

CEANTAR BARDASACH CHATHAIR CHILL CHAINNIGH
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KILKENNY CITY

MIONTUAIRISCÍ AR IMEACHTAÍ AN CHRUINNITHE MHÍOSÚIL A TIONÓLADH
AR 12 AIBREÁN 2024 AG 2.30PM

*MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS Of MONTHLY MEETING
HELD ON 12th APRIL, 2024 at 2.30pm*

Mayor, Councillor Joe Malone Presiding.

Present/ I Láthair:-

Councillors/Comhairleoirí: Cllr John Coonan, Cllr David Fitzgerald, Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and Cllr Eugene McGuinness & Cllr Maria Dollard.

Also Present: Mr. Tim Butler Director of Services, Ms. Anne Maria Walsh Senior Executive Officer. Ms Bernadette Moloney, Biodiversity Officer, Ms Mary Butler, Arts Officer, Ms Martina Walsh, Staff Officer, Mr Vincent O' Shea, Arts Programme Manager.

MAYOR'S SUMMONS OF MEETING:

Notice dated 3rd April, 2024, convening a Monthly Meeting for this date was read.

A dhaingniú Miontuairiscí Cruinnithe - Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting:

- (i) Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 8th March, 2024 having been previously circulated were tabled for confirmation.

It was:

Proposed By: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness

Seconded By: Cllr. Martin Brett

And Agreed:

"That the Minutes as presented to the meeting be and are hereby adopted."

Arising from the Minutes the Members discussed the Motion by Cllr Maria Dollard at the March Meeting to have a "Poster Free Zone" in Kilkenny City. Issues raised as follows:

1. Possibility of a central location in the City for all posters.
2. Commercial vehicles with election advertising should not be parked for long periods in Loading Bays.
3. New Candidates to be made aware of the Poster Free Zone proposal.

All Members made a "Gentleman's Agreement" that they would not use posters in their campaign but that it was a decision for every other Candidate as to whether they would abide by the Poster Free Zone proposal in the City.

1. Cúrsaí thabhairt ar aghaidh ordú ón Méara - *Matters brought forward by direction of the Mayor:*

The Mayor spoke of his recent illness and thanked Cllr Martin Brett, Deputy Mayor for taking care of business in his absence. Cllr Malone spoke of the need to raise awareness that early detection of Prostate Cancer is paramount for a successful outcome.

The Mayor also spoke of the great work done by the late Charlie Bird in raising awareness of Motor Neuron Disease and the valuable fundraising campaign he spearheaded on behalf of the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Organisation.

Cllr Malone extended sympathy to Minister Malcolm Noonan and all the Noonan family on the recent death of Mr Derry Noonan.

The Mayor also noted the following events that took place since the last Meeting.

- 60th Anniversary Judo Club .
- Mayor presented the prizes at the St Patricks Day Parade.
- 10th Anniversary Teac Tom .
- Migrant Meet & Greet event at the Butts Community Centre.
- Good Shepherd Centre ongoing campaign – Shine a light on homelessness.
- Lions Club Table Quiz.
- Official Opening of Café 500.

Mr Tim Butler gave an update on St Kieran’s Cemetery and advised that Draft Bye-Laws are currently being prepared and will be on display in the coming weeks for a period of 6 to 8 months. The Members fully supported the Draft Bye-Laws and requested early consultation on them.

It was also :

Proposed by : Cllr Joe Malone

Seconded by : Cllr Martin Brett

And Agreed:

That the Notices of Motions be considered now.

2 *Fógraí Rúin - Notices of Motion.*

(10)24: It was:

Proposed by: Cllr John Coonan:

Seconded by Cllr Andrew McGuinness

And Agreed :

“That Kilkenny Municipal District consider carrying out all necessary works to resolve the ongoing traffic issues presenting on Kennyswell Road.”

Cllr Coonan spoke on his Motion and welcomed the Social Housing Development in the area but referred to the need for safe passage in the area and enquired if the Kennyswell Road would be one-way.

Cllr Eugene McGuinness referred to the traffic issue at Breagagh Court due to the location of the Yellow Box outside Residents' houses.

Mr Tim Butler responded that Kennyswell Road will continue to be One-Way system for H.G.V.s and that when the housing development is completed the footpaths would be greatly improved.

11(24) : It was :

Proposed by Cllrs., Martin Brett, John Coonan, Maria Dollard, David Fitzgerald, Andrew McGuinness & Eugene McGuinness:

Seconded by Andrew Mc Guinness .

And Agreed by all Members :

That this Municipal District make the following amendments to the new parking arrangements:

- (i) Restore the 15 minute free parking that was removed with the current parking changes.*
- (ii) Identify areas where "commuters" who work in town have had their daily parking charges increased by 150% from €2 to €5 (e.g. Fairgreen) and have this increase reduced to a 50% increase at €3 per day.*
- (iii) The 2-hour parking limit introduced with current parking changes to be extended to 4 hours to give people enough time to do their shopping in Kilkenny City without being put under pressure to get back to their cars and leave (e.g. Jacobs street, Castle road etc).*
- (iv) A 30 minute free set down period be introduced during school pick up and drop off times at St. Marys Car Park.*
- (v) That this Municipal District engage with Kilkenny Access groups to help deal with any issues resulting from the parking changes.*

Cllr Andrew McGuinness spoke on behalf of the Members and welcomed the co-operation from the Executive in agreeing to the reversal of certain parking measures that had been brought to the attention of the Members as adversely affecting businesses and the general public.

Cllr David Fitzgerald who had voted against the original Motion expressed his thanks to the Members and the Executive for reviewing the Parking measures.

All Members agreed that it was an ongoing process and that constant review was necessary.

Issues were raised with regard to timeframe on reversal of measures and how the extension of the public transport system in Kilkenny would help alleviate parking problems.

Mr Tim Butler responded that overall this would be contrary to the Executive view, based on a number of factors including research, feedback from customer, delivery drivers, visitors and national policies for a City. But Parking is a reserved function. He advised that this is the considered view and the Executive only propose such policies to improve the experience and availability of spaces for residents, business and general mobility/ life within the City.

He addressed each of the measures as follows:

(i) Restore the 15-minute free parking that was removed with the current parking changes.

- Widely abused, difficult to enforce and inequitable for customers and visitors which reduces availability of spaces.
- Not the best use of premium spaces in a City environment when there are significant alternatives.

This reversal will take 1 month to implement.

(ii) Identify areas where “commuters” who work in town have had their daily parking charges increased by 150% from €2 to €5 (e.g. Fairgreen) and have this increase reduced to a 50% increase at €3 per day.”

This affects the following carparks only.

- Fairgreen Carpark
- Abbey Square Carpark
- Dean St. Carpark

It is not the best use of City centre customer parking. Abbey Square changes has done away with complaints from mass-goers and residents . Both Abbey Square and Dean St would be available to use for Library but changing back to €3 will make it commuter parking and remove that option.

(iii) The 2-hour parking limit introduced with current parking changes to be extended to 4 hours to give people enough time to do their shopping in Kilkenny City without being put under pressure to get back to their cars and leave (e.g. Jacobs street, Castle road etc).

- Note Jacob Street does **not** have a 2-hour parking limit.
- Not the best use of premium parking close to City centre
- Patients attending medical centre, visitors to Castle Park and City customers will not be facilitated by this change - which was the bulk of our complaints (volume of calls from this will return.)

(iv) “A 30-minute free set down period be introduced during school pick up and drop off times at St. Marys Car Park.”

- Meeting already arranged with the School, Gardai and Green Schools representatives.
- Had removed the dangerous queuing from outside the car park and Gardai no longer getting complaints
- 15 minutes is sufficient to drop off and collect child from school as spaces now available.

(v) That this Municipal District engage with the Kilkenny Access Groups to help deal with issues from the parking charges.

- Will continue to engage with all Groups.
- Engagement has already taken place with individuals and positive feedback received from customers who can now access premium spaces.

Mr Butler advised that measures (ii) to (v) will take 3 months to implement .

3 Grúpa Rochtana Chill Chainningh -Kilkenny Access Group- Presentation.

Ms Fiona O'Neill, Chairperson of Kilkenny Access Group addressed the Meeting and introduced Ms Jacinta Purcell , Youth Worker with Kilkenny Ossory Youth Organisation. Ms Purcell outlined the details of the Presentation which was carried out with the help of two Secondary School Students Cezy Focsa from Coláiste Pobail Osraí and Chloe Webster from Colaiste Abhainn Rí.

The work involved an Audit of the Disability Parking in Kilkenny City over 2 days.

Both students presented the Study which highlighted the following:

- 57 Bays in total in the City of which 12 were occupied with a Permit and 4 without.
- Only 17 had Hatching (ie proper Marking)
- Paintwork in need of updating.
- Positioning of Bays (e.g. 4 bays on High St are located on the right hand side of the street which facilitates the Driver but not the passenger.)
- More visible signage needed.
- Size of Bay an issue (eg Fairgreen space very narrow)
- Parktime App used in Bray to facilitate planning a journey.

Ms Fiona O'Neill spoke on the Presentation and welcomed the appointment of an Access Officer in Kilkenny County Council and the continued review by the Council on Disability Parking measures

All the Members commended the participants of the Audit and thanked them for a very informative Presentation,

Issues raised as follows:

- Public buildings such as City Hall need to be accessible.
- Continued collaboration needed between Engineers and Access Groups.

Mr Tim Butler thanked the Group for a well informed Presentation and advised that all Accessible Parking Bays would be reviewed and updated.

As it was approaching 4.30pm Cllr Joe Malone proposed extending the Meeting to 5pm to complete the Agenda. This was Seconded by Cllr Andrew McGuinness and Agreed.

4. Droichead Osraí- Ossory Bridge Art Relocation.

Mr Vincent O'Shea Arts Programme Manager,gave a Presentation to Members on the proposed relocation and rebuilding process of the Ossory Bridge Artwork.

He outlined the original castings are predominately in good repair but had to be removed from Ossory Bridge for road safety improvement Works. A number of sites were identified and the Old Mart Street is considered most suitable. The Artists are in favour of this location. It is proposed to have the castings set in a semi circle around the green area for optimum viewing.

The Members thanked Mr O'Shea for his Presentation and welcomed the relocation of the Artwork as a tourist attraction for the City.

Cllr David Fitzgerald raised the possibility of relocating to another site such as Breagh Valley. Ms Mary Butler responded that it is primarily the decision of the Public Art Working Group and both they and the artists are in favour of the proposed site being very accessible to the City.

5. *Plean Gníomhaíochta Bithéagsúlachta - County Biodiversity Action Plan.*

This item was deferred to the May Meeting.

6 *Aon Ghnó Eile - Any Other Business*

Cllr Joe Malone proposed that the next Meeting on May 10th conclude at 4pm which would be the last Meeting before the new term of Council commences and requested Members not to submit Notices of Motion.

This was Seconded by Cllr Martin Brett and Agreed.

That concluded the business of the Meeting.

Signed: _____

MAYOR

Date: _____