

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, ROSCOMMON
ON MONDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER, 2021 AT 2.15 PM.**

- PRESENT:** Councillor Joe Murphy, Cathaoirleach 2021/2022 **PRESIDED**
- MEMBERS:** Cllr L. Fallon, Cllr E. Kelly, Cllr P. Fitzmaurice, Cllr T. Crosby, Cllr M. McDermott, Cllr A. Waldron, Cllr O. Leyden, Cllr T. Ward, Cllr V. Byrne, Cllr J. Cummins, Cllr J. Keogh, Cllr M. Mulligan, Cllr J. Naughten, Cllr K. Shanagher and Cllr L. Callaghan.
- OFFICIALS:** Eugene Cummins, Chief Executive
Majella Hunt, Director of Services
Shane Tieman, Director of Services
Caitlín Conneely, A/Director of Services
Sean Mullarkey, Acting Head of Finance
Patricia Bohan, Meetings Administrator
Claudette Collins, Asst. Staff Officer
- Apologies:** Cllr D. Kilduff and Cllr N. Dineen

124.21 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST (SECTION 177 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 AS AMENDED)

- No Conflict of Interest declared by the elected members

125.21 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Fallon

SECONDED by Cllr. Cummins

It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of the Special Meeting on 14.10.2021

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. McDermott

SECONDED by Cllr. Callaghan

It was **AGREED** to adopt the minutes of the Plenary Meeting on 22.10.2021

126.21 MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. Shanagher enquired if a meeting with the Lanesboro Ballyleague Collaboration Group will be organised.

In Reply, Director of Services Majella Hunt confirmed that the group is headed by Longford County Council but she expects a meeting to be organised in the New Year.

127.21 MANAGEMENT REPORT

- Management Report for October 2021 noted.

128.21 FILLING OF VACANCY ON AILG FOLLOWING RESIGNATION OF CLLR. O LEYDEN

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Leyden

SECONDED by Cllr. Cummins

It was **AGREED** to appoint Cllr. Paschal Fitzmaurice be the voting delegate at the Annual Conference and also be a permanent delegate to the Standing Policy Council of the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) to replace Cllr. Orla Leyden who has resigned from the position.

129.21 CORRESPONDENCE

Resolutions from other Local Authorities:

- **18th October, 2021 - Resolution from South Dublin County Council**
That South Dublin County Council write to the Department of the Taoiseach, all other Local Authorities in the state and Retail Ireland calling on the Irish and International Supermarkets operating here to join the Boycott of all Israeli Goods
- **26th October, 2021 - Resolution from Donegal County Council**
That Donegal County Council calls on An Taoiseach to establish a dedicated Government "Task Force" to initiate, coordinate, fund and promote a north west housing, health and family welfare response to tackle the many societal ills resulting from Mica, Pyrite and Pyrrhotite.
- **26th October, 2021 - Resolution from Kerry County Council**
That Kerry County Council call on Local Authorities throughout the Country and all Government Services to fly the Palestine Flag on November 29th which is the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people.
- **26th October, 2021 - Resolution from Tipperary County Council**
The Chairman and Elected Members of Tipperary County Council Rural Water Monitoring Committee, request that the Rural Water Unit of the Department engage proactively with the Rural Water Team of the Council's Water Services Section in preparing and finalising the contents of the brief for the procurement of consulting Engineering Services to assist in the process of amalgamation and rationalisation of Group Water Schemes in County Tipperary.
- **16th November, 2021 - Resolution from Sligo County Council**
That Sligo County Council in conjunction with Tusla, Dept of Children and Equality and the Gardaí establish an appropriate and safe Refuge Centre for victims and survivors (mainly women) of domestic violence in Sligo and surrounding area.

Other Correspondence:

- **15th October, 2021 – Letter from Peter Burke T.D., Minister for Planning and Local Government.**
Correspondence regarding a Targeted Quarter 4 Rates Waiver for Hospitality and Tourism Sectors.
- **26th October, 2021 – Circular from Dept of Housing, Local Government and Heritage**
Circular Fin 20/2021 regarding a targeted commercial rates waiver to support certain sectors, as agreed by Government, for the final quarter of 2021.
- **26th October, 2021 – FAQ's on Circular Fin 20/2021 Targeted Waiver of Rates**
Frequently Asked Questions for Local Authorities on Circular Fin 20/2021 Targeted Waiver of Rates for Final Quarter 2021

130.21 NOTICE OF MOTION

130.21a 22.21 COMPENSATION FOR FARMERS - LOUGH FUNSHINAGH - CLLR. WARD

The motion was withdrawn by Cllr. Ward and will be resubmitted in coming months.

130.21b 23.21 DESIGNATION OF CREMATION SPACES IN GRAVEYARDS - CLLR. CROSBY

“That Roscommon County Council would designation a section in all county council graveyard’s in the county for cremated remains and also introduce an award system for best kept graveyards in the County”

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:

The Cemetery Bye-Laws 2020, were adopted by the Council on 22nd March 2021 after a detailed process of public consultation followed by consideration and recommendation by the Strategic Policy Committee. Cremations formed part of the consideration. The new bye-laws, contain a full section which makes provision for cremated remains and the spreading of ashes. Cremated remains may be interred in coffins, caskets or biodegradable containers or other approved containers in a conventional plot. There is also provision for plots designated specifically for cremated remains by the Council.

The annual Tidy Cemeteries Competition, operated by the Environment Section, was suspended in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19. It is expected that it will resume in due course, most likely in 2022, as part of the Environment Section’s Annual Awards programme.

Clr. Crosby, speaking on his motion stated that cremation has become a more popular way of burial in the past number of years and the national figure is 35%. Some people living abroad request that they are returned to be buried in Ireland and cremation would suit best in these circumstances. Gravespaces are also expensive. Through the Graveyards scheme a wall could be provided where an urn could be places and a plaque erected and the graveyards committees look after this. He also paid tribute to Cyril McDermott who was very involved in the gaveyard committees and recently deceased. At the very least he suggested that an extra €25k be provided to the graveyard committees in the budget.

The Director of Services Mr. Shane Tiernan outlined the recent lengthy process to introduce Cemetery Bye Laws that were adopted by the Council in March 2021 and there are a number of provisions included to facilitate cremations. Installation of a wall in each cemetery would involve capital works and there is no national funding for capital works. Any works are carried out on a risk basis. Last year there was an increase in funding for cemeteries.

Chair if the SPC, Clr Cummins confirmed that this had been discussed at length before the adoption of the Bye Laws and any funding required in the short term should concentrate on the extensions to cemeteries. He suggested that the matter revert to the SPC and Clr. Crosby agreed.

130.21c 24.21 AVAILABILITY OF IVF TREATMENT ON PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE - CLLR. CALLAGHAN

“That Roscommon Co. Council calls on the Minister of Health to fulfil a commitment to make IVF treatment available to couples on the public health service by 2021 and in the interim give a commitment to reimburse couples that have joined a programme since 2021.”

The Meetings Administrator read the following reply:

This Motion requires a resolution of the Council

Clr. Callaghan outlined the huge cost of up to €6,000 for couples to go through this process and with no support from the Government, although this was included as an action item in the Programme for Shared Government. At an individual level there is a great physical and emotional toll on couples. One in six couples have difficulty in having children and IVF is only available to couples that can afford it. In Scotland, couples are funded for three cycles of IVF.

The members welcomed the motion and supported it.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Callaghan

SECONDED by Cllr. Leyden

It was **AGREED** that Roscommon County Council write to the Minister of Health to fulfil a commitment to make IVF treatment available to couples on the public health service by 2021 and in the interim give a commitment to reimburse couples that have joined a programme since 2021. It was further agreed that this motion should be circulated to all Local Authorities.

131.21 CHIEF EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

There was no Chief Executives Business for discussion.

132.21 COUNCILLORS CONFERENCES - PAYMENT/ATTENDANCE

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Shanagher

SECONDED by Cllr. Naughten

It was **AGREED** to adopt the list of payments for training and conferences as circulated.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Keogh

SECONDED by Cllr. Fallon

It was **AGREED** to approve the following conference for attendance:

Celtic Conferences	The Finance Act 2021	Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Co. Louth Conference Title:- The Finance Act 2021	7th to 9th January 2022
Celtic Conferences	Housing for All	O'Donovan's Hotel, Clonakilty, Co. Cork Conference	21st to 23rd January 2022

133.21 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

133.21a TIDY TOWNS RESULTS

The Members congratulated all of the towns and villages who achieved excellent results in the 2021 Tidy Towns competition.

133.21b INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISABILITIES

Cllr. Shanagher asked the members to support the International Day for People with Disabilities on 3rd December and wear purple. RosFM and the Council have collaborated to promote this day and with 14% of the Roscommon population categorised as having at least one disability, this awareness campaign is a worthy initiative.

Director of Services Majella Hunt said that arrangements are being made to light Roscommon Castle purple to support the awareness day.

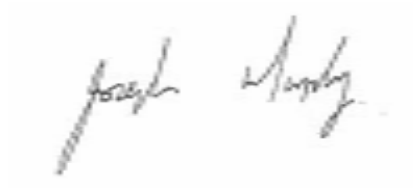
NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Monday, 20th December, 2021.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:

Petrizio Bohon
Meetings Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Murphy", is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Cathaoirleach

Petrizio Bohon
Countersigned