

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL



Wicklow County Council
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE CHILL MHANTAIN

Transcript of the County Council Special Meeting Held on 14 March 2016 In the County Council Chamber, Wicklow



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7 Monday 14th March, 2016. Wicklow County Council Special Meeting.

8
9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Just as you see we have a busy agenda today, so it would be helpful,
10 some of the motions are on the agenda for the last year, I would like to get through everything
11 today if possible. Just before we start, have we any votes of sympathy?

12 Cllr KENNEDY: Thank you Cathaoirleach, I would just like to extend our sympathies to the
13 Moore family in Avoca on the untimely death of Steven Moore, who had a great love of sport,
14 deeply involved in Rugby and soccer and supported anything that was happening in the
15 community of Avoca. I would like to extend my sympathies to his wife Aileen, daughters Robin
16 and Susie and sons Daly and Bradley and father William.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Walsh.

18 Cllr WALSH: If I could extend sympathies to the family of Anastasia Sutton whose funeral
19 mass took place this morning. She has lived in Greystones since 16, a proud Kilkenny woman,
20 22 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren, followed the fortunes of her Kilkenny hurlers. One of
21 her grandsons played with Wicklow and the Éire Óg Greystones club with distinction. Thank
22 you Cathaoirleach.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Maybe we will stand then please.

24
25 (Minute's silence)

26
27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number one on the agenda is to consider the filling of the casual
28 vacancy arising from the election of former Cllr John Brady to the Dáil.

29 MS GALLAGHER: Cathaoirleach, I have a correspondence from James Carlton from the Sinn
30 Fein party confirming that Michael O'Connor has been selected by Sinn Fein to fill the vacancy
31 on Wicklow County Council. I also have a letter from Michael O'Connor confirming that he
32 accepts the nomination to fill the Sinn Fein seat held on Wicklow County Council arising from
33 the election of John Brady to Leinster House.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr O'Brien.

1 DIRECTOR O'BRIEN: It's my pleasant duty to propose the nomination of Michael O'Connor to
2 replace John Brady TD. Michael comes from a very respected republican family and like a lot of
3 people in Ireland he had to emigrate and spent a number of years in America where he went
4 through college and on coming back to Ireland, he started in the legal profession which he is
5 presently working in. I know Michael very well for a good few years now and I probably first
6 met him like a lot of people do when you are involved with political parties, you meet them on
7 the campaign trail when you are canvassing, a highly intelligent guy and a very, very strong
8 voice for all the people of Wicklow and I am absolutely certain that all the members here will
9 enjoy working with Michael. So it's my pleasant duty to propose him.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: A seconder then please.

11 Cllr SNELL: I'll second that proposal Cathaoirleach.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much. I am sure that's fine with everyone, no issues. I
13 just want to welcome Michael to the Chamber and would you take your seat please: Before we
14 go to item two on the agenda filling the vacancy arising from the election of former Councillor
15 Casey to Dáil Éireann.

16 MS GALLAGHER: Cathaoirleach, we have a letter from Sean Dooring General Secretary of the
17 Fianna Fáil party advising that the Fianna Fáil party has selected Gail Dunne to fill the vacancy
18 on Wicklow County Council created by the election of former Councillor Pat Casey to Dáil
19 Éireann. And also Cathaoirleach, we have a letter from Gail Dunne confirming that he consents
20 to the nomination by the Fianna Fáil party as a co-optee to Wicklow County Council to fill the
21 vacancy created by the election to Dáil Éireann of former Councillor Pat Casey.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I have a proposer for Gail Dunne please. Cllr Vance.

23 Cllr VANCE: Chairman could I formally propose Gail Dunne, I think he is well known to
24 everybody in this Chamber. I think he is well known to everybody certainly in Wicklow Town
25 anyway as a local man from Wicklow Town, stood for Fianna Fáil in the last elections, lost out
26 by only a few votes. Had been a member of the Wicklow Town Council from 2009 to 2014,
27 well respected public rep. Local GAA man as well. Very much involved in the GAA and a
28 great family man as well. I think he is going to add an awful lot to the Chamber's hard act to
29 follow in regard to coming in after Pat Casey, but I am sure and we are very confident that he
30 will do a great job and be a great asset to Wicklow County Council and I want to formally
31 propose Gail Dunne thank you.

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Secunder please.

33 Cllr DORAN: I would like to second that.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Everyone in agreement? Obviously Gail Dunne is no problems with Gail

1 so, look at, I would just like to go on and congratulate both people, Michael O'Connor and Gail
2 Dunne having been selected here today. (APPLAUSE) we will start with yourself Michael if
3 you would like to address the meeting,

4 Cllr O'CONNOR: Cathaoirleach and fellow Councillors, I would like to thank my proposer for
5 welcoming me here today and I would like to thank all the Sinn Fein Councillors for their words
6 of welcome and all the Council staff who I have met so far who have made me feel very
7 welcome here today. I intend to work as hard as I can for people in the Bray district and
8 Wicklow in general to try and improve matters for people in the county. I'll work with anybody
9 who agrees with the republican vision of the future. I'll do all I can to work with all members in
10 a practical and responsible way to try and improve things for the people of Wicklow. Thank you
11 very much.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Michael. (APPLAUSE)

13 Cllr DUNNE: Again I am very honoured to be nominated for the Fianna Fáil seat left by Deputy
14 Pat Casey. I would like to thank the people who nominated me, Cllr Vance and Cllr Walsh. I
15 look forward to working with the very experienced members of Wicklow County Council over
16 the next number of years and learning from them as well. And I am looking forward to working
17 with the officials as well. Thank you Chairman.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Gail. (APPLAUSE)

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: I don't see any other members who want to contribute. Cllr Fox.

20 Cllr FOX: Thanks Chairman. I would just like to welcome both of the new Councillors, both
21 Michael and Gail. I know Gail very well through the GAA. And is if he is half a good as
22 Councillor as he is at both playing and managing GAA teams, he will be a very fine Councillor
23 and also to Michael who is now the Bray district, like myself. As you said Chairman, they both
24 have hard acts to follow. And as last week we congratulated both Cllr Casey and Cllr Brady on
25 becoming members of the Dáil, but just to - on behalf of the group to welcome both members
26 and say that if we can assist either members in any way, any pragmatic way, our door is open,
27 thank you Chairman.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Winters.

29 Cllr WINTERS: Thanks Cathaoirleach, just on behalf of the Fine Gael group, just to welcome
30 both Michael and Gail. I wish them well in their endeavours, and say that I look forward to
31 working with them. I have worked with Gail before, he was on the Town Council with me in
32 Wicklow so it will be a pleasure to working with him again and I haven't met Michael before but
33 I look forward to working with him as well.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Fortune.

1 Cllr FORTUNE: Thanks Cathaoirleach. On behalf of the independent group, I would like to
2 also welcome Michael and Gail on board and wish them the very best in their time as councillors
3 in their districts. I don't know Michael and we will get to know him more over the coming
4 months.

5
6 I know Gail for a long time, obviously from the sporting circles and various things. I have no
7 doubt at all they'll do a super job on behalf of their respective parties and on behalf of the people.
8 Thanks very much.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Councillor. That seems to be it. If there is no-one else to speak,
10 we will move on to...

11 MS GALLAGHER: Just in relation to the committees, it would be normal that the elected
12 member would go on to the committees that have been held by the previous selected members,
13 so that would normally happen with the exception of the Chair of the Environmental
14 Development SPC and the Audit Committee, which will be coming back before the elected
15 members. Also at this stage I would like to get the agreement of the elected members, we are
16 planning to make a presentation to the five TDs of County Wicklow at the 4th April meeting so
17 there is a busy agenda and so we would like to start the meeting at 10.30 am on Monday 4th,
18 kicking off with the presentation of the five TDs, presentation of the Wicklow Economic Think
19 Tank followed by the presentation from the IDA. If I could get the agreement of the elected
20 members to that.

21 Cllr VANCE: Just a point of clarification there Chairman, the SPC, the vacancies and that type
22 of thing, would that not be coming on the agenda of this Council meeting? Next month. That's
23 fine, thank you.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

25 Cllr MITCHELL: There are some Corporate Policy Group meetings in the morning that will
26 have to be moved. If we are to hold a Council meeting.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: SPC is it?

28 Cllr MITCHELL: The SPC for water and environment - environment and roads.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: That's not until May.

30 Cllr MITCHELL: That's May, okay, right.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: All right. Just a third item on the agenda is a presentation from the
32 Wicklow Cheviot Sheep Owners responsible dog control. I think Mr Jim Fitzsimons secretary of
33 the Sheep Owners Association is going to address us. I also acknowledge the fact that Eithne
34 Fitzsimons, Assistant Secretary, Tommy Healy, Vice President, Pat Dunne, Treasurer and also

1 Chairman of the IFA National Hill Committee; and Brian Dunne co-ordinator of Wicklow
2 Uplands Town Council are here today as well.

3 MR FITZSIMONS: Some of you may have heard me talk at committees here previously, but I
4 would like to thank you very much for the opportunity to come and talk to you, and especially I
5 would like to thank Cllr Ruttle and Cllr Kennedy and Cllr Cullen for giving us the invitation to
6 come here today.

7
8 I am joined in the presentation by Pat Dunne, and there are some other people there in the public
9 gallery if you have any questions after the presentation. But I am going to talk a little bit about
10 the cost of sheep, the cost of dogs worrying sheep in the county, not only in terms of the cost of
11 sheep, but also the cost to the Council in terms of lost revenue. We are going to look at a couple
12 of case studies both in the county very recently and elsewhere. Then we are going to talk a little
13 bit about what we have been doing to try and solve this problem and what more we possibly
14 could do in the future to solve the problem.

15
16 The problem I have now is trying to figure out how to run this thing. We are there. We leave no
17 trace, a national body concerned with minimising the impact of leisure people on the uplands
18 talked about a couple of years ago, about there being approximately 2 million dogs in the
19 country of Ireland, of which there are only about 180,000 licensed in 2013. These figures were
20 gotten from the Department of the Environment. This gives us a revenue of about 3.6 million
21 against a potential revenue nationally of 40 million.

22
23 Nationally, in 2013, about 4,000 sheep were killed by dogs, these are figures gathered by the
24 IFA. And in terms of Wicklow alone, in 2013, there were about 800 sheep killed, an average of
25 11 per attack. This represents a cost of roughly 2,000 per farm, or roughly 800,000 in Ireland as
26 a whole.

27
28 We view this not only as a farm or welfare issue, we view it very much as an animal welfare
29 issue. I am going to go through a couple of case studies now. This appeared in the Sunday
30 Times about two years ago, concerning an attack in Co Dublin. How often are we having this
31 problem? In the county of Wicklow, we are having attacks per week. In February of this year,
32 15 sheep were killed, or approximately half a flock of Shane Langral in Roundwood. In
33 Rathvilly in Carlow last week, 30 sheep were killed. I have 20 there. That represents at least
34 6,000 costs to that farm. Alone in the UK last week, 116 animals were killed on one farm, the

1 largest ever sheep killing in the UK.

2
3 typically these photographs have all been taken in Wicklow and Dublin mountains. Typically
4 this is the kind of thing we are coming up against. And I am sorry that these are quite graphic,
5 but these are images that we are looking at every day of the week. This picture was taken two
6 weeks ago in Shane Langral's farm. As was that one. Believe it or not, a couple of hours before
7 that attack, that animal was a pregnant ewe. As was this one. This animal was almost blinded.

8
9 So what are we doing? Pat, do you want to speak now?

10 MR DUNNE: I suppose, what are we doing? we are trying to encourage as many people as
11 possible for to report. Wicklow Uplands Council have started an initiative in the past couple of
12 years trying to get people to report, because up until - I suppose a lot of people still think that
13 farmers and rightly think what the hell is the point in talking to the guards, what are they going
14 to do about it? There is nothing getting done and they think it's only a waste of time. The guard
15 might come out three or four days later, ask a few questions, gone, no more about it. What we
16 are trying to do is to encourage farmers, to report any sheep that's killed, any attacks; report them
17 to -- get a log made of it, make sure the statistics are there for people to see and -- because we
18 are very sure that's only anecdotal evidence, that's not really happening, people think. There is
19 all that sort of carry-on going on. I have to say very often, we feel we're being laughed at, we
20 are not taken seriously.

21
22 And I suppose that brings me on to what I want to talk about, is dogs going to the hills, hill
23 walkers. We have had huge problems in Wicklow down the years, and it got worse and worse
24 and worse. I am not here to blow my own trumpet, but I don't believe there is anyone in Ireland
25 who has done more for to try to foster good relations between hill walkers and upland farmers.

26
27 A number of years ago, I saw the potential for a huge clash where there was the potential that a
28 lot of the Wicklow Uplands would have been closed off, people wouldn't have been allowed
29 walk on them, and there would have been absolute war between walkers and landowners. And I
30 always tried to look at the overall picture and see the good that it was for the country in general,
31 for those walkers to be coming in. But unfortunately, I suppose just before I say unfortunately -
32 we got here in Wicklow, Wicklow Uplands Council, we started the agreed access routes, the first
33 of its kind in Ireland. There is one on my own place, one up on Sean Byrne's place up on Lough
34 Dan. From that the national walkway scheme happened which was a tremendous success for the

1 most part. It cost 2.8 million nationally, which was a bloody great investment, I think everyone
2 would have to realise. The whole tourist industry, the hill walking tourist industry in this
3 country is based on that sort of thing. But we have an awful amount of walkers who want to
4 bring their dogs to the hills. We at one time decided that everybody had to keep them on a lead.
5 But we discovered that that wasn't working.

6
7 We were told all sorts of things and we will keep him on a lead, do this, do that, do the other.
8 We wouldn't be halfway out the zig-zag beside Kelly's and they'd be off the lead. There is a lot
9 of sheep lost every year in Wicklow mountains by being frightened by dogs. They're not
10 documented because for the most part they're not saw until the wool is dragged around. It would
11 be very hard to put a figure on it, but I would say that we lose probably 15 to 20 sheep of our
12 own annually on the hill. Some of them hills have holes in them down in the ground. And the
13 dogs hunt them. Now the sheep then end up going down into the ground and die of the hunger
14 and can't get back up. Very often we have had people hearing bleating and pulling them out.

15
16 But I know - I was in this Chamber before, a couple of years ago, and Cara Doyle as she was
17 then, now Cara Heraghty, as she now, we made a presentation to some of the Council. What we
18 need is a bye-law introduced by Wicklow Uplands Council banning dogs off the open
19 mountains.

20
21 There is about 20,000 hectares of Coillte land in Wicklow. Coillte have an open forest policy
22 and surely people can bring their dogs for a walk in the forestry so long as they're kept under
23 what's known as effectual control. That wouldn't be too much to ask. The dog doesn't know
24 whether he is walking on top of Lugnaquilla or Avondale Forest Park. What difference is it to
25 him? So if we are good enough for to have the - leave the areas open for people to come and
26 walk the hills, surely they can be good enough to leave their dogs at home. We are sitting on a
27 time bomb. Because I know that there is huge frustration, and there is people - I said it at a joint
28 police committee meeting in Roundwood a couple of years ago, and I am even more convinced
29 now, that some Saturday or Sunday morning, some of these dogs will be dropped at the owner's
30 feet. Some of these people that are giving abuse, the owner won't take it from them and they'll
31 shoot the dog at the owner's feet and my God now then the shit will hit the fan and we want to go
32 and do something, get up and do something before that takes place. Like it's no good trying to
33 do it after it happens. You know it reminds me of dangerous drunks on the road. We point out
34 the danger of them, but nothing is done. Then a bad accident happens, somebody is badly

1 injured or even worse, maybe a fatality, and then all of a sudden, things are done. Why do we
2 have to wait for things like that to happen?

3
4 So I think, I am calling on Wicklow County Council to start the ball rolling and show nationally
5 that they're going to do something and take it serious and that we want bye-laws to ban these
6 dogs off of the hills altogether.

7
8 In recent years, we did a lot of work for to try and get young farmers back farming the hills and
9 there is incentives there at the moment. But they're not going to go back putting sheep on the
10 hills for people to come out and hunt them off with the dogs. It's as simple as that. Look at, I
11 am going to leave it, I'll hand you back to Jim.

12 MR FITZSIMONS: In terms of practical measures, we have been trying to encourage farmers to
13 report these incidences to the Gardaí, but there is a real lack of belief on the part of hill farmers
14 that people are listening to them and hence they're a bit reluctant to report it. We are working, or
15 we have been working with the Wicklow Uplands Council to pay for signage to increase
16 publicity, but most of all, we view this as an education issue.

17
18 When I was young, it was perfectly acceptable for me to go out, have a rake of pints and drive
19 home. It is no longer, my daughter is down in the back of this auditorium here, it is no longer
20 acceptable for her to do that for the simple reason that we have educated everybody as to the
21 detrimental results of drink driving.

22
23 We can do the same with irresponsible dog control in this county. Most dogs that we have
24 managed to capture, as it were, killing sheep in the county have been neighbours' dogs. This is
25 an issue of cruelty to dogs as well as cruelty to sheep.

26
27 This is a sample of signs we got manufactured and placed around the hills with the Wicklow
28 Uplands Council and the IFA over the last two or three years. We are still putting those up all
29 over the place. Now I am after losing -- we have generated this leaflet that you all have a copy
30 of today and we are currently trying to get that out to as many people as possible. Incidentally
31 we are sending more of those to environmental officers outside of the county than we are to
32 inside of the county here.

33
34 And again, we have had to strike a balance there between getting people aware of the impact of

1 this problem and ensuring that we don't put out too distasteful an image, but this is a distasteful
2 problem.

3
4 What more can we do? Obviously we can increase the frequency of reporting to the Gardaí.
5 Obviously, you yourselves can look at more effective enforcement of existing legislation. Who
6 is in charge of dog control in Wicklow? We believe there is a lot to be said for one group being
7 formed to look at the problem, that comprises landowners, police people, legislators such as
8 yourselves, and working out and obviously the WSPCA as well, better education. Through the
9 good efforts of Cllr Ruttle we are starting to speak to secondary schools and make presentations
10 like this. The first one of those we start in early April with the community college in
11 Blessington. I believe we are looking at the community college in Dunlavin after that and then
12 we will start looking at the other ones around the county. We strongly believe that better
13 education is the key and that's why we need your help. We are not in the game of coming here
14 and lambasting everybody for not getting things done. We strongly are of the belief that cross
15 community action will help solve the problem. This is an animal welfare issue, not only for the
16 dogs but also for the sheep, like drunk driving as I said earlier, we believe that we can solve this
17 problem. But it will take time.

18
19 One thing that you have in your control is more effective control of dog licensing. If you take it
20 that there is 100,000 dogs in Wicklow and there are at least that, at 20 euro a dog, that's 2 million
21 revenue that this county can generate from effective dog licensing, which can be ring-fenced or
22 even some of it ring-fenced to help control this problem.

23
24 We can target areas and have higher visibility especially with dog wardens, that money would
25 pay for a lot of dog wardens. Ban loose dogs walking, on the spot fines for loose or unlicensed
26 dogs. As you all know, all dogs from the 1st of April need to be micro-chipped and it's relatively
27 easily to effectively control dogs if we have plenty of readers for microchips. I think that's all I
28 have to say to you. Thank you very much for your time. But again, I keep harping on that this is
29 an education issue, we are not here - and we have made these presentations before and to some
30 extent we think we are hassling ye, but we are living with the problem every day of the blooming
31 week and I leave you with the thought of one farmer within ten or 15 miles of this Chamber
32 losing half of his sheep flock last week and that's one of the young farmers who is - has been
33 working part-time, is now working full-time that Pat Dunne referred to earlier. Thank you very
34 much.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much. (APPLAUSE) Cllr Ruttle.

2 Cllr RUTTLE: Thank you Jim and Pat for your presentation. We had this presentation before at
3 the SPC, and we decided it was a good idea to move it forward to the general Council. This is an
4 issue which in a particular county like Wicklow which is synonymous with the Cheviot sheep
5 and the mountain sheep, here it is one of our great assets in the agriculture sector which is under
6 threat and attack. I had an attack once upon a flock at home and it's a fairly horrific event to see
7 what can happen.

8
9 A number of weeks ago, in this Chamber, I brought a motion before the Council on the - looking
10 for an amendment to the legislation on this term effective control on dogs, i.e. effective control is
11 interpreted by some people as their voice, they can stop the dog. Our definition would be a lead
12 on the dog. We didn't get very good response from the Department on that, so we have to
13 re-enter that again, and through our Dáil representatives to get a stronger push on that. But
14 legislation is one thing, as Jim Fitzsimons said, education is another. A lot of people just drive
15 around and because they haven't any connection with the farming community, they wouldn't be
16 aware what could actually happen in the fields behind their house or on their road or anything,
17 but to see this is absolutely dreadful.

18
19 So education of the population on what can happen, getting out the information and working as
20 we are now through the schools as well, to get a general awareness of this, because as Jim said,
21 it's an economic issue to farmers, it's a cruelty issue to sheep. It's going to be a sort of an end of
22 life issue to dogs as well when they're caught, because the regulations and the rules are pretty
23 simple, if a dog is found on your land worrying sheep what can happen to him. So it all comes
24 to a bad end. There are issues there as well for us over the implementation of the dog licensing
25 programme. The figures are hugely - discrepancy there between the figures. We have heard
26 these figures before being raised by the Joint Policing Committee by again another member of
27 the association, Sean Malone, about the number of dogs that are out there and the number of
28 dogs that appear to be there officially. We have to make an extra drive on that.

29
30 I know we are short of staff. It does concern me that there is a perception out there that there is
31 no follow up on reported dog attacks, and certainly as Chairman of the JPC, I would be raising
32 and pursuing that, because if people feel that there is no follow-up to a complaint, it's very bad,
33 nothing generates that. Others don't report at all. As we said before, it's not all just deaths.
34 Sometimes sheep that are worried will never breed again. They're completely put off by the

1 stress and trauma. They don't have to be dead to be of no breeding value to you. Once they're
2 worried and attacked. It's not right that one section of the community would have to worry at
3 night thinking about are my sheep under attack? Mine were attacked in the daylight, so it does
4 happen then as well. Certainly at night time when you think how many dogs are roaming, we all
5 drive by villages and towns and see dogs touring around, but very close to all our villages and
6 towns, you have a big farming population. The sheep are there, Wicklow is the home of the
7 Cheviot, a breed we are rightly proud of as the best mountain breed in the country and we
8 shouldn't be subjecting them to attack. Anything we can do to alleviate that, by legislation,
9 implementation, compliance and an education process, we will certainly do it and I'll at all times
10 pursue that on behalf of the sheep owners and the people who try to make a living from this,
11 because it is their livelihood. And as Jim said earlier, a man lost half his flock. There is nothing
12 in that for him. Nothing. So I thank the men again for coming along and we won't let it rest
13 here, it will go further. Thank you.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Shay Cullen.

15 Cllr Shay CULLEN: Thanks Chairman. First of all I welcome Jim and Pat and thank you for an
16 excellent presentation. I suppose I would like to extend the welcome to all the farming people
17 that are here today in the public gallery. I suppose it just shows the seriousness of the situation
18 that this is, and how serious everyone is taking it in the farming community. I would like to pay
19 tribute also, something I have been involved with the environment section in particular, Helena
20 Dennehy has taken a keen interest in this issue over the last six to 12 months and it's something
21 we have been working closely with her on.

22
23 800 sheep a year in Wicklow being killed by dogs is a staggering amount of sheep. Not only is
24 there a cost implication to the farmer, there is a serious welfare implication to the animals.
25 Farmers by and large, really take their farming seriously, their animals are their livelihood, and
26 they really, really focus on making sure their animals are safe and well at all times.

27
28 I suppose the role of the farmers is to protect their flock but also to make sure that these
29 incidents are reported as quickly as possible. The ISPCA have a huge role here in as far as
30 they're the body that are employed by Wicklow County Council to oversee dog control, and from
31 what I can gather, the contract runs until 2017 with the ISPCA from Wicklow County Council
32 and I do believe it's something that needs to be looked at in the contract in general with maybe
33 reviewing how certain procedures are implemented.

1 The Gardaí have been helpful but as is stated earlier feel possibly that their hands are tied to a
2 certain extent with this issue. But they need to be kept informed at all times as well.

3
4 The public in general have a huge role to take responsibility for their dogs. And we talk about
5 education, but anybody that owns a dog should realise where that dog is at all times. And should
6 have an up-to-date licence and by the end of March this year, that dog should be micro-chipped.
7 The reports of attacks on sheep as I said earlier, they need to constantly be coming to Wicklow
8 County Council. I don't think it's too much to say that Wicklow County Council need this
9 information to pursue the issue.

10
11 Education of schools that Cllr Ruttle has mentioned earlier, education of the public in general; it
12 needs to be kept to the forefront at all times. Prosecutions where possible.

13
14 Now I know in the case of the kill in Roundwood recently, two dogs were dumped in the area.
15 When they were checked, they had no micro-chipping, so therefore it was very difficult to
16 pursue the situation. But prosecutions need to be brought forward as quickly as possible. As I
17 said earlier, dog licensing and micro-chipping are two major issues and so important that we
18 have control of this.

19
20 At the moment, we have two dog wardens within the county that are working standard hours.
21 And unfortunately when dog kills happen, it's not just in standard hours they happen. Again it's
22 something we have to look at having weekend patrols in areas, having dog wardens that are on
23 call, 24/7, seven days a week. So again there is an issue there with regards the funding and I
24 think it's something that this Council can have a look at in the near future. The Joint Policing
25 Committee was mentioned earlier. Constantly brought to their attention to this issue, and they
26 do provide assistance where possible.

27
28 The last thing I would like to say, the area of legislation as far as I am concerned is where this is
29 falling down. The legislation is not strong enough on dog control. We have two new sitting
30 TDs within the room here now, and I think it's something that they should look at also with the
31 other three TDs, to try and make sure that the legislation on dog control is strengthened as much
32 as possible.

33
34 And finally, we talked about financing. It's self financing this project, if we can get control of

1 the licensing of dogs and the micro-chipping of dogs. We can raise upwards of 2 million euro.
2 And it's something we are going to have to take serious. Once again, I would like to compliment
3 everybody involved here from the Cheviot Sheep Breeders Association, and it's something we
4 will keep on the agenda.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Kennedy followed by Cllr Fox.

6 Cllr KENNEDY: Thank you Cathaoirleach, again I want to thank the association for making the
7 presentation today and thank their families for taking their time off because it is the lambing
8 season now and to thank Jim Fitzsimons and Pat Dunne for making the presentation. I won't
9 hold you up too long because the other Councillors has already said what I wanted to say. I just
10 would like to say what Shane Langral experienced a number of weeks ago, many of us from the
11 rural area have experienced this in the past. One sheep killed is one too many.

12
13 But I would like to look at the whole thing of the contract. It's my understanding that the ISPCA
14 are awarded that contract through Wicklow County Council and following on what Cllr Cullen
15 said a minute ago, I think this contract should be looked at in the future. It should be five over
16 seven and not the standard working week. Because there is more dogs on the mountains and in
17 the rural areas on the weekends than there are on the five working days Monday to Friday.

18
19 I would also like the Cheviot Sheep Owners representation to have an input into that contract
20 when it is being reviewed and it's my understanding that that contract will be looked at in a
21 year's time, because the current one will be out then. I would like for some representative,
22 whether it be Jim or Pat Dunne or some other representative to have an input into that new
23 contract when it's being formulated thank you.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Fox.

25 Cllr FOX: Chairman, I'll be brief as well, I won't rehash what's already been said, but again to
26 thank Jim and Pat for the presentation and also to Cllr Ruttle, Councillor Shay Cullen and Cllr
27 Kennedy for putting this to the forefront, because if nothing else, highlighting it helps it - it tells
28 the public that they have to be responsible and the more publicity that this issue gets, the better.

29
30 But just - I won't go back on the issues, but we have to now concentrate on some solutions, so I
31 would like to get some comment from the environmental section here about the contract with the
32 ISPCA. Or the WSPCA as it is. Whether the contract is sufficient to deal with the problem in
33 regards to the number of dog wardens that are out there. Have we - can we potentially increase
34 revenue and have more dog wardens on the ground? Because to me, financially that's a

1 no-brainer, if the figures that's presented are even close to being correct.

2
3 And certainly there is a huge discrepancy in the number of dogs that are on the ground and the
4 number of dog licenses that are being issued. This problem is also - it's the same with the horse -
5 with horses as well. The microchip legislation is there, but it doesn't seem to be enforced in any
6 shape or form.

7
8 I know that Pat Dunne highlighted a problem in the uplands. Unfortunately this problem doesn't
9 just confine itself to the uplands. A lot of the kills are in farming areas that are close to urban
10 areas, and as Jim said, neighbours' dogs unfortunately are culprits. So the micro-chipping and
11 the licensing is a huge area. I would also ask that the SPC, Cllr Mitchell's SPC, would look at
12 the area of bye-laws, and if there are any practical bye-laws that we can put in place to help deal
13 with the problem that his SPC might place this on the agenda and come forward to the chamber
14 with practical steps to deal with the problem.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Walsh.

16 Cllr WALSH: Thanks Cathaoirleach and thanks to Jim and Pat for the presentation which is
17 really concerning to hear. The first point about farmers not reporting to Gardaí, I would
18 encourage that they do. It's important to have the record there if nothing else to back up the
19 complaints. I would say I can appreciate it's a particularly difficult situation for Gardaí to
20 investigate without evidence, but the other point there about the hill walkers and their
21 responsibility of hill walkers, we all know that hill walking is - for tourism potential, it's an
22 important activity for Wicklow as a tourism venue, so I think awareness there is key, and the
23 responsibility of hill walkers with their dogs. I would have thought just to comment to Cllr
24 Ruttle, I would have thought effectual control would mean being kept on a lead. I can't see any
25 other meaning from that. Again I agree with the role or the route to education; going into the
26 schools, talking again to create awareness. That's vital, but again it will take time for the
27 message to get out.

28
29 What's disturbing also Cathaoirleach is the fact that in some cases neighbours' dogs are involved
30 in this. Again that has its own irresponsibility and it's really not an acceptable - again the
31 increased role of the dog wardens has to be considered and I would certainly be in support of a
32 motion there in relation to creating a bye-law.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor O'Connor.

34 Cllr O'CONNOR: Thanks Cathaoirleach, during the recent election campaign, I met while

1 canvassing with John Brady a number of farmers in the area. The issue of control of dogs is
2 certainly taken very seriously by the farming community and so it should be. The difficulty is
3 some members of the dog owning community don't appear to take their responsibility as
4 seriously. I would like to thank the association for being here today. When a dog attacks a
5 sheep, it's an attack upon the livelihood of the farmer. This is not acceptable. Farmers have a
6 right to earn a livelihood without it being attacked by irresponsible dog owners. Sinn Fein will
7 always stand behind the farming community and their efforts to make a living. We will certainly
8 stand with the sheep owners and the work they're carrying out on this issue. We recognise there
9 is a balance to be sought between the right of the person to own a dog and the right of a farmer to
10 farm. A large part of achieving this balance lies with the dog owners themselves, who should
11 take more responsibility for their actions, and I think they will be inclined to take more
12 responsibility for their actions through the good work of the sheep owners and their educational
13 project. So thanks for attending today.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Councillor. Cllr Blake.

15 Cllr BLAKE: Thanks Chairman and thanks to the Pat and Jim for coming here today as well and
16 to the rest of the lads who have taken the time off on a very fine day just to come in here. It
17 emphasises how seriously they take this whole issue of the sheep kills taking place not just today
18 but over the last number of years.

19
20 As has been said there, Pat Dunne has come in here in the past, he said himself he was in here,
21 gave a presentation to the SPC about three years ago when he emphasised at that particular point
22 in time that he from his point of view, that he was one of the main people in County Wicklow
23 that's so fond of walking and encourages people to walk and walks in other counties as well he
24 said on that occasion. So he is an avid supporter of walking and he doesn't want anybody to stop
25 walking. That was his presentation here then. As Pat said himself, he has continuously
26 encouraged people to use the uplands, but to use it in a positive manner, in a respectable manner
27 as well. And certainly there was a lot of work done in a couple of years ago in that regard, with
28 the signage as Pat talked about there. We had an open day when some of the signs were put up,
29 and they have been effective. But how many signs he has to put up to tell people the dangers
30 that that lovely pet that they have can, in the wrong company, with the wrong dogs, can actually
31 become a very vicious dog very quickly in that regard. Look, questions have been asked there
32 with regards to what we can do. The educational aspect is important. That we go into the
33 schools and tell the children what the consequences of their little pet or whatever their parents'
34 dogs can do in that regard. But equally so, we do respect that people do have dogs, they love

1 them and want to go out there and have a walk as well. But there is lots of parts of the county
2 that people can walk their dogs, Coillte have a huge amount of lands in County Wicklow. There
3 is an area in the Wicklow Uplands that have farming and that are active farming and as Pat
4 Dunne said to us on that occasion as well, if the farmer stops actually farming that particular
5 section of land, it will actually go to no use in the future. So it's important to keep the farmers
6 active in that particular location as well. It benefits not alone the farmers but benefits the
7 landscape as well in that regard. Thanks for the presentation, and certainly some questions have
8 been asked there about what we need to do in terms, and advice in terms of banning the dogs
9 being loose on the hills, I think it's a question that we need to answer here as well and take on
10 board. Thanks for the presentation.

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Matthews.

12 Cllr MATTHEWS: Thank you Cathaoirleach. Thanks for the presentation to Jim and Pat. I
13 would be very supportive of hill walking in the county and the recreational aspect of that and the
14 financial benefits that that can accrue to the county. And we have been quite successful in
15 Wicklow and we are actively pursuing other walks at the moment. But that can only be done
16 with your co-operation and with the landowners, and it's a two way operation. The people who
17 are walking the land also need to have respect for the land as well. And for the farmers and for
18 their livelihoods. So I would just suggest with all the promotion that we do for hill walking, we
19 need to drive home the fact that you are walking, you are not always walking on public land, that
20 some of this is private land that you are walking on, that it's done in co-operation with farmers
21 and just to make people aware of that and in any promotion I'll be doing of hill walking, I'll
22 make it clear to people that you need to have respect for the adjoining land and people's land
23 they might be walking across. Thank you Chairman.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Tommy Cullen.

25 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Chairman, I want to congratulate the Cheviot Sheep Owners for their
26 presentation and for this leaflet and I actually think the Council should try and help this leaflet to
27 be circulated to every house in Wicklow, because I think this is a leaflet that needs to go through
28 the letter box of everyone's house. And to show the serious damage the dogs can do to livestock.
29 I think that we should try and get some measure to get this leaflet posted out to every household.
30 It wouldn't be that expensive. And I think it would be a great way to inform people of the
31 potential dangers of dogs.

32
33 I do think dogs can do terrible damage. And they can cause a lot of grief, and a lot of hard work
34 over winter and summer, it can be wasted in one night's carnage by two or three dogs. That's

1 totally unacceptable. I think there is something around 36,000 dog owners in Wicklow. 99.99%
2 of those dog owners are very responsible people. I think anyone who goes to the trouble of
3 getting their dog chipped by their very nature are responsible people, because they're putting
4 their identity on to the dog and therefore they're not trying to hide anything. It's the unchipped
5 dogs who can cause carnage, and there is no way a - the flock owner can get compensation. I
6 think we should try and get as many dogs chipped as possible.

7
8 One of the things and I see it's very good in this leaflet is explaining the dangers of dog fouling.
9 That's something that I have been arguing with this Council for a number of years, the dangers of
10 dog fouling on public roadways and land and the potential health hazard they have that has not
11 just to other animals but to human beings and particularly young children. I think we should
12 also emphasise an educational programme against dog fouling. There is legislation banning dog
13 fouling, and we have actually - there is posters outlining the breaches of the law. And I think the
14 Council should be more active in putting up more of those posters around the countryside. But I
15 do want to support my colleagues here in supporting sheep farmers and the way they have been
16 targeted by these dogs, these dogs who are out of control and I would say by feckless dog
17 owners who have no care for dog nor man. And they really shouldn't have dogs if they can't
18 control them. As Cllr Blake said, dogs give a great amount of love to people and people
19 appreciate dogs, and there is not a farmyard in this county that doesn't have two or three dogs.
20 And people, farmers love their dogs. People in urban areas love their dogs. And there is only a
21 very, very tiny minority of people who are not responsible and I think we should insist with the
22 guards that proper adherence to the chipping programme would be in place, but I would ask that
23 this leaflet, this excellent leaflet would be circulated to every house and school in Wicklow for
24 people to understand exactly the dangers of what's happening out there. Thank you Chairman.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Thornhill.

26 Cllr THORNHILL: Cathaoirleach, thank you. May I first of all thank Jim and Pat for giving us
27 an excellent presentation on this very important item. As Cllr Cullen just said there, everyone
28 loves their dogs, but I am sure if it goes wrong, they can cause devastation. But one key word
29 that I would just like to use in relation to the dogs would be consideration. Just going through
30 this leaflet here, and I can only speak from an urban setting, fouling by dog mess. People that
31 have dogs, they go out with their dogs, and they do their fouling, whichever, you know, and
32 some people clear up; but in a lot of cases people don't. But there lately, I have noticed a
33 situation where people go with their plastic bags and fair enough, they pick up the foul with the
34 plastic bag, but what do they do, they throw the plastic bags away?

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So I mean this is something we really have to emphasise to people that there should be a consideration because at the end of the day, that's what it's all about, consideration, and respect. And I think these people, and we work hard enough you know raising your flocks of sheep and which ever in the countryside and people should be made realise that when they do have animals, there is a responsibility on people to look after animals because they can cause devastation. So I mean, the best of luck and as Cllr Cullen said in relation to this leaflet, I think it should be spread - it should be sent to various people, you know, and maybe the veterinary organisation, and education is also a key word.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Snell and then the last speaker is Cllr Mitchell.

Cllr SNELL: Thanks to Jim and Pat for their presentation. As someone that served on the Joint Policing Committee for five years, I would also like to acknowledge in the Chambers Sean Malone's input. At every JPC meeting, he always raised this issue vigorously and made the farmers' viewpoint well known within the Chambers here. And Pat mentioned a Joint Policing Committee meeting that was held in Roundwood a number of years ago and I was in attendance at that where Pat did speak quite passionately as he did again today. And it seems to be unfortunately Cathaoirleach, it's only an issue that goes out to the wider public when something happens. And as we all know, it's been well documented there has been recent incidents. And the pictures don't make good viewing, but unfortunately that's the reality of what some farmers are waking up to after attacks by animals. But you know we must be very careful and clear in what we are saying here today, that it's a small minority of dog owners who are irresponsible. And I do agree that the only way to address this is through education. I know in regards to the uplands, signs have been put up, I know it's been raised at JPC meetings consistently, but I do believe there has to be a co-ordinated input from everybody, such as Macra, the IFA, the Irish Farmer's Association. Our SPC here, the relevant SPCs within the Council chambers and the joint policing committees. But crucial to all that, I believe is as you said yourself Jim, you are only starting on the trail of getting into schools, whether they be secondary schools or primary schools, I think it's imperative that you follow that and get to as many schools as possible. And the whole issue of this isn't just in regards to the uplands. It's a major issue in regards to urban areas too where over many, many years, we see farmers within close proximity to towns and villages, all over County Wicklow, at some stage or other have suffered the effects of dog attacks. But I would reiterate in regards to this chambers, that you know, it is a very, very few irresponsible dog owners. The vast, vast majority look after our animals, love their animals and are very responsible people. So as you say, the key is education. I thank the lads for their

1 presentation. I would hope that there would be a follow-up at some stage, I think this document
2 here, apart from the suggestion of going out to every house in County Wicklow, I think it should
3 be uploaded on to the Council's website, and perhaps there is another - a number of other
4 websites that you could follow suit there as well within your own organisations. But thanks for
5 the presentation again Jim.

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks. Cllr Mitchell.

7 Cllr MITCHELL: Thank you. Just as Chairman of the SPC, also as a keen hill walker myself,
8 we have discussed this before, and the Cheviot Sheep Owners did speak to me before about this
9 information, and it's - certainly a very serious situation as we have all said, and it seems to me
10 amazing that we only have quite a small percentage of dogs licensed. And I think this has got
11 worse over the years. There used to be a situation where most dogs were licensed, but we seem
12 to have an inability to enforce these dog licensing and other routine laws. I also know from
13 urban areas the issue of dog fouling is a major problem and it's also very difficult to identify the
14 owners of dogs where that occurs and prosecute them. I think we need some sort of national
15 change in legislation which would make that easier. I am not convinced that the chipping will
16 make it that much easier, I don't think it's connected to the licensing, but certainly I would hope
17 it would. But I am not certain that that's the case. So it is serious, and we can certainly have a
18 think again about it at the SPC. We did think before and didn't come up with any practical
19 bye-laws. We certainly need to assist with the education process for this Council and any other
20 ways which we can help minimise this in this sheep farming county should be done. Thanks.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you, just Cllr O'Neill and then Helena is going come in with
22 an update. Gerry.

23 Cllr O'NEILL: I just want to thank Pat and Jim for their presentation. And my real belief is I am
24 in the heart of West Wicklow there where this occurs regularly, but I think it goes down to
25 education and the lack of information. Schools is one thing but the general public, you meet so
26 many people and they're inclined to think their little pet of a dog will do no damage. But I seen
27 one case in nearby - from my own home there where a very small dog, not the size of a parrot,
28 ganged up with a few dogs, including dogs - including farmers dogs and went out and killed,
29 killed heavily one night you know. So I think there is a responsibility on all dog owners,
30 whether farmers or the people of the area, that the dogs once they get together, no matter how
31 small these animals are, they can corner and kill. They can lead the way so I think it's very
32 important, I think it's just important to educate the people.

33
34 I think really if dogs are let out without being on a lead, there should be some form of fine that

1 these people are fined. Apart from attacking sheep, it's not nice on a hill to be walking with
2 children and you find a dog chasing the kids or frightening children as well, where people are
3 inclined to think their little pet of a dog will do no damage. Again, I would support any effort
4 you make Jim on this one.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks very much. Just Helena is going to come in.

6 HELENA: Just Wicklow County Council, we continue to work with various different groups in
7 relation to dog control, and under the control of dog legislation. Most recently, we met with
8 representative groups of Wicklow IFA, the Cheviot Sheep Owners Association, the ISPCA, An
9 Garda Síochána, members of our own Wicklow County Council animal welfare committee and
10 some elected members here present.

11
12 Just the actions that actually came out of that, that we work together in relation to: Reporting,
13 from a reporting point of view, farmers are to put in a proper method of reporting of sheep
14 worrying. This was one of the main concerns that we as Wicklow County Council raised. In six
15 years, we received 244 dog type complaints. Five of those complaints were in relation to sheep
16 worrying so we are not hearing the information in relation to sheep worrying.

17
18 Just in other areas, from a reporting point of view, where there is sheep attacks reported to our
19 dog wardens, they'll increase their presence in that area, go out and look for whatever dogs are in
20 that area. Just an issue that was raised in relation to dog wardens working Monday to Friday
21 nine to five. They do actually work outside those hours and do work weekends as well when
22 required.

23
24 In relation to education, we agree that we would put together a programme so that's the ISPCA
25 education officers, together with Wicklow County Council environmental awareness officer,
26 they'll work together to develop an education programme to roll out to schools and again we will
27 link in with the Cheviot Sheep Owners Association as well in relation to that education.

28
29 We continue to monitor licenses. While we know not all dogs are licensed within the county, we
30 send out monthly reminders to all dog owners. At the moment, we have approximately 3,500
31 dogs licensed. We reckon that's about a third of the dogs in the county.

32
33 We also agree that the Gardaí and Wicklow County Council would continually do text alerts in
34 relation to sheep worrying, and also publicity articles in local press, and in our upcoming county

1 wise news letter. We continue to work with any members that come to us in relation to these
2 issues. Just a couple of questions that came up:

3
4 The contract is with the ISPCA, not the WSPCA. The posters and leaflets, etcetera, yes, I mean
5 if we can get copies of those, we will certainly arrange for them to be distributed. And again just
6 in relation to dog fouling and dog control, of the complaints as I mentioned, 244 complaints in
7 six years, most of those complaints are in relation to dog barking and dog fouling and we know
8 we have a lot of work to do on that area.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you want to come back in Mr Fitzsimons.

10 MR FITZSIMONS: I just want to thank the Councillors for giving us the opportunity to speak
11 with you today. We realise these things take time. It has taken us I think almost two and a half
12 to three years to get this address, and the discussion started with Cllr Fox when he was Chairman
13 some years ago, and you know the date of that better than I do.

14
15 We realise that we have things to do, particularly as Helena says in terms of increasing our
16 abilities and our wishes or not wishes as is currently to report dog incidences, and the best way
17 to get farmers to do that is if they see a response, they'll report these things.

18
19 This is the county that brought walkers and farmers, two diametrically opposed sections of the
20 community together through the auspices of the Wicklow Uplands Council many years ago and I
21 have no doubt that we can do the same with dog control. Despite all of the people I have spoken
22 to over the last five or six years on this issue and here today, I have yet to hear one person who
23 thinks it's a good idea for dogs to be worrying sheep. So I have no doubt that if we work across
24 community support and consensus building that we will be able to deal with this issue.

25
26 They say you should finish every presentation with a story and I am going to tell you a small
27 story now that concerns myself, and then I'll thank you very much for your time. A couple of
28 years ago, my wife and I decided to get a dog. So we went out to the Wicklow Society of
29 Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' pound and chose ourselves the timidest, loveliest dog, Cllr
30 Cullen talked about dogs giving a lot of love, and Cllr O'Neill talked about dogs - small dogs.
31 We got a small dog. He is the most lovable eejit of an animal you ever came across. But about
32 two weeks after we got him, we were all sitting out as you do of a summer's evening. This was
33 about August. And somebody said where's the dog. And I noticed the dog was intently peering
34 through a fence at my father's pedigree rams. About two seconds after that, he went through that

1 fence, went through that gate and started to chase those rams around the field. Now I am not as
2 you might have gathered, the most athletic of men but my family told me they never seen me
3 move as fast or jump as high as I did that evening and I did manage to get to the dog before the
4 dog managed to damage the sheep. The reason for telling you this story is if you saw that dog
5 today three years later, you would not believe that that dog would be capable of worrying sheep.
6 Yet I left him out yesterday walking the new greenway in Blessington and I had to put that dog
7 back on a lead, because I could not be sure that he wouldn't go after sheep. So all our dogs can
8 do this. Irrespective of whether they're small or lovable, as your Councillors have said today.
9 That's the end of my story, thank you very much for listening to us. (APPLAUSE)

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I just thank Mr Fitzsimons and Mr Dunne for their presentation and
11 everyone else that came here today. Certainly I come from an urban area, but I see plenty of
12 dogs around the area, but my son lives in rural Carlow and I am well aware from him of the
13 difficulties being experienced by sheep farmers in the area, so certainly I think more needs to be
14 done and I think we are going to distribute that leaflet. We are going to liaise with yourselves
15 and distribute and thanks very much for coming here today.

16
17 Members, when you are ready we will go ahead with the meeting there because we have a fair
18 lot to get through. Cllr Ruttle, take your seat there please, will you.

19
20 Just item four on the agenda, excuse me, item four on the agenda, to note the LCDC Local
21 Community Development Committee Annual Report, 2015, a copy has been previously
22 circulated. Any questions? No issues?

23 Cllr BLAKE: I would just like...

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yeah, go ahead.

25 Cllr BLAKE: Just an update in regards the level of communication with the Wicklow County
26 Partnership is the group that they would be obviously being involved in, in terms of the
27 implementation of the next programme. So just maybe whatever update in terms of when that
28 programme is likely to commence, or do we have any information on it, thanks Chairman.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Any other issues? Michael.

30 Director NICHOLSON: Thank you Cathaoirleach, yes, the local development strategy which we
31 have to prepare under the lead board which was approved last week by the Department is pleased
32 to be able to report that we were the first tranche of a -- they approved seven last week and we
33 were the first tranche, so we will be able to accept application of the leader in 2016. It's a five
34 million programme for over five years, it's roughly a million per year, excluding the

1 administration costs, and we have written a programme, it's very thematic, so looking at the
2 various themes of the programme and making the applications accordingly. So we will go live
3 next year. That's good news.

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. No-one else, we will move on to item five. Thanks Michael.
5 To consider proposed amendment to standing orders. One land disposals, notification of
6 members, under section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, deferred from the previous
7 meeting.

8 MS GALLAGHER: Just to say that this went back to the Protocol Committee and it was
9 considered again in the first of February having been deferred from the meeting of 11th of
10 January. And the concern was that questions or queries may not be permitted to be raised at the
11 Council meeting on the Monday. But the new protocol wouldn't preclude the raising of
12 questions or queries at the meeting which the disposal of notices is to be considered. It's merely
13 to simply try and get questions or queries emailed in on the Thursday preceding the Council
14 meeting.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Any comments on that? We have an amendment actually.

16 MS GALLAGHER: It's a proposal from Cllr Whitmore that a subcommittee be established to
17 review the process by which land disposals are conducted, this should include but not limited to
18 the valuation of land, the information provided to Councillors and the rationale benefited from
19 the disposal.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Whitmore.

21 Cllr WHITMORE: When the issue of the land disposals first came up in September, October of
22 last year, and it was agreed that it go back to the Protocol Committee to look at the timing of it,
23 at that time I made the point and others on the Council made the point that really we should be
24 looking at disposals and actually reviewing them in a broader sense. So it's not just the timing
25 matters. But it's how we are actually disposing, the process by which we are disposing, the
26 information that Councillors are given. As a first time Councillor, I can put my hand on my
27 heart and say there is many land disposals that go through this Council that I am not 100% au
28 fait with and I think that would probably apply to a lot of Councillors here. Just looking at those
29 issues and making sure that each and every one of us know why we are actually disposing of this
30 land, and what it means for us as a Council in the short-term, but also in the long-term.

31
32 I know many incidences they are very small lots of land that you might think well look at, they're
33 not that critical or important, but if you look at other major towns, and we at some stage in the
34 future will have major towns within our Council area, these small little lots of land beside a

1 terrace of houses or whatever, become recreational places, you might put a bench there or a
2 small playground. In the future they may actually be quite important resources for our large
3 towns and the people who live there.

4
5 There is also another issue and this really it came out of the transfer of land for the Greystones
6 Harbour. Now I don't want to get into the where for and of all that because I made quite a few
7 comments at the time, but what happened with that transfer was that the land was transferred and
8 then a number of years, I think it could have been seven or eight years later, the Council was
9 actually asked to sign off on the disposal notice. So I think as a Council, we need to make sure
10 that that doesn't happen again. We all have a legal responsibility for these disposal notices and
11 really the Council in my opinion should not be entering contracts or leases without having
12 undergone that responsibility and making sure that the Councillors are aware and have voted
13 accordingly. That could be something as simple as if we are entering a contract as a Council that
14 we put in that this contract is subject to the disposal notice being approved by the full Council.
15 So it's bringing all those small procedural things into play and making sure that we are all aware,
16 familiar, and we are all okay with the lands that we are disposing of. We need to make it - we
17 need to improve the process and make it more transparent, and I suppose for my part, what I
18 don't want to happen is that in ten years time there is a group of Councillors sitting around this
19 table and they're being told well actually in 2014 a group of Councillors approved this and so
20 you have to go ahead and do it or else the Council is going to be up for legal costs. I don't want
21 that to come back on me, I want to know if something I am signing off on I am signing off on for
22 the right reason. That's why I am putting forward this proposal. It's probably something we
23 should be doing as a Council with a lot of our policies and obligations is reviewing it and
24 making sure it's as good and transparent and robust as possible and so I hope that my fellow
25 Councillors will support me on that.

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Behan.

27 Cllr BEHAN: Well a lot of what Cllr Whitmore has said I would agree with. I am not
28 necessarily supportive of the idea of setting up a subcommittee, because members of the Council
29 have statutory rights in relation to the disposal of public property, and it's one of the few rights
30 that we actually still have managed to hold on to as public representatives. And setting up ad
31 hoc subcommittees to look at that in some way might in fact I suppose reduce or certainly
32 confuse the issue with regard to where the rights of members actually lie. It has always struck
33 me as being bizarre that in the law of the land Council officials can actually go out and buy
34 whatever they want in terms of once there is money in the budget for it. They don't have to get

1 the approval of the Councillors, but they do have to get approval of Councillors for the sale of
2 public property. And there are obviously good reasons why we have to get statutory notices,
3 advising that it is intended to sell property, and there are obviously good reasons why it can only
4 be done at a public Council meeting, because it is public property that we are selling.

5
6 So I don't want to see anything that would in any way interfere with our rights and I accept what
7 Lorraine has said that this is not intended to do that. I therefore don't really see the need to
8 change matters. I think we should hold on to the statutory rights that we have got. As I say we
9 have very few left at this stage.

10
11 On the second point about the order of debate, are we coming back to that as a separate issue.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: The second one yeah.

13 Cllr BEHAN: Are you going to wait and do number one first

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: I think we will do number one first.

15 Cllr BEHAN: Okay thank you.

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Fortune.

17 Cllr FORTUNE: Yeah, obviously this particular item, it goes back to October of last year, and it
18 has been - we know it's been to protocol, but we had a meeting of our independent group and all
19 the members were - came to the same consensus having discussed it, and the proposal that Cllr
20 Whitmore has put forward, I would like to formally second it. That's the view of the
21 independent group. And - because I think the view was it's very, very important whether we are
22 disposing of land or dealing with leases, or whatever we are dealing with, it just needs to be
23 absolutely clear to everybody what's going on, and the fact that there may be a lack of clarity in
24 any member's head, I think justifies having the thing reviewed. And I take Cllr Behan's point.
25 But even if a sub group did look at it, it would have to come back here to the main chamber
26 anyway to be ratified. So that might maybe deal with what Cllr Behan is talking about. As I
27 say, I just want to - we had a very full discussion on it ourselves, and I want to formally second
28 what Cllr Whitmore has proposed.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Councillor. Cllr Fox.

30 Cllr FOX: Thanks Chairman, well I first brought this up following a disposal in Baltinglass of a
31 Council house property where issues were raised on the day and there was nobody even from the
32 housing section present at the meeting on the day. And I just thought that the whole procedure of
33 land disposals needed to be reviewed and therefore I brought it to the Corporate Policy Group
34 and it subsequently came on. Because I for one, I wouldn't be satisfied with the current

1 arrangement. As Cllr Whitmore has said, I think there is a lack of detail or a lack of background.
2 Now I know all Councillors can go into the offices and inquire about the disposals, because they
3 get ample amount of notice and time.

4
5 However when issues are raised on the day of the meeting, and then it becomes unclear in your
6 mind, and you have to vote on that matter pretty much straight away, that's where I feel there is a
7 difficulty.

8
9 And I feel that there has to be a better way of doing it. I think a background on the disposal is
10 key. There are backgrounds on some of them and there are no backgrounds on other ones. Like
11 Cllr Behan, I find it bizarre that we are not - we don't have any input into acquisitions, yet we do
12 on disposals. But I would support the thrust of the motion. However I do feel the Protocol
13 Committee is there already, so it's representative of all the groups in the Chamber, so why not
14 just - I am unclear about what's coming back from protocol? There doesn't seem to be anything
15 coming back from protocol. It's gone to protocol twice. But I certainly am unhappy with the
16 current arrangement of disposals. So in that light, I would support Cllr Whitmore's motion.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: The Protocol Committee considered this matter and came back with this
18 proposal, that's what's came back from protocol, "Questions or queries in relation to notices
19 circulated should be circulated ...(Reading)... Thursday proceeding the Council meeting."

20 Cllr FOX: That's what it was before, there is no change then.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: That was the recommendation we got back, that was referred to the
22 Protocol Committee from the Council meeting.

23 MS GALLAGHER: It doesn't deter elected members raising queries on the day.

24 Cllr FOX: That's my query, when queries are raised on the day and you have to...

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Why would somebody raise a query on the day if they get four days
26 notice of it? You get notice on the Thursday.

27 MS GALLAGHER: They might learn of some issues maybe over the weekend.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: So effectively if you hear something an hour before the meeting, you are
29 looking for clarification, it's going to be difficult to get the clarification at that stage.

30 Cllr FOX: You have to be fair to the officials too.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: That's the point I am making, where do you stop at it though?

32 Cllr FOX: I think we need a new process of doing it.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: I don't know. There is a few more speakers here anyway. Cllr Blake.

34 Cllr BLAKE: Thanks Chairman. I don't have a copy of Cllr Whitmore's proposal, it is up there?

1 That's fair enough. This is only one small step in actually addressing what Cllr Whitmore wants
2 to do. This is only one step in that direction. I don't have any problem in taking further steps
3 that people can get further information or more information out there in regards what we are
4 doing in terms of disposal. We have seen here in the past where we have actually put forward
5 disposal notices here, six months later they were probably thrown up, they were never followed
6 through by the actual purchaser or whatever else of the particular land or site or whatever it was
7 that was available at that particular point in time. There is a need out there for additional
8 information. I like Cllr Fox said there, I have in the past went and found information regards
9 some disposal notices that I didn't feel I had sufficient information on them. So the structure is
10 there for people to go and get further information with regards to it, as I said to you, what's in
11 front of us here today is only one small step in addressing probably what Cllr Whitmore wants to
12 do, take it a step further in terms of further information that down the line in ten years time or
13 whatever else, we don't leave somebody else here with a quandary or problem into the future.
14 What's in front of us today, I propose what's in front of us today and that probably addresses
15 with Cllr Fox is talking about there. I propose what's there today and as I said it's only one small
16 step in that direction of addressing what Cllr Whitmore actually wants to do.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Winters.

18 Cllr WINTERS: Thanks Cathaoirleach. I agree with Cllr Whitmore, and I do think that
19 sometimes we do need more information. I know that we have sat here and people have said
20 well I heard at the weekend and whatever, and it was I think myself and Cllr Fox who sent it to
21 the Protocol Committee, so for them to come back with what we sent over to them kind of makes
22 you wonder what's going on. I do believe that we should have more information. However, the
23 disposal of an asset to me isn't our biggest problem, it's always the purchase of an asset, and
24 that's where and unfortunately our TDs have left, the Chamber, but that's - and they have direct
25 experience of it from being here. It is the purchase of an asset that lies with the executive and
26 we have no say and yet that is the purchase and the use of public money, and that's where we
27 need the legislation changed and that is something that we, as a Council, should be submitting to
28 - well to all of the parties and particularly now when they're looking at Dáil reform and the
29 formation of a new Government, maybe it's one of the things that they could bring in there, is
30 actual real control back to the local authorities and the members, and have proper Local
31 Government where the actual members have a real say in the things that matter, and that is the
32 purchase of an asset, not just the disposal of an asset, but I do support Cllr Whitmore's motion
33 today.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Vance.

1 Cllr VANCE: Chairman I thought the Councillors made the policy of this Council and the
2 officials carry out that policy. So if the Councillors make the policy, then the officials have to
3 carry out that policy which is the purchase of land. They can't just go out and purchase land
4 willy-nilly, it has to be for some reason. And some reason is because the adoption of policy that
5 members of this Council have instructed them to do so. And any particular land that I am aware
6 of that the Council have purchased in the last number of years is on behalf of Councillors
7 making that decision whether they wanted land for housing, whether it was required for roads or
8 various things like that. So it's a fallacy to say about purchase of land. It's the Councillors'
9 responsibility to make the policy. It's the Council officials' to go out and carry out that policy.
10

11 In regard to this, I mean I am here a long time, gone through an awful lot of disposals, this only
12 arose in the last while back, this big problem. And really and truly, the protocol I think proposed
13 that - I mean as far as I am concerned, I'll give any information people want on any disposal,
14 they should be entitled to every bit of information if it is out there, but the fact of the matter is
15 that there is some very small piece of land because of the very nature and because of the
16 statutory process you have to go through a process which may only be a little corner of 20 square
17 feet or something like that and really and truly if you start getting all sorts of reports and various
18 things on it, it costs a fortune as well as everything else and who is going to pay for this as well?
19 I mean you get into a ridiculous situation. I mean the idea was that people would get the
20 disposal notices -- give them a little bit more time to have a look at them and any time that I have
21 had a query and I haven't had a query on too many of them, but any time I have had a query, I
22 have been able to go and get the information off the officials in regard to any particular problem
23 that I may have had at that particular stage. Really that's what it's about. Nobody is trying to
24 stifle anyone with any information. Most Councillors want people to have the full information
25 before they make any decisions disposal, but most disposals are of a very minor variety as far as
26 I am concerned. And really and truly like that, and the reason being was that the people asked
27 for questions to come in on the few days beforehand, to allow the official figures to properly
28 assess what the particular question was. And there was a problem that arose that somebody
29 brought up at the meeting, but what if somebody brings up something on the day? The majority
30 of members felt that's okay as well. You know what I mean. But really and truly you can't have
31 a situation where you are giving people an awful lot more time to have a look at the whole
32 disposal and then saying they can come in and make a last minute suggestion.
33

34 This arose because of - we didn't have the full information on a house that was supposed to be

1 sold or was sold, proposed for sale in West Wicklow as far as I can remember. And we didn't
2 have. And then certainly after that meeting, a lot of members were brought up on information
3 that might have been very valuable to us in making that particular decision. So I mean I am just
4 saying to you - but that's only one incident that has arisen that I am aware of -- in all the
5 hundreds, maybe thousands of disposals that's going on down through the years.

6
7 Could I just mention to Councillors here as well: There is another issue in this as well and that's
8 people often when they die, they leave property and land and various things like that. People
9 can't bequeath land to their children who are trying to clean up the titles and various things like
10 that. Other people are buying land, other people are selling land, Council land as well. And that
11 all depends on the disposals going through the Council. And if it's not done, that month,
12 effectively you can put that back for a month for people who are waiting on a disposal for a very
13 simple type of thing, a disposal of property and various things like that. I have had situations
14 where people have been waiting and the only last piece of paper they've been waiting on was a
15 disposal by Wicklow County Council. So people have to think of that as well. So it's just to get
16 everything right and provide all the type of services that the members need. But I just want
17 members to be aware of that. I am not aware of anything that's going on that shouldn't be going
18 on, but if people want to go down the road of more investigation and everything else, then you
19 are going to have the situation where people will be knocking at your door saying how come it's
20 taking me two or three months just to get a letter from the Council in regards to disposal.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Tommy Cullen.

22 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Chairman, I am inclined to agree with Councillor Behan. There is a
23 statutory regulation in the Oireachtas with regards to disposal. Section 183. It's quite black and
24 white. It covers a whole range of issues of disposals, leases, transfers, rights of way, it has to
25 come before the Council for a Notice of Disposal. And there is no if, buts and maybes about it.

26
27 What's been proposed is to in effect curtail the ten days period that the Oireachtas lays out to five
28 and a half days. Maybe you could stretch it to six days. But it's still taking away 40% of the
29 time where Councillors can raise queries. Now this proposal seems to be six of one and half a
30 dozen of the other. It says on one hand that a Councillor would have to make his written, or her,
31 written submissions before 5pm on a Thursday. And then it says, but Councillors then can raise
32 questions on the Monday. But then you hear speakers speaking who are on the Protocol
33 Committee and that doesn't seem to be as clear. But the legislation lays out quite specific that
34 Councillors have to have ten clear days. This amendment will effectively curtail that ten clear

1 days to about five and a half days, or six days at tops. That's running against the legislation.
2 And I think we would be the only county, County Council in Ireland, to amend standing orders
3 in this way. I think no other County Council, and I am open to correction, but would change
4 standing orders. It's a big thing to change standing orders. Everybody - that's why you have to
5 have two thirds of a majority. It's very easy for people who want to please the officials and seem
6 to be good little boys or girls to say yeah, yeah, we will vote for that. But people should think
7 behind their vote, and the consequences. It's not without accident that the Oireachtas in their
8 wisdom has enshrined a Section 183 up to 2000 and then re-included it in the 2000 Local
9 Government Act again. The Oireachtas have been very defined of the importance of this role.
10 It's as Cllr Behan said, one of the important reserve functions left to Councillors. And I don't
11 think this Councillor should be diminishing their responsibility by this.

12
13 Now Cllr Winters' proposal about a committee, one of the problems that I find why questions
14 arise is the lack of information in the initial documentation sent out to Councillors. For instance,
15 we never see valuations. Where's the valuation documents? We never see the valuation
16 documents. We never see a - the more detailed history, we get one line property acquired from,
17 or then in lots of the cases, it's unknown. So we get maybe a two page document. In a lot of
18 cases, there is not even a map attached. So the documents, I think a lot of the problems arise in
19 the first instance with the lack of documentation accompanying the notice, the original Notice of
20 Disposal. And I think if a committee or whatever was to look at improving the amount of
21 information supplied to Councillors in the first instance, that would alleviate a lot of the
22 questions, because 99.9% of them are mundane, middle disposals, and - but it's just that I think
23 we need more information; I think there should be some reassessment of the amount of
24 information supplied to Councillors in the initial documentation sent out to Councillors in that
25 ten-day period, for the Councillors to consider and I would suggest that that would do away with
26 most, most of the questions that would need to be answered here Chair.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: I presume we are still getting ten days notice, there is no difference in
28 that.

29 MS GALLAGHER: And everything that's required to be statutorily circulated is circulated.
30 That doesn't change.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Snell.

32 Cllr SNELL: Thanks Cathaoirleach, again this was referred to protocol on two occasions, and it
33 has been assessed by the Protocol Committee. The recommendation is what's in front of
34 everyone here today. And it's not to finish anyone's entitlement or their statutory obligation in

1 carrying out their work as a public representative. The whole idea of this was that there seemed
2 to have been a misunderstanding here at a previous meeting that the ten-days statutory notice
3 was being affected or altered. It's quite clear to me anyway and I hope everyone else in the
4 Chambers, that that in fact is not being altered. It has been clarified by yourself Cathaoirleach
5 and the administrator that we cannot change that, irrespective even if we wanted to. We still are
6 entitled to our ten days.

7
8 The fact is that there isn't enough information coming out. And that's why the members here
9 insisted on maps with every disposal order, and if there is anything else that's needed, such as
10 valuations, etcetera, perhaps it should be referred to protocol, as every member of this chambers
11 represented at protocol in some shape or form.

12
13 In regards to the idea of having the information in by 5pm on the Thursday evening to give the
14 staff a chance to address any issues that people may have. And in the off-chance that people
15 were not familiar or may be had come to information after 5pm on Thursday, they may have
16 come to some information that may affect the disposal order over the weekend for example.
17 You are not going to get staff on a Saturday or Sunday irrespective. So therefore you would
18 only have a short period of time on a Monday morning to deal with staff. So therefore you could
19 bring it up in the Chambers, so no-one's rights in regards of raising a concern or an issue was
20 diminished in any shape or form by the wording on this.

21
22 I do think that a lot has been made of it. I have a huge amount of disposal orders. I keep every
23 single one of them from my time in this chambers, and I never found an issue in it in regards of
24 the information. I could come in here at any given time and discuss it with staff members and
25 get all the logistical information that they have to hand. And I do believe that it's probably being
26 blown out of all proportion. Nobody's rights to anything is being diminished and as I say I just
27 feel if they want to send something back to protocol again, I don't see the point in setting up a
28 subcommittee. I would agree with Cllr Behan in that regard. I would find it probably
29 unnecessary to say the least.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Councillor. Cllr Timmins.

31 Cllr TIMMINS: Just briefly, I am glad the next item is coming up on three minutes talking time.
32 We spend so much time here talking about things and waffling and repeating ourselves it's just
33 incredible. We should just adopt this amendment. It's fairly straightforward. In my time in the
34 Council if anyone has an issue with a disposal, they can ask for it to be postponed to the next

1 meeting and that's happened a number of times and we have got full information. Yes of course
2 we would like more information. I would like to see that improved. Some of the information
3 has been sparse over the years, especially that disposal that Cllr Fox spoke about in Baltinglass a
4 year and a half ago. It is better that we get all the information up front and I have no problem
5 with that, we have seven days to address our queries back to the Council officials. Thursday
6 5pm seems fine by me. I have no complaint with that. I am happy to support this. I just ask that
7 we move things on and don't go around the houses like this, it's just nuts.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Whitmore again.

9 Cllr WHITMORE: I won't be going around the houses now very shortly. I think - my issue and
10 the reason I propose that a subcommittee be set up, it's not the - the issue of disposal, it's not
11 about the time limits, it's not about the information. It's a very broad issue of how as a Council
12 we dispose, why we dispose of lands, and what are the reasons behind it? What's the public
13 value when we dispose of land? What is the public value that comes from that disposal? So it's
14 a much broader policy issue I think we need to tie down. I don't know whether there is a Council
15 policy on this already, so for example when someone comes in to the Council and says well
16 there is a block of land beside me, I think I have a right to it or whatever, I would like to
17 purchase it, how do we make that decision? I would be very interested in knowing if that was
18 the case.

19
20 I suppose this all came out of the fact that when the land at Greystones Harbour was signed over
21 in a contract to a developer, that seven or eight years later, we were told at a meeting that we had
22 to dispose of it, that we had no choice. And that if we did not dispose of it, that we were opening
23 up the Council to huge legal costs, now I don't want to do that, I don't want the people of this
24 county to have to pay cost to a developer because we refused to sign over, but I don't want that to
25 happen again. You know I don't want the Council to enter into contracts or leases which means
26 that we have to sign off and sign over on land. And that's - I suppose one of the primary things
27 that I would like, this subcommittee or I am happy for it to go to protocols, if any people who
28 have issues about it can send in specific questions and get protocol to address each and every one
29 of those questions, I am perfectly happy. The reason I said a subcommittee, I think this is quite a
30 bit of work. I think we should look at other councils how they do it. I think we should be
31 looking through all the discussions that we have had over the past two years in this Council,
32 there has been many discussions about disposal notices and seeing were there gaps in what we
33 do and addressing them and making sure that we don't actually make those mistakes again.

1 I do believe the handing over of the land at Greystones Harbour that had originally been
2 designed as a public park, that was a mistake and I really don't want to see that happening again.

3
4 So it's not just about the timing, it's not just about the information, and I am sorry but I do
5 believe that our rights have been diminished because as a Councillor one of my rights is that I
6 am responsible for the signing over of this land and to have an official tell me that I had to do it
7 or else be opening up the Council to legal action, that I do feel in that instance that my rights
8 were diminished and I was not able to represent my constituents fully in that case. So I'll just
9 close on that then.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Matthews.

11 Cllr MATTHEWS: Thank you Chairman. Chairman, I think we are probably looking at two
12 different proposals here. And I sit on the Protocol Committee and Cllr Snell and Cllr Vance
13 have outlined what we discussed at that. And we discussed it at length at two different meetings
14 and this is what we came up with. It doesn't in any way undermine the statutory rights of any
15 Councillor. We were trying to make the process where you could put in your observations or
16 questions and submit them in a timely manner to give the officials time to respond to it, so you
17 are getting value out of it and you are not trying to put officials on the spot unless that's your
18 intention. But I think that's the proposal that I can accept that one, and I think we should go
19 along with that. I don't know if it's been proposed and seconded. The proposal from Cllr
20 Whitmore has merit as well, but I think they're separate.

21
22 Some of the disposal notices that come out to us in the past were short on information. Some of
23 them didn't have maps, just had folio numbers on it and I can't go off and look up a folio, I don't
24 have the time to go and do that, so I am left looking purely at text on land in areas that I may not
25 be familiar with and I don't know what's around them and it's very hard to make a judgment on
26 that. I think we agreed that every disposal notice would have a good clear map contained in it as
27 well. The valuation on it as well, sometimes it's not just a monetary value. These pieces of land
28 can have a community value as well that's very hard to put a monetary value on. Sometimes
29 these bits of land can be within the town, sometimes they can be the edge of a bit of land that be
30 acquired for a motorway widening. They're different pieces of land and can have different
31 values. I think more information on that should be clear.

32
33 The background on it and the reasons for disposal as well, in some cases I would like more
34 information on that. But the point I would make is that a disposal notice comes before us, and

1 within ten days we make a decision on it, but the conveyancy of land and property takes a lot
2 longer than ten days, so there must be a period of three or four months where the initial approach
3 has been made by somebody who wishes to purchase this land, that the valuation is carried out.
4 If there was some process where we could be informed along the way, these approaches have
5 been made, I think you would get a lot less questioning and a lot less opposition maybe to these
6 land deals where we are kept informed along the way that we have had an approach from
7 somebody who is looking to purchase this piece of land. I don't know what process we could do
8 that by, but I think it's worthwhile so we are not making a judgment within ten days on whether
9 we should sell this land or not and what value and what the implications might have in selling
10 this land for a project down the road.

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mitchell.

12 Cllr MITCHELL: Thank you, there are quite a lot of small, very small parts of land which are
13 sold to people, people's - often in Council houses which they've purchased where it needs to
14 complete the site and other things. I really don't think we need a long explanation in those many
15 cases, it would be quite a bit of work and those are small items. But just say, the Greystones
16 Harbour disposal has been mentioned four times at this meeting. Now this is something which
17 has been subject to immense discussion over ten years. And there has been at least four,
18 probably six decisions by this Council to proceed in principle with this, and each time a decision
19 is taken, you make the general decision that you will go ahead along these lines and it gets
20 refined as you go down through each stage of what's probably a 15-year project. So it's quite
21 different from another type project which we don't know much about it. This has been the
22 subject of immense debate, immense. And so there is no mystery about it when it was entered
23 into, it was a decision which the Council refined as the project went onwards. And this was
24 another stage in it. And so I don't see that this would be any different in a major project like this,
25 where there has been plenty of discussion.

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, I think the last, Cllr Walsh.

27 Cllr WALSH: Thanks Cathaoirleach, the proposal before us got an airing on two occasions at
28 the Protocol Committee, maybe it would be a help as previously suggested that a brief
29 background could be attached to future disposals and in relation to the Greystones Harbour, my
30 understanding was that had to go through a planning process, the land was reduced from 15.1
31 acres to 14.6. It had to go through a planning process, went on public display and was ultimately
32 approved by An Bord Pleanala, so at the time it wasn't an option for us to revisit that situation.
33 Thank you.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: I think we have gone through a lot here. We are just on - sorry, sorry I

1 didn't see you there.

2 Cllr FORTUNE: Just a point of clarification, to be fair, what Cllr Whitmore has put forward was
3 discussed very fully at our meeting before we came into the Chamber. And to have it all now
4 falling down, it isn't about Greystones Harbour at all, so that isn't the issue at all. It's much
5 broader than that. And what Cllr Whitmore is asking basically is that there is a much broader,
6 better understanding of what comes before us with plenty of notice and valuations and
7 everything else, whether it be land or leases or whatever it is. That's all. Because there
8 obviously is doubt, maybe some Councillors aren't terribly clear and on what it's all about, but
9 other Councillors are not, because they feel certainly coming from our meeting, there was a
10 feeling of a lack of information, and I think it's only proper and fair that that we air that here in
11 the Chamber.

12
13 And as I said, I have already formally seconded what Cllr Whitmore has proposed and I don't see
14 that interfering at all with whatever the end game is. I think it might only help to improve it, so I
15 don't - my reason for coming in at this stage again is let's not all of a sudden now this become a
16 debate about Greystones Harbour, that wasn't the intention. It was purely used as an example,
17 there is probably four or five other examples that could have been thrown in that have come up.
18 It's more the broader principle we should be focusing on.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: We have a proposal here from the Protocol Committee and a motion here
20 from Cllr Whitmore. One is not depending on the other. They're quite separate in my opinion,
21 so I propose we take a vote on firstly the one from the Protocol Committee and secondly we take
22 a vote on Cllr Whitmore's. So if I can have a proposal for the protocol.

23 MS GALLAGHER: Councillor Vincent Blake. And seconder Cllr Walsh.

24 Cllr FORTUNE: Are we doing this the right way around?

25 MS GALLAGHER: It's not an amendment, they're both quite different.

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: They're both motions.

27 Cllr FORTUNE: I am talking about the protocol of what we were doing. There was a proposal
28 made from the floor...

29 MS GALLAGHER: No, the proposal was - came from the Protocol Committee which was
30 circulated with the agenda.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: I think we are doing it the right way and then we will go to Cllr
32 Whitmore's.

33 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Chairman Cllr Whitmore's proposal then would be effectively
34 irrelevant, if the first motion is passed, her motion would be irrelevant because standing orders

1 would be classed as changed.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: It's a different motion. Look, if it brings things along, we can take Cllr
3 Whitmore's first if you want to do that. If that makes you happy.

4 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: It's a big decision to make to vote away your authority and I think...

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Cullen, we get ten days notice, I come in and look at every disposal
6 notice here, we have disposal notices here which are ground rent, dealing with ground rent which
7 are statutory. We have to -- there is a set figure. If we want to take Cllr Whitmore's first, let's go
8 ahead with it.

9 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: In fairness to Cllr Whitmore...

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Let's do that then.

11 Cllr SNELL: Are we getting a copy of Councillor Whitmore's...

12 MS GALLAGHER: I can read it again, it's proposed by Cllr Whitmore and seconded by...

13 Cllr WINTERS: Can we have the mic please.

14 MS GALLAGHER: Seconded by Cllr Fortune "That a subcommittee be established to review
15 the process by which land disposals are conducted, this should include but not limited to the
16 valuation of land, the information provided to Councillors, and rationale/public benefit from the
17 disposal."

18 Cllr BEHAN: Just on a point of information Cathaoirleach, what happens after this committee
19 meets and discusses this, do they prepare a report, or recommendations or whatever, is that what
20 you plan, sorry Cathaoirleach?

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, we will go ahead with ...

22

23 (A vote was taken)

24

25 MS GALLAGHER: That's 17 for, ten against and five not present. So that's carried.

26 Cllr VANCE: Could I ask Cathaoirleach what's going to happen the disposal that's going
27 through at present? Within the next month?

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: That's going to be an issue. Who is on the committee and when does it
29 meet and...

30 Cllr VANCE: It's just a question I asked. I told people earlier on...

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: I know one disposal which is going to cause huge problems for the family
32 and that disposal - that motion has put a stop to an urgent disposal notice that's needed for a
33 family. It's nothing to do with greed, it's nothing to do with sales. It's a motion that's cast a
34 cloud over that disposal notice that would be coming up at the April meeting. That's what's

1 happened.

2 Cllr VANCE: That's the point I am making.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Ground rents, the whole shebang will have to go through a procedure.
4 That's it, there is no need to vote on the other one then.

5 Cllr WHITMORE: Sorry Chair...

6 Cllr MATTHEWS: They're different proposals Chair.

7 Cllr WHITMORE: All I proposed was a review of the policy by which the Council dispose of
8 land.

9 Cllr WINTERS: Can we use the mic.

10 Cllr WHITMORE: All I proposed was a review of the policy by which the Council dispose of
11 land. Each of us as Councillors should want this Council to work at its optimum rate for the
12 benefit of the people of this county. Now as policy makers, because that's what we are, a
13 fundamental part of policy development is that you continually review and improve it and all I
14 am asking is that we review how we do it and we improve it, I am not asking for disposals to
15 stop coming forward. They can still as far as I am concerned they can come forward as they
16 have been until we are in a position to put forward recommendations. Perhaps the review will
17 mean we look at it and think actually you know what this system is good, it's robust and we don't
18 need to make any changes, that's a possibility.

19

20 However in my heart I don't think so, because I am not 100% sure of how it's being done so far.
21 But that's all I am asking is for a review. I am not asking for disposal notices to be cancelled. I
22 just want to make sure that when we sign off on stuff that we know we are doing it for the right
23 reasons and that there is a public benefit for it.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Fox.

25 Cllr FOX: Yeah, Chairman I am very surprised at the resistance to Cllr Whitmore's motion
26 actually. I thought we would all want more information on disposals. It's fundamentally the
27 most important thing we do, or one of the most important things that we do. And we probably
28 haven't always got it right. And I accept 99% of disposals are mundane, run of the mill
29 disposals. But we have to ensure that everything we do is absolutely correct. And I think the
30 mechanism proposed by Cllr Whitmore is a good one. And the status quo on how we deal with
31 disposals carries on until such time as that committee comes with a recommendation. So I am
32 absolutely very surprised at why there is such resistance to improve the system.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Vance.

34 Cllr VANCE: Chairman, maybe some people don't believe that it will improve the system.

1 Because I am not aware of any great problems with the system up to now anyway. And I said
2 earlier on, I am in favour of giving everyone as much information as they possibly can in regard
3 to this. What I am - what I have a problem with is that it will add further bureaucracy to the
4 ordinary Joe Soap who is buying a piece of land to add on to their garden or add on to - or to
5 dispose of their house that's going through probate and various things like that, that it will add a
6 further bureaucracy to that what's happening at the moment. And that's my concern. In regard to
7 full information, I think everyone should get as full information as you possibly can, but you can
8 get ridiculous about a 20 yard, 20 square yard plot of land as well and you can have sorts of
9 valuations and everything else and time factors and all that. But then the same people who will
10 be complaining about that will be complaining about how long it's going to take and we all know
11 things don't move that fast around this Chamber. At the moment they're moving slow enough, I
12 don't want the situation that's going to take much longer than what the present situation does.
13 And that's bad enough I can tell you.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Snell.

15 Cllr SNELL: Thanks Cathaoirleach, yeah, I also would imagine that what's proceeded here
16 earlier in regards to the passing of this would not impact on any disposal orders for the
17 foreseeable future. Because at present there is no committee, there is no make-up of that
18 committee. And there will have to be a bit of work I assume through the Protocol Committee.
19 Unless there is going to be a Protocol Committee called before our next meeting in April, and
20 put a committee in place, but all that is not going to happen, so therefore I don't believe that one
21 disposal order should be hindered in any shape or form by what's happened here. And as I say, it
22 is totally separate to the other motion that is on the agenda, which is coming from and
23 recommended and supported by the Protocol Committee.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Well accordingly then we should take a vote then on the other one,
25 should we?

26 MS GALLAGHER: Proposed by Cllr Blake and seconded by Cllr Timmins. Okay, "It was
27 proposed at a previous meeting it was proposed that any questions or queries with regard to
28 disposal resolutions should be submitted in advance of the Council meeting day so that all
29 elected members are aware of questions raised and allow time to prepare a response."

30
31 "The Protocol Committee having considered the matter again made the following
32 recommendation: Questions are queries in relation to notices circulated should be submitted and
33 that was changed from must be submitted, so should be submitted by email in writing the
34 meeting's administrator no later than 5pm on the Thursday preceding the Council meeting. This

1 does not preclude the raising of questions or queries at the meeting at which the disposal notice
2 is being considered."

3 Cllr TIMMINS: Just a point of information there, I am down as second in that, I don't think I
4 was the seconder, I think it was Cllr Walsh.

5 MS GALLAGHER: Okay.

6 Cllr WHITMORE: Can I just see clarification, is that the only difference season the change
7 from should to would or would to should.

8 MS GALLAGHER: Must to should. And that it doesn't preclude - it actually says it does not
9 preclude the raising of questions or queries at the meeting. So basically...

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: All right.

11

12 (A vote was taken)

13

14 MS GALLAGHER: That's 22 for, five against, and five not present.

15 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Chairman, just a question, does that mean that if a Councillor puts in a
16 question in writing that he would get the response in writing before the meeting? Is that what is
17 agreed there? There is no point in a Councillor putting in a query and being handed a sponsor
18 not getting a response, getting a verbal response. I am assuming that's what protocol agreed, that
19 Councillors if they put a letter or an email in, in writing, they'll get a response in writing. Is that
20 agreed, is that what's agreed?

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: I'll just seek clarification on that. It doesn't say here in the motion.

22 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: No I mean I am sure that the Protocol Committee, that would be a
23 matter of fact on such an important vote.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: I don't know what was agreed, I am not on the Protocol Committee.

25 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: I propose Chairman that if a Councillor does put in a question in writing
26 before the 5pm on Thursday, that he would get a response in writing before the Council meeting.

27 Cllr VANCE: Chairman I would have absolutely no problem with that.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: I would agree with it myself.

29 Cllr VANCE: If somebody goes to the trouble and this is to encourage people to put in
30 questions at an early date to encourage them to get an answer, there should be no problem with
31 putting that in writing - an answering writing as well.

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: The response should go to every member.

33 Cllr VANCE: Absolutely yeah.

34 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Is that agreed Chairman, that you will get it in writing prior to the

1 meeting?

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: That's what's agreed. Cllr McLoughlin.

3 Cllr McLOUGHLIN: With regards to this subcommittee, when will we find out what are - what
4 is the context of the actual subcommittee? What rules or regulations in so far as in the meantime
5 are disposal notices going to go to the Council until we have decided who is on the committee,
6 how often it meets? We haven't actually decided that.

7 MS GALLAGHER: It should go back to protocol

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: I think if the members agree -- let it go back to the Protocol Committee.

9 Cllr VANCE: Chairman I think it should be put on an item on the agenda for the next meeting
10 and members should be selected at that. It should be open to any member of the Council...

11 Cllr McLOUGHLIN: So would I be right in saying in the meantime any notices will go forward
12 as normal, as is?

13 MS GALLAGHER: And if you submit a query in writing, you are entitled to...

14 Cllr McLOUGHLIN: Thank you very much.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: There is another part to that, speaking time in the Chamber. Paragraph
16 19, except with the permission of the Chair, no member should address the Council for no more
17 than five minutes. The Protocol Committee are recommending that be reduced to three minutes.

18 Cllr WINTERS: Hear hear.

19 Cllr McLOUGHLIN: Hear hear.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: I am sure you agree with that Cllr Behan.

21 Cllr BEHAN: Cathaoirleach, I agree, there is an awful lot of repetition in what happens here.
22 But I think if Councillors obey the spirit of it, we wouldn't have a problem. And I certainly
23 wouldn't like to see - if a Councillor needed five minutes to get across a point, why they should
24 not be allowed to continue to do that, but I think anybody who goes over that limit should be
25 stopped. The problem very often is people go over the five minutes or come back in three or
26 four times.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: You are quite right.

28 Cllr BEHAN: And on that basis Cathaoirleach, I wouldn't support it.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: But the Chair has permission to allow someone to speak over three
30 minutes if necessary, discretion of the Chair.

31 Cllr BEHAN: That depends on the relationship the Councillor has with the Chairman than...

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Ah well I don't think...

33 Cllr BEHAN: I am just saying I am against it. I won't delay you.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Jesus, it's very hard to stop people speaking for more than three minutes,

1 but that's going to be the case if it's passed here.

2 Cllr FOX: The reality is it's the same...

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: You didn't do too bad today yourself, four and a half minutes.

4 Cllr FOX: It's still five at the moment! It's still five isn't it.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Lighting up is the...

6 Cllr FOX: No, the reality though Chairman on a serious note, it's the same Councillors all the
7 time going over the time.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: You are quite right. Cllr Winters.

9 Cllr WINTERS: Thanks Cathaoirleach, I think it's really important that we reduce the time to
10 three minutes. I think if people thought about what they had to say, realised that they had to say
11 it in a defined time period, and that they wouldn't be given an extension, they might put more
12 thought into it and it can all be said in three minutes.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: It shows three minutes up here and if it's adopted and it's absolutely
14 necessary, the Chairman should cut off the mic and that's the end of the story, like they do in the
15 Dáil, but it's not the Dáil though. Cllr Cullen.

16 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: I have no problem with it, but I think it should be 3.5 minutes.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Ah Jesus!

18 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: No, no, no, I'll tell you why Chairman, I'll tell you why, I mean I am
19 getting older now and I don't have the same wind as I did, but I would just think Chairman...

20 Cllr DORAN: I think you are getting better at it.

21 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: 3.5 minutes is a reasonable thing Chairman. But I think there should
22 also be some discretion left for the Chairman for a very topical issue.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: It's in the motion.

24 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Yeah, well if the Chairman maybe, how many minutes does the
25 Chairman have as a discretion, if it was up to five minutes, I would look Chairman that three and
26 a half, because three minutes goes pretty quickly on an important issue. We just had the issue
27 about the sheep here today, and Councillors spoke for several minutes and that was an important
28 issue and we wouldn't want to - I think three and a half minutes, the extra 30 seconds is not
29 going to make or break.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: I just notice you have done 21 minutes already today.

31 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: I like to give the public value for money.

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Timmins.

33 Cllr TIMMINS: I would like to very much welcome this. I think it's long overdue. I don't know
34 whether we should, if this doesn't work out, maybe we will start a cumulative thing as well to

1 restrict people coming back in and get a second three minutes as we witness here regularly. I
2 think also it shows a lack of respect to especially the newer Council members I think that people
3 have gone way over their time and people just hogging the mike. Even if 32 of us spoke for
4 three minutes on one subject, that's over an hour and a half. We have to show a little respect. It
5 might focus Councillors' minds on what they're saying and instead of saying the same thing five
6 different ways, they might say it once

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Snell.

8 Cllr SNELL: I was on the stopwatch I believe here at a previous meeting and I spoke for five
9 minutes and one second. And it was brought up at protocol by a colleague I should add! So it
10 tells you something!

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Your own.

12 Cllr VANCE: She got the timing all wrong.

13 Cllr SNELL: She was fed up listening to me. It was becoming a major issue in particular for the
14 running order of the Council meetings here. I might add that when I spoke for that length of
15 time, it was on an issue of housing and as Cathaoirleach of the Housing SPC, it was appropriate.
16 There was a major bit of infrastructure that we were trying to explain and get through the
17 Chambers here. But as has been quite rightly pointed out, 32 members, a lot of new members,
18 and it can be over-daunting on a lot of them in regards to not getting their speak in. And I think
19 it's only appropriate that we cut it back and allow everyone speaking rights because at the end of
20 the day, we are not getting through the agenda as Councillor John Ryan seen at last week's
21 meeting, we only got through half the agenda and you are experiencing the same here today. We
22 would have thought we would have been getting down through a lot of the motions and we are
23 not. So I would be supporting this.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: We need a proposer and seconder for -- sorry are you coming on there.

25 Cllr FORTUNE: I don't have an issue with part B at all, because on a personal basis, I don't
26 think I ever speak much longer than three and a half minutes. You mightn't always agree with
27 what I say but my concern would be it's more in an overall sense, I just have a concern that a lot
28 of the stuff we do, we don't intend it but it seems to fall this way that we are curtailing all the
29 time members' potential for input. I have articulated this before in relation to meetings and
30 cutting back on meetings and various things. I am just waving a flag of caution that as a general
31 rule, I am not in favour of curtailing members' input because we get little enough opportunity to
32 act on behalf of our constituents and I don't think the system should be continually making it
33 more narrower and narrower. I just want to put that on the record from my own perspective.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Certainly if the members are articulating something that's very important

1 for the member I don't see a reason to cut them off. But 32 by three is 96. That's an hour and a
2 half before you start. It's difficult but I am sure members will be well able to articulate their
3 views in the time --

4 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: How is this going to affect supplementary questions. Say you use up
5 your three minutes and you get some more information from maybe another member of the
6 Council, or the executive, and that would then lead to a supplementary question.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: It doesn't say anything in the thing about coming in a second time. It
8 doesn't state that.

9 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: That's not restricted, is it?

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: It doesn't say it, it's at the discretion of the Chairman.

11 MS GALLAGHER: We have a proposer and a seconder.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Tommy is one, but you are prop taking out that three and a half. Cllr
13 Timmins, could we leave it at that.

14 Cllr TIMMINS: I propose the three minutes.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: A seconder for that. You are withdrawing yours Tommy.

16 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Tommy I think that extra 30 seconds...

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Ah forget about it. No, it's okay, he is fine.

18 MS GALLAGHER: Have we a seconder?

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Grainne McLoughlin.

20 Cllr BEHAN: Could my opposition be noted rather than having a vote. It's obviously the
21 majority.

22 Cllr VANCE: Could I also suggest that when this comes into operation we can review it if
23 possible if there is a problem in the chamber, if there is a problem you can review it after six
24 months.

25 Cllr DORAN: We are a Chairman that will implement it.

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: I haven't seen one here that implemented yet in my seven years here.

27 Cllr FOX: Can I suggest that people who speak on behalf of groups on votes of sympathy and
28 things that can be moved on quicker.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: And motions as well where we have five or six signatures to a motion.

30 Cllr FOX: It would be helpful if a member of a party or a group could speak on behalf of the
31 party or the group.

32 Cllr McLOUGHLIN: Very briefly, I also think that local issues like local football team or the
33 local Gaelic team or whatever doing well, it is great but they should be kept to Municipal
34 Districts and not the County Council. If we win a county final or somebody who has won

1 something nationally for Ireland, but we spend 20 minutes at the beginning of each meeting
2 discussing the local - well I won't say what, I have to be careful there Councillor!

3 Cllr SNELL: Calm down there now.

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Doran says you won't be speaking about Greystones anyway, so
5 that's all right. No, we are okay, can we just move on to item six there please. The Burial
6 Ground Policy update. Members have been circulated with that and we are only dealing today,
7 there was a proposal from the SPC on items four, one, two, three and eight and items four, five,
8 six, seven, nine, ten, eleven has to be discussed at the SPC to come back to the members with
9 recommendations. So we have it there, item one is definitions of locals only which was
10 explained. Item two, advance purchase, double graves at time of burial stroke purchase only,
11 item three new extensions lawn cemetery style and eight the capital programme over ten years.
12 So Cllr Blake.

13 Cllr BLAKE: Just I welcome the report, but I certainly don't have any great issues with anything
14 involved in it other than at the bottom of the third page where it says locals only will be resident
15 of County Wicklow. We have parishes that - across the border in Wexford, Carlow and Kildare,
16 and a lot of the graveyards are very close to the borders as well. That would create a problem for
17 us in our particular area in terms of locals only having to be born in County Wicklow. I just
18 raise that issue with you.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Could you - sorry...

20 Cllr BLAKE: Bottom of the third page.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: What are you saying there?

22 Cllr BLAKE: To be a resident of County Wicklow - just making a point that we have a lot of
23 parishes that cross the borders of both Wexford, Carlow and Kildare. Maybe even Dublin, I
24 don't know about the Dublin end of it, but I am just talking locally, that would create a problem
25 for us with an awful lot of people who want to be buried, they're going out of Wicklow to other
26 counties as well, but certainly it would be an issue in terms of the border with the other counties,
27 the parishes criss-cross borders.

28 Cllr DORAN: I think that will be cleared up because it will be in the parish, once it's in the
29 parish.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: It does say there Councillor at the time or reared in the area of the
31 graveyard.

32 Cllr BLAKE: It says resident within County Wicklow. That's what it says on the bottom.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: Resident of County Wicklow. Cllr Timmins.

34 Cllr TIMMINS: Just the same point, that's totally restrictive and it shows a lack of thought of

1 what happens on the ground. I know in practically all the graveyards in West Wicklow,
2 Baltinglass is a mile and a half from Co Kildare. The parish, a lot of people live in Co Kildare
3 who are from the Baltinglass parish. The same in Blessington, Hollywood and Dunlavin. I think
4 that should be deleted, it doesn't make any sense. "Reared" wouldn't cover it. Lots of people
5 move to the parish and want to be buried in the parish. I think it doesn't reflect what's the reality
6 on the ground I think.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Councillor. Cllr McDonald.

8 Cllr McDONALD: Just listening to the first point there, it won't come as any surprise to
9 anybody that I am totally opposed to the umbrella type policy for all the graveyards in the
10 county. I think it can be a big issue when you come to implementing policies in rural
11 graveyards. The same as the urban ones and I think the area that we cover, the Arklow
12 Municipal District, there is quite a lot of small rural graveyards. The biggest issue I have is with
13 the lawn only, and it's not just my own view, it's speaking to people on the ground. Particularly
14 elderly people...

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I just say Councillor, we are not discussing that today.

16 Cllr McDONALD: It's on it.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: For extensions it is. It's the whole lawn policy issue, I think we need to
18 start looking at ourselves as an authority where we are putting economics before respect when it
19 comes into such a sensitive issue and I don't think - we can have a uniform policy across every
20 graveyard in the county. I think we need to be looking at specific issues in each and every
21 graveyard first before we can even go down that road of looking at an umbrella policy for the
22 whole of the county. I think also we need some consultation maybe from the public. If we sit
23 here and make policies on what is we think is the best interests of the public but we need their
24 input. That's a lot of the anger on the ground, these policies are being implemented with no
25 consultation with anybody. The public are being told what they can and can't do with family -- I
26 just think we need to be mindful that it's a sensitive area. If we start putting economics before
27 basic respect in this area, we need to be looking at some of our policies and how we come about
28 them.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Councillor. Cllr Ruttle.

30 Cllr RUTTLE: We are still on one Cathaoirleach? I am just looking there at that eight
31 kilometres, five miles. I know some rural areas parishes are a lot longer than that within them.
32 You know. If that was to be adhered to, it sounds like planning permission only you are dead.
33 Swing an arc from the graveyard. There are places that I know well where people would live in
34 the one parish but would be beyond five miles from the - I think descriptions like that are

1 dangerous. Too prescriptive.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Cullen.

3 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: I agree with Cllr Ruttle there. This definition of a local, I think that has
4 to be clarified. For instance you have - how long a period of time for instance you have people
5 in Baltinglass now are being brought home from London to be buried, they've been in England
6 five times longer than they have will I have had in Baltinglass but they are local to Baltinglass
7 and their family are there and they want to be brought home and buried in their own graveyard
8 where their parents and brothers and sisters are buried and where they were born and reared. I
9 think people need to have that right. I think there needs to be more talking and deliberation
10 about this. And I think Chairman what I would like to see in this document is it brought back to
11 each of the Municipal Area Councillors for further discussion to give an input or
12 recommendations for amendments from the area municipal bodies, because that's where the local
13 knowledge is about graveyards and there is graveyards in this county that I know very little
14 about, and I am sure there is other Councillors know very little about the ones in my area and in
15 fairness to Councillor Pat Doran, Councillor Pat Doran was the man who put this on the agenda,
16 he fought to get this on the agenda and I want to pay tribute to Pat for doing that. But Chairman,
17 I think this should go back to the municipal authorities for further deliberation, and that we
18 would come back with any proposed amendments Chairman, because I - there is a lot of stuff in
19 this there to just digest here now, I am not in a position to do it anyway. Thank you Chairman.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Behan.

21 Cllr BEHAN: I just wanted to address the remarks on number three, but you are not on that yet
22 are you?

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Number three is...

24 Cllr BEHAN: The extensions.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Well you can make remarks on any of the four there. There is four
26 marked there.

27 Cllr BEHAN: Do you only want to address the first point now.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: You can go on to the third one if you want to.

29 Cllr BEHAN: Okay, I agree with what Cllr McDonald said there, first of all when we are
30 treating people at a time when they've lost a relative or a friend, someone that's been very close
31 to them, we have to treat them with the utmost respect, and their loved one with the utmost
32 dignity. And we are coming on another day to what happened in Bray in Springfield Cemetery.
33 It's not on the agenda today but we certainly will have to deal with that in the future and what
34 happened there, which was a disgrace.

1
2 But in relation to what is now proposed in this document, which I know says it's no change in the
3 existing policy, but the existing policy says that all extensions to graveyards from now on will
4 have to be lawn cemetery style or nothing. And effectively you could have a two tier situation in
5 graveyards where some have people with memorials in one part of the graveyard and lawn and
6 no head stones, no proper memorials that people might want in the other part. At the very least I
7 think that's setting the whole thing up for major dispute with individual families. But as Cllr
8 McDonald also makes a very, very, very good point I think, one of the best points that's been
9 made in this whole debate, the people should be consulted about this as well. The public should
10 be asked their opinion before we go changing something as fundamental as this. That did not
11 happen in Bray and it's one of the reasons why we got the dreadful situation that we got up in
12 Bray. So I certainly would say that the existing policy as it is laid out here, which is that every
13 extension would have to be lawned cemetery, I would say that's a wrong policy and I would like
14 to see that policy changed and I would also like to see what Cllr McDonald said happen, which
15 is that at some point in time before any changes are implemented that they're put out in some
16 way for the public to give their opinion. Thanks Cathaoirleach.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor O'Connor.

18 Cllr O'CONNOR: Thanks Cathaoirleach, I think certainly this issue requires more of a period
19 for discussion. It's - so issues in here, particularly that Cllr Behan and Cllr McDonald alluded to
20 about the lawn style cemeteries and in particular I am referring to Springfield in Bray, created
21 situations that were very, very difficult for surviving family members to have to deal with. I
22 think the policy needs to be possibly amended, because there are some difficulties with the
23 graveyards. I don't know if this is the way to go about it. But I think the long and short of it is
24 more time will be required, well for me in particular to talk to family members in Bray about
25 this. But I think probably other Councillors would feel the same way, I think more information
26 is required. Thanks Cathaoirleach.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Fortune.

28 Cllr FORTUNE: Thanks Cathaoirleach. I am inclined to agree with what Cllr McDonald was
29 talking about. It's a very personal time for people, and I think the report we are looking at and I
30 think it needs more time. It should actually go back to the districts for discussion. And I would
31 always err on the side of respect in situations like this. I have to say my opinion on this lawn
32 approach, I must say I don't agree with it at all, I think it's - I think at a certain level it's
33 unworkable, and just take North Wicklow, I am aware obviously of the various graveyards in
34 North Wicklow, including Bray and Springfield for example I think the way it's developing and

1 the way it's being evolving, I think it's terrible. I think when you go into the graveyard, you
2 basically have to walk across grass up to your ankles and if it's wet, you need to bring a pair of
3 wet gear with you or whatever. I just think that's not fair and not right at a time when people are
4 dealing with a very sensitive occasion in their lives. So I must say the lawn thing doesn't appeal
5 to me at all.

6
7 I think the policy we are coming up with is prescriptive and I don't think you can have a policy
8 that's going to be the same all over the county. Because in different areas and different districts
9 you will have different traditions and different things. I think we have to - in my opinion
10 anyway, I think we should be acknowledging and honouring tradition and - but the most
11 important thing I think is respect. And I have to say, I know this is not meant by the report, I am
12 not suggesting that, but unfortunately when you look at it, it's leading to, in my opinion, a lack of
13 respect, for people in that situation. So I would think we need more time on this. And I think
14 maybe going back to each of the districts, and having it properly discussed, because I think
15 maybe it's been happening unintentionally is the policy is moving along and slipping through
16 without people maybe properly realising it and now as we are discussing it, it's highlighting
17 things, and as I said, just my own experience of being in Springfield a number of times over the
18 last year, I just think if that's the policy going forward, it's wrong and it has to be changed.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Councillor. Cllr Kennedy.

20 Cllr KENNEDY: Thank you Cathaoirleach, I have to say I fully agree with Cllr McDonald, so I
21 do. She is dead right. There is different traditions. And different - in different communities. I
22 think this should go back to the Municipal Districts and let them discuss it first. This document
23 needs more time, so it does. I mean Cllr Fortune is right. This is about respect, and respect for
24 people. And I work a lot with the elderly and I know a lot of elderly people out there that are
25 saving for their funerals, they're saving in the credit unions, putting - some of them are paying
26 undertakers. I do believe they are entitled to buy a grave in their own area. They've grown up in
27 air own area. I would ask any member of the executive here who looks after the graveyard in
28 Greenane? Can anybody answer that question? Because I can tell you who looks after the
29 graveyard in Greenane and it's maintained to the highest standard because there is a man puts in
30 three days a week every day for the last ten years looking after that graveyard and there is not a
31 blade of grass out of place in it and that's Pat Jordan. That man should be wrote to and thanked
32 by this Council because he is doing a job for the Council for nothing.

33
34 And Cllr McDonald is dead right. This should go back to the Municipal Districts for further

1 discussion, and it should go back there and then maybe a recommendation can come from each
2 Municipal District back to the Council or feedback into whatever SPC it needs to go to. It
3 shouldn't be decided today. Thank you.

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Snell.

5 Cllr SNELL: Thanks Cathaoirleach, again I concur with a lot of what has been said in regards to
6 sending it back to the Municipal Districts. I think it's common sense. This is a hugely sensitive
7 issue out there with the public and indeed with us as public representatives. I served for five
8 years on the old Wicklow/Rathdrum burial board, which was in existence from 1905 up to 2014,
9 until it was disbanded. And I notice the difference since that committee has ceased operations. I
10 just feel that at a time when we should be interacting with the public, we are trying to force a
11 document through here where we haven't given the public an opportunity to address the issues,
12 such as lawned cemeteries, something I totally disagree with and something I raised on many
13 occasions at that burial board committee meetings. Like when we were growing up, people
14 weren't - respect was not walking over people's graves. Now they're encouraged to walk over
15 graves at the annual blessing of the graves. Funerals and the like. And I think it's just
16 despicable. I really do. We have a situation now where we are telling people they can't have
17 advanced purchase of their graves. They can't pick where they want to be buried? We are
18 talking about people through mass emigration over many, many decades now potentially can't be
19 brought home to be buried because maybe they're not local enough for this document. I just feel
20 that it's sad that we are even sitting here looking at it. Why do they not come in front of us as
21 local representatives. There is reference in it in regards to people in Glenealy for example, there
22 is no potential for any further purchase of land in Glenealy so, they'll have to go to Rathnew
23 cemetery.

24
25 As a number of Councillors around the Chambers here know, Rathnew cemetery serves a
26 geographical huge area of Wicklow Town, parts of Ashford and Glenealy as is. But when
27 people can't be buried in their own area, it's an absolute disgrace and a bad indictment on us as a
28 Local Authority. I think it's something that we need to address. Seriously I would recommend
29 that this document be sent back to every Municipal District in this county.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Doran.

31 Cllr DORAN: Thank you I raised this - I think it must be at least a year ago. And the first
32 problem that I had with this was that we weren't entitled to buy a family grave. That was the
33 first thing that really upset me. I didn't pick it up the first day I was here, they were talking about
34 three graves. I understood that it was the normal plot of three graves, but it was three graves on

1 top of one another that you had to go at least nine foot with the first one. Like that couldn't work
2 even with - for health and safety, that even couldn't work, you can't go nine feet. But in fairness,
3 Helena came back, and we were - the proposal was now that we could buy a plot of two graves,
4 which wasn't so bad. But I think it's getting, as Cllr Snell said there, it's getting to a sad state that
5 we haven't land enough to bury our people. It's - well it's really laughable that the land is gone
6 that scares. If you drive up and down the motorway and see what land is wasted each side of the
7 motorway, you could farm on each side of it let alone - and we can't have enough land for to
8 bury our own people. And the big thing as well, and I was in England for many, many years and
9 I have a lot of friends over there and they're coming back here to be buried and I think it would
10 be a sad state of affairs if we couldn't bring back our own people to their own parish. Their
11 whole lifetime they were looking forward to coming home, it never happened that way for a lot
12 of them, but it would be a sad day that we couldn't bring them home and bury them in their own
13 area. But I would just like to thank at least they moved away from just one grave, that you could
14 buy one grave and a parent could be buried in one end of the graveyard and by the time
15 somebody else passed away it was in the other one. You didn't have the family plot, I think is - I
16 am not happy with it anyway.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Councillor. Cllr O'Neill. Gerry.

18 Cllr O'NEILL: Thanks Cathaoirleach. I want to concur with Cllr Doran there, in rural Wicklow,
19 it's a different kettle of fish than urban as such you know. I would be concerned really of the
20 input of the national monuments section. It's on their advice that a lot of this stuff is being done
21 seemingly. And I don't really get their input. I think we are the County Council. We decide on
22 what's best for our county.

23
24 I wanted to raise an issue there where it's claimed here that Leitrim graveyard in the Glen of
25 Imaal is no longer suitable for an extension. I know Leitrim graveyard well and I have had a lot
26 of people in the area in touch with me over extending it and the army have no problem there with
27 the extension of it. There is a huge amount of land around there, and I can't for the life of me
28 know why that can't be extended. The policy now of closing or refusing extensions to rural
29 graveyards and getting them into urban areas, I totally disagree with that. And I would ask the
30 Council actually to inquire - I would be calling for an inquiry into the situation in Scurlock's
31 Graveyard. Scurlock's Graveyard is a small graveyard, it was closed in the 70s. The County
32 Council - the Register is there somewhere on it. It's situated in Blessington, at the bottom of the
33 Red Lane. And built of - it's a beautiful graveyard built of Golden Hill granite. And - but since
34 the new owner - it's land locked, but now there is cattle and horses and whatever you like have

1 the perimeter, the whole wall torn down. There are still people in the area in Blessington that
2 have relatives in that graveyard, so I would be calling for an inquiry into that to come to some
3 conclusion there. It's totally wrong that graves are being left exposed, because it's a built-up
4 graveyard off the ground. But to see the state of the graveyard, it's a pure sin. I would be
5 looking for an immediate inquiry into what's going on there.

6
7 Again the issues as I say on lawned cemeteries, they don't really - there is plenty - I mean we
8 have the same thing in Valleymount there, where it's impossible to extend the graveyard, okay, I
9 agree with that one because of the amount of granite, but I think there should be every effort and
10 provision made to allocate land in rural areas for people. They want to bury their loved ones
11 locally.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks. Cllr Ruttle.

13 Cllr RUTTLE: Cathaoirleach thank you. I like many other Councillors would share the
14 concerns over the family grave issue, and we did get some movement on that - and that is
15 outlined by Cllr Doran a minute ago. That's one thing where I meet people over this issue, it
16 would concern them greatly over what could happen and where relatives could be buried in
17 totally different places.

18
19 The other issue that has to be revisited, it would come as a surprise to people - I had to bring it in
20 here before, the example the Baltyboys cemetery where granite is a problem, and now we are
21 told that they can be served by works at Burgage which is in Blessington and a new extension
22 already at Manor Kilbride. This is a whole new departure in Ballymount and Lacken. And
23 totally against the vision. Certainly I would agree having seen what can be done, there is a
24 problem there, but we have located lands in the Valleymount area where we don't have the
25 problem with granite and can be worked and would be available for a new graveyard in that area.

26
27 There is a tendency sometimes under the Planning Act to centralise people in their homes, now
28 we are trying to centralise them dead as well and get them all into the one place. I don't see why
29 people in Valleymount should necessarily have to be buried in Manor Kilbride or Blessington. I
30 think the care and attention to people give of their family graves at places like Templeboden and
31 Baltyboys is to be cherished and I think the right to burial in those areas should remain.

32 Certainly you can't use granite as the cop out - an area has been located in Ballymount and I
33 understand at Templeboden extra land has been offered and it's just one of those things that it's -
34 it's not the same thing but it comes along the same lines of the removal of the Post Office and

1 getting rid of the graveyard. When you are out there, it's almost you are paying a penalty for
2 living in a rural area, you are penalised for living in a rural area. This kind of stuff is another
3 example of that.

4
5 In that situation you would end up with three graveyards in West Wicklow, Baltinglass,
6 Dunlavin and Blessington and everyone else will be just be closed down and when they're closed
7 down, care and maintenance is gone, families are separated. It's another world you are into there
8 and requires an awful lot more consultation. So I would suggest that to put a time limit on it, I
9 know this is where the third time - it wasn't even reached on the other occasions as far as I know,
10 what you could do is there will be a Municipal District Council in all areas before the next
11 meeting of the Council on the 4th of April and that should be on the agenda and I would be
12 putting it on the agenda in the Baltinglass electoral area to be dealt with and teased out then and
13 brought back then to the 4th of April.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: We will have no meeting in the Arklow Municipal District before -- Cllr
15 Cullen.

16 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Just briefly, just regards to Leitrim graveyard, the Council did try a
17 number of years ago to get an extension to the graveyard but there was an objection in the Glen
18 of Imaal from Duchas, that's why we couldn't proceed. The other thing is Chairman something I
19 omitted there, I noticed that in a lot of graveyards now they're building what is called a
20 cremation wall where people are being cremated and they're looking for a place in the cemetery
21 where they can store the vase, it's called a cremation wall and perhaps that will have to be
22 considered. Because it's surprising the amount of people now who are going for cremation. But
23 they still want to be buried in their own graveyard. They want their ashes to be - that's
24 something we should consider. Thank you.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Helena are you coming in here?

26 HELENA: Just to confirm to members, as you are aware this has come up over the last 12 or 18
27 months that there is no consistent policy across the county in relation to burial grounds. It was
28 decided by the members here present that it would be kicked back to the SPC committee in order
29 to deal with policy countywide. From that committee, we formed a subcommittee to deal with
30 the areas of Burial Ground Policy, and there was eleven areas highlighted in total that we needed
31 to look at policy for.

32
33 So the first four areas were discussed by the subcommittee and by the SPC and agreed by the
34 SPC on 30th of November for full presentation here before the Council. I totally understand

1 where members are saying it should go back to the Municipal District. Again it is something we
2 are trying to introduce policies at a county wide level. What I would suggest is that maybe
3 rather than going before each Municipal District that we have a nomination from each Municipal
4 District to work on the subcommittee and develop the policy at county wide level. It's certainly
5 not something we would get to all MDs before the 4th of April.

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mitchell there please.

7 Cllr MITCHELL: Thank you. Yeah. I think that's a good idea that there would be a
8 nomination. This is a very difficult thing to do because there are approximately 32 graveyards in
9 the county and there seem to be different rules in each one. And it's very difficult when
10 somebody rings and wants a burial, for the staff here to be able to deal with the issue when there
11 is 30 different two sets of rules which apply to them and there could be different definitions of
12 locals and different issues about lawns or no lawns cemeteries or whatever. I think it's probably
13 optimistic to get back to the next meeting, considering the number of issues which people have
14 brought up. But it maybe the meeting after that. But I think if somebody from each Municipal
15 District could come to the meeting, I think that would be better.

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Kennedy.

17 Cllr KENNEDY: I think there needs to be two members from most districts represented on that
18 committee. Rural and urban. Because I think the needs are different in rural than they are in
19 urban. The end result might be the same but I think there is - it's different.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sure we will have to look at that then, I have no issue with it to be quite
21 honest about it because there is different opinions across the county.

22 Cllr McDONALD: Is it imperative we are back at the next meeting with it

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: I wouldn't think so, sure we wouldn't be able to get the Municipal
24 Districts sorted out by 4th of April. I wouldn't think so, I would say it will be more likely May
25 before we are back on it. While we want...

26 Cllr BEHAN: It could be your project for the year Cathaoirleach.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Whether we want agreement on it, it's a very emotive issue as I know in
28 my home town of Arklow, people are deeply concerned.

29 Cllr BEHAN: That's why we should take our time with it.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: There is divided opinions on it and both my parents are buried in that
31 graveyard, we are running out of space in that graveyard, we cannot source another graveyard it
32 looks like, Helena, for a long, long time, because we were supposed to have ten to 12 years left
33 but unfortunately the population of Arklow is increasing at a major rate, so look at, it's
34 something - there is going to be no decision on it here today so I suggest what Cllr Kennedy said

1 that we have two members from the Municipal District maybe would come to the SPC.

2 Cllr DORAN: I think April is not going to give us enough time.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: I said we won't have it by April, we couldn't have it.

4 Cllr DORAN: You would want to talk about June.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: So if we had two nomination from each Municipal District to meet as a
6 subcommittee of the SPC. All right. And maybe - are you okay with that Derek?

7 Cllr MITCHELL: Yeah.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: And if nominations or names are sent on to yourself or Helena. If you
9 agree it at your next meeting for two members, two names to be forwarded to Helena. Your
10 meetings, yeah. Is that okay?

11 Cllr BEHAN: Cathaoirleach, was it not the point of the suggestions that local members would
12 look at what is in the document, it doesn't necessarily need Helena to be there to read it out
13 to them. They already have it. Like I thought the idea was that each of the districts would have the
14 document, read it, discuss it and then give feedback to the meetings' administrator to go back to
15 Helena so there would be further discussion. If you have another committee, what difference
16 will it make?

17 Cllr DORAN: We have had the document for the last year.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: If you want to do it that way, sure do it and feed back through...

19 MS GALLAGHER: It's the Municipal District meeting's administrator you are talking about.

20 Cllr MURPHY: Through the Chair.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, yeah.

22 Cllr MURPHY: As you mentioned about Arklow, for the last three or four years, we are talking
23 about the graveyard in Arklow. Is it the Municipal District that has responsibility or County
24 Council? Where does that fit on the agenda, because I mean the graveyards are running out fast
25 unfortunately, and I don't want a sitting Council in Arklow with a crisis in another four or five
26 years. I mean this has to be put on the agenda and high on the agenda. I mean we have had a
27 subcommittee of the graveyard previously, and that seems to be gone by the wayside. But again
28 it needs to come on the agenda and who is taking responsibility for it?

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Look at, the operation of graveyards is Wicklow County Council like, so
30 if two members, you are going to come back, you are going to meet, is it, come back with
31 recommendations or read the report, or have a meeting or what, a subcommittee, what are you
32 doing? You are going to set up a subcommittee with two members from each Municipal
33 District, is it?

34 Cllr MITCHELL: I think the Municipal District should discuss what we have here and those

- 1 two members can come back having discussed that.
- 2 MS GALLAGHER: And feedback to Helena.
- 3 Cllr MITCHELL: This has been on the agenda for the last three meetings.
- 4 CATHAOIRLEACH: I would say it will be on it a good few more months.
- 5 Cllr MITCHELL: It will be six to nine months before we get a decision on these first four
- 6 points.
- 7 CATHAOIRLEACH: We want to get it right.
- 8 Cllr DORAN: You only get buried once!
- 9 HELENA: Come back to me with two nominations and we will organise a meeting. If we have
- 10 to organise a pre-meeting before our own SPC, we will do that. But feed back any information
- 11 you have in relation to those four topics
- 12 CATHAOIRLEACH: I thought we would get through the agenda today, you are telling me you
- 13 are a disgrace. I don't think we are going to get through your, Derek, Cllr Mitchell, you have
- 14 four and a half minutes.
- 15 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Could we get Cllr Mitchell's report circulated?
- 16 Cllr MITCHELL: We can, but it's quite simple. Maybe I could present it and then we could
- 17 have questions on it...
- 18 CATHAOIRLEACH: If the members...
- 19 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: If it's here now, could I just have it circulated before we go home.
- 20 MS GALLAGHER: You could present it and circulate it.
- 21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Would you have it done in four minutes? Ah no, I think there is going to
- 22 be a lot of questions on that, I know Cllr Cullen...
- 23 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Can we have the report circulated?
- 24 Cllr BEHAN: There will be no Irish Water by the next meeting anyway.
- 25 MS GALLAGHER: Do you want the slides circulated. Will I circulate the slides?
- 26 Cllr MITCHELL: I'll present them and circulate them at the next meeting. They have to be
- 27 talked through.
- 28 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Can we circulate the report before we go home and have a read of it.
- 29 Cllr MITCHELL: It can be circulated.
- 30 CATHAOIRLEACH: There is no problem, we will circulate it then.
- 31 Cllr Tommy CULLEN: Liam might give us a copy.
- 32 MS GALLAGHER: Liam will scan it through to everybody. Oh they have copies.
- 33 CATHAOIRLEACH: Circulate it there.
- 34

1 Members, I think that will bring us to a conclusion, I think we are not going to get going again.
2 MS GALLAGHER: We are meeting here at 10.30 on the 4th of April. And then break for
3 lunch.
4 CATHAOIRLEACH: 10.30 on the 4th of April.
5 MS GALLAGHER: We can do it at 11 if that's better.
6 Cllr RUTTLE: Happy Easter.
7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Happy Easter Jim.
8
9 The meeting concluded at 5pm
10

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