



MINUTES OF THE PROTOCOL COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2018

1 Election of Chair of the Protocol Committee

Cllr Dermot Lacey was nominated by Cllr. A Clancy and seconded by Cllr. T Keegan.

Order: Cllr. Dermot Lacey was elected as Chair of the Committee.

2 Election of the Vice Chair of the Protocol Committee

Councillor Ciaran O'Moore was nominated by Cllr. D Heney and seconded by Cllr. M Flynn.

Order: Cllr. Ciaran O'Moore was elected as Vice-Chair of the Committee

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 28th June 2018 and matters arising:

Order: Agreed.

4 Lord Mayors Receptions and Engagements of the Deputy Lord Mayor

Order: Receptions Agreed and Recommended to Council

5 Conferences:

a) Conferences Attended:

- Councillors Dermot Lacey and Mary Freehill: MacGill Summer School, "The Future of Ireland in a New Europe: The Challenges Ahead". Glenties, County Donegal. 22nd – 27th July 2018.

Order: Agreed and Recommend to Council

b) Conference Reports Received:

- Cllrs. Dermot Lacey & Mary Freehill: MacGill Summer School, "The Future of Ireland in a New Europe: The Challenges Ahead". 22nd – 27th July 2018.

Order: Noted

6 Motion in the Name of Councillor Mannix Flynn referred by the South East Area Committee: (Managers Report Attached)

"That this area Committee calls on Dublin City Council (DCC) management to have City Hall reopened on Sundays. Thousands of tourists and citizens wish to visit this unique building. Sunday is the busiest day for tourists in the city. City Hall was closed during the downturn in the economy and the cutbacks in DCC. City Hall is now back making a profit from its many activities such as civil marriage ceremonies and corporate receptions and promotions.

There should be just one day set aside, Sunday, for sole public and visitor use without any interference from private bookings or receptions etc. It also gives Councillors an opportunity to use the facility on this potentially quiet day."

Order: The Members agreed to Sunday openings on a 3 month trial basis from March to May 2019. Provision should be made in the current estimates to facilitate this trial. Members also recommended that sufficient advertising be undertaken to support the trial.

7 Motion in the name of Councillor Greg Kelly:

“This committee calls on the Chief Executive to ensure that Dublin City Council through its Councillors keep their respective positions on the boards of outside bodies as they have in the past. As some Boards are dissolved from outside bodies to form new boards, DCC have been left off the formation. An example of this is the new Children’s Hospital Board who will have no DCC member even though DCC Councillors hold board positions on the current boards of Temple Street and Our Lady’s Hospital Crumlin. This is further devaluing the role of a local Councillor.”

Order: Motion Agreed.

The Chief Executive to write to the Minister to convey the Members concern at the continued undermining of their role as elected representatives, especially in relation to board membership.

8 Motion in the name of Councillors Dermot Lacey and Mary Freehill:

“DCC regrets the decision of government to renege on promoting a directly elected mayor for Dublin. We are conscious of the seriously weak local government system in Ireland which is very much out of kilter with the rest of the EU and runs contrary to the principals of subsidiarity as stated in the Nice Treaty.

This Council is concerned about the many areas where the City Council is prevented from running the city effectively because of the lack of LA powers and we are disproportionately dependent on central government and very often the Courts to adjudicate on issues that should be within the normal power of the Council to resolve. Because the Government of the day is over burdened with their own agenda, despite several requests to amend legislation, nothing happens. Examples of where we are seriously hampered are noise, housing tenancy, traffic. There are many other areas where as a Local Authority, we are prevented from carrying out our normal functions in the interest of the city’s wellbeing.

We propose therefore that the DCC CEO prepares a list of areas where minor amendments to legislation would free up the Council and allow it function more effectively. When we have a completed list of possible amendments, we can approach Government and suggest that the Senate be given a lead role in dealing with this piece of work. This approach could go some way to strengthen local government”

Order: Motion Agreed.

The Manager informed Members that Assistant Chief Executive Richard Shakespeare was currently co-ordinating efforts in this regard and that a report on the matter would be brought to the next Protocol Committee meeting.

9 Proposal to amend Standing Order Number 1:

Order: The Members felt that the authority to change the date of a City Council meeting should remain with the elected Council and therefore agreed not to amend standing orders.

10 **Kathleen Clarke Portrait Selection Panel**

Order: It was agreed to add Councillor Áine Clancy to the Kathleen Clarke Portrait Selection Panel in her capacity as Chair of the Arts & Culture Advisory Group.

11 **Web casting in Area offices**

Order: The Members felt that webcasting was an important resource in terms of both improving disability access and demonstrating transparency in local government and that all Area Committees and Strategic Policy Committees should be webcast. The decision to provide webcasting in the Area Civic Centres or to use the facilities in City Hall was at the discretion of each committee.

Recommend to Council.

12 **Procedure for the Changing of Street Names**

The Manager confirmed that there was a process set out in the legislation to facilitate changes to street names. However, it was within the remit of Dublin City Council to establish its own policy to guide this process.

Order: It was agreed to refer the matter to the Commemorative Naming Committee to consider extending the current policy on the naming of infrastructure to include the Renaming of Streets.

13 **Approval for Councillor Attendance at the National Tourism Forum, "Let's Talk Tourism" Conference on 9th November 2018 in County Kerry.**

Order: Agreed and recommend to Council.

14 **Request from the Irish Institute of Legal Executives to use the Council Chamber to hold a seminar in the Autumn of 2018**

Order: Agreed.

15 **Correspondence from Wexford County Council referred to the Protocol Committee by the City Council at its meeting of 3rd September 2018**

Order: The Members requested that the Manager write to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to express their support for the motion passed by Wexford County Council calling on the government to establish an independent convention on the future of local government.

16 **Request from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for Dublin City to sign a Statement of Solidarity #WithRefugees**

Order: The Members recommended that the City Council become a signatory of the Statement of Solidarity #WithReugees and that it be listed as a separate item to the November City Council meeting.

17 **Managers Report**

- The Manager informed Members that Dublin Bay Biosphere will be hosting EuroMAB 2019, a biennial four-day conference for stakeholders from 302 UNESCO Biospheres from Tuesday April 2nd to Friday April 5th 2019. They would like to hold a welcoming reception for delegates at City Hall on the evening before the conference, Monday April 1st, from 6:30pm to 8pm, and in

so doing, provide an opportunity for delegates to meet with the elected members of Dublin City Council. However, the reception clashes with the April 2019 City Council meeting which is scheduled for 1st April from 6.15 – 9.30pm.

Order: The Members recognised the importance of the Biosphere Project and felt that it was of such significance that they recommended the time of the April 2019 City Council be brought forward to earlier in the day to accommodate the welcoming reception.

Recommend to Council.

- The Manager raised the issue of maintenance in the Mansion House and recommended a period of 4 weeks after the election of the Lord Mayor to facilitate essential maintenance and repairs.

The Members acknowledged the need to carry out maintenance works but felt that such issues should be discussed by the Mansion House Lord Mayor's Committee.

Order: The Members agreed that the Mansion House Lord Mayors Committee should be reconvened to consider issues surrounding the maintenance schedule and other planned works in the Mansion House. The Committee to include former Lord Mayors who are still Councillors, the current Lord Mayor and the Chair of the South East Area Committee.

18 **A.O.B.**

- Cllr. N. O'Muire expressed concern regarding the scheduling of events in the Rotunda during official City Council meetings. There were recent incidences where the noise emanating from the Rotunda was interfering with the business of meetings in the Chamber.

Order: The Members agreed that official City Council business should always have precedence in City Hall and that every effort should be made to ensure weddings and events were not scheduled at the same time as meetings in the Chamber. The Manager to follow up with the Culture Recreation and Economic Services Department who have responsibility for the management of events in City Hall.

- Cllr. Lacey requested an update on the plans for the Rates Office. The Manager reported that there had been delays relating to the Finance Department vacating the premises.

Order: Members agreed that irrespective of the delay in the plans they wanted a site visit to the Rates Office after the next meeting of the Protocol Committee.

- Cllr. T. Keegan requested a report on the progress made following the passing of her motion regarding the non-use of non-biodegradable items by the City Council.

Order: The Manager to investigate and report back to the Committee.

19 **Proposed date of next meeting: 1st November 2018 at 8am in the Richard O'Carroll Room, City Hall**

Order: Agreed.

Councillor Dermot Lacey

Chairperson

Thursday 27 September 2018

Attendance:

Members:

Dermot Lacey (Chairperson)
Aine Clancy
Deirdre Heney
Naoise O'Muire

Members:

Patrick Costello
Teresa Keegan
Ciaran O'Moore

Members:

Mannix Flynn
Michael Mullooly

Officers

Michael Gallagher

Deirdre Ni Raghallaigh

Apologies:

Anne Feeney

Ray McHugh

Lord Mayor Nial Ring

Non-Members:

Mary Freehill

Greg Kelly