



MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, 17TH JANUARY, 2022 AT 3.00 P.M. VIA MS TEAMS

- Chair:** Cllr. Fidelis Doherty.
- Cllrs.** Tomás Breathnach, John Brennan, Martin Brett, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Peter Cleere, John Coonan, Deirdre Cullen, Michael Delaney, Maria Dollard, Matt Doran, Michael Doyle, Pat Dunphy, David Fitzgerald, Pat Fitzpatrick, Ger Frisby, Denis Hynes, Joe Lyons, Joe Malone, Michael McCarthy, Andrew McGuinness, Eugene McGuinness & Patrick O'Neill.
- Officials:** Colette Byrne, Tim Butler, Mary Mulholland, Sean McKeown, Martin Prendiville, Frank Stafford, Anne Marie Shortall, Fiona Deegan, Denis Malone, Catherine Cooney & Anne Maria Walsh.
- Apologies:** Cllr. Eamon Aylward.

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

- (i) **Minutes of Plenary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council**
Proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed.
"That the Minutes of Plenary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday, 20th December, 2021 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (ii) **Minutes of Adjourned Meeting of Kilkenny County Council**
Proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett and agreed.
"That the Adjourned Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Thursday, 23rd December, 2021 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (iii) **Minutes of SPC5: Community, Culture & Fire Services**
Proposed by Cllr. John Coonan, seconded by Cllr. John Brennan and agreed.
"That the SPC5: Community, Culture & Fire Services held on Thursday 22nd September, 2021 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".

Vótaí Comhbhrón - Votes of Sympathy

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Fidelis Doherty extended vote of sympathy to Aisling Murphy's family on her tragic death.

Cllrs. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Andrew McGuinness, Tomás Breathnach, Maria Dollard, Deirdre Cullen, Joe Malone, Peter Cleere, John Brennan, Martin Brett, Pat Fitzpatrick, Eugene McGuinness, John Coonan and Pat Dunphy were all associated with the vote of sympathy.

Members spoke on the brutal killing in broad daylight of this young person and called for a stop to violence against women.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Fidelis Doherty also extended votes of sympathy to the following:

- Family of the late Bridget Giles, Burnchurch, Cuffesgrange.
- Family of the late Patrick Byrne, Higginstown Cross, Kilkenny.

- Family of the late Aisling Murphy, Tullamore.
- Family of the late Honor Harvey, wife of the late Dean Brian Harvey, St. Canice's Cathedral.
- Family of the late Bridget Power, Tullogher.
- Family of the late Anne Gibbons, Kilkenny City.
- Family of the Joe Quigley, Kilkenny City.
- Family of the late Lucy Doyle, O'Loughlin
- Family of the late Mary Reid, Rickandsland, Glenmore.
- Family of the late Tom Roche, Ballykillabay, Kilmacow.
- Family of the late Jim Freeman, Bishopsgrove, Ferrybank.
- Family of the late Peggy Walsh, Brownstown, Tullogher.,
- Family of the late Mary Duggan, Kilbride, Glenmore.

It was proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed that the Council meeting adjourn for five minutes as a mark of respect for Aisling Murphy's family.

Meeting resumed at 3.25 p.m.

2. (a) **Ag Cúram/Taking in Charge: [TC70] The Paddocks, Gowran, Co. Kilkenny**

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed that:

"We, the Members of Kilkenny County Council approve the initiation of proceedings for the taking in charge of the following development in accordance with 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".

Development: (TC70) The Paddocks, Phase 1, Gowran, Co. Kilkenny.

(b) (i) **Dréacht-Fhodhlíthe Corrrhrádála -Draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws**

Mr. Sean McKeown presented the Chief Executive's Report on the Draft Casual Trading Bye-laws. He advised that the Bye-laws were advertised for public consultation until 10th December, 2021. Three submissions were received and have been considered. The Chief Executive is proposing to amend the Draft Bye-laws as published to include two additional Casual Trading Bays adjacent to the new Greenway. These will be located in the Ferrybank & Glenmore car parks for the Greenway when they are constructed.

The Chief Executive recommends the adoption of the amended Bye-laws.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Doherty and Breathnach in relation to the additional Trading Bays and the duration of the new Bye-laws. Mr. McKeown advised that the Bye-laws remain in force until reviewed by Members. There is provision in Clause 47 to vary a part of the Bye-laws if required.

It was proposed by Cllr. Michael McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed:

"That Kilkenny County Council approves the adoption of the Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2021 for the Municipal Districts of Castlecomer, Callan-Thomastown & Piltown, as circulated to the Members."

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Fidelis Doherty welcomed Mr. Frank Stafford to the meeting and invited him to give a PowerPoint Presentation on Recreational Projects. Mr. Frank Stafford presented an overview on the following on his PowerPoint Presentation:

- Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme Projects (ORIS) funded during 2018-2021.
- Schedule of Projects completed or in progress under ORIS – Measures 1, 2 and 3 and details of funding received and matching funds from Kilkenny County Council. Total value of all ORIS funding is €3.08m for 35 individual projects.
- Detailed overview presented on Woodstock marketing and promotion projects.
- Partnership Projects in Graiguenamanagh with funding from Leader Programme 2020 completed or in progress.
- Further 8 Partnership Projects in the pipeline with an estimated value of €327,000, details of the projects current status.
- Specific details on Slieverue Linear Park, Nore Valley Link and Callan Heritage Trail.
- Overview of 31 Playgrounds managed by Kilkenny County Council, maintenance and upgrading works, budget required for replacement of equipment needs to be identified.

Cllr. Fidelis Doherty thanked Mr. Stafford for the detailed PowerPoint on the many recreational projects throughout the County. She urged the public to visit these places and avail of the facilities provided.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. David Fitzgerald, John Coonan, Michael Doyle, Maria Dollard, Deirdre Cullen, Mary Hilda Cavanagh and Ger Frisby. Members thanked Mr. Stafford for the details of the many projects and the quality of the work. They welcomed all the work being done on many projects across the County. These projects have been significant especially during Covid where all of us have availed of meeting outdoors and enjoying visiting many parts of the County.

Specific issues were raised as follows:

- North-South Greenway connecting to other Greenways.
- Woodstock House – Decade of Commemoration.
- Replacement of Playground equipment.
- Improvements at Swimming Areas.
- Walking/Recreation – benefits to the Community.
- Brandon Hill – dumping – signage required.
- Accessible Trails at Woodstock welcomed.
- Use of rivers for recreation – Water Hub update.
- Restoring significant historic wells.

Mr. Frank Stafford responded to the issues raised by Members and gave further details on the specific projects referred to. Mr. Sean McKeown and Mr. Tim Butler responded to specific items and advised that in relation to Woodstock there is engagement with Coillte as a Strategic Partner in preparing applications for funding.

Consultants are due to be approved for the design of the Water Hub in the grounds of County Hall.

Ms. Colette Byrne, Chief Executive advised Members that we will continue to seek funding opportunities for all projects. Our largest project is the development of the Greenway and we have an ambition to link Woodstock to the Greenway. The Council will continue to source matched funding for projects as the outdoors has proved very important in the lives of us all over the last two years.

(c) (i) ***Tuarascáil Mhíosúil an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh***
Chief Executive's Monthly Report

Cllr. Fidelis Doherty thanked the Chief Executive for a very informative monthly report. She advised Members that the Chief Executive is available if there are any questions.

Mr. Martin Prendiville advised the meeting that we are waiting clarification from the Department on the final compensation for loss of income for 2021. A provisional allocation has been notified to us – amount €627,000. Further details are being sent to the Department.

(c) ***Ceapachán chuig an gCoiste Um Leas Ainmhithe*** -
Appointment to Animal Welfare Committee

It was proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. Pat Dunphy and agreed that Cllr. Martin Brett be appointed to the Animal Welfare Committee.

(d) **Yulefest**

Cllr. Fidelis Doherty welcomed Ms. Marian Flannery to the meeting and complimented the Yulefest Team on a wonderful array of events during December. She invited Ms. Flannery to give a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Marian Flannery gave an overview on Yulefest in the PowerPoint Presentation as follows:

- Christmas Winter Market.
- Events in County Towns/Villages.
- Local Live Public Performances – funded by Department.
- Statistics on participation in Yulefest:
 - 25 days of events.
 - 23 Rural Community Support.
 - 52 Musical Performances.
 - 26 Local enterprises on the market.
- Significant National and Local Publicity, overview on statistics for media coverage, social media.
- Overview of the RTE Nationwide Programme.
- Partners with Yulefest – acknowledged the many partners associated with the programme of events and events organised by Business, communities etc.
- Feedback from business/communities very positive.
- Three videos were played to showcase the events held during the festival period.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Fidelis Doherty, John Coonan, Andrew McGuinness, Peter Cleere, Martin Brett, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Maria Dollard, Deirdre Cullen, Eugene McGuinness & Joe Malone.

Members congratulated Ms. Marian Flannery and her team on the wonderful and diverse range of events. Members spoke of the joyful atmosphere around the City and County. Members complemented the City staff on the presentation of the City and particularly the Parade.

Specific queries were raised as follows:

- Bandstand – Long term use – available for different locations around the City, use for other festivals.
- Christmas Market welcomed by all the crafts people.
- Extending Yulefest to more towns and villages.
- Range of publicity gained.
- Nationwide Programme – showcased Kilkenny City which was a huge boost to the County.
- Funding for more live music performances.
- Christmas lights need to be upgraded.
- Additional footfall for local businesses.
- Workshop for Communities to assist them in applying for funding.

Ms. Colette Byrne and Mr. Tim Butler responded to the issues raised by Members.

Mr. Butler advised that the Local Live Performances were funded by the Department of Tourism. Application has been made for further funding for St. Patrick's Day Festival. The cost of moving the Bandstand around would have to be considered. It is not recommended that the Bandstand remains on the Parade. The upgrading of the Christmas lights will be depended on funding from the local businesses and Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Colette Byrne stated that there was huge positivity around the festival which is now in its 5th year. The Chief Executive acknowledged the work of Ann Maire Freyne, who chaired the Yulefest committee for the first 3 years and also Mary Mulholland, Director of Service who led the process for the Council. Starting a new festival is challenging as you try to build the brand and offer. There is an ambition to grow and develop the festival both in the City and other towns in the County. The next couple of years will see further outdoor space in the Abbey Quarter and Market Yard which will provide an opportunity to embed the Festival further. The Chief Executive that advised that the main challenge now is to maintain the high standard reached and that the Festival is grown in a sustainable manner. The Chief Executive thanked Tim Butler, Director of Service for all his work on this year's Festival and Ian Gardner, Senior Engineer the Council staff for the presentation of the City and their work to facilitate the Festival in the City. She thanked Marian and all her team for the diverse range of events.

Ms. Marian Flannery thanked the Members, Directors of Services and Chief Executive for all the kind remarks. She also thanked Catherine Cooney for all her assistance during the festival. She stated that working together with communities, business partners, Cartoon Saloon, Crafts Council and Butler House to name just a few, brings huge benefits for a successful festival. There is immense talent in Kilkenny and this was showcased both in the Christmas Market and also on the Bandstand.

3. *Comhfhreagras - Correspondence*

- (i) **Correspondence from Minister in relation to European Network of EU Councillors**
Noted.

4. *Gnó ar athló ó chruinniúroimhe seo - Business adjourned from a previous Meeting*

None.

5. *Dátaí agus Amanta do chruinnithe a shocrú - Fix Dates & Times of Meetings*

(i) *Schedule of Meetings*

It was proposed by Cllr. Martin Brett, seconded by Cllr. Pat Dunphy and agreed.

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

(i) *Report of SPC5: Community, Culture & Fire Services*

It was proposed by Cllr. John Coonan, seconded by Cllr. Pat Dunphy and agreed that Report of SPC 5: Community, Cultural & Fire Services held on Thursday 22nd September, 2021 be taken as read and noted.

**7. *Gnó Eile romhainn i bhFógra reachtála an Chruinnithe*
*Other Business set forth in the Notice convening the Meeting***

None.

8. *Oideachas agus Oiliúint - Education & Training*

(i) *Approval to Attend Conferences*

Schedule of Conferences circulated with the Agenda was proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. Joe Malone and agreed.

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

Cllr. Pat Dunphy asked for an update from Irish Water. Mr. Tim Butler advised that he has spoken with Irish Water and advised that Irish Water are not meeting individual Local Authorities. Irish Water staff are available at the Quarterly Meetings to meet Councillors.

10. *Aon Ghnó Eile - Any Other Business*

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Fidelis Doherty extended congratulations to the following:

- James Stephens Barracks – their attendance/participation at the Centenary Commemoration event in Dublin Castle.
- Callan Macra Na Feirme.
- Wished Ballyhale & Mooncon well in their next hurling matches.
- Advised members of the public of the final date for recycling Christmas Trees.

11. *Fógraí Rúin - Notices of Motion*

None.

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

It was proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed by all that the following Notices of Motion numbered 01 (22) to 03 (22) received from a number of Local Authorities be taken as read and noted:

01 (22) Donegal County Council

"That this Council apply to the Department for the restoration of Section 140 Motions to Councils."

02 (22) Galway City Council

"Galway City Council call on the Minister for Finance to extend the Help to Buy Incentive Scheme for at least five more years after he has carried out his review in 2022."

03 (22) Louth County Council

"That Louth County Council supports the campaign of Epilepsy Ireland to address long-standing issues that continue to impact on people with epilepsy and their families in Ireland today, namely:

1. Access to Free Travel.
2. Provision of Reasonable Accommodations for State Examinations for students with epilepsy."

That concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE