

Minutes of SPC 5 Meeting held on Thursday 22nd of September , 2021 via Microsoft Teams

In attendance: Cllr. Pat Dunphy (Chair), Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr. Martin Brett, Cllr. John Coonan, Cllr. Peter Chap Cleere, Fergal Canton, Mary Mulholland, Josephine Coyne, John Collins, Killian Hennessy, Mary Butler, Dearbhala Ledwidge, and Cora Nolan, Kilkenny County Council.

Apologies: Cllr. Tomas Breathnach, Murty Brennan and Kathy Purcell.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. P. Cleere, Seconded by Cllr. J. Brennan.

(a) Matters Arising

Notice of Motion from Cllr. T. Breathnach agreed at September Council Meeting: - "That Kilkenny County Council write to the Department of Culture, Heritage, & Gaeltacht and to the Department of Rural & Community Development to seek funding dedicated to the conservation and restoration of old stone walls and other structures of heritage value in urban and rural areas and to underpin this support with the provision of funding for courses in the relevant traditional building skills.

2. Library Service -Reopening and Services.

County Librarian Josephine Coyne gave a presentation which covered the following items: -

- Phased reopening from September 20th, and from October 22nd My Open Library can be reactivated and normal service will resume.
- Mobile library service is back on the road serving over 60 locations, including nursing homes, schools, creches and villages across the county. It will also incorporate Door to Door service.
- Sensory toys, books and magic tables are available again.
- Self-service check in and check out, library app, WIFI printing from home, self-service printing and photocopying
- Graiguenamanagh roof replacement, Urlingford essential maintenance works to weather and future proof the building
- Mayfair capital programme – library staff working with the design team developing tender and brief.
- A number of various programmes are being run, including Bookville, Science week, winter programmes, Decade of Centenaries.

- Throughout the past year, increase in the book fund has allowed the library to invest in those most in need and help tackle social exclusion, rural isolation, marginalisation and vulnerability.

Kilkenny is currently on €1.34 per capita, National target: €4 further increase of €50,000 in 2022 would bring Kilkenny up to €1.84.

Cllr. Dunphy thanked Josephine for her presentation and commended the work being done through the libraries around the County and will be taking into consideration at budget time.

Cllr. Coonan thanked the library service on behalf of Kilkenny Older Peoples Council who found the library invaluable especially during the recent months and complimented the courtesy of the staff and the range of services and the hard work of the library staff was evident during the pandemic. Cllr. Coonan queried what would happen the Loughboy and Carnegie Library when works are complete in Abbey Quarter.

Jo will pass on the message of thanks to the library staff and advised that Loughboy library will remain operating as normal and Carnegie library will accommodate Library headquarters and local studies.

Cllr. Cleere also congratulated the library service for the fantastic and innovative idea on the Door to Door Service, and queried the dates on the roof repair in Graignamanagh, Jo advised no definite date yet but Thomastown library will operate extended opening hours during this 6 weeks.

Mary Mulholland also noted how valuable the library was to young and old especially during lockdown and this area needs to be resourced to continue this work.

3. Heritage Forum Review

Dearbhala Ledwidge gave a presentation on the Kilkenny Heritage Forum and outlined the following: -

- A review of Kilkenny Heritage Forum which is chaired by an Elected Representative and co-ordinated by the Heritage Officer.
- The role of SPC 5
- What the forum has achieved
- The membership- current membership is at 24

Dearbhala outlined the proposed process to review Kilkenny Heritage forum membership the first step is today with a presentation to SPC 5 and

providing supporting documents to the SPC committee for review. Feedback to Dearbhala before the 29th of October. After this date Dearbhala will review the feedback, update terms of reference, write to current members, identify gaps in membership, contact new members and organisations and revert back to SPC in Q1 2022, with the new Kilkenny heritage forum to meet in Q2 2022.

Cllr. P. Dunphy thanked Dearbhala for her presentation.

A number of observations were raised by Cllr. P. Dunphy, M. Mulholland and F. Canton which included: -

- Snap net fishing
- Importance of Intangible cultural heritage
- Boat building and fishing skills
- Large membership of the forum
- How to nominate a member
- Craftmanship
- Cultural diversity

Dearbhala will welcome all feedback for consideration before the 29th of October and noted that the Heritage Council have appointed an inclusivity Officer who might also be able to address the issues raised.

Mary advised is it important to focus on getting the membership right and it is very important that committee members look at the information and submit feedback.

4. Presentation on guidance specification for Fire Hydrants and firefighting.

Cllr. Pat Dunphy attended a training course with the fire service yesterday and complimented the team on the training and the work being done.

John Collins will send details of up coming training courses to all members.

Killian Hennessy gave a presentation on Fire Hydrants and Firefighting which covered the following topics: -

- The legislation
- What, Where, Anomaly and Why
- Fire Hydrants – Testing, checklist for Fire Hydrants
- Standards
- Questions

Pat thanked Killian for his presentation.

The committee thanked the fire service for all their hard work, a lot of work goes on behind the scenes and it is important to hear about this work and investment in the Fire service is very important.

No up date on a site for the new fire station, a query was raised on water tankers to which Killian responded.

5. AOB

If members have an item they would like to include on Agenda, please email it to Cora or Annette.

The minutes of the last meeting and chairman's report will be on the next council agenda.

Date for Next Meeting is Wednesday 17th of November at 3.00p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.