



MINUTES OF THE PROTOCOL COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2024

1 Election of the Chair of the Protocol Committee

Cllr. Ray McAdam was nominated by Cllr. Naoise Ó Muiri and seconded by Cllr. Deirdre Heney.

Order: Cllr. Ray McAdam was unanimously elected as Chair of the Protocol Committee.

2 Election of the Vice Chair of the Protocol Committee

Cllr. Dermot Lacey was nominated by Cllr. Deirdre Heney and seconded by Cllr. Naoise Ó Muiri.

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

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd May 2024 and matters arising

Order: Minutes Agreed.

4 Receptions of the Lord Mayor and Engagements of the Deputy Lord Mayor

Order: Receptions Noted.

5 International Relations Quarterly Report

Ciara O hAodha gave an update to the Members on developments in International Relations and the ongoing work that was taking place in relation to Friendship and Twinning Agreements. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

Order: Report Noted.

6 Revised HSE Guidelines on Marriage Ceremonies in City Hall

Ciara O hAodha gave a briefing to the Members on the background to the change in policy which was as a result of a legal challenge taken against the HSE, DCC and the Attorney General. Following the legal challenge the HSE issued new guidelines which stated that a venue could hold both religious and civil ceremonies. Consequently, DCC was obliged to make City Hall available for religious ceremonies.

Assistant Law Agent Samantha Gill confirmed that the HSE and the Attorney General had entered into a settlement agreement and the matter was now closed and there was no route for appeal.

The Members expressed their disappointment that they were not consulted or informed about the proceedings in advance of the decision. This point was acknowledged by the Assistant Law Agent who apologised and confirmed that it would be taken on board for the future.

The Members, while supportive of City Hall being made available to all citizens, were concerned that the change in policy would reduce the number of bookings available for Civil Ceremonies and that it would also lead to other religious ceremonies taking place in City Hall. The Manager informed Members that there had not been an influx in requests for religious ceremonies since the change and that the policy is solely concerned with wedding ceremonies and excludes all other forms of religious rites. There would also be guidelines for the management of events in City Hall including wedding ceremonies and Councillors would be consulted in the reviewing and updating of these.

Order: Report noted. It was agreed that a City Hall Sub-Committee be established to provide Councillors an opportunity to be consulted on matters relating to City Hall. List for next meeting.

7 Legal Opinion on Dublin City Council's Obligations regarding the UNCRPD

Order: This item was deferred to the October meeting of the Protocol Committee.

8 Lighting Requests for City Hall:

Order: The following lighting requests for City Hall were approved:

- 30/09/2024 International Recovery Day
- 06/10/2024 European Carers Day
- 24/10/2024 Bram Stoker Festival
- 01/11/2024 Light the World in Teal
- 03/12/2024 International Day of Persons with Disabilities

It was also agreed that the process for determining which requests were approved would be considered at the next meeting

9 Councillor Conference Reports:

Councillors Dermot Lacey & Danny Byrne: "MacGill Summer School" 18-20th July 2024. Highland Hotel, Glenties, County Donegal.

Order: Reports Noted. The Manager also agreed to provide guidance to Group Leaders regarding the Training and Conference Allowance available to Members.

10 Approval for Councillor attendance at the following Conferences:

- Decarbonising Dublin Summit on 14th November 2024
- Annual attendance at the MacGill Summer School, Glenties, County Donegal from 2024 until 2029.

Order: Agreed

11 **Request from the Fellowship of Irish Scouts and Guides to use the Council Chamber to hold their AGM on Saturday 19th October 2024**

Order: Agreed

12 **Correspondence from Families Carers Ireland**

Order: Correspondence noted

13 **Re-establishment of the Women's Committee as a formal sub-committee of the Protocol Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr. Cat O'Driscoll and seconded by Cllr. Ray McAdam that the Women's Committee be re-established.

Order: Agreed.

14 **Manager's Report**

- The Manager reported that the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage provided funding to the National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCi) to carry out research in relation the experience of women who were elected to local government in 2019, including those who intended to run in 2024 and those who did not. The aim of the research was to assess whether measures introduced to encourage women to participate in local government had an impact and to establish an evidence base to address outstanding challenges facing women in local government.

Order: It was agreed to refer the findings of this research to the Women's Committee for consideration.

- The Manager reminded Members that while City Hall is a political institution it should not be used for Party Political Media Events. The Members expressed concern over this policy.

Order: It was agreed to refer this issue to the City Hall Committee for consideration once it was established.

- The Manager informed Members that RTE has requested permission to obtain some stock footage and photos from the beginning of the Council meeting for future media pieces.

Order: Agreed.

15 **A.O.B.**

Cllr. Flynn requested that his emergency motion to the September Council meeting regarding Commemorative Naming and Plaques be listed for the next meeting of the Protocol Committee, as indicated by the Lord Mayor.

Order: Agreed.

16 **Proposed meeting time and dates for 2024 and 2025:**

Order: The following meeting dates were agreed and the meeting time was set at 9.30am for the next twelve months, with the option to review.

- **24th October 2024**
- **21st November 2024**
- **19th December 2024**

- 30th January 2025
- 20th February 2025
- 27th March 2025
- 1st May 2025
- 29th May 2025
- 26th June 2025
- 24th July 2025
- 25th September 2025
- 23rd October 2025
- 27th November 2025
- 18th December 2025

Cllr. Ray McAdam

Chairperson

Thursday 26 September 2024

Attendance:

Members:

Daryl Barron
Ray Cunningham
Deirdre Heney
Ray McAdam
Michael Pidgeon

Members:

Anthony Connaghan
Mannix Flynn
Dermot Lacey
Naoise Ó Muirí
Punam Rane

Members:

Fiona Connelly
Barry Heneghan
Micheál MacDonncha
Cat O'Driscoll
Conor Reddy

Officers

Lorraine Brogan
Neil Gorman
Mary MacSweeney

Michael Gallagher
Ciara O hAodha

Samantha Gill
Yvonne Kelly

Apologies:

Lord Mayor James Geoghegan