

**Minutes of Special Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2010 at 10.00a.m.**

**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. C. Connery

**Present:** Cllrs. M. H. Cavanagh, P. Millea, M. Shortall, J. Brennan, A. McGuinness, J. Coonan, M. Fitzpatrick, B. Manning, M. Doran, W. Ireland, T. Maher, P. O' Neill, A. Phelan, M. O' Brien, S. Treacy, E. Aylward, F. Doherty, C. Long, A.M. Irish, P. Dunphy.

**Also Present:** J. Crockett County Manager, J. Mulholland, P. O' Neill, J. Dempsey, J. McCormack, T. Lauhoff, S. Foley, S. Walton, D. Shortall, D. McDonnell and A.M. Walsh.

**1. Consideration of Public Consultation Part 8 Report in respect of Callan & Graiguenamanagh Flood Relief Scheme.**

**(a) Callan Flood Relief Scheme**

Mr. John Mulholland advised the members that the programme of works proposed to develop a flood relief scheme at Callan, Co. Kilkenny had been advertised. Submissions were received and a public consultation evening was held. The County Manager is recommending that the programme of works proceed subject to a number of amendments and conditions as outlined in report dated 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2010 submitted to members. Funding amounting to €270,000 has been secured for these works.

Cllr. T. Maher welcomed the scheme as amended following consultation and stated that work should proceed as funds are now available.

Proposed by Cllr. T. Maher, Seconded by Cllr. B. Ireland and agreed:-

“That Kilkenny County Council proceed with works to develop a flood relief scheme at Callan, Co. Kilkenny through funding available from the Office of Public Works under the “Non Coastal Minor Flood Mitigation Works” Programme in accordance with the Manager’s recommendations including amendments dated 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2010.

**(b) Griaguenamanagh Flood Relief Scheme**

Mr. John Mulholland advised the members that the programme of works proposed to develop a flood relief scheme for the River Barrow at Graiguenamanagh, Co. Kilkenny had been advertised. Submissions were received

and a public consultation evening was held. The County Manager is recommending that the works proceed subject to the amendments and conditions contained in the report circulated to members on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2010. Funding amounting to €198,000 had been secured from office of Public Works for these works.

Contributions were received from Cllr. M. O' Brien, S. Treacy, A. Phelan, P. O' Neill, B. Manning, T. Maher, C. Connery and M. Shortall.

Members expressed disappointment that the proposed works related only to the River Barrow. There are more serious flooding problems arising from the Duiske River. The objections received have not been addressed in the report by the consultants. The construction of a wall along the Quay was an issue from an aesthetic view point, would access to the River Barrow be restricted. Members requested clarification if the funds allocated could be diverted to works on the Duiske River, if the proposed wall does not address the issues can it be removed and can funds be deferred until funding is secured for a scheme for the Duiske River.

Mr. Mulholland responded to the queries raised by members. He advised members that deferral of scheme would jeopardise funding into the future. This is Phase A and Phase B will deal with the Duiske catchment area. There is a potential to set Kilkenny back as there are other schemes awaiting for this type of funding. The money has been allocated for the flood relief study and minor works. It is unlikely that work will be done under a major flood relief scheme. The only solution is to put physical structures in place to prevent flooding. It will improve the general amenity for the area.

The County Manager requested the members to seriously consider the works required. The consultant report recommends the construction of a stone clad wall – 600m in height. He considers this to be the right approach. The 1<sup>st</sup> priority is to prevent flooding to reduce the stress on residents and business people in the area. The works required for the Duiske River will be very costly. The appearance of Graiguenamanagh is very important from a tourist point of view. The erection of demountable barriers would not be the best option.

Cllr. M. O' Brien stated that there is still substantial amount of objections to the wall from the public and it will change the aesthetic value of the Quay for ever more.

Cllr. A. Phelan stated that she appreciated the work gone into the project to date, but does not agree with the construction of the wall and cannot impose

something that the people don't want. She requested a commitment from Management to make the Duiske scheme a priority.

County Manager advised the members that the strongest possible call will be made by Kilkenny County Council to the OPW on the Duiske Scheme.

Proposed by Cllr. S. Treacy, Seconded by Cllr. P. O' Neill: - "That Kilkenny County Council proceed with works to develop a flood relief scheme at Griaguenamanagh, Co. Kilkenny through funding available from the Office of Public Works under the "Non Coastal Minor Flood Mitigation Works" Programme in accordance with the Manager's recommendations including amendments dated 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2010.

Members voting in favour of proposal are as follows:- Cllrs. M.H. Cavanagh, P. Millea, M. Shortall, J. Brennan, C. Connery, A. McGuinness, J. Coonan, M. Fitzpatrick, B. Manning, M. Doran, W. Ireland, T. Maher, P. O' Neill, S. Treacy, E. Aylward, F. Doherty, C. Long, A.M. Irish, P. Dunphy.

Cllr. A. Phelan & Cllr. M. O' Brien abstained from the vote.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_