

ITEM NO. 2

LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL

The Adjourned Annual Meeting of Limerick City Council was held in the Council Chamber, City Hall on Monday, 2nd July, 2007 at 4.30 p.m.

The following were in attendance :

IN THE CHAIR : Cllr. G. Fahy, Mayor

COUNCILLORS : M. Hourigan, K. Leddin, J. Cronin, K. Kiely, J. Ryan, K. O'Hanlon, K. Walsh, G. McLoughlin, J. Houlihan, L. Wallace, P. Kennedy, J. Leddin and J. Long

STAFF :
Mr. T. Mackey, City Manager
Mr. K. Lehane, Director of Service
Ms. C. Curley, Director of Service
Mr. P. Dromey, Director of Service
Mr. P. Dowling, Director of Service
Mr. M. Connolly, Acting Head of Finance
Ms. N. O'Connell, Acting Senior Planner
Ms. E. Creamer, Staff Officer

APOLOGIES : Cllr. J. Gilligan

Prior to the business proper of the Meeting, His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. G. Fahy proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the following members of staff :

Nuala O'Connell on the death of her father, Paddy
Patrick Keogh on the death of his wife, Florence
Joan O'Shea on the death of her sister, Christina
Sinead Doody on the death of her father, Denis
Patricia Wright on the death of her mother, Catherine
Barbara Clinton on the death of her mother, Phyllis
Sadie Doyle on the death of her mother, Margaret
Brendan McKernan on the death of his mother, Mavis

All members associated with the votes of sympathy.

The City Manager, on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff of the City Council, also wished to be associated with the votes of sympathy.

STATUTORY BUSINESS

3. MEETINGS OF CITY COUNCIL

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Hourigan and unanimously agreed to fix meetings of City Council for twelve months as per schedule circulated to members.

4. TO APPOINT NINE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, INCLUDING THE MAYOR EX OFFICIO, TO THE BOARD OF THE MARKET TRUSTEES

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Hourigan and unanimously agreed to appoint the following nine members of the Council including the Mayor ex officio, to the Board of the Market Trustees :

Cllr. G. Fahy (ex officio), Cllr. M. Byrne, Cllr. K. Kiely, Cllr. M. Hourigan, Cllr. J. Gilligan, Cllr. L. Wallace, Cllr. G. McLoughlin, Cllr. K. Walsh and Cllr. J. Houlihan.

5. TO APPOINT TWO MEMBERS FROM THE ELECTED TRUSTEES TO SIT ON THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE MARKET TRUSTEES

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Hourigan and unanimously agreed to appoint the following two members from the Elected Trustees to sit on the Management Committee of the Market Trustees :

Cllr. J. Gilligan and Cllr. K. Walsh

6. TO APPOINT THE MAYOR EX OFFICIO TO THE EU OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Hourigan and unanimously agreed to appoint the Mayor Cllr. G. Fahy to the EU Operational Committee.

7. TO APPOINT FIVE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, INCLUDING THE MAYOR EX OFFICIO, TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Hourigan and unanimously agreed to appoint the following five members of the Council, including the Mayor ex officio, to the Board of Governors of St. John's Hospital :

Cllr. G. Fahy (ex officio), Cllr. K. O'Hanlon, Cllr. G. McLoughlin, Cllr. K. Kiely and Cllr. K. Walsh

ORDINARY BUSINESS

1. MINUTES

On the proposition of Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Long it was unanimously agreed :

“That the Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Limerick City Council held on 28th May, 2007, copies of which were circulated, be and the same are hereby confirmed”.

1 (a) RECOMMENDATION, SPECIAL MEETING OF LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL (IN PROTOCOL COMMITTEE) HELD ON 25TH JUNE, 2007

Submitted the following Recommendation, Special Meeting of Limerick City Council (in Protocol Committee) held on 25th June, 2007, which was adopted unanimously on the proposition of Cllr. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. J. Leddin :

“That the decision of the City Council of the 2nd May, 1918, to the effect that the name of Lord Dunraven be erased and struck off the Roll of Freemen of the City, be revoked”.

Cllr. J. Leddin acknowledged the work done on the updating of the list of Freemen of the City by Mr. Matthew Potter.

Cllr. O’Hanlon said he was reluctant to go back on a decision made by the City Council of that time and said it should not become a precedent for future events. However, there is merit in revoking this decision and pointed out that extensive discussion had taken place on the matter.

2. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION, ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5TH JUNE, 2007

The Chairman’s Report, Environmental Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 5th June, 2007, was noted.

Submitted the following Recommendation from the Environmental Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 5th June, 2007 which was adopted unanimously on the proposition of Cllr. McLoughlin, seconded by Cllr. Kiely :

“That the compliments of the Environmental Strategic Policy Committee would be extended to Limerick City Council on the new Library in Moyross”

Cllr. Ryan expressed concern at brown effluent flowing in the river outside Clohessy’s Bar on the Dock Road towards the Shannon Bridge and was informed by the Director of Service (Transportation and Infrastructure) that he was not aware of any issue in relation to discharge into the river however, he agreed to examine and to report back to Cllr. Ryan.

In reply to Cllr. Kennedy, the Director of Service (Environment) confirmed that the railings around Arthur's Quay Park are being removed however, the City Council intend selling them.

Cllr. Hourigan complimented all concerned on the City Centre Strategy and suggested that the Derelict Sites Act be implemented more and that levies be introduced.

Cllr. Cronin agreed with Cllr. Hourigan and asked for a definition of a Derelict Site.

In reply, the Director of Service (Environment) stated that there is a legal definition for Derelict Site which she will supply to Cllr. Hourigan and agreed to issue a report to him on levies for derelict sites. She pointed out that the Property Management Department have now taken over the administration of the derelict sites.

In reply to Cllr. Cronin, the Director of Service (Environment) stated that final approval for the funding was only received this year from the Department for Shelbourne Park. The City Council are presently in discussions with the Contractor and it is hoped to commence the scheme this year.

In an effort to provide a better service to the public, Cllr. Cronin suggested that the Park Road Depot, the Museum, Art Gallery and the Libraries should extend their opening hours to include Saturday and Sunday openings.

In reply, the Director of Service (Environment) said that the City Council are trying to relocate the Park Road Depot to another site within the city which could accommodate a full recycling centre. She agreed to examine his suggestion of extended opening hours.

Cllr. K. Leddin referred to machinery exiting a building site on the North Circular Road which is distributing mud along the road and clogging gullies and drains, in reply to which the Director of Service (Transportation and Infrastructure) agreed to examine the matter.

3. REPORT, CULTURAL AND SPORTING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11TH JUNE, 2007.

The Chairman's Report, Cultural and Sporting Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 11th June, 2007, was noted.

Cllr. J. Leddin welcomed the completion of the Richard Harris statue. In reply, the Director of Service (Community and Enterprise) stated that confirmation was received today that the statue will be cast in bronze however, no date has yet been identified for its unveiling.

In reply to Cllrs. J. Leddin, O'Hanlon and McLoughlin, the Director of Service (Community and Enterprise) stated that the skateboard park is presently going through

Part 8 consultative process. The tender document has been prepared and enquiries have been made regarding the cost of a mobile skateboard park.

His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Fahy added that he met with Representatives of the Skateboard Committee and he gave a commitment to them that he would meet with them again with the Director of Service.

In reply to Cllr. O'Hanlon, the City Manager stated that further work must be done on the Park Canal before opening same. It is hoped to open the Canal the same time as the bridge. He added that the issue regarding the basin of the canal has not yet been addressed.

Cllr. J. Leddin, supported by Cllr. K. Leddin, suggested that a Heritage and Conservation Officer be appointed.

In reply, the City Manager indicated that the City Council avail of people with expertise as and when needed. There may be a difficulty in appointing one person as they may not have full range of expertise. He added that conservation and heritage is taken very seriously by Limerick City Council.

In reply to Cllr. K. Leddin, the Director of Service (Community and Enterprise) stated that there will be a report before City Council on the LPYMA Grounds before the end of the year. €65,000 has been received from the Walled Towns Network and the City Council are presently tendering for Consultants.

Cllr. K. Leddin asked if there were any plans for the Belltable and was informed by the City Manager that Limerick City Council have agreed to purchase the Belltable building and the Belltable have agreed to purchase the old stone jug building. However, only when they are in a position to move will Limerick City Council examine future uses for the building.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Submitted list of Tenders opened in respect of Conservation and Management Plan for Limerick City Walls.

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Submitted Financial Statement for the month of May, 2007, which was adopted unanimously on the proposition of Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Walsh.

Cllr. Ryan asked for an explanation regarding €8.1m overdrawn which puts us in a worse financial position than last year.

In reply, the City Manager stated that this relates to the Capital Account. A lot of work has been going on over the last number of years which is funded to a large extent by the

Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. The €8.1m overdraft relates to delays in payment by the Department however, the City Council is pursuing these recoups vigorously. Unfortunately, we are precluded from charging the interest on the overdraft to the Department. He added that full details on the financial situation will issue shortly in the Annual Financial Statement.

6. BORROWING BY WAY OF OVERDRAFT

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Walsh and unanimously agreed to authorise the borrowing by way of overdraft for half year ended 31st December, 2007. It is estimated that the Council's overdraft requirement during the half year ended 31st December, 2007 will not exceed €32,000,000.

The Acting Head of Finance indicated that it is not expected that the Council's overdraft will reach €32m, but this is based on worse case scenario as the penalties would be more severe if this overdraft facility was not in place.

7. DRAWDOWN OF A LOAN FROM HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY TO FUND THE MARGINAL CAPITAL COST OF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Walsh and unanimously agreed to approve the drawdown of a loan in the sum of €5,000,000 from the Housing Finance Agency to fund the Marginal Capital Cost of Water Infrastructure Projects.

8. DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

Submitted the following Disposal of Property in accordance with Notices already circulated under Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001 which were adopted unanimously on the proposition of Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Walsh :

- (a) Disposal of strip of ground at rear of 6, Bawnmore Road, Roxboro Road, Limerick as per amended Drawing No. AG/1068 to George O'Riordan and Catherine O'Riordan.
- (b) Disposal of premises consisting of a plot of land 2.797 hectares situate at Barry's Field, Rathbane in the City of Limerick and outlined in red on Drawing No. AG/2057 to The Trustees of Carew Park AFC or its nominees.
- (c) Disposal of premises consisting of a plot of land 0.1418 hectares situate at Michael Street/Ellen Street/Patrick Street/Rutland Street/Bank Place in the City of Limerick and outlined in red on Drawing No. CPO/94 to Regeneration Developments Limited or its nominees.

9. PARTICIPATION BY MEMBERS AT CONFERENCES

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Walsh and unanimously agreed to approve participation by members at the following Conferences :

Kilkee Waterworld Conference “Rural Tourism 2007 – 2013”

To be held in Kilkee Bay Hotel, Kilkee, Co. Clare

7th September, 2007

Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €285.91

Conference Fee : €180.00

Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland 94th Annual Conference

“Alternative Energy: Delivering a sustainable energy future for Ireland”

To be held in Brandon House Hotel, New Ross, Co. Wexford

13th – 15th September, 2007

Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €517.26

Conference Fee : €200.00

Greystones Town Council in association with Ards Borough Council 2007 La Touche Legacy Seminar “The Changing Ireland – Are Local Authorities prepared”

To be held in Charlesland Golf and County Club Hotel, Greystones, Co. Wicklow

28th – 30th September, 2007

Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €644.32

Conference Fee : €210.00

Kerry Life Education Limited – Getting a Grip 2007 Fourth National Conference on Substance and Alcohol Misuse “Winning or Losing ? The Battle against Substance and Alcohol Misuse”

To be held in The Malton Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry (formerly the Great Southern Hotel)

19th October, 2007

Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €319.67

Conference Fee : €180.00

It was unanimously agreed to approve participation by members at the following Conferences also, details of which only came in after the circulation of Council documentation to members last Thursday :

The Parnell Summer School, 2007 “Continuity and Change in Irish Culture, Society and Politics”

To be held in The Avondale House and Forest Park, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow

12th – 17th August, 2007

Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €1,037.29

Conference Fee : €275.00

6th Annual Benedict Kiely Literary Weekend

To be held in The Strule Arts Centre, Townhall Square, Omagh, Co. Tyrone
14th – 16th September, 2007

Estimated Travel and Subsistence per member : €665.16

Conference Fee : St£70.00

It was also agreed that any suitable conferences that were received during the Summer would be circulated to members.

10. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FROM AREAS 3 AND 4 TO THE BOARD OF PAUL PARTNERSHIP (DEFERRED AT MONTHLY MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL HELD ON 28TH MAY, 2007)

It was agreed that Ward Members decide among themselves who was being appointed from Areas 3 and 4 to the Board of Paul Partnership and to submit the names of the nominees to the Corporate Services Department.

11. TO APPROVE SECTION 85 AGREEMENT BETWEEN LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL AND LIMERICK CITY COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF THE COONAGH/KNOCKALISHEEN DISTRIBUTOR ROAD

It was proposed by Cllr. Kiely, seconded by Cllr. Walsh and unanimously agreed to approve Section 85 Agreement between Limerick County Council and Limerick City Council in respect of the Coonagh/Knockalisheen Distributor Road.

12. PLANNING PROPOSALS AND DECISIONS

The Meeting noted the list of planning proposals under consideration at 15th June, 2007 and Decisions taken from 21st May, 2007 to 15th June, 2007.

In reply to Cllr. Ryan, the Acting Senior Planner stated that no pre planning discussions have taken place regarding The Bishop's House and lands as it is Limerick City Council's policy not to have pre planning discussions.

The Acting Senior Planner informed Cllr. J. Leddin that additional details have been requested in respect of the planning application for 400 apartments by Redemptorists Fathers.

She stated that she will report back directly to Cllr. Wallace in relation to development at Fort Villa.

Cllr. McLoughlin referred to St. Mary's Park and asked what input the City Council has in relation to this very valuable land.

In reply, the City Manager stated that wide consultation has taken place and all houses in St. Mary's Park have been called on for their views and observations. Proposals are now

being considered and discussions are taking place with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government with a view to putting draft proposals together. He would welcome suggestions from the Elected Members and agreed to keep them fully informed and updated on the matter. Once the strategy has been prepared it will come back to City Council for approval.

13. AN BORD PLEANALA

The Meeting noted the Decisions taken by An Bord Pleanala from 21st May, 2007 to 15th June, 2007.

14. NOTICE OF MOTION

Submitted the following Notice of Motion due notice of which was given which was referred to Area Meeting :

“That Limerick City Council Roads Department includes in the forthcoming budget estimates sufficient provision for the complete resurfacing of Greenfields Road and adjacent cul-de-sacs, along with the upgrading of the footpaths throughout the area”.

Signed : Cllr. Joe Leddin

15. NOTICE OF MOTION

Submitted the following Notice of Motion due notice of which was given which was referred to the Social Policy and Housing Strategic Policy Committee Meeting :

“That Limerick City Council immediately begin the reconstruction of all one off houses currently burnt out or boarded up in housing estates where all other houses are occupied throughout the city. Such action will provide many deserving families of a home while simultaneously improving the appearance of communities and estates across the city”.

Signed : Cllr. Joe Leddin

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr. Cronin referred to an article in the local papers on 16th June, 2007 regarding housing development on New Road, Thomondgate.

In reply to Cllr. Kennedy, the City Manager stated that Limerick Docklands Group are well aware of Limerick City Council's views in relation to the docklands. They wrote to Groups who were not present at meetings seeking their observations. Limerick City Council wrote and informed the Group that they were preparing a Development Plan for the area and that they should be making submissions to the City Council however, to date, such submissions have not been submitted.

Cllr. J. Leddin expressed concern at derelict sites throughout the city and in particular referred to site of former Jack Moore's Garage at Punch's Cross and the derelict building at the corner of Carey's Road/Hyde Road and asked that they be examined.

The City Manager indicated that an Information Session on Derelict Sites for Members would be organised shortly and then a meeting can be organised quarterly to review progress.

Cllr. Wallace requested that the broken public lights in Glasgow Park be repaired and that the bushes / trees on the Childers Road be cut back. She expressed concern at grass being cut and left on the footpaths in Glasgow Park and asked that this be examined.

It was proposed by Cllr. O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr. J. Leddin and unanimously agreed that the Munster Branch of the IRFU be written to stating that the name of Thomond Park remain unchanged.

THE MEETING THEN ADJOURNED

A TRUE RECORD

**T. MACKEY
CITY MANAGER**

**CONFIRMED THIS _____ - DAY OF _____
2007**

MAYOR OF LIMERICK