

Minutes of March Council Meeting held on 20th March, 2017 at 3.00p.m.

Chair: Cllr. P. Fitzpatrick,

Cllrs: M. H. Cavanagh, M. Shortall, J. Brennan, M. Noonan, J. Malone, M. McCarthy, E. Aylward, T. Breathnach, P. Dunphy, G. Frisby, F. Doherty, A. McGuinness, B. Gardner, S. Tyrrell, D. Kennedy and M. Doyle, P. Millea and P. Cleere, D. Fitzgerald, M. O' Neill, P. O' Neill, P. McKee.

Officials: C. Byrne, M. Mulholland, M. Prendiville, S. Walton, D. Murphy, K. Hanley, B. Tyrrell, M. Delahunty and A.M. Walsh

Apologies: Cllr. M. Doran and T. Butler.

Cllr. P. Fitzpatrick opened the monthly meeting at 3.00 p.m. It was proposed by Cllr. S. Tyrrell, Seconded by Cllr. D. Kennedy and agreed:- "To adjourn meeting for 15 minutes".

1. Confirmation of Minutes - Dearbhú Miontuairiscí:

(a) Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday 20th February 2017

Proposed by Cllr. M. Shortall, Seconded by Cllr. A. McGuinness and agreed:- "That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday 20th February, 2017 as circulated with the agenda be and are hereby approved".

(b) Minutes of Special Meeting held on 13th February 2017

Proposed by Cllr. B. Gardner, Seconded by Cllr. M. O' Neill and agreed:- "That the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 13th February, 2017 as circulated with the agenda be and are hereby approved".

Cllr. Fitzpatrick congratulated Mark Boyle and Richie Kenneally, Greensbridge Engineering Ltd, Mullinavat on winning the County Enterprise Award and wished them every success as they progress to the next round of the National Enterprise Awards.

Cllr. E. Aylward was delighted to be associated with the congratulations and wished them every success going forward. He stated that it is a testimony to the company on their success to date.

Cllr. Fitzpatrick congratulated:-

- All who were involved and who took part in all St. Patrick's Day Parades throughout the County.

Cllr. Fitzpatrick extended votes of sympathy to the following:-

- To Owen & Harry Shine Road Design on the death of their sister Regina O' Leary.
- To the family of Ryan McBride, Derry Footballer
- To the West Coast, Rescue 117 – Families of Capt Dara Fitzpatrick and her 3 crew members who lost their life in Co. Mayo.
- Kathleen O' Shea, Chapel Street, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny on the death of her husband Sean O' Shea.
- Noel Bergin, Kilkenny Street, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny on the death of his mother Mary Bergin.
- Billy Mulligan, Airmount Road, Slieverue, Co. Kilkenny on the death of his wife Pat Mulligan.
- Nellie Doherty & Family, Ballinlammy, Glenmore, Co. Kilkenny on the death of her brother Paddy Heffernan.
- Johnny O' Donnell, The Square, Inistioge, Co. Kilkenny on the death of his brother James O' Donnell.
- Eugene Wemyss, Marian Place, Gowran Road, Bennettsbridge, Co. Kilkenny on the death of his wife Catherine Wemyss.

2. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Council. -Gnó forordaithe do réir Reachtaíochta, Orduithe Seasta, nó Rúin an Chomhairle.

(a) Housing & Other Disposal - Tithíocht & Dfúscairt Eile

- (i)** Proposed by Cllr. A. McGuinness, Seconded by Cllr. P. 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 above, to be a Public Road:- Development at The Weir, Castlecomer Road, Kilkenny.
- (ii)** Proposed by Cllr. F. Doherty, Seconded by Cllr. G. Frisby 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 above, to be a Public Road:- Development at The Briarwood, Kilmurry, Slieverue, Co. Kilkenny.
- (iii)** Proposed by Cllr. A. McGuinness, Seconded by Cllr. D. Kennedy 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 above, to be a Public Road:- Development at Hazelbrook, Ballyhale, Co. Kilkenny.

- (iv) Proposed by Cllr. P. McKee, Seconded by Cllr. S. Tyrrell 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 above, to be a Public Road:- Development at Rosehill Court, Circular Road, Kilkenny.
- (v) Proposed by Cllr. P. McKee, Seconded by Cllr. M. Noonan 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 above, to be a Public Road:- Development at College Square, College Road, Kilkenny.
- (vi) Proposed by Cllr. P. Dunphy, Seconded by Cllr. B. Gardner 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 & Development Act, 2000 as amended by Section 59 of the Planning & Development Act, 2010” – Cooleigh, Carrigeen, Co. Kilkenny.
- (vii) Proposed by Cllr. M. Doyle, Seconded by Cllr. E. Aylward 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 & Development Act, 2000 as amended by Section 59 of the Planning & Development Act, 2010”:- Development at Ballygearda, Hugginstown, Co. Kilkenny. (notification attached)

(b) Roads - Bóithre

Ratification of the Kilkenny County Council Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye Laws 2017

Proposed by Cllr. P. Cleere, Seconded by Cllr. M. McCarthy and agreed:-

2017 Revised Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws for County Kilkenny

Kilkenny County Council in exercise of the powers confirmed on them by section 9 (.10) of the Road Traffic Act 2004 and with the consent of the National Roads Authority (Transport Infrastructure Ireland), hereby make Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws in respect of the area comprising of the administrative County of Kilkenny in accordance with the report attached and forwarded to the members on the 16th March, 2017.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. M. Shortall, P. Fitzpatrick, M. Doyle, T. Breathnach, P. McKee, S. Tyrrell, P. Dunphy and F. Doherty.

Items raised related to the following:-

- Provision of signage at all locations
- Can speed limits at other locations be reviewed at a later stage.
- Change of speed limit from 80kmph to 60kmph at Church in Moneenroe, change at Rock Road, Inistioge
- Roadworks on Callan Road – Review position of traffic lights.

Declan Murphy and Simon Walton responded to the issues raised and advised that TII must approve the speed limits on the national roads. The new speed limits come into effect when the bye laws are approved and the signage is erected. There will be ongoing liaison with the Gardai on this.

Mr. Walton agreed to review the traffic management for the roadworks on the Callan Road.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Dunphy, seconded by Cllr. F. Doherty and agreed:-
“That the TII be invited to attend a meeting of the Council to discuss members concerns on the speed limits on the National Road Network.

Proposed by Cllr. M. Shortall, Seconded by Cllr. P. Cleere and agreed.

(c) Community & Culture

The Festival and Events Grants Scheme 2017

It was proposed that the grants outlined in the Scheme and circulated be approved.

Cllr. M. Noonan thanked the Council for the support given for the St. Patrick’s Day Parade and Tradfest. He asked that consideration be given to separating strategic festivals to give certainty of funding over a longer period. These festivals contribute a significant investment in the development of tourism in the City & County. Mr. Tyrrell advised that a strategic view will have to be taken in funding major festivals on a multi annual basis possibly 3 to 5 years term.

(d) Housing - Tithíocht

Repair to Lease Scheme

Mr. S. Walton referred to the document circulated on the Repair and Leasing Scheme. He advised that the scheme has been piloted in Waterford and Carlow. The scheme is open to all private properties which have been vacant for over a year. Maximum of €40,000 will be available to improve the property and the cost will be offset against the rental payment over 10 years.

There is a national fund of €32m available in 2017 which will improve 800 properties. Details of the scheme will be advertised and there will be a press release also. Contributions were received from Cllrs. P. Fitzpatrick, D. Kennedy, M.H. Cavanagh, T. Breathnach, M. O' Neill, M. Noonan, S. Tyrrell, M. Shortall and B. Gardner.

Members welcomed this initiative and hoped that property owners will avail of this scheme and bring vacant properties back into residential use. Issues raised by members related to the following:-

- Is Scheme open to shop with accommodation overhead
- Living Village Initiative
- Can rural houses avail of the scheme
- Standards for BER
- Acquiring derelict properties
- Change of use will require planning permission
- Council should carry out audit of properties
- Is the maximum of €40,000 repayable in full to the Council
- Can Local Authorities buy these properties at a later stage

Ms. Mulholland advised that change of use will require planning permission and each case will be assessed.

Mr. Walton responded to all the queries raised and advised that the Council staff will initially carry out inspections on all the properties. The properties identified in any location will be based on the required demand for social housing in that area. All options to acquire additional units for social housing will be explored. Planning Department is currently preparing data for the vacant site levy.

(c) Corporate Affairs - Gnóthaí Corparáideacha

(i) Chief Executives Report

Ms. C. Byrne presented her report and advised members that the Medieval Mile Museum would be officially opened on 4th April, 2017.

Cllr. F. Doherty asked for an update on the provision of the Playground in Ferrybank. She advised that the public consultation day was very successful.

(ii) Tourism Strategy

Mr. B. Tyrrell gave a powerpoint presentation. In his presentation he advised members of the following:-

- Economic benefits of Tourism to Kilkenny
- Statistics on where visitors are coming from and relevant visitors numbers to Kilkenny Castle

- Key actions in the Tourism Strategy document
- Aligning Strategy with other policy documents
- Community & Stakeholder Engagement
- Creating jobs, supporting rural economy and small community businesses
- Showcase local, cultural, heritage in Kilkenny
- Kilkenny an alternative to Dublin
- Overview on tourism campaign for 2017 and recent marketing campaign
- Development of key festival events

Contributions were received from Cllrs. P. Fitzpatrick, M. Doyle, J. Brennan, A. McGuinness, M. Noonan, P. Dunphy, T. Breathnach, B. Gardner, M. O' Neill, M. Shortall, D. Fitzgerald, P. McKee and D. Kennedy.

Members welcomed the Tourism Statement of Strategy and Work Programme 2017-2022.

Issues raised by members related to the following:-

- Tourism – Must be developed on a county wide basis, promote tourist trails to encourage people to visit the rural sites, development of activities on the rivers.
- Development of tourist “hubs”, facilities such as parking are essential, coach park required for City and other main tourism attractions e.g. Woodstock, Kells
- Marketing of the product
- Tourism to be promoted through twinning arrangements
- Need to deal with anti-social behaviour in towns – deterrent to visitors exploring the sites
- Strategic use of funds for festivals, separate fund for small events.
- Development of Greenways – National significance

Mr. Tyrrell responded to the issues raised and advised that tourists will go where they want to go provided facilities are available. We need to focus on our best tourist attractions first and then extend to the other attractions.

3. Urgent Correspondence - Comhfhreagras Práinneach

Cllr. Cleere asked if there was any response from the Department in relation to the additional cost on salaries/wages. Mr. Prendiville advised that the Council has written to the Minister and the Department and advised that there was not a positive result.

4. **Business adjourned from a previous Meeting - Gnó ar athló ó chruinniú roimhe seo**

None

5. **Fix Dates and Times of Meetings - Dátaí agus Amanta do chruinnithe a shocrú:**

Schedule of meetings from March - May 2017 – Proposed by Cllr. A. McGuinness, Seconded by Cllr. D. Kennedy and agreed.

Cllr. Fitzpatrick advised that a workshop will be held in committee on the Capital Budget on Monday 10th April, 2017 at 4.00p.m. in Butler House.

6. **Consideration of Reports and Recommendations of Committees of the Council - Plé ar Thuairiscí agus Moltaí ó Choistí an Comhairle:**

None

7. **Other Business set forth in the Notice convening the Meeting – Gnó Eile romhainn i bhFógra reachtála an Chruinnithe**

Cllr. Brennan requested that the members meet in committee after this meeting. Cllr. Cleere seconded this and it was agreed .

8. **Education & Training – Oideachas agus Oiliúint**

(i) Conferences – Request for approval to attend as per circulated list.

Proposed by Cllr. A. McGuinness, Seconded by Cllr. S. Tyrrell and agreed.

9. **Urgent Correspondence - Comhfhreagras Práinneach**

None.

10. **Business adjourned from a previous Meeting - Gnó ar athló ó chruinniú roimhe seo**

None

11. Notices of Motion - Fógraí Rúin:

7(17) Cllrs. T. Breathnach & M. Shortall – 14th February 2017

Proposed by Cllr. T. Breathnach, Seconded by Cllr. M. Shortall and agreed:- “That Kilkenny County would complete a full audit of all of the measures implemented as part of the School Safety Programme (2006) to take into account pupil enrolment numbers, traffic movement, location characteristics and alignments and, mobility to and from the schools to identify and fund new measures which would enhance the safety of all in the vicinity of schools within the county.

“That Kilkenny County Council undertake a study of the road network within the county with a view developing a programme funded on a priority basis to provide Variable Messaging Signage on the approach roads to villages and towns, and other appropriate locations to alert motorists to the speed they are travelling and more importantly to alert them if they are driving in excess of the speed limit applicable.

Cllrs. T. Breathnach and M. Shortall asked that a review commence as soon as possible and a full audit of all measures in relation to school safety be undertaken.

Michael Delahunty advised that a review would be commenced to include all schools. Signage in all villages will be prepared by the end of the year.

8(17) Cllr. Andrew McGuinness – 14th February, 2017

Proposed by Cllr. A. McGuinness, Seconded by Cllr. P. O’ Neill and agreed:- “That Kilkenny County Council call on the OPW to erect a plaque in recognition of the invaluable contribution made by the Kilkenny Castle restoration committee to mark the 50th anniversary of the handing over of Kilkenny Castle.

Failing that, Kilkenny County Council would then investigate the possibility of erecting a plaque on Council owned property as close as possible to Kilkenny Castle”.

Cllr. McGuinness and P. O’ Neill spoke about this significant jewel in the crown in Kilkenny City and requested that we remember the occasion in 2017 being the 50th anniversary of handing over of the Castle and lands from the Earl of Ormonde. The last surviving member of the committee is Peter Smithwick.

9(17) Cllr. Malcolm Noonan – 25th February, 2017

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Noonan, seconded by Cllr. B. Gardner and agreed:-

“That Members of Kilkenny County Council are calling on the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Minister Katherine Zappone to invest in Early Childhood Care and Education to ensure that children have access to quality, sustainable and affordable childcare with decent pay and conditions for professionals in the sector.

Early Years Professionals are hugely dedicated professionals who care for and educate children during the most crucial years of their development. It is vital that children receive high quality care and education. However a lack of investment means that qualified professionals are struggling to make ends meet and providers are struggling to stay open.

We call on Minister Zappone to put children first and invest in quality childcare”

Cllr. Noonan stated the childcare service should be affordable as the future of our country lies in the younger generation. Cllr. Tyrrell suggested that “Big Start” campaign organised by SIPTU be involved to address the members on their proposal, principles of affordable childcare.

10(17) Cllrs. David Kennedy, Maurice Shortall & Tomas Breathnach, Andrew McGuinness, Patrick Dunphy – 7th March

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Kennedy, seconded by Cllr. M. Shortall and agreed:-
“That Kilkenny County Council writes to the management of St. Luke’s hospital to ask that efforts are made to ensure free car parking for cancer patients or a designated family member or carer during their treatment”.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. D. Kennedy, A. McGuinness, B. Gardner, P. Fitzpatrick and P. Dunphy in relation to the notice of motion.

Members requested that free car parking be available both in St. Lukes and Ardkeen for patients attending oncology units and that any free parking should be made known to the patients and families.

11(17) Cllr. Malcolm Noonan

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Noonan, Seconded by Cllr. D. Kennedy and agreed:- “That Kilkenny County Council call on the Minister for Environment to introduce a deposit refund scheme for recyclable materials to encourage recycling, reduce waste to landfill and provide funds for community projects throughout the state”.

12. Notices of Motion from other local authorities seeking support of Kilkenny County Council - Fógraí i dtaobh Rúin ó Údaráis Áitiúla eile ag lorg tacaíochta ó Chomhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh:

12(17) Clare County Council – 15th February, 2017

“That this Council calls on the Minister for Health Simon Harris to fund the drug Orkambi to the sufferers of Cystic Fibrosis who request the drug”.

That the notice of motion be noted as read.

13(17) Tipperary County Council – 22nd February, 2017

“In recognition of the importance of existing Bus Eireann Services throughout our County, this Authority calls on the Minister for Transport, Bus Eireann and the National Transport Authority to resolve the present uncertainty as speedily as possible and with a view to retaining present services and making improvements where necessary”.

That the notice of motion be noted as read.

14(17) South Dublin County Council – 6th March, 2017

“That this Council, conscious as it is of the increasing gap in incomes in Ireland and across the EU, debate the case for a Basic Income as a means of addressing social and economic inequality and the inadequacy of both Social Welfare and Taxation Law in tackling either. That this Basic Income should be funded by progressive taxation and should not replace any existing Social Welfare payments. If there is consensus, that we write to the Taoiseach and Minister for Finance asking them to enter into discussion with their EU partners with the objective of making Ireland a Pilot Country to explore moving from the current Social Welfare and Taxation Systems to a Basic Income System”.

That the notice of motion be noted as read.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE