

# MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2020 AT 3.00 P.M. VIA MS TEAMS

**Chair:** Cllr. Andrew McGuinness.

**Cllrs:** Eamon Aylward, Tomás Breathnach, John Brennan, Martin Brett, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Peter Cleere, John Coonan, Deirdre Cullen, Michael Delaney, Fidelis Doherty, Maria Dollard, Matt Doran, Michael Doyle, Pat Dunphy, David Fitzgerald, Pat Fitzpatrick, Ger Frisby, Denis Hynes, Joe Malone, Michael McCarthy, Eugene McGuinness & Patrick O'Neill.

**Officials:** Colette Byrne, Sean McKeown, Mary Mulholland, Tim Butler, Martin Prendiville, Kevin Hanley, Fiona Deegan, Denis Malone, Seamus Kavanagh, Sinead Blanchfield & Anne Maria Walsh.

**Apologies:** Cllr. Joe Lyons.

## 1. Confirmation of Minutes

(a) **Minutes of Plenary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2020**

Proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. Ger Frisby and agreed.

*"That the Minutes of Plenary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".*

(b) **Minutes of Special Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2020**

Proposed by Cllr. John Coonan, seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett and agreed.

*"That the Minutes of Special Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".*

(c) **Minutes of Statutory Budget Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2020**

Proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed.

*"That the Minutes of Statutory Budget Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".*

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness wished all the citizens of Kilkenny a very happy and safe Christmas. He thanked the members and staff for all their work during the year and hoped they enjoy the break with their families.

He congratulated all involved in Yulefest and Ms. Mary Pierce on fundraising for Kilkenny Helping the Homeless. He also congratulated Mayor John Coonan on raising funds for local charities.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Andrew McGuinness extended votes of sympathy to:

- Family of the late Mary McGrath, Kilkenny Street, Freshford.
- Family of the late Denis Heaslip, Knocktopher.
- Family of the late Bridget Hackett, Seville Lodge, Callan Road.
- Family of the late Ester Dowling, Old Callan Road, Kilkenny.
- Family of the late James Kilbride, Russellstown, Thomastown.
- Family of the late Tom Kent, Kilmacow.

- Family of the late Kathleen Murphy, Inistioge.
- Family of the late Bridget Fitzgerald, Glenmore.
- Family of the late Maureen Mernagh, Glenmore.
- Family of the late Jim Treacy, Cahir.
- Family of the late Denis Heaslip, Knocktopher.
- Family of the late John Bergin, Ballyragget.
- Family of the late Andy Pauline, Upper Newpark.
- Family of the late Michael Muldowney, Loughboy.
- Family of the late Paddy Hehir, College Road, Kilkenny
- Family of the late Tommy Tucker O'Neill, Ossory Park.
- Family of the late Fiona Cantwell, Upper Waterbarrack.
- Family of the late Ger Barry, St. Joseph's Road.
- Family of the late Martin Kavanagh, College Court.
- Family of the late Celine Dignan, Castlecomer Road.
- Family of the late Charlie Maher, Knocktopher.
- Family of the late Nellie Barron, Hugginstown.
- Family of the Noreen Mahon, Mooncoin.
- Family of the late Annette Griffin, Piltown.
- Family of the late Kathleen Tennyson, Hugginstown.
- Family of the late Rian Anthony, Piltown.
- Family of the late Niall O'Halloran, Mooncoin.
- Family of the late Brian Carroll, Mooncoin.
- Family of the late Willie Power, Mooncoin.
- Family of the late Mary Grace, Piltown.
- Family of the late Patsy Kelly, Piltown.

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

- (i) It was proposed by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett and agreed:

*"That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of the Lease of its interest in the part of the property known as The Abbey Business Centre, Abbey Street, Kilkenny to Kilkenny Community Enterprise Centre, t/a Abbey Business Centre, Abbey Street, Kilkenny, for a period of 25 years, at a rent of €1.00 per week, and with each party to be responsible for their own legal costs."*

- (ii) It was proposed by Cllr. John Coonan seconded by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick 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 plot of ground at Parkmore, Callan Road, Kilkenny – as identified on the attached map - to the Personal Reps of Mr. Michael Cody, Parkmore, Callan Road, Kilkenny for the nominal sum of €10.00 with Kilkenny County Council being responsible for all legal costs associated with the sale. Plot measures 0.057 acres."*

- (iii) It was proposed by Cllr. Joe Malone seconded by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness 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 Newpark Lower, Kilkenny (as identified on the attached map) to Bryan Rogers and Ciara Murphy, 10 Newpark Lower, Kilkenny for the sum of €1,000 with the Purchaser being responsible for their own legal costs and a contribution of €500 towards the Council's costs associated with the sale. Plot measures 0.0062 ha."*

(b) **Pleanail - Planning**

(i) **Part 8: Thomastown Library/Community Centre**

Ms. Mary Mulholland presented the Chief Executive Report on Part 8 for the Renovation & Conversion of the Community Centre in Marshes Street, Thomastown. She advised that the building will be used for the Library and Community use and partial Sports Hall. One submission was received from the public and this has been noted. The new Library will be an Open Library.

It was proposed by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, seconded by Cllr. Michael Doyle and agreed that:

*"We the Members of Kilkenny County Council approves the proposed Part 8 in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended and Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as amended for the proposed renovation and conversion of the Community Centre, Marshes Street, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny, as circulated."*

(ii) **Part 8: Reconfiguration of Second Floor Apartment at 34 The Green, Ayrfield, Kilkenny**

Ms. Mary Mulholland presented the Chief Executive Report on Part 8 for reconfiguration of the second floor apartment at No. 34 Ayrfield, Granges Road, Kilkenny. She advised the block of apartments consisted of seven units. It is proposed to reconfigure the apartment on the second floor into two units and to carry out works to units on the ground floor for wheelchair accessibility.

She advised that one external submission was received in relation to carparking and refuse storage, noise and windows. The submission has been dealt with in the Planner's Report.

Cllr. McGuinness spoke in relation to carparking concerns raised by residents in the area.

It was proposed by Cllr. John Coonan seconded by Cllr. Maria Dollard and agreed that:

*"We the Members of Kilkenny County Council approves the proposed Part 8 in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended and Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as amended for the proposed reconfiguration of the second floor apartment at 34 The Green, Ayrfield, Granges Road, Kilkenny City, R95 X023, as circulated."*

(iii) **Part 8: Demolish Existing House and Construct New Single Storey House at 29 Circular Road, Kilkenny City**

Ms. Mary Mulholland presented the Chief Executive Report on the demolishing of an existing house and construction of new house at 29, Circular Road, Kilkenny. No submissions were received. It is intended to construct a new house for wheelchair accessible use.

It was proposed by Cllr. Martin Brett, seconded by Cllr. Joe Malone and agreed that:

*"We the Members of Kilkenny County Council approves the proposed Part 8 in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended and Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as amended for the proposed development at 29, Circular Road, Kilkenny, R95 XCN2, as circulated."*

(iv) **Part 8: Demolition of Existing House and Construct New House at Haggartsgreen/Westcourt, Callan**

Ms. Mary Mulholland presented the Chief Executive Report on the demolition of an existing house and construction of new house at Haggartsgreen, Callan. There was no submissions received.

It was proposed by Cllr. Maria Dollard, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen and agreed that:

*"We the Members of Kilkenny County Council approves the proposed Part 8 in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended and Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as amended for the proposed **development at Haggartsgreen/Westcourt, Callan**, as circulated."*

(v) **Approve Draft City & County Development Plan for Statutory Public Display**

Mr. Denis Malone, Senior Planner stated that a number of Workshops have now been held with the Elected Members in relation to the draft City & County Development Plan. The Plan has been amended to reflect the proposals made by Members at the Workshops. It is recommended that the draft Plan proceeds to statutory consultation. Approval of the Elected Members is required to commence public display of the Draft Development Plan and all associated reports and appendices. Public consultation will take place from 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2020 to 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.

Cllrs. Andrew McGuinness, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, David Fitzgerald, Tomás Breathnach and Maria Dollard thanked Mr. Malone and the Planning Team for all their assistance and time given to members in the last few months on the draft Development Plan. It was requested that a hard copy of the draft Plan be made available to all Members. This is an important document in the life time of the Council and incorporates policies for the next seven years.

It was proposed by Cllr. Peter Cleere, seconded by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed that:

*"We, the members of Kilkenny County Council, having considered the Draft City & County Development Plan 2021-2027, Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment and Draft Natura Impact Statement under Section 11 (5)(b) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended do hereby resolve that the Draft City and County Development Plan should be published for public consultation under Section 12(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended with effect from 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2020."*

(c) (i) **Section 85 Agreement - FSAI**

Mr. Sean McKeown advised that the National Service Level Agreement for Statutory Food Safety function with FSAI has been signed with the Council for the period up to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021. A Section 85 Agreement is required to be entered into with Carlow County Council to carry out the functions. This will align with the National Service Level Agreement with FSAI.

It was proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed that:

*"That Kilkenny County Council enters an agreement under Section 85 of the Local Government Act, 2001 with Carlow County Council to carry out statutory Food Safety Functions required under the First Schedule of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland Act 1998 and the European Communities (Food Hygiene) Regulations 2009 on behalf of Carlow County Council from January 1st 2021 to December 31st 2021"*

(d) (i) **Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Programme**

Mr. Tim Butler advised that there are in excess of 11,000 public lights in the City and County. Since 2017 approximately 5,400 lights have been replaced with the assistance of funding from SEAI. There is a national project underway to replace all lights [approx. 480,000] throughout the Ireland with LED lighting.

Kilkenny County Council is the lead authority for 8 other counties in the Eastern Region. There is a requirement to raise a loan of €3.5m to fund the replacement of remaining lights in Co. Kilkenny. The loan repayments will be approximately €250,000 over 15 years. Annual savings on electricity consumption and maintenance will be approx. €400,000. It is recommended that Kilkenny County Council approve a loan of €3.5m over 15 years.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Pat Dunphy, John Coonan, Pat Fitzpatrick, Fidelis Doherty and Ger Frisby in relation to the following:

- Timeframe for completion of all work, plan work to complete all lights in an area.
- Ringfence savings for additional lights.
- Re-use of old lights and poles/columns.

Mr. Butler responded to all the queries raised by the Members and advised that it is hoped to go to tender for work by Q3/Q4 of 2021. It is not intended to replace all columns only those that are damaged and these will not be suitable for re-use by any Community Groups. It will be a matter for the Elected Members to decide at Budget Meetings on any savings achieved how this will be spent.

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Dunphy, seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed that:

*"We the Members of Kilkenny County Council approve the raising of a loan of €3,500,000 to facilitate the upgrade of remaining public lighting in Kilkenny under the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project."*

(ii) **N77 Ballyragget to Ballinaslea Improvement Works Part 10 Application**

Mr. Seamus Kavanagh gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the proposed improvement works to the N77 Ballyragget to Ballinaslea. He advised that a Part 10 Planning Application has been made to An Bord Pleanala together with CPO application in December 2020. The documents are on display. Land owners will be affected. It is expected that An Bord Pleanala will have an oral hearing in the middle of 2021. It is hoped to go to tender for the works by the end of 2021. Details of the section of road to be improved were shown in the PowerPoint Presentation.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Pat Fitzpatrick, Mary Hilda Cavanagh and David Fitzgerald in relation to the following:

- Planning for upgrading the road from Kilkenny to Ballyragget.
- Update on extension to Ring Road, Castlecomer Road to Freshford Road etc.

Members welcomed the proposed improvement works. Mr. Kavanagh responded to the queries raised and advised that a feasibility study is being undertaken on the N77. Pre-Planning on the Ring Road extension is being discussed with the Department of Transport.

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness requested a full update for the next meeting.

(i) **Finance Update**

Mr. Martin Prendiville advised that a revised submission in excess of €2m has been sent to the Department on the loss of income due to Covid. Confirmation on compensation is still awaited.

Rates waiver has now been applied to all rate accounts leaving a total of €3m in Rates to be collected. This will be challenging in the current climate.

(ii) **Approval of Audited AFS 2019**

Mr. Martin Prendiville advised that the draft accounts for 2019 were circulated and presented to the Elected Members in June 2020. The Audit has now been completed and there are no changes to the draft Accounts for 2019 as presented.

(iii) **Statutory Audit Report**

Mr. Martin Prendiville advised that the Audit of Accounts is now complete. The Statutory Audit Report has been circulated with the Agenda. A number of items were raised by the Local Government Auditor. The Chief Executive has responded to the Auditor and action is required and is ongoing on some items. Impacts from Covid was also raised and the Executive responded accordingly.

The Statutory Audit Report was noted by all Members.

(f) (i) **Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy**

Ms. Mary Mulholland advised that the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy has been prepared and discussed at a number of SPC meetings. Consultation has taken place with the various partner agencies i.e. HSE and Gardaí. Effective implementation of the Strategy will require co-operation of all agencies with the County Council.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Andrew McGuinness, Martin Brett, Pat Fitzpatrick, Maria Dollard, John Coonan, Pat Dunphy, Eugene McGuinness and Joe Malone.

The following issues were raised:

- Clear protocols required identifying timeframe to deal effectively with issues.
- Co-operation of all agencies.
- Need to have it legally proofed.
- Annual review.
- Protocols applicable to all Voluntary Housing Bodies.
- Acknowledged work of Tenant Liaison Officers and engagement with all Members in drafting the Strategy.

Cllr. Joe Malone, Chair of SPC for Housing thanked all the Members of the SPC for their input into the document. He said that the SPC will review this on an annual basis. He thanked the Director of Services and staff for their work on this strategy.

Ms. Mulholland responded to the issues raised by the Members. She stated that a lot of work has gone into the drafting of the Strategy. There is a clear pathway for dealing with issues/concerns and it does take a long time to build a case to comply with the legislation. There is good working relationships with the Voluntary Housing Bodies. The Council cannot impose our Strategy on these Bodies as they have their own policies.

It was proposed by Cllr. Martin Brett, seconded by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick and agreed that:

*"That Kilkenny County Council hereby adopts the updated **Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2020-2025** as circulated."*

(g) (i) **Music Generation Video Programme Outline**

Ms. Mary Mulholland advised that Music Generation Project in Kilkenny commenced early in 2020 just before Covid. It is operated and funded under the auspices of the ETB and Kilkenny County Council and also funded nationally by U2. She introduced Sinead Blanchfield who will give an overview of the project to-date.

Ms. Sinead Blanchfield gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Members and played a "YouTube" video of a song composed and performed by a group of Kilkenny teenagers involved in the Music Generation Project.

In her presentation she gave an overview on the following:

- Setting up process
- Projects undertaken during 2020 in the Schools/Communities
- Number of children & teenagers partaking in the project
- Future expansion of Music Generation for 2021
- YouTube Video - launched by U2 in America.

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness thanked her for the presentation and congratulated the young performers. He stated that the future of music in Kilkenny is in safe hands.

Contributions were also received from Cllrs. Peter Cleere, Martin Brett, Deirdre Cullen, John Coonan, Tomás Breathnach, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Eugene McGuinness and Michael Delaney. Members welcomed the project and the investment of Kilkenny County Council and ETB. They congratulated Ms. Blanchfield on the work to-date despite Covid restrictions. They complimented the young people who performed the song in the YouTube video and were amazed with the talent on display. They spoke about the opportunities available to young people to perform and get involved in music especially those who have never had access to music before.

Ms. Mulholland thanked Ms. Blanchfield for the work during this tough year and it shows what can be done and what an inspiration it is on how Kilkenny can be showcased across the world with the video.

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

Ms. Colette Byrne presented her monthly report. She acknowledged the work of all staff, both outdoor and indoor, on the breadth of work and level of work across the organisation in this challenging year. She stated that the monthly reports is a small reflection of the work that the staff do. The challenges from the Pandemic added to the workload during the year.

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness thanked the staff for all the work and especially in areas where staff went above their call of duty to assist HSE and other agencies during the year.

Cllrs. Pat Fitzpatrick, Peter Cleere and Eugene McGuinness raised the following:

- Update on Abbey Quarter and competition on rental rates with local businesses.
- Acknowledged all the Road Projects completed in 2020.

Ms. Byrne responded and advised Members that there will be a full update on the Abbey Quarter for the February Meeting. The Brewhouse building is close to completion and being let. The Council is not in the business of undercutting anyone. Rent will reflect the market value for a City Centre location. Planning for Phase 2 is underway and a decision from An Bord Pleanála is expected in early 2021. Application for funding under URDF has been made also.

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness advised any queries on the Abbey Quarter can be made to the Chief Executive or Head of Finance in the meantime.

3. **Correspondence**

(i) **Response from Department in connection with pension provision for Community Employment Supervisors** [Notice of Motion 08/2020].

Noted and taken as read.

(ii) **Response from Department in connection with Jadotville** [Notice of Motion 05/2020].

Noted and taken as read.

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

None.

5. **Schedule of Meetings**

It was proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty seconded by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick 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**

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness advised that he has received a letter from the Mayor of Waterford City & County Council inviting him to partake in a First Citizen and Chief Executive Forum in the South East. He said he will accept the invitation and will keep Members updated on the meeting where all local authorities in the South East Region will focus on regional issues for the future advancement of the Region.

11. **Notices of Motion**

**11 (20) Cllr. Tomás Breathnach**

It was proposed by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, seconded by Cllr. Denis Hynes and agreed that:

*“That Kilkenny County Council write to the Department of Climate Action, Communications Networks and Transport, to the Minister of Finance and Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform to urge them to bring forward and implement a plan to sustain the country’s post offices with a focus on new products, community banking and the provision of government services with the capital investment required to give full and proper recognition to the commercial, community and social value of the post office network.”*

Cllr. Breathnach spoke on this motion.

**12 (20) Cllr. Deirdre Cullen**

It was proposed by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, seconded by Cllr. Peter Cleere and agreed that:

*“That Kilkenny Council recognises that period poverty is a very real issue for women in low income households. As a Council we have a responsibility to break down the stigma around periods and tackling period poverty. That Kilkenny County Council agrees to have free sanitary products available in the toilets of all Kilkenny Council buildings, including swimming pools and libraries”.*

Cllr. Cullen spoke on this motion. Mr. Butler advised that a pilot will be undertaken in one public building to establish cost and what is happening nationally. Report will come back to Members.

**13 (20) Cllr. Deirdre Cullen**

It was proposed by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen, seconded by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick and agreed:

*“That Kilkenny County Council writes to the Minister of State at the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to support the right to Personal Assistance Service (PAS) for disabled people to have freedom, choice and control over all aspects of their lives to enable them to fully participate in an inclusive society as equals.”*

Both Cllr. Cullen and Cllr. Fitzpatrick spoke on the motion.

**14 (20) Cllr. Maria Dollard**

It was proposed by Cllr. Maria Dollard, seconded by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed:

*“That Kilkenny County Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage requesting the introduction of maternity and paternity leave for Local Elected Representatives.”*

Both Cllr. Dollard and Cavanagh spoke on the motion.

**15 (20) Cllr. Maria Dollard**

Cllr. Maria Dollard proposed the Notice of Motion:

*“In light of the collective challenges for Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss and recovery from Covid-19 pandemic, alongside the opportunities offered by the TUSE, that Kilkenny County Council strengthen their partnership and collaboration with Waterford City & County Council with the aim being to move towards regional cooperation and away from a parochial approach to thinking about our shared part of the South East of Ireland, in the best interests of all the citizen of Kilkenny and Waterford”.*

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Eamonn Aylward, Tomás Breathnach, Fidelis Doherty, Pat Dunphy and Ger Frisby in relation to the ongoing co-operation with Waterford and other adjoining local authorities on many projects in the South East. The Members expressed their concern in relation to the wording of the motion and asked the proposer to reconsider removing part of it particularly in relation to parochial approach. It was further suggested that the proposer discuss this motion with her party colleagues in Waterford.

Cllr Andrew McGuinness requested the proposer to amend the Notice of Motion to take cognisance and reflect the current co-operation between Kilkenny County Council and Waterford City & County Council.

Cllr. Dollard agreed to this and proposed an amendment as follows:

*“In light of the collective challenges for Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss and recovery from Covid-19 pandemic, alongside the opportunities offered by the TUSE, that Kilkenny County Council strengthen their partnership and collaboration with Waterford City & County Council with the aim being to move towards regional cooperation in the best interests of all the citizen of Kilkenny and Waterford”.*

Cllr. Martin Brett seconded the amended Notice of Motion and this was agreed by all.

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

It was proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. Ger Frisby and agreed that Notice of Motion 28 (20) and 29 (20) be taken as read and noted.

**28 (20) Kerry County Council**

“That we Killarney MD would put up notices at uncontrolled crossings, informing the public that they do not have the right to just walk across, as this is at the discretion of the driver and cyclists to stop.”

**29 (20) Carlow County Council**

“That Carlow County Council recognises that:

- The Mother and Baby Homes represent a very dark part of our State’s history.
- That survivors of Mother and Bab Homes have legitimate concerns regarding access to their personal information.

Therefore, the Council will write to the Taoiseach and Minister for Children, Disability, Equality, and Integration requesting the following:

- That the Final Report of the Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation be published as soon as possible and include the details of the experiences of survivors in each institution.
- That the Government provide a full State response to the findings and recommendations of the Final Report.
- That the Government publish new statutory information and tracing legislation without delay.
- That survivors of Mother and Baby Homes are given access to their personal records in a manner consistent with GDPR.
- That the Department of Children and Túsła work with the Office of the DPC to ensure that the rights of survivors to personal information about themselves under data protection legislation and the DGDPR are fully respected
- That the Government urgently put in place a range of supports for survivors and adoptees.
- That the Government continues to engage in consultation with survivors and their representative organisation as they establish a national archive of records related to institutional trauma during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.
- That a copy of this motion should also be sent to every local authority in Ireland, north and south, as correspondence.”

Before the meeting concluded Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cathaoirleach and Ms. Colette Byrne, Chief Executive appealed to all and the media to get the message out to the public to follow all the guidelines for Covid, be vigilant, wear masks and observe social distancing as we are all facing a very challenging week. We need to thank and protect all our frontline workers and do not place anyone at risk.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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CATHAOIRLEACH

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DATE