

**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on 21st June, 2013
at 3.00p.m.**

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. M. Fitzpatrick

Cllrs. Cllrs. M. H. Cavanagh, M. Shortall, J. Brennan, C. Connery, J. Coonan, M. Brett, M. Noonan, A. McGuinness, D. Fitzgerald, M. Doran, T. Maher, P. Crowley, J. Moran, T. Prendergast, M. O' Brien, S. Treacy, T. Breathnach, P. Dunphy, A.M. Irish, E. Aylward, F. Doherty.

In attendance: J.Crockett, J. Mulholland, , P. O' Neill, M. Mullally, S. Walton, F. Stafford, M. Newport, B. Moloney and A.M. Walsh

Apologies: Cllrs. B. Ireland, P. Millea and C. Long.

1. Confirmation of Minutes - Dearbhú Miontuairiscí:

- (a)** Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday 20th May, 2013. Proposed by Cllr. J. Brennan, Seconded by Cllr. T. Prendergast and agreed:- "That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on the 20th May, 2013 as circulated with the agenda be and are hereby approved."
- (b)** Minutes of Thomastown Electoral Area Meeting held on 13th May, 2013. Proposed by Cllr. T. Prendergast, Seconded by Cllr. S. Treacy and agreed:- "That the minutes of the Thomastown Electoral Area Meeting held on 13th May, 2013 as circulated with the agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (c)** Minutes of Piltown Electoral Area Meeting held on 14th May, 2013. Proposed by Cllr. E. Alyward, Seconded by Cllr. T. Breathnach and agreed:- "That the minutes of the Piltown Electoral Area Meeting held on 14th May, 2013 as circulated with the agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (d)** Minutes of SPC 5 Meeting – Arts, Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Education meeting held on 17th May, 2013. Proposed by Cllr. J. Brennan, Seconded by Cllr. P. Crowley and agreed:- "That the minutes of SPC 5 Meeting- Arts, Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Education meeting held on 17th May, 2013 be and are hereby approved".
- (e)** Minutes of the Special Joint Meeting of Kilkenny County & Borough Councils on the Draft County and City Development Plans 2014-2020 held on 23rd May, 2013. Proposed by Cllr. J. Coonan, Seconded by Cllr. M Brett and

agreed:- “That the minutes of Special Joint Meeting of Kilkenny County and Borough Councils held on 23rd May, 2013 be and are hereby approved”.

- (f) Minutes of SPC 2 – Infrastructure Transportation, Water Services and other Policy Issues Meeting held on 24th May, 2013. Proposed by Cllr. M. Noonan, Seconded by Cllr. M. Fitzpatrick and agreed:- “That the minutes of SPC 2 – Infrastructure, Transportation, Water Services and other Policy Issues Meeting held on 24th May, 2013 be and are hereby approved”.

Chairman’s Congratulations:-

- Congratulations of Malcolm Noonan on his recent marriage
- Congratulations to Siobhan Talbot on her appointment as Managing Director of Glanbia
- Congratulations to Seamus Pattison on receiving a lifetime Achievement Award for his services to the people of Kilkenny.
- Welcome the investment by Diageo in the interactive visitor centre- the Smithwicks Experience.
- Encourage the Public to become Welcome Ambassadors for Kilkenny initiative supported by Kilkenny Tourism.
- Encourage all to get on their bike for the cycle on Sunday for National Cycle Week.
- She advised that she received a deputation received from Kennyswell Road residents re Central Access Scheme and handed over a petition to John Mulholland, Director of Services.

Votes of Sympathy

- Colette Cass (former employee) on the death of her father Richard Cass
- Mr. Smith, Bishop Birch Place
- Paul Forristal, Maudlin Court, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny.
- Mrs. Drohan, 65 Newpark, Kilkenny on the death of Phil Drohan.
- Jackman Family, Walkin Street, Kilkenny on the death of Denis Jackman.
- Alan O’ Reilly, Comeragh View, Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny on the death of Brenda Burns.
- The Delahunty Family, Ballytarsney, Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny on the death of Will Delahunty.
- The Phelan Family, Coolnaleen, Glenmore, Co. Kilkenny on the death of Fr. Richard Phelan.
- John Crennan, Coolnaleen, Clogh, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny on the death of Marty Crennan.
- Edel Forristal, 50 Maudlin Court, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny on the death of Paul Forristal.
- Mrs. Mary Aylward & Family, Councillors Road, Slieverue, Co. Kilkenny on the death of Patrick Heffernan.
- Ms. Anne Sinnott, Attyteenmore, Slieverue, Co. Kilkenny on the death of Michael Sinnott.

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

(a) Roads – Bóithre

(i) Proposed by Cllr. F. Doherty, Seconded by Cllr. A.M. Irish:- “That Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of the proposal to extinguish the public right-of-way at Belview Port, Gorteens, Slieverue, Co. Kilkenny”

(ii) Notification of Additional Road Grants

Mr. John Mulholland referred to notification of additional road grants amounting to €1,432,623 issued to members with the agenda. He advised members that area meetings would be arranged to discuss the roads to be improved. The additional monies will be primarily directed to surface restoration works and safety improvements works.

Cllr. T. Maher proposed that the matter be agreed at the area meetings and this was seconded by Cllr. J. Brennan.

Cllr. P. Dunphy requested details on how much Kilkenny County Council allocates in local resources to road works.

Mr. Mulholland advised that 14% of the roads budget for the year comes from the Revenue Budget and an additional allocation comes from Development Charges.

(iii) To consider plans for an extension to the Northern Ring Road with a new bridge crossing of the River Nore and Draft EIS.

Mr. S. Walton presented a power point presentation on the current status of the Kilkenny Northern Ring Road Extension. The proposed scheme is 1.5km in length from the Castlecomer Road roundabout to the Freshford Road. The estimated cost of the scheme is approx €14m and this has been included in the adopted capital budget for 2013-2015.

In order to complete the ring road from the Castlecomer Road to the Callan Road funding in the region of €41.5m would be required. The total length is 7km. It is unlikely to attract NRA grant aid for the Freshford Road to the Callan Road project. He outlined the work completed to date and the various studies and designs that have been completed. Draft Environmental Impact Statement and CPO are now ready for submission to Bord Pleanála. The need for the scheme was outlined.

The major issues in the EIS related to traffic modelling and predictions, flora and fauna and hydrology.

There are 5 affected landowners and approx 13 acres are to be acquired. Member's approval is required to submit the completed EIS and CPO to an Bord Pleanala and to place public notices inviting submissions in respect of the proposed scheme.

Queries were raised by Cllrs. Brett, Coonan, Noonan, Shortall, Breathnach, Maher, Fitzgerald in relation to the following:-

- Current capability of Green's Bridge
- Need to expedite scheme
- Development of City depends on this project
- Diverting traffic from Kennyswell Road is essential.
- Cost benefit analysis for the entire extension to the Callan Road
- Clarification required on traffic volumes on the bridge following completion of the Northern Ring Road Extension and the Central Access Scheme.
- Concern that central access scheme will be completed in advance of this scheme.
- Public petition wants Northern Ring Road extension completed first.

Mr. Walton responded to queries raised by members.

Mr. Mulholland stated that the predictions in traffic growth had taken into account, a 15% reduction in favour of cycling/walking, loss in car ownership and population increase.

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Brett, Seconded by Cllr. T. Maher and agreed: - "That the EIS and CPO be submitted to An Bord Pleanala and that the proposed schemes be put on public display inviting submissions from the public".

(iv) Update on Central Access Scheme

Mr. Mulholland referred to report which has been circulated to members on the planning and actions to date on the Kilkenny Central Access Scheme. He advised that it is a plan led scheme to facilitate the sustainable development of Kilkenny City Centre in order to maintain activity within the historic core of the city. An Bord Pleanala has approved Phase 1 of the Scheme. Phase 2 & 3 were omitted on grounds of prematurity.

Mr. Mulholland introduced Mr. Thaddeus Breen of Valarie Keely Ltd who gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Archaeological assessment of the area in Vicar Street, Kilkenny.

Mr. Breen outlined the archaeological work that has been done to date, outlined the research carried out on the historical records. The site is within the medieval core of Irishtown, the site has been re-developed some time after 1860.

Archaeological testing was carried out at a number of locations. No archaeology of note was identified. Further monitoring will be required when work commences. An archaeologist will be on site during the deconstruction of the terrace of houses on Vicar Street.

Mr. Joe Crockett advised the decision and direction of the Council is that both schemes progress together and that both bridges are needed. The central access scheme has been passed by Kilkenny County Council – 25 members in favour and one against and it has been approved by An Bord Pleanála.

Contributions were received from Cllr. T. Maher, M. Noonan, J. Coonan, T. Breathnach and M. Brett. The issues raised are as follows:-

- Concerns in relation to altered streetscape of heritage value
- What happens if Archaeology is found
- Need to progress scheme in the interest of the city, design of scheme started in 2002.
- Traffic management on Kennyswell Road for HGV's.

J. Crockett replied that the Council has engaged in best practice in progressing this scheme. Kilkenny gets its vitality from its heritage. The houses in Vicar Street are not medieval buildings. There may be archaeology underground this will be monitored.

Mr. Mulholland replied to all other issues raised.

(v) Travel Strategy for Ferrybank

Mr. Walton referred to report circulated to members. The strategy seeks to develop the potential for shorter and safer journeys to work and school, provide for community linkages, provide attractive facilities for increased leisure, walking and cycling.

The strategy contains 10 measures with an estimated cost of €2.2m.

The strategy has been discussed at the SPC for Infrastructure, Transportation and Water Services. It is recommended that the draft strategy be put on public display with a view to seeking views from the general public. Cllr. T. Breathnach requested an opportunity for the members of the Piltown area to discuss this before it goes on public display as there are significant amenities in the area that need to be linked up. It was proposed by Cllr. A.M. Irish, seconded by Cllr. F. Doherty "That the Active Travel Strategy be put on public display after the Piltown Area meeting on 12th July, 2013. This was agreed by all the members.

(b) Finance – Airgeadais

Proposed by Cllr. M. Brett, Seconded by Cllr. C. Connery and agreed:-
“Kilkenny County Council hereby approves amendment to the Bank of Ireland’s authorised officials list to carry out transactions and give instructions as per Resolution contained on Bank of Irelands application for continuing accounts, replacing previous authorised list.

Authorised officials: Declan McDonnell, David Shortall and Adrian Waldron.”

(c) Corporate - Gnóthaí Corparáideacha

Report on the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee

Mr. Crockett advised members that the extract from the report on the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee has been circulated for their information. Consideration will now be given to how these areas will be administered together with the amalgamation of the Borough Council. These issues will be considered over the next few months.

(d) Housing - Tithíocht

South East Homeless Action Plan 2013-2016 – Presentation by Margaret Newport Senior Social Worker.

Mr. M. Mullally, Housing Officer advised the meeting that each Local Authority is obliged to adopt a Homeless Action Plan. The previous plan covered the period 2010-2013. The plan is prepared on a regional basis and Waterford City are the lead authority. Ms. Mgt Newport Senior Social Worker gave a power point presentation on the South East Homeless Action Plan for 2013-2016. She outlined to the meeting what is the definition of homelessness, the visions and strategic aims included in the plan and the regional structures including details of accommodation on a county level Kilkenny has a homeless action team that meets weekly. In 2012 there were 207 referrals to homeless services in Kilkenny. It was outlined how a referral was facilitated and where accommodation was provided. The National Strategy is to end long term homelessness and the need to sleep rough.

In accordance with the housing legislation Kilkenny County Council is required to adopt a homeless action plan. The current plan has been discussed at the Housing SPC and it has been adopted by Kilkenny Borough Council on 10th June, 2013.

Contributions were made by Cllr. T. Breathnach, M. Doran, P. Crowley, C. Connery, A.M. Irish and F. Doherty.

The issues raised related to the following:-

- Interagency co-operation
- Who makes referrals to the Homeless Action Team
- How many are repeat referrals
- Has reasons for homelessness changed over the last few years such as financial
- Assessment of clients to determine if they are homeless.

Ms. Newport answered all queries raised.

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Brett, Seconded by Cllr. C. Connery and agreed: -
"That Kilkenny County Council hereby approves the adoption of the South East Homeless Action Plan 2013-2016".

(e) Community and Enterprise - Fiontar agus Pobail

- (i)** Community & Cultural Facilities Capital Grant Scheme 2012-2014
(guidelines and report attached)

M. Mullally referred to report circulated with the agenda. A total of €165,000 is available for allocation in 2013. 19 applications were received for funding, 8 applications were deemed eligible for funding. It was recommended to the Council that the first 6 projects listed on table 1 of the report be approved for funding in 2013.

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Shortall, Seconded by Cllr. T. Maher and agreed-
"That the allocation of €165,000 for Community and Cultural facilities be allocated to the 6 projects listed in Table 1 of the report.

**(f) Environment - Timpeallacht
Presentation on Green Schools – Presentation by Bernadette Moloney, Environment Officer.**

Ms. B. Moloney, Environmental Awareness Officer gave a powerpoint presentation on the Kilkenny Green School's programme. There are 7 themes in this programme. 65 schools in Kilkenny fly a green flag. There is an 86% participation at Primary level and 87% participation at secondary level. An Taisce are responsible for the overall national administration of the programme and they have a Regional Development Officer and Travel Officer assigned to the South East area. Environment Department assists in

the awareness programme through visits to schools, education programmes, annual teacher seminar, SEAI energy workshops and green flag assessments. The objective of Kilkenny County Council for 2013 is to continue to support the green schools and to continue to coordinate the spring educational programme. It is hoped to develop a green school song contest for all schools during the next school year.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. M. Shortall, J. Brennan, J. Moran, M. O' Brien, C. Connery, T. Maher, E. Aylward and T. Breathnach.

Members complimented Bernadette Moloney on her work with the schools and for her ongoing commitment to support the teachers/co-ordinators. The success of this programme is very visible throughout the County. Members thanked those schools who invite them for the unveiling of their flags. Pupils are very interested in the programme and this should be encouraged.

3. **Urgent Correspondence - Comhfhreagras Práinneach**
None

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 June-August 2013 Proposed by Cllr. P. Dunphy, Seconded by Cllr. F. Doherty and agreed.

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

(a) Chairman's Report of the Thomastown Electoral Area Meeting held on 13th May, 2013:- Proposed by Cllr. S. Treacy, Seconded by Cllr. M. O' Brien and agreed.

(b) Chairman's Report of the Piltown Electoral Area Meeting held on 14th May, 2013:- Proposed by Cllr. P. Dunphy, Seconded by Cllr. F. Doherty and agreed. Cllr. Dunphy requested a letter to be sent to the NRA in relation to speed limits.

(c) Chairman's Report of SPC 5- Arts, Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Education Meeting held on 17th May, 2013. Proposed by Cllr. T. Breathnach, Seconded by Cllr. J. Brennan and agreed. Cllr. Breathnach requested an amendment to the Chairman's Report in the final paragraph change the word "article" to "book". This was agreed.

(d) Report on SPC 2 – Infrastructure, Transportation, Water Services & Other Policy Issues Meeting held on 24th May, 2013 Proposed by Cllr. M. Doran, Seconded by Cllr. F. Doherty and agreed.

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

Gnó Eile romhainn i bhFógra reachtála an Chruinnithe

None

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

(i) Conferences – Request for approval to attend as per circulated list. Proposed by Cllr. M. Shortall, Seconded by Cllr. J. Moran.

(ii) Summary of proceedings at Conferences have been received from

Councillor	Date of Conference	Title of Conference
T. Breathnach	1 st March, 2013	"Economic Recovery: Progress in the Regions"
M. Shortall	10 th May, 2013	HSE Tobacco Control Policy
F. Doherty	10 th -11 th May, 2013	Local Tourism and the Councillor
M.H. Cavanagh	18 th -19 th May, 2013	"Dealing with Unfinished Housing Estates"

Proposed by Cllr. M. Shortall, Seconded by Cllr. J. Moran.

9. **Matters Arising from Minutes - Gnótha ag éirí as Miontuairiscí**

Cllr. F. Doherty requested that signage be provided to inform people that they are coming into Kilkenny. Mr. Mulholland advised that this has been discussed at the SPC and a meeting was held with the NRA re boundary markings.

10. **Any Other Business - Aon Ghnó Eile**

Letter from Eirgrid requesting to update members at July Meeting. Mr. Mulholland advised that a request has been received from Eirgrid to make a presentation to the members at the July meeting.

It was proposed by Cllr. T. Maher, Seconded by Cllr. T. Breathnach and agreed that Eirgrid would be received at the July meeting for an update on their project.

11. **Notices of Motion - Fógraí Rúin:**

None

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

11(13) **Limerick County Council – 15th May, 2013**

“That the Minister for Finance and the Government would be called upon to reimburse the Irish Credit Unions who lost their investments in the purchase of Investment Bonds from Anglo Irish Bank as a result of the recent liquidation of IBRC. We further propose that this Motion be circulated to all Local Authorities”

Noted

12(13) **Nenagh Town Council – 16th May, 2013**

“That Nenagh Town Council ask that any State board positions that come up and are advertised through Public Jobs.ie are assessed by an independent panel and the relevant Minister should be bound by the recommendations of the panel”.

Noted

- 13(13) Clare County Council – 21st May, 2013**
“That Clare County Council calls on the Minister for Justice, Mr. Alan Shatter, T.D., to undertake a review of accommodation arrangements for refugees and asylum seekers”.
Noted
- 14(13) Offaly County Council – 24th May, 2013**
“That Offaly County Council write to the Minister for Justice and Equality and to the Garda Commissioner Martin Callinan requesting the Garda recruitment be resumed as soon as possible”.
Noted
- 15(13) Leitrim County Council – 24th May, 2013**
“That Leitrim County Council call on the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs, Mr. Jimmy Deenihan, T.D., who’s Department has responsibility for the National Heritage Areas (N.H. A areas to revisit the issue of a blanket ban on tuft cutting in those affected areas with a view to amending the legislation so as to allow bog owners and turf cutters the right to continue to harvest turf as their main source of fuel. There are 4 NHA’s in Leitrim which will be directly affected by the ban- the areas are Cashel Bog, Corracramph Bog, Cloonageeher Bog and the bogs along the Rinn River – there are a further 2 NHAs which straddle the Leitrim/Longford border- Aghnamona Bog and Wooddown Bog- which will also be affected by the ban. The ban, which is due to come into effect at the end of 2013, would result in an almost total cessation of turf cutting in the South Leitrim area and will cause a lot of anger within communities who have been harvesting turf on their bogs for generations”.
Noted

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach