

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 19th May, 2014.

Chair: Cllr. P. Dunphy

Cllrs: M.H. Cavanagh, P. Millea, M. Shortall, J. Brennan, C. Connery, J. Coonan, M. Brett, P. Cuddihy, M. Noonan, A. McGuinness, M. Fitzpatrick, J. Moran, M. Doran, T. Maher, P. Crowley, T. Prendergast, S. Treacy, C. Long, T. Breathnach, A.M Irish, F. Doherty, W. Ireland and M. O' Brien.

Officials: J. Crockett, J. Mulholland, J. McCormack, P. O' Neill and A.M Walsh.

Apologies: Martin Prendiville.

1. Confirmation of Minutes - Dearbhú Miontuairiscí:

- (a) Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Tuesday 22nd April, 2014.** Proposed by Cllr. C. Connery, Seconded by Cllr. T. Maher and agreed:- "That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on the 22nd April, 2014 as circulated with the agenda be and are hereby approved."
- (b) Minutes of Callan Electoral Area Meeting held on 17th April, 2014.** Proposed by Cllr. T. Maher, Seconded by Cllr. P. Crowley and agreed:- "That the minutes of the Callan Electoral Area Meeting held on 17th April, 2014 as circulated with the agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (c) Minutes of Rural Water Monitoring Committee Meeting held on 30th April, 2014.** Proposed by Cllr. J. Brennan, Seconded by Cllr. M. Shortall and agreed:- "That the minutes of the Rural Water Monitoring Committee Meeting held on 30th April, 2014 as circulated with the agenda be and are hereby approved".

Cllr. P. Dunphy extended congratulations to the following:-

- Congratulations to the senior hurlers and senior camogie teams on winning the National Hurling League Final.
- Congratulations to the Loreto Secondary School on the opening of their new extension the Mary Ward Building.
- Welcome the launch of the Local Enterprise Office last week
- Congratulations to James Stephens, GAA on the occasion of the opening of the new facilities at Kells Road, Kilkenny.

Votes of sympathy were extended to:-

- Catherine Walsh, Planning on the death of her father Liam Maher.
- Family of Joseph O' Donnell, Castlecolumb, Kilmoganny (Pensioner)

- Family of the late Mairead Moran, Kilmoganny.
- Mauney Doyle & Family, Bauwgarrett, Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary.
- Rose Flynn, Bralwor, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny on the death of Frank Walsh.
- The Delahunty Family, Ballyguin, Mullinavat, Co. Kilkenny on the death of Bridie Delahunty.
- The Carroll Family, Rossinan, Mullinavat, Co. Kilkenny on the death of Mick Carroll.
- Mary O' Reilly & Family, 2 Polerone Green, Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny on the death of Tom O' Reilly.
- Tommy Phelan, Dungodey, Carrigeen, Via Waterford on the death of Anna Phelan.
- The Grace Family c/o Alice Grace, Rosedale, Kilmacow, Via Waterford on the death of Josie Moore.
- Nicky Grace, Dangan, Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny on the death of Josie Moore.
- Mary Doolan & Family, Brownstown, Rosbercon, Tullogher, Co. Kilkenny on the death of Sean Doolan.
- Michael Delahunty, Ballyquin, Mullinavat, Co. Kilkenny on the death of Bridie Delahunty.
- Ellen Grennan, Clonassy, Mullinavat, Co. Kilkenny on the death of Matty Grennan.
- Sheila Carroll, Rossinan, Mullinavat, Co. Kilkenny on the death of Michael Carroll.
- Maureen Dollard, 25 Christendom Square, Christendom, Ferrybank on the death of Ted Dollard.
- Breda Delaney, 30 Collins Park, Callan, Co. Kilkenny on the death of Liam Delaney.

A minutes silence was observed on the tragic death of Mairead Moran.

It was proposed by Cllr. M. H. Cavanagh, Seconded by Cllr. S. Treacy and agreed: - "That the meeting would conclude at 5.00p.m."

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 & Díuscairt Eile

Proposed by Cllr. M. Brett, Seconded by Cllr. M. Doran 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 a site at Haggard Road, Kells, Co. Kilkenny measuring 0.187 acres to Mr. John Hughes, Kells, Co. Kilkenny in consideration for the transfer of a site from Mr. Hughes at Haggard Road, Kells, Co. Kilkenny to Kilkenny County Council measuring 0.299 acres, and subject to the formal registration of a Public Right of Way over the area, with each party being responsible for their own legal costs associated with the transfer and exchange."

(b) Roads – Bóithre

Proposed by Cllr. F. Doherty, Seconded by Cllr. A.M Irish 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 Public Road/Roundabout/Footpaths only at Road No. R711 (Old N25) & LS 7559 Belmont Road to be a public road”.

(c) Corporate Affairs

Adoption of Annual Report

Mr. John Mulholland referred to the draft Annual Report which has been circulated. He advised once the draft was approved by members that the final layout on the presentation of the Annual Report will be completed and will be available on the website.

Cllr. M. O’ Brien expressed concern in relation to the detail included in the annual report on members expenses compared to other significant projects undertaken by the Council.

Contributions were received from Cllr. J. Coonan, M. Noonan, P. Millea and M. O’ Brien in relation to the proposed local government changes from 1st June, 2014.

The electorate are confused with the new boundaries. They stated that major changes are taking place without any discussion.

County Manager advised that the Council had made a submission to the independent commission. He further stated that the new Council will have serious challenges to deal with. Members will be briefed in relation to the new Local Government Reform Act.

The approval to the Annual Report was proposed by Cllr. T. Maher, Seconded by Cllr. M. Fitzpatrick and agreed.

(d) Water Services - Seirbhísí Uisce

Irish Water- Water Services Investment Programme

Mr. P. O’ Neill gave a powerpoint presentation on the Capital Investment Plan for 2014-2016 which has recently being announced by Irish Water. He outlined the key features of the investment plan.

- Indicative priority schemes included in the 3 year plan
- Indicative schedule of priority schemes at various planning stages
- Proposed plan involves total investment of €1.77 billion
- Water conservation - €152m provided in the plan
- Minor Capital works – €180m provided in the plan

He outlined that there is a proposed investment of €27.4m in water and wastewater improvements in Kilkenny City & County. Details of the various projects were outlined in the presentation. Total spend on wastewater is estimated to be €15.2m and water is estimated to be €12.2m. This investment is very significant and will have beneficial outcomes for the County as regards economic developments and environmental improvements.

Cllr. P. Dunphy thanked Mr. O' Neill for his detailed presentation and welcomed the investment of €27m in the County over the next 3 years.

Contributions were received from Cllr. M. O' Brien, F. Doherty, J. Brennan, M. Noonan, M. Shortall, A.M. Irish, T. Breathnach, S. Treacy, M. H. Cavanagh, T. Prendergast, T. Maher, P. Millea and J. Coonan.

Members welcomed the investment in the various towns and villages throughout the county and thanked the management and staff for foresight in preparing the design for all the schemes to have them ready to go to construction. Specific issues as follows were raised by members.

- Clarify funding for small water and waste water schemes
- Water conservation incentives – grey water harvesting should be mandatory on new build projects.
- Metering on group water schemes
- Hard water – any stipulation to provide a standardised product.
- Metering – is there a need to replace existing meters already installed by Developers in housing estates.
- Status of upgrade in Kilmanagh waste water treatment system to connect the school and the housing development.
- Start date for Inistioge, Waste Water Treatment Plant

Mr. P. O' Neill responded to all queries raised by the members.

Proposed by Cllr. P. Dunphy, Seconded by Cllr. M. Shortall and agreed: - “That Kilkenny County Council request Representatives from Irish Water attend Kilkenny County Council Meetings a few times a year to update Members on progress in relation to Irish Water’s Capital Investment Programme, and to brief them on any important developments”.

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:**

Proposed by Cllr. F. Doherty, Seconded by Cllr. J. Brennan and agreed: - Schedule of meetings from May - July 2014

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

(i) Chairpersons Report of Callan Electoral Area Meeting held on 17th April, 2014. Proposed by Cllr. B. Ireland, Seconded by Cllr. T. Maher and agreed. Cllr. T. Maher thanked all the staff for the redesign of Green Street, Callan.

(ii) Chairpersons Report of the County Kilkenny Rural Water Monitoring Committee Meeting held on 30th April, 2014. Proposed by Cllr. J. Brennan, Seconded by Cllr. M. Shortall. Cllr. J. Brennan expressed thanks to the committee and all the staff for their work over the last 5 years.

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. S. Treacy, Seconded by Cllr. P. Millea and Agreed.

(ii) Summary proceedings at Conferences – Proposed by Cllr. C. Connery, Seconded by Cllr. M. Shortall and agreed.

Councillor	Date of Conference	Title of Conference
M. Noonan	3 rd April	Local Gov & Participation
E. Aylward	4-6 th April	Tourism Seminar on Internet

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

Cllr. Breathnach requested that the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd April, 2014 be amended to read that he expressed concerns in relation to the speed that change is taking place for the Community Development Committee. Consideration must also be given to the future position of staff of the Leader Partnership Company.

10. Any Other Business - Aon Ghnó Eile

- Cllr. Connery thanked officials and all who worked on the Freshford Waste Water Upgrade to bring it to fruition.
- Cllr. Connery requested that a letter be sent to Minister Gilmore expressing concern for the safety of the school girls in Nigeria and a letter be sent to Minister for Finance urging tax breaks for young couples paying crèche fees. These were seconded by Cllr. M. H. Cavanagh.
- Cllr. Crowley thanked members and staff for all the work during the last 5 years. Special tribute was extended to the voluntary organisations for their tireless work in all projects throughout the County.
- Cllr. J. Coonan on behalf of the Fianna Fail group thanked all outgoing members for their input throughout the years in the Council.
- Cllr. P. Dunphy requested an update on the toilets in Thomastown. Mr. P. O' Neill advised that Part 8 Report will be presented to the members at the June Meeting.
- Cllr. P. Dunphy, seconded by Cllr. S. Treacy requested a letter be sent to Waterways Ireland to request them to provide a toilet in Graiguenamangh

11. Notices of Motion - Fógraí Rúin:

7(14) Cllr. M. H. Cavanagh

Proposed by Cllr. M. H. Cavanagh, Seconded by Cllr. C. Connery and agreed: -
“That this Council calls on the Oireachtas to expedite passage of the Valuation (Amendment) (No.2) Bill 2012 to facilitate the revaluing of commercial and industrial properties and to introduce new measures to ease the burden on small businesses in particular”.

Cllr. Cavanagh requested that valuations be lowered as rates are a huge burden on small and medium size businesses who are struggling to keep their businesses open.

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:

None.

Conclusion

Cllr. Dunphy thanked all members for their contributions and assistance throughout the year and wished all candidates the best in the election. He thanked the County Manager and staff for their assistance.

Cllr. M. O’ Brien, M. H. Cavanagh, M. Noonan, M. Brett, T. Maher, P. Cuddihy and J. Moran and A.M Irish all expressed their thanks to all the Chairpersons throughout the 5 year term and all members for their work during the 5 year for the betterment of the City and County. Members thanked the County Manager, Directors of Services and all staff for their work, input into many significant projects and their support to the elected members.

Tributes were paid to the Councillors that are retiring and they were all wished well.

All candidates for the local elections were wished well.

County Manager on behalf of the staff thanked the members for their unique contribution to public service. He thanked them for their huge effort and contribution to all the projects undertaken by the Council. He stated that the role of an elected member can be challenging especially during tough economic times and thanked them for making the right choices for the benefit of Kilkenny.

He wished all the Councillors well in their retirements and every success to those who are running for election.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:_____

Date:_____

Cathairleach