferences

Item 5.1

It was noted that Cllr. J. FitzGerald left the meeting while this matter was being dealt with.

Section 183 – Disposal of property at Ballyclerihan, Clonmel.

It was proposed by **Cllr. Michael Murphy** seconded by **Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose** and resolved: -

“That in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of land at Ballyclerihan, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary to Cashel & Emly Diocesan Trust Ltd.”

The disposal was required to facilitate a name change to Cashel & Emly Diocesan Trust Ltd. Previous Section 183 Notice approved on 8th June, 2020.

Item 5.2

It was proposed by **Cllr. Michael FitzGerald** seconded by **Cllr. Roger Kennedy** and resolved: -

Section 183 – Disposal of property at Corderry, Galbally

“That in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal of dwelling at Corderry, Galbally, Co. Tipperary to Gerard O’Halloran.”

The disposal related to a rural one-off house built for specific needs that is no longer required by this Council.

Item 5.2

It was proposed by **Cllr. Máirín McGrath** seconded by **Cllr. Roger Kennedy** and resolved: -

Section 183 – Disposal of property at Clashganny West, Co. Tipperary

“That in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, that pursuant to the powers contained in Section 211 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, we hereby approve of the disposal of circa 94.656 sq metres within the Townsland of Clashganny West in the Co. of Tipperary contained in Folio TY61063F.”

The disposal was required to facilitate name change to Iontaobhas Corparaideach Chumann Luthchleas Gael Cuideachta Faoi Theorainn Rathaoichta. Previous Section 183 Notice approved 12th October, 2020.

Item 5.4

It was proposed by **Cllr. Kieran Bourke** seconded by **Cllr. David Dunne** and resolved: -

Section 183 Notice – Disposal of land at Pill Road, Ballylynch, Carrick on Suir

“That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal by transfer of property circa 0.067ha, situated at Pill Road, Ballylynch, Carrick on Suir, Co. Tipperary to Drimcove Ltd”.

The disposal related to lands no longer required by Tipperary County Council.

Item 5.5

Section 183
Notice – Disposal
of land at
Graigue Lower,
Killenaule

It was proposed by **Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro** seconded by **Cllr. Kevin O’Meara** and resolved: -

“That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal by transfer of property circa 0.2ha, situated at Graigue Lower, Killenaule, Co. Tipperary to James Lawlor”.

The disposal related to lands no longer required by Tipperary County Council.

Item 5.6

Section 183 –
Disposal of land
at Carragaun, Co.
Tipperary

It was proposed by **Cllr. Andy Moloney** seconded by **Cllr. Máirín McGrath** and resolved: -

“That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal by transfer of property circa 0.257ha, situated at Carragaun, Cahir, Co. Tipperary to Mary O’Donnell, Liam O’Donnell, Jim Guthrie and Noel Guthrie”.

The disposal was required to facilitate the rectification of title.

Item 5.7

Section 183 –
Disposal of land
at Borris,
Twomilebridge,
Thurles

It was proposed by **Cllr. Sean Ryan** seconded by **Cllr. Seamus Hanafin** and resolved: -

“That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the disposal by transfer of property circa 0.0177ha, situated at Borris, Twomileborris, Thurles, Co. Tipperary to Sean Hayes”.

The disposal related to lands no longer required by Tipperary County Council.

Item 5.8

Section 183 –
Disposal of land
at Stereame
Business Park,
Nenagh

It was proposed by **Cllr. John Carroll**, seconded by **Cllr. Fiona Bonfield** and resolved: -

“That in accordance with the provision of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Tipperary County Council hereby approves of the Disposal of lands circa 1.69ha at Stereame Business Park, Nenagh to Jadeloft Ltd”.

The disposal was required to allow the development on lands of a light industrial unit.

Item No. 5.9

Part 8 –
Longorchard
Park, Pound
Street,
Templetuohy, Co.

The Chief Executive’s Report had been circulated to the members.

The development related to the construction a single storey bedroom extension to the side of a two storey three-bedroom house currently under construction in a social housing development. The extension would measure 4.8m x 2.8m (internally) and would facilitate an additional

Tipperary

bedroom on the southern elevation of the dwelling located in Block B1. The overall development consisted of the construction of 10 no new dwelling houses (4 no. 2 bedroom, two storey houses & 6 no. 3 bedroom, two storey houses), and all associated site works. The site to which this Part 8 related was located in Templetuohy village west side of Pound Street. Plans and particulars of the proposed development had been available for inspection and purchase from the 12/11/2020 to the 10/12/2020 at the Offices of Tipperary County Council. No submissions were received.

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

It was proposed by **Cllr S. Lee**, seconded by **Cllr N. Coonan** and agreed: -

“That the development as proposed in the Chief Executive’s report be proceeded with subject to the requirements and conditions contained in the report”

Item No. 5.10

Draft Housing Allocation Scheme

The draft Housing Allocation Scheme had been circulated to the members together with a report noting that: -

- A Housing Authority was obliged to make a scheme determining the order of priority to be accorded in the allocation of dwellings, in accordance with Section 22 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 as amended.

The current Allocation Scheme was adopted by the Council in 2014 following the merger of North and South Tipperary County Councils.

Ms. S. Carr, Director of Services, Housing, summarised the formulation of the scheme and the main changes it introduced.

- The draft scheme had been considered by three Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) meetings and a workshop had been held in January, 2021.
- The policy provided a means of determining the order of priority to be accorded in the allocation of dwellings to approved housing applicants and its consideration & adoption was a key role of this Council as it would determine how the executive would manage the allocation of units for the next number of years.
- Policy had been reviewed to address issues which had been raised by members in relation to its application, to take account of changes in Government policy & advice, current day demands and needs and to address a number of anomalies that staff had identified due to changing circumstances.

Key changes made to the scheme included: -

- ▶ Introduction of a separate transfer list (accounts for 60% of the

waiting list);

- ▶ Allowed for an allocation from either entry list or transfer list – Percentage based (60% entry list & 40% transfer);
- ▶ Length of time on list to be taken into consideration – 10% from each list to address length of time;
- ▶ Provided for Choice Based Letting (CBL) – initially for 3 bed units & hard to let units. Also addresses the “local” concern where >1 applicant is seeking the unit and where applicants have the same priority need – individual who identified the location as one of their “3” would be given preference;
- ▶ Considered the severity/seriousness of medical conditions in allocations – additional relevant information now required to support those experiencing enduring mental health illness in accessing accommodation;
- ▶ Specific criteria for those approved on the basis of medical/overcrowding – greater clarity was provided;
- ▶ Identified real and specific need for approval for additional bedroom;
- ▶ Provided for priority to parent with primary access to children;
- ▶ Provided greater clarity on the pathway to be followed for those approved on the basis of homelessness;
- ▶ Clarified criteria for succession and removed the confusion caused by previous policy reference to “exceptional circumstances”;
- ▶ Ensured that where applicants updated their current circumstances that they were no longer penalised by their time on the list being altered from their original timeline;
- ▶ Allocation of units to individuals now tightened up in the case of those who had previously been involved in ASB; illegal occupation of a dwelling; voluntarily surrendered their house; abandonment of their home; or where a tenant had previously caused damage to a property;
- ▶ Provided for improved estate management;
- ▶ Allowed for designation of additional units for specific purposes such as Housing First; Start; Emergency accommodation; Community Houses; licence type agreements or any other vulnerable cohort as determined members.

Ms. Carr thanked the SPC members and the Chair of the SPC Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan for their detailed involvement in the policy. The input of housing staff and the Housing Needs Assessment Officers in both Nenagh & Clonmel was acknowledged.

Members welcomed the Scheme and Ms. Carr responded to queries raised as follows: -

Councillor Representation – One named Councillor and one named Oireachtas member would be allowed per application;

Wraparound Services – The extension of operating hours to include Bank Holiday weekend to be considered further noting that the existing service only operates Monday to Friday.

Vacant private properties in need of repair – this matter would be referred to the Housing SPC for consideration.

Succession of Tenancy – In response to concerns raised regarding the need for exceptional circumstances to receive consideration in certain succession of tenancy cases, Ms. Carr agreed to insert a clause into the Scheme as follows: -

“The Housing Authority may, at its own discretion, where the individual is identified as having a social housing need, forgo any or all of the conditions as listed above in granting a succession of tenancy where it considers that exceptional circumstances exist. (*note: Exceptional circumstances must be deemed to go well beyond the normal grieving emotions associated with the loss of a loved one and the strong emotional connections with one’s home*)”

It was proposed by **Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan**, seconded by **Cllr. David Dunne** and resolved: -

“That pursuant to Section 22 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 as amended and subject to the approval of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, that this Council resolves to adopt the Tipperary County Council Housing Scheme 2021”.

Item No. 5.11
Choice Based
Lettings (CBL)

As part of the review of the Council’s Allocation Scheme and in line with Government Policy set out in the document Rebuilding Ireland 2016, a decision was made to examine the introduction of Choice Based Lettings (CBL) as a means of allocating council owned properties.

Ms. S. Carr, Director of Services, Housing, summarised the formulation of the scheme and its main points.

The draft CBL had been considered by three SPC meetings and a member’s workshop in January, 2021

Government Policy provided a process for allocating housing units through a choice-based approach. Where there were a number of individuals for the same property, then the allocation scheme would come into play. Where more than one applicant was seeking the unit and where applicants have the same priority need – the individual who identified the location as one of their “3” will be given preference.

The expectation was that the CBL approach would significantly cut refusal rate from the current average of 20 – 22% and the void time of 37 – 40

weeks. It was intended to roll out the process for all 3 bed units in identified hard to let units initially and then to consider a further roll out. If the CLB was adopted, the next stage would be the setting up of the IT system, the tendering process, the structure and the procedures. Part of the procedures would involve: -

- Writing out to all applicants asking them to register their details;
- Housing Maintenance staff would complete a CBL checklist which contained details of the property, such as property type, number of bedrooms, heating system, location etc.;
- This checklist was then sent to CBL admin staff along with pictures of the property for uploading to the CBL website.
- Approved applicants could bid on any CBL property that was advertised, not just properties in their areas of choice.
- An approved applicant who has registered with the system would receive a notification of the vacant properties that were being advertised.
- In general, properties would be advertised at least a month before repairs were completed to facilitate pre-selection of candidates for the vacant properties & allow for pre-tenancy training.
- Properties would be advertised once a week and remain on the system for 7 days
- After the week-long bidding period had passed, the property was removed from active properties on the CBL website.
- A report of those that had expressed an interest in the property was printed and sent to the Housing Administrative Officer who would assess it in accordance with the Allocation Scheme.
- Once an allocation was made, admin staff would update the CBL website to reflect that an allocation had taken place.
- Unsuccessful bidders would be contacted to say their bid had been unsuccessful if this was possible with the system.
- If a client refuses a property, which they have bid on, their account on the CBL website was suspended for a period of twelve months. However, it would not affect their place on the housing waiting list
- If those applicants who bid on a property are not suited due to their household composition, Garda check, estate management issues, etc the property would be re-advertised.
- The Council would also review the non-engagement by applicants and identify ways to address this.

Ms. Carr thanked the SPC members and the Chair Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan for their detailed involvement in the policy and acknowledged the work of the Housing Section in the formulation of the draft.

In response to a query in relation to anti social behaviour and in particular intimidation of tenants, Ms. Carr confirmed that other measures and procedures would be used in an effort to solve the problem before an application for a transfer to another dwelling would be considered.

It was proposed by **Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan**, seconded by **Cllr. David Dunne** and resolved: -

“That Choice Based Lettings (CBL) be introduced as part of the Allocation Scheme 2021”.

Item 6.1
Consideration of
Management
Report

The Cathaoirleach referred to the Management Report as circulated with the Agenda noting that the reports related to the Directorates based in Nenagh and any queries/clarifications would be dealt with by the relevant Directors.

The following queries were raised by the members in relation to the report: -

Roads, Transportation, Health & Safety

Mr. Marcus O’Connor, Director of Services advised the members of the following updates not contained in the Management Report: -

N24 Waterford to Cahir Public Consultation – The launch of the public consultation and website would take place on the 26th February, 2021 at 2 p.m. Members would be circulated with further details.

LIS Scheme – The closing date for the scheme had been extended to the 12th February, 2021 at 12 noon.

The following queries from members were responded to: -

Maintenance Works National Roads, Thurles

Cllr J. Ryan referred to the need for T.I.I. to carry out maintenance works on national roads in Thurles. In response, it was pointed out that substantial works had been carried out to national roads in Thurles and regular meetings were held with the T.I.I. in relation to the road network in Tipperary. Any specific road issues raised would be referred to T.I.I. for consideration.

Winter Maintenance

Pre-salting of routes would be carried out as required and the forecast was being closely monitored in view of the forecast for possible snow/ice conditions in the coming days. 12 routes were on the salting programme and this was at full capacity. It was noted that salt spreaders were strategically based having regard to the location of salt barns. In response to a query regarding the placing of salt barns in localities for use by the community, this would be examined in the event of a protracted severe weather event.

N24 Moangarriff to Twomilebridge Pavement and Traffic Calming

In response to queries regarding facilities for cyclists and pedestrians in the design of this scheme it was agreed that design plans for this scheme would be circulated to Clonmel Borough members once available noting that Oliver Tierney was the relevant contact for this project.

Traffic Calming

A number of members queried council policy on the provision of speed ramps on Regional Roads as it was their opinion that the provision of

speed ramps in certain locations was the best option for the safety of residents and road users. The Director of Services advised that the installation of ramps was the least preferred option for traffic calming and both the Fire Brigade and Ambulance Service were not in favour of ramps. There was also significant budget implications as locations where ramps were provided had to be signposted and in a location with adequate lighting. It was agreed to circulate to members department communiqués in relation to the issue.

Disabled Parking Spaces

It was clarified that the existing criteria for the provision of disabled parking spaces would remain in force during the development of a policy in relation to the provision of disabled parking spaces.

2021 Regional and Local Roads Allocation

Details of the allocation would be circulated to members when available.

Local Roads

A number of members made reference to damage being caused to local roads by large trucks carrying felled timber on behalf of Coillte. It was agreed that heavy traffic did cause damage to local roads but that there was no mechanism to levy charges in addition to road tax on users in respect of this.

L3404 Ballylooby to Cahir

At the request of Cllr M. McGrath to include the L3404 Ballylooby to Cahir road in the Tipperary-Cahir-Cashel Municipal District roadworks programme, it was agreed that this could receive consideration by the Municipal District when compiling the new three-year roadworks programme.

Pouldine School, Horse and Jockey

Cllr S. Ryan requested that T.I.I. be notified of repairs to be carried out to an amber light at Pouldine School, Horse and Jockey.

N62 Templemore (Roscrea Road)

It was agreed to consider the inclusion of traffic calming measures in the scheme design. Reference was made to the need for a pedestrian crossing on Church Street.

N65 Carrighorig to Balleiragh Bridge

Cllr Darcy requested that every effort be made to progress this scheme as the road was periodically blocked due to flooding. He was conscious that the scheme was challenging due to conservation and flooding issues.

Iron Footbridge Carrick-on-Suir Railway Station

Cllr D. Dunne raised concerns regarding the dangerous condition of an iron footbridge for pedestrians in freezing weather at Carrick-on-Suir Railway Station and he also sought details for a point of contact in Iarnrod Eireann to report issues to. It was agreed to revert to Cllr Dunne.

Cycle Lane N.24 Carrick-on-Suir

The condition of the cycle lane on the N24 through Carrick on Suir was raised and it was agreed to have this examined by the District Engineer.

Local Road Junctions

Reference was made to the need for vegetation at junctions on local roads to be treated.

Seasonal Workers

The employment of seasonal workers was dependant on funding and Covid-19 restrictions. There was an existing panel from which recruitment would take place.

Procurement

It was confirmed that the tendering process for road maintenance supplies was in progress with the main tender items having been finalised.

Delegation Request N24 Limerick Junction to Cahir Project

Cllr MI FitzGerald referred to Correspondence Item 10.10 on the agenda, a reply from Minister Eamon Ryan's office in relation to a request that had been forwarded to Minister Ryan to receive a deputation from Tipperary County Council in an effort to progress the N24 Limerick Junction to Cahir Project. Cllr FitzGerald expressed his disappointment with the reply in which it was indicated that due to the Minister's schedule he was unable to meet a deputation. He spoke of the importance of this project for Tipperary and in particular the area he represented Tipperary Town. He referred to the urgent need for works to relieve traffic congestion in the town. Meetings had always been held with Ministers in relation to issues of importance and these meetings had been beneficial.

Cllr MI Smith interrupted Cllr FitzGerald to request that he finalise his speech due to time constraints on the meeting. Cllr FitzGerald expressed his wish to be allowed finish his speech as this issue was very important to him and the people he represented. When his request was not acceded to, he withdrew from the meeting in protest.

Other members spoke in support of Cllr FitzGerald and the project was referred to as "the single biggest live issue" in Tipperary. Cllr J. Crosse proposed that Tipperary Oireachtas Members would seek an urgent meeting with the Minister to ensure funding for this project. This was seconded by Cllr D. Dunne and supported by a number of members.

Mr. Marcus O'Connor, Director of Services, agreed that the Minister's reponse was disappointing. The N.24 schemes were the number one priority but this Council would continue to progress both N.24 schemes. Consultants had been appointed to provide multi-disciplinary technical services for the delivery of phases one to four of the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) project management guidelines for both sections. Funding had been provided for the design phase of the project.

It was agreed to write to Oireachtas members to seek their assistance in obtaining meeting with Minister Eamon Ryan

Planning

Architectural Conservation Areas

It was confirmed that Architectural Conservation Areas would be reviewed as part of the County Development Plan.

National Development Plan

Cllr S. Morris referred to his opposition to the inclusion of the development of the Shannon pipeline project in the National Development Plan. It was his opinion that this project was unnecessary and if proceeded with, would be to the detriment of the water infrastructure in Tipperary.

Mr. Eamon Lonergan, A/Director of Services advised that the submission of this Council in response to the "Review to Renew" of the National Development Plan had been forwarded to the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform but this submission did not relate to the removal or addition of specific projects.

National Planning Framework

It was noted that members concern's regarding the need to review certain aspects of the national planning framework that were not suitable for developments outside of large urban areas had been conveyed to An Bord Pleanála and this matter could be further discussed at the Workshop to be held on the 17th February, 2021.

Preplanning Meetings

It was clarified that preplanning meeting were currently being carried out by phone but that zoom meetings could be considered if deemed necessary.

National EPlanning Project

Tipperary County Council was the lead authority for this project and it was anticipated that EPlanning would go live in Q3 of 2021.

County Development Plan – Phase 1 Submissions

Reference was made to the workshop scheduled for the 17th February to consider submission in respect of Phase 1 of the County Development Plan Review.

A substantial amount of submissions had been received and these submissions would be taken by topic at the workshop.

Libraries and Cultural Services

Clonmel Library

In response to an enquiry by Cllr S. Ambrose, it was noted that no communication had been received from the Department regarding funding for the refurbishment of Clonmel Library. Mr. Brian Beck, A/Director of Services, advised that opportunities may be available to source funding for Clonmel Library through URDF Funding.

Fire & Emergency Services

Covid 19 vaccination hubs

Cllr A. Moloney requested that the utilisation of Churches as vaccination

hubs would receive consideration. Chief Executive Mr. Joe MacGrath confirmed that meetings were held with the South East and Mid West HSE and the matter would be raised with them for consideration at regional level.

Finance & Information Technology

Commercial Rates Waiver Scheme 2021

Mr. Liam McCarthy, Head of Finance, informed members that a Rates Waiver Scheme for Q1 of 2021 was announced. The criteria for this scheme was more restrictive than previous schemes and some businesses would not qualify for a waiver of rates. The businesses that would not qualify would be notified and given an opportunity to consider their options.

In response to a query by Cllr A. Ryan regarding commercial rates vacancy statistics, it was agreed to provide details to Cllr Ryan once these figures were quantified.

The following workshop dates were agreed: -

Item 7.1

Agree date for workshops

17th February, 2021 – 9 a.m.

- County Development Plan Review Phase 1 Submissions.
- Presentation by Horse Racing Ireland

29th March, 2021 – 10 a.m.

- EPA – 5G

Item 8.1

Consideration of C.E. Orders for the period to 31st January, 2021

Chief Executive Orders and Delegated Officers Orders for the period to 31st January, 2021, were noted.

Item No. 9.1

Notice of Motion PSO Levy on ESB Bills

Motion No. 9.1 (Ref. 2049) was proposed by **Cllr. Roger Kennedy**

“That Tipperary County Council write to the Minister of Environment, Climate and Communication, Eamon Ryan, TD, seeking a 75% rebate in the PSO Levy on ESB bills for Community Halls and facilities because of their inability to fundraise due to Covid-19. This motion if passed should be circulated to all other Councils and DPER.”

The motion was seconded by **Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose**

It was agreed that the Motion would be forwarded to the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communication Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D., for consideration and reply. The motion would be circulated to all local authorities.

Item 9.2

Notice of Motion

Supports to Regional Newspapers

Motion No. 9.2 (Ref: 2060) was proposed by **Cllr. Sean Ryan**

“That Tipperary County Council calls on the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Ms. Catherine Martin, T.D., to consider providing extra supports to regional newspapers who provide an essential service to many communities including in County Tipperary during the Covid pandemic.”

The motion was seconded by **Cllr. Roger Kennedy**

It was agreed that the Motion would be forwarded to the Minister Catherine Ryan for consideration and reply and circulated to all local authorities.

Item No. 9.3

Notice of Motion

Taking in Charge process

Motion No. 9.3 (Ref: 2058) was proposed by **Cllr. Pat English**

“That members of Tipperary County Council call upon the Minister for Climate Action, Communication Network and Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D., the Minister for Finance, Pascal Donoghue, T.D., and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform Michael McGrath, T.D., to urgently enact the private members motion passed in November 2016, by the previous Government regarding the future of the Post Office network. This is a matter of urgency to ensure the sustainability of our existing Community Post Office Network.”

The Motion was seconded by **Cllr. David Dunne**

It was agreed that the Motion would be forwarded to the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communication Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D., for consideration and reply.

Item No. 9.4

Notice of Motion

National day of recognition for the survivors and victims of Mother and Baby Homes

Cllr P English requested that this motion would be deferred to the Special Meeting to be held on the 15th February, 2021.

“That Tipperary County Council call on the Government to introduce a National day of recognition for the survivors and victims of Mother and Baby Homes. That Survivors of Mother and Baby Homes should have the right to information about their birth Mother and their full identity. The Government would Establish a proper redress scheme for survivors and victims and immediately provide counselling and other mental health services to survivors of Mother and Baby Homes to support them in this remarkably difficult time. Also, that we as a council recognise the Historical role that County, Borough and Town Councils from Tipperary played in the running of Mother and Baby institutions in this County. So that we can be sure that this sad part of our past is known and not hidden away. Young mothers and their sons and daughters were forced to pay a terrible price for the deeply misogynistic culture in Ireland over several decades”.

This was agreed by the Council.

Item No. 10.1,
10.2, 10.3, 10.4,
10.5, 10.6, 10.7,
10.8

Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated and noted.

- Thank-you letter dated 22nd December, 2020 from Bishop of Kilmore in response to Vote of Congratulations letter from Members to congratulate him on his appointment as Bishop of Kilmore
- Email reply from Office of Minister for Health dated 8th January, 2021 regarding Haemochromatosis screening & treatment
- Reply from Office of Minister for Health dated 13th January, 2021 regarding St. Brigid's Hospital, Carrick-on-Suir

Cllr K. Bourke expressed his disappointment with the content of the reply and the lack of engagement in relation to the closure of St. Brigids Hospital. It was agreed to reply to the Minister expressing the members disappointment and to seek an explanation for the decision made to close the hospital.

- Reply from Office of the Chief Clinical Officer, Dr. Steevens Hospital, Dublin dated 13th January, 2021 regarding National Screening Programme for Haemochromatosis.
- Reply from Iarnrod Eireann dated 22nd January, 2021 regarding Limerick to Ballybrophy Rail Line.
- Reply from Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage dated 25th January 2021 regarding Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems.
- Reply from Department of Social Protection dated 26th January, 2021 regarding Tús Community Work Placement Initiative.
- Email reply from Department of Justice dated 26th January, 2021 regarding Proceeds of Crime
- Email and attachment from Department of An Taoiseach dated 2nd February, 2021 regarding National Recovery and Resilience Plan – Public Consultation

At the request of Cllr. Marie Murphy it was agreed that a copy of the submission made by Tipperary County Council would be circulated to the members once finalised.

- Email reply from Office of Minister Eamon Ryan dated 3rd February, 2021 regarding Delegation request N24 Limerick Junction to Cahir Project

Item 11.1

Resolutions from
other Local
Authorities

The following resolutions from other Local Authorities were noted by the members: -

Galway County Council

"That Galway County Council circulate the "Agri Kids Be Farm Safe Presentation" to all 31 Local Authorities and invite each local authority to join in this initiative of Farming Safety and Safety Measures in Council Awareness Programs at a local level."

It was agreed that a letter of support for this Resolution would issue to the Minister and copy to Galway County Council.

Wexford County Council

"That this Council calls on the Department of Education and the Higher

Education Institutions/Bodies to offer a rebate scheme to third level students who are charged full rate for on-campus accommodation but are afforded limited access due to Covid restrictions for the Academic Year 2020/2021”.

Item 12.1

Votes of Sympathy

- Kieran McKenna, Environment and Climate Action Section on the death of his mother Patricia McKenna
- Jayne Sutcliffe, Tipperary Museum on the death of her brother George Sutcliffe
- Aine Beausang (McGee), Librarian in Roscrea Library on the death of her mother Monica Beausang
- Teresa Hogan, Customer Service Desk, Nenagh on the death of her father Eamonn Hogan
- Tom Barry, Former Director of Services, North Tipperary County Council and former Chief Executive Carlow County Council on the death of his mother Eileen Barry (nee O'Brien)
- The family of Richard (Dick) Tobin, Glenbower, Carrick on Suir who served as a Fiance Fáil member of South Tipperary County Council 1974-1991 representing the Fethard Electoral Area and was its Chairman 1986-1987
- Patricia Fogarty, Senior Staff Officer, Roads Section on the death of her mother Sheila Fogarty
- Phil Prendergast, former member of South Tipperary County Council on the death of her brother Des Foley
- Family of John J. Moylan, San Francisco and late of Rathnaleen, Nenagh
- Family of Mrs. Moloney, Abbey Road, Thurles, mother in law of former councillor John Kennedy
- Family of Bridget Cantwell, Boulebane, Roscrea
- James Scott, Horse & Jockey, Thurles on his recent appointment as Coordinator for Girls emerging football talent with the FAI

Votes of Congratulations

Item 13.1

No items were raised.

Any Other Business

Signed/_____

Cathaoirleach.

Date: _____

Signed/ 
Ger Walsh,
Meetings Administrator.

Date: