



**MINUTES OF THE PROTOCOL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 29 JULY 2021**

1 Election of the Chair of Protocol

Cllr. Anne Feeney was nominated by Cllr. Dermot Lacey and seconded by Cllr. Naoise O’Muirí.

Order: Cllr. Anne Feeney was unanimously elected as Chair of the Protocol Committee.

2 Election of the Deputy Chair of Protocol

Cllr. Dermot Lacey was nominated by Cllr. Deirdre Heney and seconded by Cllr. Joe Costello.

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

3 Minutes of the last meeting held on 3rd June and matters arising.

The Chair informed Members that John Flanagan and Brendan O’Brien would bring a report to the September meeting of the Protocol Committee to address the concerns regarding communication by the Environment and Transportation Department that were raised at the last meeting.

Order: Minutes Agreed.

4 Cities Fortifying Democracy - Briefing by Lord Mayor Alison Gilliland

Lord Mayor Alison Gilliland informed Members that Dublin City Council had agreed to participate in the Cities Fortifying Democracy Project. The project aims to bring together a cohort of participants from 12 cities across the EU and U.S. to identify and explore some of the best local innovations that empower their cities to further and fortify democracy. Four “pillars” have been identified, that with action and intention by local communities can strengthen the institutions of democracy. These are: voting and elections, governing, public safety and justice, and local media. The Chairs of the SPC’s are participating in this project which was launched on 23 June and will run until March 2022. The Lord Mayor committed to update the Protocol Committee on the development of the project over the next 9 months.

Order: Report Noted.

5 Motion in the name of Councillor Dermot Lacey calling on Dublin City Council to pass a resolution declaring itself to be a LGBTIQ Freedom Zone

The Committee welcomed the motion and reaffirmed their commitment to equality for all members of the LGBTIQ community. The Lord Mayor was supportive of the motion and expressed her desire to extend awareness of LGBTIQ issues beyond Pride week. She informed Members that she would report back in September with proposals in relation to Pride Pedestrian Crossings, Park Benches, Library Webinars and round table discussions with representatives from the LGBTIQ community. The Manager also agreed to investigate protocols surrounding the erection of posters by groups espousing discriminatory views.

Order: Motion agreed and recommended to Council.

6 **City Hall Illumination Requests:**

- a) Request to Light Up City Hall on 7th October for International Trigeminal Neuralgia Awareness Day 2021 (Information Attached)
Order: Agreed.
- b) Request from the Irish Heart Foundation to Light Up City Hall on 29th September for World Heart Day.
Order: Agreed.
- c) Request from Childhood Cancer Foundation Ireland to participate in the "Light It Up Gold Campaign" for Childhood Cancer Awareness, any day from the 1st to the 7th September 2021
Order: Agreed.

7 **Sculpture Dublin: City Hall - O'Connell Plinth Commission Update**

Order: Report Noted.

8 **Managers' Report**

a) **Meeting Protocols from September onwards**

The Manager informed Members that the Round Room has been reserved for City Council meetings from September through to December. It was envisaged that these meetings would be hybrid in format, although that was depended on Public Health Guidelines.

The Members expressed the view that hybrid meetings should last the full 3 hours 15 minutes. If this could not be accommodated then the preference was for a totally remote Council meeting.

It was agreed that Area, JPC and SPC meetings would continue in remote format in September with a view to moving towards hybrid in October.

Order: Report Noted.

b) **Departmental Responses to Councillor Questions and Motions**

The Manager reported that the Chief Executive had discussed the issue at the Senior Management Team meeting and advised Heads of Department to ensure that responses to questions and motions were detailed and responded to the issues raised in full. A further report would be brought to the September meeting of Protocol Committee outlining management's commitments.

Order: Report Noted.

c) **City Hall Facilities Upgrade**

The Manager reported that the Political Party Rooms would be painted in August. A Quantity Surveyor had been appointed for the basement facilities upgrade project and once costs had been finalised it was envisaged that procurement could proceed in September. It was estimated that works would take four months with a view to completion by year end. The toilets in the basement were also in the process of being upgraded.

Order: Report Noted.

d) **Qualified Majority Voting on Topical Issues & Emergency Motions at Hybrid & Remote Council meetings.**

The Manager confirmed that the existing interpretation of standing orders with respect of qualified majority voting would remain. The requirement for agreement was two thirds of Members present rather than two thirds of Members voting.

Order: Report Noted.

e) **Update on Councillor Portal**

The Manager reported that two online information sessions were held in July and that future sessions were scheduled for the Autumn as the project developed.

Order: Report Noted.

f) **Request from Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann to fly the Fuchsia Flag on City Hall during the month of September in support of the Fuchsia Appeal.**

Order: The Members agreed to fly the Fuchsia Flag for one week from 13th – 20th September in support of the Fuchsia Appeal.

9

A.O.B.

- The Lord Mayor informed Members that Minister Eamon Ryan had requested to address the Council on the issue of Climate Change at the September City Council Meeting.

Order: Agreed. The format to be agreed by the Lord Mayor and meetings Administrator.

- Councillor Donna Cooney expressed her frustration and disappointment regarding the demolition of a building on Bull Island and the erection of new signage banning walking, cycling and swimming which also included poor translation into Irish. There was no engagement with Councillors on these matters and they were was no notification that the measures were to be introduced.

Order: The Manager to report the Councillors dissatisfaction to the Area Manager and Head of Parks.

- Councillor Mannix Flynn expressed his disappointment with the treatment of the Proclamation in the Rotunda and with the noise levels associated with weddings in City Hall.

Order: The Manager to raise these concerns with the management of City Hall.

- Councillor Joe Costello requested clarification on the criteria for information meetings on planning applications. He and another Councillor had made separate requests for an information meeting on the same planning application and received different responses.

Order: The Manager agreed to raise the matter with the City Planner.

- The Chair informed Members that the investigation of the allegations made by Cllr Anthony Flynn against Council officials would be reviewed by herself, the Lord Mayor and Senior Management.

Order: Noted.

10 **Date of next meeting: 23rd September 2021**

Order: It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 23rd September 2021.

Councillor Anne Feeney

Chairperson

Thursday 29 July 2021

Attendance:

Members:

Anne Feeney (Chairperson)
Racheal Batten
Joe Costello
Dermot Lacey
Briega MacOscar
Michael Pidgeon

Members:

Anthony Connaghan
Mannix Flynn
Darcy Lonergan
Naoise Ó Muirí
Noeleen Reilly

Members:

Donna Cooney
Deirdre Heney
Micheál MacDonncha
Cat O'Driscoll

Officers

Michael Gallagher

Deirdre Ní Raghallaigh