

MINUTES OF JULY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 17TH JULY, 2017 AT 3.00 P.M.

Chair: David Fitzgerald

Cllrs: Eamon Aylward, John Brennan, Tomás Breathnach, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Peter Cleere, Fidelis Doherty, Matt Doran, Michael Doyle, Pat Dunphy, Ger Frisby, Pat Fitzpatrick, Breda Gardner, David Kennedy, Andrew McGuinness, Joe Malone, Michael McCarthy, Pat Millea, Patrick McKee, Melissa O'Neill, Patrick O' Neill, Maurice Shortall and Sean Tyrrell,

Officials: Colette Byrne, Tim Butler, Simon Walton, Kevin Hanley, Carol McCarthy, Ken Boland, John Collins, Killian Hennessy, Adrian Waldron, Michael Delahunty, Stephen O'Connor, Denis Malone & Anne Maria Walsh.

Apologies: Cllr. Malcolm Noonan
Ms. Mary J. Mulholland and Mr. Martin Prendiville.

1. **Confirmation of Minutes - *Dearbhú Miontuairiscí:***

(a) **Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday 19th June, 2017**

Proposed by Cllr. John Brennan, seconded by Cllr. Sean Tyrrell and agreed:

"That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday 19th June, 2017 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".

(b) **Minutes of Annual Meeting held on Friday, 9th June, 2017**

Proposed by Cllr. Matt Doran, seconded by Cllr. Peter Cleere and agreed:

"That the Minutes of Annual Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Friday 9th June, 2017 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".

(c) **Minutes of SPC 1 – Economic Development, Enterprise Support & Tourism held on Thursday, 16th March, 2017**

Proposed by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, seconded by Cllr. Peter Cleere and agreed:

"That the Minutes of SPC 1 Economic Development, Enterprise Support & Tourism held on Thursday, 16th March, 2017 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".

Congratulations

Cllr. David Fitzgerald extended congratulations the following:

- Cllr. John Brennan on his appointment as Chair of the Southern Regional Assembly.
- Cllr. Michael Doyle on his appointment as Mayor of Kilkenny City.

Votes of Sympathy

Cllr. David Fitzgerald extended votes of sympathy to the following:

- Cllr. David Kennedy and family on the death of their mother Bridget Kennedy.
- Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services and Ms. Mary Butler, Arts Officer on the death of their father Jim Butler.

- Ms. Dorothy O'Reilly, Senior Executive Librarian on the death of her mother Josie O'Reilly.
- Ms. Margo McGrath, Senior Library Assistant on the death of her sister Helen Kelly
- The Family of Edward Barron, Kilmacow.
- The Family of John Dreeling, Gowran.
- The Family of Michael Murphy, Ballyfacey.
- The Family of Anne O'Shea, Waterford Road.
- The Family of Paul Doyle, Firhouse.
- The Family of William Fitzpatrick, Knocktopher.
- The Family of James Byrne, Windgap.
- The Family of Elinor Mountain Mabelson, Clonmoran, Shellumsrath, Kilkenny.

It was proposed by Cllr. David Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. Sean Tyrrell and agreed "that the meeting be adjourned for 15 minutes as a mark of respect to Cllr David Kennedy on the death of his mother Bridget".

Meeting resumed at 3.25 p.m.

Cllr. David Fitzgerald brought to the attention of the members the following:

- Reception will be held for the Féile winning teams to be hosted jointly by the Cathaoirleach and Mayor.
- 100th Anniversary – Election of WT Cosgrave Celebrations on 12th August, 2017.
- Reception for Irish British Parliamentary Group.
- Ongoing efforts being made to secure 24/7 Cardiac Care for the South East.
- Thanked Cllr. Cavanagh for standing in at the opening of the houses in Togher Way, Urlingford.
- National Commemoration Day in the Castle – disappointed at the low attendance of elected members.

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

- (i) It was proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy 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 land at Coolkip, Moycarky, Co. Tipperary to Michael Bourke, Maxfort, Horse & Jockey, Thurles, Co. Tipperary for the following consideration: - Plots A & B for Nil consideration and Plot C for Nominal sum of €100 - with Kilkenny County Council being responsible for all legal costs associated with the sale."

- (ii) It was proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. Pat Millea 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 Property at Ballykeeffe Quarry (Amphitheatre), Ballykeeffe, Kilmanagh, Co. Kilkenny – which measures approx 1.21 ha and as outlined on the attached map - to Kilmanagh Ballycallan Killaloe Community Enterprise Group Ltd, The Old School House, Kilmanagh, Co. Kilkenny by way of long term lease for a term of 10 years at an annual rent of €52. Kilmanagh Ballycallan Killaloe Community Enterprise Group Ltd to be responsible for all legal costs associated with the lease."

- (iii) It was proposed by Cllr. Sean Tyrrell, seconded by Cllr. Peter Cleere 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 measuring approx 0.04 acre as identified on the enclosed map, at Waterford Road, Kilkenny to Joseph Hennessy and Breda Hennessy, Waterford Road, Kilkenny for the nominal sum of €10.00 with the Board of Management of Presentation Secondary School being responsible for Kilkenny County Council's legal costs associated with the sale."

(b) **Planning – Pleanail**

(i) **Taking in Charge of Estate:**

98 House Development at Mallfield, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny

It was proposed by Cllr. Breda Gardner, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness 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 Public Notice and listed below, to be a Public Road". Estate:- 98 House Development at Mallfield, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny".

(ii) **Taking in Charge of Estate:**

22 House Development at Springmount, Waterford Road, Kilkenny

It was proposed by Cllr. Patrick McKee, seconded by Cllr. Joe Malone 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 Public Notice and listed below, to be a Public Road". Estate:- 22 House Development at Springmount, Waterford Road, Kilkenny".

(iii) **Taking in Charge of Estate:**

Lintown Hall, Johnswell Road, Kilkenny

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Sean Tyrrell and agreed that:

"We, the Members of Kilkenny County Council, approve the initiation of proceedings for the taking in charge of TC44 – Lintown Hall, Johnswell Road, Kilkenny, in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993, and in compliance with Section 180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended by Section 59 of the Planning and Development Act 2010."

(iv) **Meadow Way, Newpark Lower, Kilkenny – Declaration of Public Road.**

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Joe Malone and agreed that:

"We, the Members of Kilkenny County Council, approve the initiation of proceedings to declare the entire road within Meadow Way, Newpark Lower, Kilkenny, to be a Public Road in accordance with Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993."

(v) **Proposed Variation 3 to the City & Environs Development Plan 2014-2020**

Mr. Denis Malone referred members to the Chief Executive Report circulated with the Agenda. He advised that the Variation is required following the application for funds under the Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund. He gave a powerpoint presentation on amendments required to the Development Plan and outlined in the presentation the following:

- Parcels of Land to be developed and zoning of the parcels
- Details on the LIAHF Application
- Current phasing of Development
- Proposed phasing of Development
- Details of proposed Variation required.

Queries were raised by Cllrs. Peter Cleere, Maurice Shortall and Patrick McKee in relation to the following:

- Increase in School Site.
- Traffic on Circular Road.
- Timeframe for delivery of infrastructure, schools and housing.

Mr. Denis Malone responded to the queries and advised that Kilkenny County Council is due to go to tender for the Road Infrastructure towards the end of 2017. It is expected to commence construction work in early 2018.

He advised that ETB is expected to lodge planning application shortly for the school. Work will continue on the next phase i.e. Breaghagh Park. In relation to Traffic Management a submission has been received from the TII.

It was proposed by Cllr. Peter Cleere and seconded by Cllr. Maurice Shortall and agreed that:

"We the members of Kilkenny County Council, having considered the proposal to make Variation 3 to the Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 under Section 13 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2016, and having considered the Chief Executive's Report as circulated on the 11th July 2017, prepared in accordance with Section 13 (4) of the above Acts, the recommendations as set out in the Chief Executive's report, and with our decision made at a meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on the 17th July 2017, do hereby resolve to vary the Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan in accordance with Proposed Variation 3."

(vi) **Part 8 Process – Circular PL3/2017**

Mr. Denis Malone gave a PowerPoint presentation on the revised procedure for Part 8 included in the Planning & Development [Housing] and Residential Tenancies Act 2016. He outlined the changes in the time period for public display and assessment, the issue of the Chief Executive's Report and the members decision on the Part 8. The revised time limits came into effect on 3rd July, 2017. The purpose of the PowerPoint is to advise members on the changes.

(c) **Environment - Comhshaol**

(i) **Veterinary Services**

Ms. Carol McCarthy advised that Kilkenny County Council is carrying out the food safety functions on behalf of Carlow County Council since March 2012. A Section 85 Agreement between the two Local Authorities has now expired. The approval of the Elected Members is required for a further Section 85 Agreement.

A number of queries arose from Cllrs. David Kennedy, Pat Millea, Sean Tyrell and Melissa O'Neill in relation to the provision of the service and the number of staff involved.

Ms. McCarthy responded to the queries raised. It was proposed by Cllr. Melissa O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Patrick McKee and agreed:

"That Kilkenny County Council enters into an agreement under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 with Carlow County Council to carry out all statutory Food Safety Functions as contracted by Food Safety Authority of Ireland on behalf of Carlow County Council."

(ii) **Graveyard Grants 2017**

Ms. Carol McCarthy referred to Report circulated and advised that approval of the Council is required to a grant of €500 to Church Hill Cemetery under Round 3 of the Graveyard Grant Scheme for 2017.

It was proposed by Cllr. Patrick McKee, seconded by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty and agreed

"That Kilkenny County Council approves the payment of Graveyard Grants 2017 [Round 3] in accordance with the list circulated to Members."

(d) **Community & Culture – Pobal Cultúr**

(i) **Community & Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme**

Mr. Simon Walton presented Report on the applications received for the Community & Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme. He advised members that a total fund of €350,000 is available for 2017. €250,000 is provided through Development Levies and a further €100,000 is available only for this year from unspent allocations over the last few years. 19 applications were received to an overall value of €695,000. The applications were evaluated and it is recommended that eight projects be approved for funding. A full list of the 19 applications as per attached schedule was circulated for the members information.

Contributions were raised by Cllrs. Melissa O'Neill, David Kennedy, Eamon Aylward, Maurice Shortall, Peter Cleere, Matt Doran, Pat Fitzpatrick, Breda Gardner and Mary Hilda Cavanagh in relation to the various applications received. Mr. Walton responded to the queries raised and advised that unsuccessful applicants would be given feedback on their applications. Mr. Butler advised that Community Groups need to be encouraged to continue with potential projects. Scheme can be reviewed through the SPC.

It was proposed by Cllr. Melissa O'Neill seconded by Cllr. David Kennedy and agreed:

"That the Capital Grants as outlined in the Report circulated at the meeting held on 17th July, 2017, are hereby approved."

(ii) **Fire Safety**

Mr. John Collins, Chief Fire Officer gave a PowerPoint presentation on Fire Safety in multi storey building used for Social Housing. In his presentation he outlined to the members the responsibilities of owners of multi storey buildings and their statutory obligations under the Fire Services Act 1981 & 2003. Details of multi-storey housing in the ownership of Kilkenny County Council and others in Co. Kilkenny were given.

Fire Services have carried out inspections on all multi-storey Local Authority buildings and Voluntary Housing Bodies. Letters have been issued to all privately owned multi storey buildings [over 140 buildings]. The Fire Service have carried out an awareness campaign with all the media including social media and will continue to do so over the next few months.

Members thanked Mr. Collins for the detailed presentation.

Queries were raised by Cllrs. David Kennedy, Sean Tyrell, Matt Doran, Breda Gardner, Tomás Breathnach, Melissa O'Neill and David Fitzgerald in relation to the following:

- Cladding on Residential Buildings
- Fire Charges Fees
- Accommodation fit for purpose
- Multi Storey – common escape routes.

Mr. Collins and Mr. Walton responded to the queries raised by members and advised that all buildings must be in compliance with the Building Regulations. Fire Services carry out a lot of inspections on behalf of the Housing Section. The Fire Service Act does not cover private houses. The issue of the use of cladding on building in Co. Kilkenny may not be the same as that in Grenfell Tower. Cllr. David Fitzgerald thanked Mr. Collins for his presentation and advised all property owners to comply with all National Legislation including Building Control Regulations.

(e) **Corporate Affairs - Gnóthaí Corparáideacha**

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

Ms. Colette Byrne presented her Quarterly Report to the members. The Report was noted as read. Queries were received from Cllrs. Peter Cleere, Melissa O'Neill and Andrew McGuinness in relation to:

- Music Generation Application – thanked the staff involved.
- Tenant Handbook – timeframe for issue to tenants.
- Requirements in relation to having pets in Local Authority Units, need to have animals licenced/registered.

Mr. Walton advised that the tenant handbook is currently being printed and will be issued to all tenants and elected members as soon as it is available.

(ii) **Appointment of Chairman for SPC 1 Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Tourism.**

It was proposed by Cllr. Matt Doran seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy and agreed

"That Kilkenny County Council hereby appoints Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick as Chairman for SPC 1 Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Tourism".

(iii) **Appointment of Chairman for SPC 3 Planning & Development, Heritage, Community, Arts & Culture.**

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

"That Kilkenny County Council hereby appoints Cllr. Pat Dunphy as Chairman for SPC 3 Planning & Development, Heritage, Community, Arts & Culture".

Cllr. John Brennan, outgoing Chair thanked all members and staff for their work on the SPC.

(iv) **St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee**

Cllr. Matt Doran referred to the Terms of Reference circulated and requested that the membership of 8 be increased to 10 and that the Chairperson be elected by the full Council. Cllr. Joe Malone seconded this and it was agreed.

Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh proposed that there would be 4 Elected Members and the Mayor and this was seconded by Cllr. Melissa O'Neill and agreed.

It was proposed by Cllr. Matt Doran seconded by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed that Cllr. Joe Malone be appointed Chair of the St. Patrick's Day Committee for the remaining term of Kilkenny County Council.

It was proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh seconded by Cllr. John Brennan and agreed that Cllr. Patrick O'Neill be appointed to the St. Patrick's Day Committee for the remaining term of Kilkenny County Council.

It was proposed by Cllr. David Kennedy seconded by Cllr. Melissa O'Neill and agreed that Cllr. Sean Tyrrell be appointed to the St. Patrick's Day Committee for the remaining term of Kilkenny County Council.

It was proposed by Cllr. Joe Malone seconded by Cllr. Matt Doran and agreed that Cllr. Andrew McGuinness be appointed to the St. Patrick's Day Committee for the remaining term of Kilkenny County Council.

It was proposed by Cllr. Maurice Shortall seconded by Cllr. Breda Gardner and agreed that Cllr. Malcolm Noonan be appointed to the St. Patrick's Day Committee for the remaining term of Kilkenny County Council.

3. **Urgent Correspondence - Comhfhreagras Práinneach**

All responses received to Notices of Motion were circulated for members information.

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:**

(i) **Schedule of Meetings from July to September 2017**

It was proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. David Kennedy and agreed.

(ii) **Agree date of Workshop in Committee on Budget 2018**

It was proposed by Cllr. David Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty and agreed that a Workshop In Committee on Budget 2018 be held on Monday, 11th September, 2017 at 3.30 p.m.

Cllr. David Fitzgerald advised that the CPG Meeting on 11th September, 2017 will be at 2.30 p.m.

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

(i) **Chairman's Report of SPC 2 Infrastructure Policy, Transportation, Fire & Emergency Services held on Friday, 3rd March, 2017.**

It was proposed by Cllr. Matt Doran, seconded by Cllr. Michael Doyle that report be noted as read.

(ii) **Chairman's Report of SPC 1 Economic Development, Enterprise Support & Tourism on Thursday, 16th March, 2017.**

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick seconded by Cllr. John Brennan that Report be noted as read.

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.**

It was proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty seconded by Cllr. John Brennan and agreed.

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

None

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

(i) **Invitation to visit Kilkenny, Minnesota, USA – September 2017.**

Mr. Tim Butler advised that an invitation has been received from Mayor of Kilkenny Minnesota to visit Kilkenny Minnesota in September 2017.

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Patrick O'Neill and agreed that Cllr. Michael Doyle, Mayor and an Official will visit Minnesota in September 2017.

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

22 (17) Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh

It was proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. Pat Dunphy and agreed:

"That Kilkenny County Council would take an active approach in progressing the Repair and Leasing Scheme throughout the County to alleviate homelessness and in doing so revitalise rural areas especially our towns and villages".

Cllrs. Cavanagh and Shortall spoke on the need to increase the level of funding available to encourage people to make properties available for Social Housing and that a letter should be sent to the Minister for Housing.

23 (17) Cllr. Breda Gardner

It was proposed by Cllr. Breda Gardner, seconded by Cllr. David Kennedy:

"That the Council provide full answers on the following:

- (a) *The original estimate of costs for the Central Access Scheme*
- (b) *Total monies spent thus far on the Scheme and associated works*
- (c) *Apart from potential lawsuits, details of anticipated additional costs (e.g. CPO's, additional traffic management works etc).*
- (d) *The number of lawsuits around the CAS served on the Council, and the category of people serving them (contractors, residents, businesses etc)."*

Cllr. Shortall asked if there would be further additional costs to the estimated cost.

Mr. Butler advised that the estimated cost in October 2015 was €16.7m. Kilkenny County Council is currently preparing the final report on the road and bridge. Final accounts has not yet been agreed. Arbitration is still ongoing on land purchases. This information is commercially sensitive at this time and it will be prudent to wait until final accounts and final awards are determined before replying to this motion. Mr. Butler advised that there was one court case taken by a member of the public. Members agreed to wait the final reports/accounts.

24 (17) Cllr. Melissa O'Neill

It was proposed by Cllr. Melissa O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Breda Gardner and agreed:

"That Kilkenny County Council ban the use of Glyphosate in public areas, Ireland has the second highest levels of Glyphosate in surface water as new report shows, A report for research against cancer (IARC) in 2015 concluded Glyphosate to be probably carcinogenic to humans. Glyphosate also known as roundup blocks proteins essential to plant growth. Our health and environment must be protected."

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Melissa O'Neill, Breda Gardner, David Kennedy, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Pat Dunphy and Matt Doran in relation to the use of Glyphosate, need to examine side effects, alternative substance, EU Regulations and review of this. Mr. Butler advised that the EU is currently reviewing the use of Glyphosate and it is recommended that we await the outcome of this review and receive more information on it.

Cllr. Melissa O'Neill agreed to withdraw Notice of Motion and re-enter it in six months time.

25 (17) Cllr. David Kennedy

It was proposed by Cllr. David Kennedy, seconded by Cllr. Sean Tyrrell and agreed:

"That Kilkenny County Council looks into the possibility of hiring a full time employee to deal solely with the amount of empty/ vacant houses in Kilkenny, this job will entail working with the relevant people/ company's to get these houses into the local authorities."

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Kennedy, Fitzgerald, Doran, Dunphy, Tyrrell and Shortall in relation to this motion.

Mr. Walton advised that the Department have commenced a review of vacant properties and it is likely that the Department may request Local Authorities to designate a person to deal with vacant houses. This will come from our existing staff complement. Currently the Housing staff are out looking for vacant houses and any other options to secure additional units. However the agreement of the owners as required to bring these units into the rental market. Cllr. David Kennedy agreed to amend the Notice of Motion to the following:

"That Kilkenny County Council look into the possibility of designating an employee to deal with empty/vacant houses in Kilkenny with a view to bringing these houses into use in the rental market".

Members agreed to this.

26 (17) Cllr. Patrick Dunphy & Cllr. Matt Doran

It was proposed by Cllr. Patrick Dunphy, seconded by Cllr. Matt Doran and agreed:

"That Kilkenny County Council write to the Department of Agriculture and the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and the Marine to support the retention of the Department of Agriculture Veterinary Lab in Kilkenny City where it has been for many years. If this Lab is closed it will mean farmers taking their samples to North Kildare. This is very unfair as the lab is a service for the South East. Services should be maintained and enhanced."

Given that money has already been invested in the Regional Veterinary Laboratory and with an increase in animal numbers expected (recent Glanbia Survey), it is essential that the Kilkenny Laboratory is not only retained but also upgraded. The service from the Kilkenny Regional Laboratory has been to the highest standard to its farmers in this region, and it is essential that this service continues for many years into the future".

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Dunphy, Doran, Cavanagh, O'Neill, Fitzpatrick, Gardner, Doherty and Breathnach supporting this motion.

27 (17) Cllr. Sean Tyrrell & Cllr. David Kennedy

Cllr. Sean Tyrrell withdrew this Notice of Motion.

"That Kilkenny County Council carry out an investigation in the County to ensure that any residential apartment blocks or commercial units with residential use above or adjacent to them are not using the same or similarly dangerous cladding as was used in the London, Grenfell Tower Block. It also needs to be assured that the same or similarly dangerous cladding will not be used for future builds either in residential or commercial units going forward".

28 (17) Cllr. Tomás Breathnach & Cllr. Maurice Shortall

It was proposed by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, seconded by Cllr. Maurice Shortall and agreed:

"Kilkenny County Council should write to the Minister for Communications, Climate Change and Natural Resources to seek the postponement of the introduction of changes in the refuse charges regime until the following requirements have been fulfilled.

- 1 *The appointment of a strong and independent national waste regulator under the aegis of the Environment Protection Agency with power to impose effective competition, to set fair and transparent pricing by requiring tenders for the collection of all waste in an area without either cherry-picking the most lucrative areas for collection or nuisance caused by different collectors in the same areas.*
- 2 *The completion of a thorough public awareness and information campaign.*
- 3 *The introduction of a public service obligation on any waste collection tender to provide a waiver scheme for low income households and for those with certain specific needs.*
- 4 *Waste collection companies should be obliged to engage in collective bargaining with employees.*
- 5 *Recognition that responsibility for waste collection should be transferred to local authorities and the setting out of a clear framework to bring the provision for these services within local authority control."*

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Breathnach, Shortall, Fitzgerald, Brennan, Dunphy and Gardner in relation to this Notice of Motion.

As the time of the meeting was 17:58 it was proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Melissa O'Neill and agreed:

"That Standing Orders be suspended to finish dealing with all the Notices of Motion remaining on the Agenda".

29 (17) Cllr. Tomás Breathnach & Cllr. Maurice Shortall

It was proposed by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, seconded by Cllr. Maurice Shortall and agreed:

"Kilkenny County Council should write to the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to increase investment in Early Childhood Care and Education to ensure that children have access to quality, sustainable and affordable childcare with decent pay and conditions for professionals in the sector."

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Breathnach and Kennedy in relation to this motion.

30 (17) Cllr. Sean Tyrrell

Cllr. Sean Tyrrell withdrew this Notice of Motion.

"Kilkenny County Council is deeply concerned with the Government's new waste management proposals. Council will write to Minister Naughten asking that he stops these new charges, establishes a national regulator, introduces more measures to reduce, reuse and recycle waste, introduce supports for low income families and those with medical conditions."

31 (17) Cllr. Melissa O'Neill

It was proposed by Cllr. Melissa O'Neill, seconded by Cllr. Breda Gardner and agreed:

"That Kilkenny Council calls on Minister for Education and Science as well as Minister for Children and Youth Affairs to allow for a standard regulated system which must be implemented on weight guidelines on school bags for the 920.281 children attending both primary and secondary school. We have had no evaluations of measures taken by schools in 17 years. Children are carrying over 50% of their body weight although health and safety weight guidelines are 3.5 for up to 12 and 6.3 for up to 17 years of age. Many children at risk of long term permanent damage."

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Melissa O'Neill, Breda Gardner, Patrick O'Neill and Pat Dunphy in relation to this Motion.

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

The following Notices of Motion were taken as read and noted by the Elected Members.

23 (17) Tipperary County Council

"That Tipperary County Council calls on the Minister for Health to take the necessary measures to make Regional Health Forum committees relevant".

24 (17) Tipperary County Council

"That Tipperary County Council calls on the government to extend children's allowance for parents who have children in third Level Education but have no access to grants due to their before tax earnings. The extended children's allowance could be capped at a level which will not be extended to those with very high earnings".

25 (17) Sligo County Council

"Noting that the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) is primarily funded by county and city councils, who contribute in excess of €10 million per year to the agency, and noting that the Board of the agency is composed of 11 members (8 Chief Executives of County and City Councils, 3 Officials from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government and no elected representative), and further noting the significant role of the agency in terms of influencing government policy on local government and noting that Council's and Elected Councillors are not provided with any information as to the activities of the LGMA, this Council requests the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) to provide a briefing for elected members module on "The role, funding and activities of the Local Government Management Agency" as part of its annual Training Programme and further we request the AILG to ensure that an elected Councillor will be included as a speaker at the said briefing".

That concluded the Business of the Meeting.