

MIONTUAIRISCÍ ÓN GCRUINNIÚ IOMLÁNACH DE CHUID
CHOMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH TIONÓLTA
AR AN LUAN, 22 AIBREAN 2024 AG 3.00 I.N. I SEOMRA NA
COMHAIRLE, HALLA AN CHONTAE & VIA FOIRNE MS



MINUTES OF PLENARY MEETING OF KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 22ND APRIL, 2024 AT 3.00 P.M.
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL & VIA MS TEAMS

Chair: Cllr. Michael Doyle.

Elected Members: *Council Chamber*

Cllrs. Eamon Aylward, John Brennan, Martin Brett, Tomás Breathnach, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Peter Cleere, John Coonan, Fidelis Doherty, Maria Dollard, Matt Doran, Pat Dunphy, Pat Fitzpatrick, David Fitzgerald, Ger Frisby, Denis Hynes, Joe Lyons, Joe Malone, Michael McCarthy, Andrew McGuinness & Eugene McGuinness.

MS Teams

Cllrs. Deirdre Cullen & Michael Delaney.

Officials: Lar Power, Sean McKeown, Tim Butler, Fiona Deegan, Mary Mulholland, Frank Stafford, Margaret Whelan, Eamon Hoare & Anne Maria Walsh.

Officials: Cllr. Patrick O'Neill.

1. Dearbhú Miontuairiscí - Confirmation of Minutes

- (i) **Miontuairiscí Chruinniú Iomlánach mhí an Mhárta - Minutes of March Plenary Meeting**
Proposed by Cllr. Peter Cleere, seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy and agreed:
"That Minutes of Plenary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday, 25th March, 2024 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (ii) **Miontuairiscí an Chruinnithe Speisialta - Minutes of Special Meeting**
Proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett and agreed:
"That Minutes of Special Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday, 8th April, 2024 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (iii) **Miontuairiscí SPC 4 - Minutes of SPC 4**
Proposed by Cllr. Joe Lyons, seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy and agreed:
"That SPC 4: Environmental Protection, Climate Action & Energy held on 6th April, 2023 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (iv) **Miontuairiscí SPC 4 - Minutes of SPC 4**
Proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed:
"That Minutes of SPC 4: Environmental Protection, Climate Action & Energy held on 18th July, 2023 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (v) **Miontuairiscí SPC 4 - Minutes of SPC 4**
Proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy and agreed:
"That Minutes of SPC 4: Environmental Protection, Climate Action & Energy held on 22nd November, 2023 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (vi) **Miontuairiscí SPC 3 - Minutes of SPC 3**
Proposed by Cllr. Eamon Aylward, seconded by Cllr. John Brennan and agreed:
"That Minutes of SPC 3: Housing held on 5th February, 2023 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".

- (vii) **Miontuairiscí SPC 3 - Minutes of SPC 3**
Proposed by Cllr. Eamon Aylward, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed:
"That Minutes of SPC 3: Housing held on 6th June, 2023 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (viii) **Miontuairiscí SPC 3 - Minutes of SPC 3**
Proposed by Cllr. Eamon Aylward, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed:
"That Minutes of SPC 3: Housing held on 29th June, 2023 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (ix) **Miontuairiscí SPC 3 - Minutes of SPC 3**
Proposed by Cllr. Eamon Aylward, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed:
"That Minutes of SPC 3: Housing held on 22nd September, 2023 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (x) **Miontuairiscí SPC 3 - Minutes of SPC 3**
Proposed by Cllr. Eamon Aylward, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed:
"That Minutes of SPC 3: Housing held on 3rd October, 2023 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (xi) **Miontuairiscí SPC 3 - Minutes of SPC 3**
Proposed by Cllr. Eamon Aylward, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed:
"That Minutes of SPC 3: Housing held on 8th December, 2023 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (xii) **Miontuairiscí SPC 1 - Minutes of SPC 1**
Proposed by Cllr. Ger Frisby, seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy and agreed:
"Minutes of SPC 1: Economic Development, Enterprise Support, Tourism, Planning and Development Policy held on 7th December, 2023 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".

Vótaí Comhbhrón - Votes of Sympathy

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Michael Doyle extended vote of sympathy to the following:

- Suzanne Noonan, Planning and Deputy Malcolm Noonan on the death of their father Derry Noonan, Kilkenny.
- Aideen O'Reilly, Library Services on the death of her brother Gary Doheny, Thomastown.
- Barry Whelan, Environment on the death of his grandmother Judy Whelan, Ballingarry.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Michael Doyle referred to the 125 Years of Local Government being celebrated today. The first meeting of Kilkenny County Council was held in the Courthouse, Kilkenny on Saturday, 22nd April, 1899. There were 19 Members elected and a further 13 Members made up the total membership of 32. These were ex-officio Members, selected by Grand Jury and co-opted.

He referred to the matters which were considered at the meeting and the areas of responsibilities at that time. Things have changed dramatically over the 125 years as services developed and expanded.

He acknowledged the services of all Elected Members and staff over the 125 years and also acknowledged the late Tom Boyle, County Secretary who has recorded the early history of the Council in a book published in 1999 celebrating 100 Years of Local Government. To mark this auspicious occasion a photo was taken of the Elected Members with the actual Minute Book for the Minute in 1899.

Cllr. Michael Doyle acknowledged 50 years of service by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh. She is the longest serving politician in Kilkenny County Council. He referred to her many achievements and continuous service to her community, County and Country. He also acknowledged the commitment and support of her family. Tributes were paid to Cllrs. Mary Hilda Cavanagh by Cllrs. John Brennan, Pat Fitzpatrick, Andrew McGuinness, Michael McCarthy, John Coonan, Denis Hynes, Tomás Breathnach, Maria Dollard, Peter Cleere, David Fitzgerald, Fidelis Doherty, Joe Malone, Matt Doran, Eugene McGuinness, Martin Brett, Joe Lyons, Pat Dunphy, Eamon Aylward, Ger Frisby, Michael Delaney and Deirdre Cullen.

Members congratulated her on her 50 years service to her community. They referred to her service to the VEC/ETB over the years. They referred to her being Cathaoirleach on three occasions. They spoke highly of her generosity, straight forward thinking and fairness, her help and support to all Members over the years. Her re-election every five years is a testament to her hard work and dedication to supporting communities.

Mr. Lar Power spoke on behalf of all staff who hold Cllr. Cavanagh with high regard and acknowledged her 50 years service as a County Councillor which can be difficult from time to time.

Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh thanked the Members for all their kind words and for their support over the years. She thanked her family for the ongoing support over the years and the Electorate in North Kilkenny for electing her every five years.

Cllr. Michael Doyle made a presentation to Cllr. Cavanagh to recognise her contribution to Local Government.

2. (a) Pleanail - Planning

(i) Cuid 8: Bóthar Rochtana Lána Lousybush - Part 8: Lousybush Lane Access Road

Mr. Seamus Kavanagh gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the Part 8 for Lousybush Lane Access Road. In his Presentation he gave an overview on the following:

- Overview of the Area.
- CBS - Construction Site.
- Junction at Tullaroan Road/Lord Edward Street.
- Proposed Connectivity to existing Road Network.

He advised that four submissions have been received from the Public Consultations. One submission is outside the scope of the Part 8. The issues raised in the three submissions are dealt with in the Chief Executive's Report. The proposed development will connect Lousybush Lane to the new CBS School, facilitate local residents and improve the dangerous access. It will facilitate walking and cycling in the area.

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. David Fitzgerald and agreed that:

"We the Members of Kilkenny County Council approve the Part 8 in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended and Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as amended the development of a new access road to connect the existing housing at the end of Lousybush Lane to the proposed Loughmacask Link Road Kilkenny

Cllrs. Andrew McGuinness and David Fitzgerald raised a number of issues in relation to consulting with residents during the work and an update on Northern Ring Road Extension.

Mr. Kavanagh responded to the queries raised.

- (i) **Ag Glacadh i gCúram: Taking in Charge: Initiation - Lime Grove, Oakridge**
It was proposed by Cllr. Ger Frisby, seconded by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach 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: TC185 - Lime Grove, Oakridge, Belmont, Wateford / New Ross Road.

(c) **Timpeallacht - Environment**

- (i) **Plean Bainistíochta Bruscair - Litter Management Plan**

Mr. Sean McKeown advised that Mags Whelan, Environment Awareness Officer has presented the Draft Litter Management Plan to the four Municipal Districts. The Plan has gone through Public Consultation and has been considered by the SPC. It is recommended that the Plan is adopted by the Elected Members.

Ms. Mags Whelan gave a PowerPoint Presentation. She gave an overview on the following:

- Contents of the Plan – Seven Sections.
- Public Consultation Phase – Three submissions received.
- Amendments made to the Draft Plan following submissions.
- Four Higher Objectives, 47 Actions identified and 13 additional actions.
- Conclusion – Three year Litter Management Plan recommended for adoption.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Michael Doyle, Andrew McGuinness and John Coonan in relation to the consultation. They thanked the staff for engaging with the Members at Municipal level.

It was proposed by Cllr. Martin Brett, seconded by Cllr. Joe Lyons and agreed that:

"That the Litter Management Plan 2024 – 2026, as circulated to the Members, is hereby adopted by the Members of Kilkenny County Council."

- (ii) **Deontais Conláiste – Leithdháiltí 2024 - Amenity Grants – 2024 Allocations**

Mr. Sean McKeown presented his Report on Amenity Grants for 2024. He advised that a budget of €140,000 was agreed for 2024. 175 applications were received. 2 applications were deemed ineligible as they did not meet the objectives of the Amenity Grant Scheme.

173 applications were evaluated by a Committee with reference to a range of criteria and classifications.

It is recommended that the 173 applications be awarded the prescribed amounts in the Schedule circulated.

It was proposed by Cllr. Michael McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed that:

"That the Amenity Grants 2024, as circulated to the Members, are hereby approved by the Members of Kilkenny County Council."

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Michael McCarthy, Andrew McGuinness, Mary Hilda Cavanagh and Michael Doyle. Members referred to these worthwhile grants for communities. They complimented all groups and committees who volunteer to improve their areas for all living there. They thanked the Parks Department for their work in dealing with all the communities.

(iii) **Scéim Deontais Reilige 2024 - Graveyard Grant Scheme 2024**

Mr. Sean McKeown presented his Report on the Graveyard Grant Scheme for 2024. The budget provided for 2024 is €24,000. 57 applications were received for funding. All applications have been recommended for grant assistance.

It was proposed by Cllr Fidelis Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed that:

"That the Graveyard Grant Scheme 2024, as circulated to the Members, are hereby approved by the Members of Kilkenny County Council."

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Fidelis Doherty, Andrew McGuinness, Mary Hilda Cavanagh and Maria Dollard. Members complimented communities on the tremendous work being done to maintain graveyards on such a limited grant allocation. They thanked the Heritage Officer and Conservation Officer for their advice and support to the communities.

Queries arose in relation to ownership of a number of older City graveyards.

Mr. Sean McKeown responded to the queries raised. He also advised that the Council continues to apply for funding under the Community Monument Funds for works required in the graveyards vested in Kilkenny County Council.

(d) **Bóithre - Roads**

(i) **Réiteach Iompair an N24 ó Phort Láirge go dtí an Chathair
Nuashonrú N24 Waterford to Cahir Transport Solution – Update**

Mr. Tim Butler advised that no funding has been provided for the N24 Waterford to Cahir Transport Solution in 2024. This is a very important road in the South East and Kilkenny and needs to be upgraded. The Chief Executive's of the three Local Authorities i.e. Kilkenny, Tipperary and Waterford have sent a joint letter to the Minister requesting progress on this Scheme to Phase 3 & 4 – Design and Environmental Evaluation and Statutory Process. It is recommended that each of the Councils pass a resolution to be sent directly to the Minister.

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Dunphy, seconded by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach and agreed that:

"The Preferred Transport Solution (PTS) has recently been announced for the N24 Waterford to Cahir Transport Corridor but no funding has been provided to progress the scheme to Phase 3 - Design and Environmental Evaluation and Phase 4 - Statutory Processes. In view of Road Safety concerns for all using the N24, the economic benefit to the South East Region and the fact that the PTS is in alignment with Government / national transport policy, this Council strongly requests the Minister for Transport, Mr Eamon Ryan to provide sufficient funding in 2024 to progress this scheme and a commitment for continued support for this scheme to completion of Stage 4"

Cllrs. Pat Dunphy, Tomás Breathnach and Fidelis Doherty expressed their disappointment on the omission of the N24 and N25 for funding in 2024. The number of accidents on these roads require urgent investment in their upgrade. The Members called for a meeting of the three Local Authorities with the Minister.

(d) **Gnóthaí Corparáideacha – Corporate Affairs**

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

Cllr. Michael Doyle advised that the Chief Executive Report will be taken as read and noted.

(ii) **Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2023 - Annual Report 2023**

Mr. Tim Butler presented the Annual Report for 2023. It is a statutory requirement for Members to adopt the Report. The Report contains an overview of all the activities of Kilkenny County Council over the year and includes a number of reports on which we are legally obliged to include.

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed that:

"That the Draft Annual Report for 2023 is hereby approved by the Members of Kilkenny County Council."

(iii) **Éachtaí 2019 go 2024 - Achievements 2019 to 2024**

It was agreed by all Members that this item be deferred to the May Meeting.

(iv) **Tuarascáil Bhliantúil an Choiste Iniúchóireachta 2023
Audit Committee Annual Report 2023**

Mr. Tim Butler presented the Audit Committee Report. It is a statutory requirement for the Members to consider and adopt the report. It sets out the role and functions of the Committee and the activities undertaken in the year.

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

"That the Audit Committee Charter is hereby approved by the Members of Kilkenny County Council."

(v) **Cairt an Choiste Iniúchóireachta 2024 - Audit Committee Charter 2024**

Mr. Tim Butler presented the Audit Charter as approved by the Audit Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr. Martin Brett, seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy and agreed that:

"That the Audit Committee Charter 2024 is hereby approved by the Members of Kilkenny County Council."

(vi) **Clár Oibre an Choiste Iniúchóireachta 2024 - Audit Committee Work Programme 2024**

Mr. Tim Butler presented the Audit Committee Work Programme for 2024 as approved by the Audit Committee.

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

"That the Audit Committee Work Programme 2024 is hereby approved by the Members of Kilkenny County Council."

(vii) **Ainmniú Bonneagair - Naming of Infrastructure**

Mr. Tim Butler referred to his Report circulated with the Agenda. He advised that the Committee has met to consider this and agreed on the names of a number of infrastructures in Kilkenny City and Castlecomer. The Committee is assisted by the Heritage Officer, Conservation Officers, Architect and Arts Officer in carrying out research on appropriate names for the infrastructure.

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed that:

"We, the Members of Kilkenny County Council, hereby approve the following as per Report circulated:

No. on Map	Infrastructure Location	Name recommended by the Civic Memorials Sub-Committee
1	Castlecomer Pedestrian Bridge	Miners Bridge
2	Cootes Land Bridge	Rosehill Bridge
3	Skate Park	Abbey Skate Park
4	Outdoor Square in Market Yard	Dame Alice Yard
5	Nore River Facilities	Kilkenny - River Nore River Facilities

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Pat Fitzpatrick, John Coonan, John Brennan, Maria Dollard, Eugene McGuinness, Denis Hynes and Tomás Breathnach. Members thanked the Committee under the Chairperson, Cllr. John Coonan for the work in recommending suitable names for the various infrastructure. A number of issues were raised as follows:

- Irish version of name.
- Recognition of history of the area in particular in relation to mining in Castlecomer.
- Concern on the name of the River Nore Facilities.
- Public consultation on names.

Mr. Tim Butler advised that the public are consulted on a number of projects. The policy requires that the name must have a historical connection to the area. Members of the Municipal District are also consulted on suitable names.

(viii) ***Eisiúint Cártáí Faisnéise Vótála - Issue of Polling Information Cards***

Mr. Tim Butler advised it is a Reserved Function to approve the issue of Polling Information Cards.

It was proposed by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty and agreed that:

"We, the Members of Kilkenny County Council, hereby approve the publishing of Polling Information Cards. in accordance with Article 55 of the Election Regulations 1995

(ix) ***Féile Phádraig - St. Patrick's Festival***

Mr. Tim Butler advised that an Event Manager has been employed for the last three years to manage St. Patrick's Festival and Yulefest.

Ms. Marian Flannery, Events Manager presented a PowerPoint Presentation on the St. Patrick's Festival 2024. In her presentation she gave an overview on the events, the parade, markets, marching bands, etc. over the four day Festival. Fáilte Ireland provides some funding for this Festival in some of the larger urban areas throughout the Country. Tradfest complements the Festival and works to the benefit of all.

Highlights as follows:

- 70 events, 24 Ticketed events.
- 67 entries in the parade- 1,500 involved, 40,000 on the streets.
- 24 market stalls.
- 4 American marching bands – 2,000 people with the bands.
- 80,000 visitors to the City.
- Festival Tent in Market Yard.
- Media coverage – 107 earned media, TV & radio coverage, Tiktok 2m views.

Recommendations: more pageantry for the Parade, adjust route for a safer parade, encourage more groups who receive funding from Kilkenny County Council to get involved.

Elected Members thanked Ms. Flannery for the presentation and complimented her and her team on the wonderful Festival delivered over the four days. It is great for the promotion of Kilkenny as a destination for future years.

Investment in these Festivals are a great economic boost for the County. Members congratulated the other towns in the County for organising parades also.

Mr. Butler thanked the Gardai, Marian's team and the Corporate and City staff for all the work.

3. *Comhfhreagras - Correspondence*

(i) ***Freagra ón Aire - Response from Minister***

This item was taken as read and 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) ***Sceideal na gCruinnithe - Schedule of Meetings***

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

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

(i) ***Tuarascáil ar Chruinniú SPC 5 - Report of SPC 5 Meeting***

It was proposed by Cllr. David Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed that of SPC 5 Meeting: Community, Culture & Fire Services held on Wednesday, 15th February, 2023 be taken as read and noted.

(ii) ***Tuarascáil ar Chruinniú SPC 5 - Report of SPC 5 Meeting***

It was proposed by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, seconded by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty and agreed that Report of SPC 5 Meeting: Community, Culture & Fire Services held on Wednesday, 12th April, 2023 be taken as read and noted.

(iii) ***Tuarascáil ar Chruinniú SPC 5 - Report of SPC 5 Meeting***

It was proposed by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed that Report of SPC 5 Meeting: Community, Culture & Fire Services held on Wednesday, 21st June, 2023 be taken as read and noted.

(iv) ***Tuarascáil ar Chruinniú SPC 5 - Report of SPC 5 Meeting***

It was proposed by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed that Report of SPC 5 Meeting: Community, Culture & Fire Services held on Wednesday, 19th October, 2023 be taken as read and noted.

- (v) ***Tuarascáil ar Chruinniú SPC 4 - Report of SPC 4 Meeting***
It was proposed by Cllr. Joe Lyons, seconded by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed that Report of SPC 4: Environmental Protection, Climate Action & Energy held on 6th April, 2023 be taken as read and noted.
- (vi) ***Tuarascáil ar Chruinniú SPC 4 - Report of SPC 4 Meeting***
It was proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. David Fitzgerald and agreed that Report of SPC 4: Environmental Protection, Climate Action & Energy held on 18th July, 2023 be taken as read and noted.
- (vii) ***Tuarascáil ar Chruinniú SPC 4 - Report of SPC 4 Meeting***
It was proposed by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. Joe Lyons and agreed that Report of SPC 4: Environmental Protection, Climate Action & Energy held on 22nd November, 2023 be taken as read and noted.
- (viii) ***Tuarascáil ar Chruinniú SPC 3 - Report of SPC 3 Meeting***
It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed that Report of SPC 3: Housing held on 7th February, 2023 be taken as read and noted.
- (ix) ***Tuarascáil ar Chruinniú SPC 3 - Report of SPC 3 Meeting***
It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness and agreed that Report of SPC 3: Housing held on 6th June, 2023 be taken as read and noted.
- (x) ***Tuarascáil ar Chruinniú SPC 3 - Report of SPC 3 Meeting***
It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness and agreed that Report of SPC 3: Housing held on 29th June, 2023 be taken as read and noted.
- (xi) ***Tuarascáil ar Chruinniú SPC 3 - Report of SPC 3 Meeting***
It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness and agreed that Report of SPC 3: Housing held on 22nd September, 2023 be taken as read and noted.
- (xii) ***Tuarascáil ar Chruinniú SPC 3 - Report of SPC 3 Meeting***
It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness and agreed that Report of SPC 3: Housing held on 3rd October, 2023 be taken as read and noted.
- (xiii) ***Tuarascáil ar Chruinniú SPC3 - Report of SPC 3 Meeting***
It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness and agreed that Report of SPC 3: Housing held on 8th December, 2023 be taken as read and noted.
- (xiv) ***Tuarascáil ar Chruinniú SPC 1 - Report of SPC 1 Meeting***
It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. John Brennan and agreed that Report of SPC 1: Economic Development, Enterprise Support, Tourism, Planning and Development Policy held on 7th December, 2023 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

None.

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

Cllr. Peter Cleere asked if a reply has been received from the Minister Roderic O’Gorman in relation to Notice of Motion passed at the March Meeting. He raised concerns in relation to the lack of consultation with communities, Elected Members and Executive in relation to International Applicants and Ukrainian Refugees coming to Kilkenny.

Contributions were also received from Cllrs. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Joe Malone, Andrew McGuinness, Eugene McGuinness, Joe Lyons, Maria Dollard, Michael Doyle and Deirdre Cullen. Concerns were raised in relation to the following:

- Exempted development under Planning Legislation.
- Lack of proper infrastructure/unsuitable facilities
- Lack of transport links.
- Properties not suitable as residential accommodation.
- Huge increase in population in specific areas.
- Issue invitation to Minister to address the Members and write to the Taoiseach.
- Need to consider that these families are fleeing war, trying to save their lives and their families.

Mr. Sean McKeown advised that the Planning Department are complying with Regulations issued and implement Government Policy. The Council will fully implement the statutory compliance issues that apply to these properties.

10. *Aon Ghnó Eile* - Any Other Business

None.

11. *Fógraí Rúin* - Notices of Motion

03 (24) Cllr. Maria Dollard

It was proposed by Cllr. Maria Dollard, seconded by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach and agreed that:

“That this Council calls on the Government to actively pursue, with like minded EU Member States, a policy to recognise a State of Palestine, and in that context to provide for a more meaningful discourse to happen, after the Gaza war has ended, towards a two state solution. In parallel the EU Council and/or EU Commission needs to review the policies and funding afforded to Israel under various bilateral arrangements including under the terms of the EU Israel Association Council that benefit a State that does not appear to genuinely share or cooperate in any way on the issue of a two state solution as understood by the EU and its Member States”

Cllrs. Maria Dollard and Tomás Breathnach spoke on the Motion seeking immediate Government action to recognise Palestine as a state and for the EU to review policies and funding affording to Israel. Israel is not living up to bilateral agreements.

04 (24) Cllrs. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Andrew McGuinness & Tomás Breathnach

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

“Kilkenny County Council resolves to write to the President of the EU Commission, the Taoiseach and the Minister for Agriculture advising them that the Council has passed the following resolution:

Kilkenny County Council supports the IFA ‘enough is enough’ campaign.

The Council recognises the significant contribution that farming, and the Agri-Sector makes to the Irish and local economy. The Council acknowledges the income challenge on Irish farmers arising from the significant increases in the cost of doing business, regulatory costs and cuts in Basic Income support for farmers.

The Council calls on the Government to introduce no further regulations on farmers or any measures that may increase costs on farms without full negotiation and agreement with the Irish Farmers Association (IFA). The Council calls on the European Union and the Irish Government to provide additional stand-alone funding, separate to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), to support farmers to undertake climate and biodiversity measures."

Cllrs. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Andrew McGuinness, Tomás Breathnach, Michael Doyle, John Brennan and Michael Delaney spoke on this Motion.

Members support the IFA "Enough is Enough" Campaign. Farmers need to be supported and we all must work with them on the challenges faced with rising costs implementing climate and biodiversity measures.

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to complete the Agenda.

05 (24) Cllrs. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Tomás Breathnach & Pat Fitzpatrick

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

"That Kilkenny County Council would write to the Minister for the Environment, Climate & Communications requesting that all proposed windfarm applications be suspended until the guidelines on wind energy are published."

Cllrs. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Pat Fitzpatrick, Tomás Breathnach, John Brennan, David Fitzgerald, Maria Dollard, Andrew McGuinness, Eugene McGuinness, Denis Hynes, Michael Doyle, Joe Lyons and Pat Dunphy spoke on the Motion. Members called on Department and Government to introduce new guidelines in relation to windfarms particularly for size of structures, noise level and proximity to houses and schools. Members recognized the need for sustainable and alternative energy sources. Major offshore projects need to progress which could generate our electricity needs. Direction from the Minister is required in relation to our City & County Development Plan.

Mr. Sean McKeown advised that the Council is still awaiting direction from the Minister.

06 (24) Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick

Notice of Motion withdrawn by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick.

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. Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach and agreed that Notices of Motion 01(24) to 03(24) be taken as read and noted.

01 (24) Louth County Council

"Recognising the significance of the fact that the Joint Policing Committee represents one of the few useful reforms of Local Government in 2014 this Council opposes the proposed legislation to abolish the JPC's and replace them with repackaged Local Community Safety Partnerships.

Addendum: That this Motion be sent to all Local Authorities in the state, all JPC's in County Louth and that a copy be sent to the Minister for Justice for comment."

02 (24) Clare County Council

"I propose that Clare County Council requests Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys, to consider and implement a policy change that allows participants in Community Employment Schemes (CES), Rural Social Scheme (RSS), and Tus Programme to continue their valuable contributions until the age of 70.

This extension would not only acknowledge the dedication and skills of these individuals but also contribute to the overall well-being of our community and enhance the sustainability of these programs. These programmes play a crucial role in fostering community development, providing essential services, and supporting those who may face challenges in securing traditional employment. Currently, participants in these valuable community-based employment programs are required to retire at the age of 66 and considering the changing demographics and the desire of individuals to remain actively engaged in work programmes, I am asking you to make this important change to allow participants the opportunity to continue to contribute to their local communities."

03 (24) Westmeath County Council

"That Westmeath County Council supports the IFA "enough is enough" campaign, recognises the significant contribution that farming, and the Agri-sector make to the Irish and local economy and the farmers contribution to date on climate mitigation measures, and acknowledges the income challenge on Irish farmers arising from the significant increases in the cost of doing business, regulatory costs and cuts in Basic Income supports for farmers.

The Council calls on the Government to introduce no further regulations on farmers or any measures that may increase costs on farms without full negotiation and agreement with the Irish Farmers Association (IFA) and that the Council calls on the EU and the Government to provide additional standalone funding, separate to the Common Agricultural Policy, to support farmers in undertaking climate action and biodiversity measures. Furthermore, the Council calls on the Government to introduce a Land Regulatory Authority to assist and protect the farming community."

That concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE