

MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER, 2019 AT 3.00 P.M.

Chair: Peter Cleere.

Cllrs: Eamon Aylward, Tomás Breathnach, John Brennan, Martin Brett, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, John Coonan, Deirdre Cullen, Michael Delaney, Fidelis Doherty, Michael Doyle, Pat Dunphy, David Fitzgerald, Pat Fitzpatrick, Ger Frisby, Denis Hynes, Joe Lyons, Joe Malone, Michael McCarthy, Andrew McGuinness, Eugene McGuinness, Malcolm Noonan and Patrick O'Neill.

Officials: Colette Byrne, Martin Prendiville, Mary J. Mulholland, Sean McKeown, Tim Butler, Anne Maria Walsh, Denis Malone, Evelyn Graham and Fiona Deegan.

Apology: Cllr. Matt Doran.

Cathaoirleach opened meeting at 3.00 p.m.

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy and agreed to suspend Standing Orders and adjourn meeting for 15 minutes to allow meeting with Gardaí to finish.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

(a) Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday 21st October, 2019

Proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy and agreed:

"That the Ordinary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday, 21st October, 2019 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".

Cathaoirleach Peter Cleere:

- wished every success to all involved in Yulefest Festival.
- congratulated to all who won awards at Chamber Night.
- congratulated all who won Garda Youth Awards.
- congratulated Cllr. Malcolm Noonan on his appointment to EU Committee of Regions.
- wished best of luck to all involved in the next round of Juniors/Senior Championships.
- congratulated Edwina Grace on birth of her baby.

Cllr. Peter Cleere extended a speedy recovery to Ger McMorrow, Local Government Auditor following an accident.

Cllr. Peter Cleere condemned the attack on Deputy Martin Kenny's home.

The Cathaoirleach extended votes of sympathy to:

- Family of the late Martin Kennedy, Glenmore.
- Family of late Edward Power, Mooncoin.
- Family of the late Catherine Walsh, Mooncoin.
- Family of the late Mary Walsh, Carrigeen.
- Family of the late Bridie Hearne, Piltown.
- Family of the late Elizabeth Cullinane, Piltown.
- Family of the late Ned Hogan, Mooncoin.
- Family of the late Bridget Power, Castlecomer.
- Family of the late Johnny Doyle, Woodsgift.
- Family of the late Stasia Cody, Glenmore.
- Family of the late John McDonald, Thomastown.
- Family of the late Peter Curtis, Glenmore.
- Family of the late Seamus Kinsella, Mullinavat.
- Family of the late Mona Dunne, Glenmore.

2. (a) **Housing & Other Disposal – Tithíocht & Díuscairt Eile**

- (i) It was proposed by Cllr. Ger Frisby seconded by Cllr. Eamon Aylward and agreed:

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of the disposal of its interest in property at Mullinabro, Ferrybank, Co. Kilkenny to Richard and Bridget Walsh, Mullinabro, Ferrybank, Co. Kilkenny for nil consideration with each party being responsible for their own legal costs associated with the sale.”

Notice sent to Members on the 5th November 2019

- (ii) It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy and agreed:

“That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of the disposal of its interest in a plot of ground at Garruduff, Gowran Road, Paulstown, Co. Kilkenny (as identified on the attached map) to Joe O’Neill and Breda O’Neill, Rathvaun, Gowran, Co. Kilkenny for the sum of €500 with the Purchaser being responsible for all legal costs associated with the sale, including those of Kilkenny County Council. Plot measures 0.06 acre.”

Notice sent to members on 31st October, 2019

2. (a) **Planning**

- (i) **Taking in Charge [TC60]: Archersfield Kilmaganny**

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness seconded by Cllr. Patrick O’Neill and agreed:

“That the County Council of the County of Kilkenny, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 and in compliance with Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended by Section 59 of the Planning & Development Act 2010, hereby declares the road listed in the Public Notice and listed below, to be a Public Road.”

ESTATE: 24 No. Units at Archersfield, Kilmaganny, Kilkenny (File Ref. TC60)

- (ii) **Taking in Charge [TC139]: Glenvale, Ballyragget**

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy and agreed:

“We, the Members of Kilkenny County Council approve the initiation of proceedings for the taking in charge of the following development in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993 and in compliance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2018.”

Developments: TC139 Glenvale, Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny

- (iii) **Strategic Planning Update**

Mr. Denis Malone, Senior Planner gave a PowerPoint presentation to Members on progress and status of all Development Plans, Local Area Plans and Masterplans.

In the presentation he gave an overview on the following:

- Regional Spatial & Economy Strategy [RSES].
- City & County Development Plan – Process to-date and work in progress – next steps.
- Local Area Plans – Graiguenamanagh/Tinnahinch Joint Plan.
- Masterplans – Stages of all plans.
- Abbey Quarter Masterplan – overview on types and mixes of use.

He advised the Members that the preparation of the City & County Development Plan will be progressed through 2020. It is expected that Masterplans will be reviewed/adopted during 2020. The process to be undertaken for the various plans was also outlined.

Cllr. Cleere thanked Denis Malone for the presentation. He advised that the presentation will be circulated to all Members for their information.

(c) (i) **Residential Regeneration**

Ms. Mary Mulholland advised that there is a positive outcome from the work being done in identifying vacant homes. It may be slow but properties have been activated due to the intervention of the Council.

Ms. Evelyn Graham gave a PowerPoint presentation on work undertaken since April 2018 on vacant homes. She advised that the project does not include commercial property. She gave an overview on the following:

- Properties identified in County Kilkenny and survey findings.
- National Website for Vacant Homes.
- Reasons why houses are vacant.
- Action taken – CPO/Derelict Sites.
- Repair & Lease Scheme.
- Buy & Renew Scheme.
- Turnkey & Leases.

Ms. Mary Mulholland also gave an overview on the Callan Pilot Regeneration Project. Kilkenny County Council received a grant of €100k for a Feasibility Study for Bridge Street, Callan. She advised the Members on the proposed Action Plan and the opportunities to regenerate this street. This project will require community stakeholder engagement, private and public solutions and funding.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Malcolm Noonan, Eamon Aylward, Joe Lyons, Andrew McGuinness, John Coonan, Tomás Breathnach, Deirdre Cullen, David Fitzgerald and Martin Brett. Issues raised are as follows:

- Availability of Funds/Grants.
- Dealing with Protected Structures.
- Process for dealing with Derelict Property, unmaintained houses.
- Poor take up of Repair & Lease Scheme.
- Living Village Scheme.
- Non Compliance with Housing Standards.
- Identifying Derelict Sites.
- More flexibility in County Development Plan for Living Cities Initiatives and Protected Structures.

Ms. Mulholland and Ms. Graham responded to all the queries raised by the Members.

(d) (i) **Chief Executive's Monthly Report**

Ms. Colette Byrne presented her monthly report to the Members. She advised she is available to any Member if there are any questions arising from the Report.

Cllr. Cleere advised that the CE Report will be taken as read and noted. All Members agreed.

(ii) **Corporate Plan**

Mr. Tim Butler gave a PowerPoint presentation on the draft Corporate Plan. He also referred to the report circulated with the Agenda which outlined the amendments proposed to the Draft Plan as published. The Draft Plan was on public display until 26th October, 2019. One external submission was received and the report outlined the response to the issues raised. A number of submissions were received internally from staff in relation to the text of the document.

In his presentation he gave an overview of the content of the plan and the layout of the final document.

It was proposed by Cllr. Michael McCarthy seconded by Cllr. Michael Delaney and agreed:

"We the Members of Kilkenny County Council having considered Kilkenny County Council's Draft Corporate Plan 2019 – 2024 prepared in accordance with Section 134 (1) of the Local Government Act 2001 hereby adopt Kilkenny County Council's Corporate Plan 2019-2024."

(e) (i) **Sports Partnership**

Cllr. Cleere welcomed Nicola Keeshan, Kilkenny Sports Partnership and representatives of IRFU, FAI and GAA to the meeting.

He invited Nicola Keeshan to commence the presentation to the Members.

Ms. Keeshan gave a PowerPoint presentation giving an overview on the background and activities of the Kilkenny Recreation & Sports Partnership.

She outlined the following:

- Structure of the Partnership.
- Various roles of the Team.
- Strategic Plan – Active & Sporting Kilkenny.
- Vision & Mission Statements, Strategic Priorities
- Various sources of funding in 2019, contribution by Kilkenny County Council.
- Joint Programmes with other organisations.
- Programmes of events/courses etc.

Mr. William Kinsella, Development Officer with FAI gave an overview of the programmes undertaken in Co. Kilkenny to develop football for all and to ensure social inclusion. He outlined in detail the various programmes delivered in 2019, the numbers attended and the locations across the County.

The areas for 2020 will focus on female participation, social inclusion and football for all.

Mr. Corey Carty, Community Rugby Officer gave an overview on the development of rugby in Co. Kilkenny. In his presentations he gave an overview on what Leinster Rugby does in Kilkenny, the After School Programmes, the Aldi Rugby Initiative, Coaching Programmes and the involvement of girls in the various under age teams.

He advised that in 2018 girls started playing rugby in Kilkenny and now there are three girls teams participating in training and playing matches.

Mr. Brian Ryan, Development Officer with GAA gave an overview of the GAA activities in the County. He advised Members that there are three Development Officers in the County who are involved in the Grass Roots Clubs, Primary Schools, Cul Camps, Clubs Go Games and Player Injury Prevention Programmes.

He gave a detailed account of the work undertaken in the development squads, coaching supports/resources and Youth Player Physical Development Programme. The GAA is also promoting inclusive fun games for all children especially those with a disability "Multi Cats Club" and "Black Amber Days".

The Cathaoirleach thanked all four speakers for their detailed presentations on the development of sport across the County for all ages. He stated that people appreciated all the work done voluntary at club level in all sports.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Eamon Aylward, Pat Fitzpatrick, John Brennan, Malcolm Noonan, Tomás Breathnach, Andrew McGuinness, Deirdre Cullen and Ger Frisby. Issues raised are as follows:

- Social Inclusion in all sports.
- Database of Sporting Groups.
- Value for money invested by Kilkenny County Council.
- Summer Camps for Disabled People.

Members thanked the groups for the presentation and the work they are involved in.

Ms. Nicola Keeshan responded to the issues raised by the Members.

3. **Correspondence**

None.

4. **Business Adjourned From a Previous Meeting**

None.

5. (i) **Schedule of Meetings from November 2019 to February 2020**

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed.

6. **Consideration of Reports and Recommendations of Committees of the Council**

None.

7. **Other Business set forth in the Notice convening the Meeting-**

None.

8. **Conferences – Request for approval to Attend**

None.

9. **Matters Arising from Minutes**

None

10. **Any Other Business**

None.

11. **Notices of Motion**

27 (19) Cllrs. Malcolm Noonan & John Brennan

It was proposed by Cllr. Malcolm Noonan, seconded by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach and agreed:

“That Kilkenny County Council recognises the need for flexibility within the awarding of conservation grants, buildings at risk grants and requests the same need for flexibility for Heritage Council, or State funded Built Heritage and Conservation Grants due to the complexity of work involved in many built heritage restoration/conservation projects and that delays can occur due to climatic or weather-related conditions. As such a project should be granted an extension in draw down if an unavoidable delay is incurred.

We also request that the grant amount for projects be increased to a maximum of 80% based on meeting criteria laid down in grant schemes.”

Cllr. Malcolm Noonan spoke on this motion.

12. **Notices of Motion from other local authorities seeking support of Kilkenny County Council**

It was proposed by Cllr. Michael Doyle, seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy and agreed that Notices of Motion 25 (19), 26 (19), 27(19) and 28 (19) be taken as read and noted.

25 (19) Donegal County Council

“That this Council supports a vote of no confidence in the Mercosur Trade Deal.”

26 (19) Monaghan County Council

“That Monaghan County Council calls on the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment, Richard Bruton TD, to legislate for the banning of all non-recyclable materials used in food/drinks packaging by the end of 2021 and ensure that only recyclable and biodegradable packaging be used.”

27 (19) Westmeath County Council

“For Westmeath County Council to call on the Taoiseach and Minister for Defence, Leo Varadkar TD to establish without delay a Commission on the Future of the Defence Forces in Ireland and also the establish a Permanent and Independent Defence Forces Pay Body.”

28 (19) Fingal County Council

“That this Council congratulates the Community Development Office for their presentation to representatives from 27 local Authorities at the recent “Developing and Implementing Local Migrant Integration Strategies” and asks that copies of the presentation be forwarded to all Elected Representatives in Ireland in the hope it will prevent future discriminatory comments being made by politicians similar to the offensive comments made recently in Oughterard”.

That concluded the business of the meeting.