

**MIONTUAIRISCÍ AR AN GCRUINNIÚ IOMLÁNACH DE CHUID  
CHOMHAIRLE CONTAE CHILL CHAINNIGH TIONÓLTA AR AN  
LUAN, 16 MEITHEAMH 2025 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, 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2025 AT 3.00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL & VIA MS TEAMS**

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**Attendance**

**Chair:** Cllr. Michael McCarthy.

**Elected Members: Council Chamber**

Cllrs. Tomás Breathnach, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Jenny Catt Slattery, John Coonan, Stephanie Doherty, Maria Dollard, Michael Doyle, Fidelis Doherty, Patrick Dunphy, David Fitzgerald, Pat Fitzpatrick, Ger Frisby, Joe Lyons, Joe Malone, Andrew McGuinness, Eugene McGuinness, Seán Ó hArgáin, Joe Sheridan & Maurice Shortall.

**MS Teams** Cllrs. Deirdre Cullen, John Brennan, Brian Cleere and Michael Delaney.

**Officials:** Lar Power, Martin Prendiville, Mary Mulholland, Fiona Deegan, Ian Gardner, Tim Butler, Seamus Foley, Mary Cashin, Majella Keating, Claire Prendergast, Richard Vaughan and Catherine Cooney.

**Fógraí - Announcements**

- Cathaoirleach Cllr. Michael McCarthy extended congratulations to Kilkenny Senior Hurling Team on defeating Galway at the weekend and winning their sixth Leinster Hurling title in a row.
- Cllr Michael McCarthy was congratulated on his role of Cathaoirleach by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness.

**Vótaí Comhbhrón - Votes of Sympathy**

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Michael McCarthy extended votes of sympathy to the following:

- Patrick O'Neill, Sheastown, Kilkenny, Driver in Castlecomer Area.
- Steve Coverdale on the passing of his father Colin Coverdale.
- Denis Lawlor, A/Senior Executive Engineer, Water Services on the passing of his mother Anne Lawlor.
- Family of John Walsh, Kilmacow *[Retired Employee]*
- Family of William Lyons, Castlecomer *[Retired Employee]*
- Monsignor Kieron Kennedy.

*Cllr Michael McCarthy noted that Monsignor Kennedy was the Parish Priest in Freshford since 2017, Cllr. Andrew McGuinness noted the Monsignors contribution to Housing Charities and the Good Shepard Centre while Cllr. Seán Ó hArgáin mentioned his legacy in terms of services for those with special needs.*

- Family of the late Paddy McEvoy, Mullinavat, Co Kilkenny
- Family of the late Wattie Walsh, Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny
- Family of the late Ellen Doran, Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny
- Family of the late Margaret Warner, Carrigeen, Via Waterford
- Family of the late Hew Bowers, Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny
- Family of the late Eileen Bowe, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny
- Family of the late Pat O'Hanlon, Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny
- Family of the late Willie Ryan, Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny
- Family of the late Vincent Foskin, Ferrybank, Waterford
- Family of the late Joe Mylett, Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny
- Family of the late Peadar Walsh, Kilmacow, Co. Kilkenny

- Family of the late Bobby Grace, Ballyhale, Co. Kilkenny
- Family of the late Fintan Flynn, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny
- Family of the late Mary Grennan, Tullogher, Co. Kilkenny
- Family of the late Valerie Walsh, Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny
- Family of the late Sonny Murphy, Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny
- Family of the late Ann O’Gorman, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny
- Family of the late Michael Duggan, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny.
- Family of the late John Cuddihy, Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny
- Family of the late Nan Phelan, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny
- Family of the late Eileen Quinn, Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny
- Family of the late Vera Kiely, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny

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

### **Miontuairiscí ar Chruinniú Buiséid Reachtúil - Minutes of Plenary Meeting**

Proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness seconded by Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald, and agreed:

*“That Minutes of Plenary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday May 19th, 2025, as circulated with the agenda be and are hereby approved”.*

## 2. (a) **Tithíocht & Díuscairt Eile - Housing & Other Disposal**

- (i) It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness seconded by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick 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 a derelict house at 20 Vicar Street, Kilkenny to Ms. Niamh Treacy, Ballyroe, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny for the sum of €143,000 (one hundred and forty three thousand euro) with each party being responsible for their own legal costs associated with the sale. The consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required.”*

- (ii) It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness seconded by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness 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 to the rear of no.24 Corcoran Terrace, Kells Road, Kilkenny R95 WP8A with the condition that plot of ground being transferred will be made available to Kilkenny County Council for the provision of footpaths and future road widening purposes, if required, at any time in the future and that no compensation will be paid over at any time for the nominal sum of €10.00 (ten euro) together with payment of the Kilkenny County Council’s legal fees . Plot of ground measures 57.04 m2 approx.” The Consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required.”*

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness enquired as to whether there was a plan for the area. Mr. Ian Gardner, Director of Services explained that several backyards purchased years ago and while others were sold this was left as stand alone.

## (b) **Pleanail - Planning**

### **Part 8: Development of Old Health Centre at Kells, Co. Kilkenny**

Mr. Richard Vaughan, Executive Architect, Housing Section delivered a Presentation on the Part 8 Development of Old Health Centre at Kells, Co. Kilkenny. The proposal is around converting the building to a three-bed accessible dwelling. Cllr. Deirdre Cullen noted her approval for the project enquiring about how many of these old Medical Centres are around the County and have we any use for them. Ms. Mary Mullholland, Director of Services.

All HSE properties and assets are listed and the HSE always contact the Local Authorities first but there are no properties listed at the moment.

It was proposed by Cllr. Joe Sheridan seconded by Cllr. Joe Lyons 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, to change the use of the existing single storey Health Centre building into a three-bedroom dwelling and a proposed new vehicular entrance at Kells, Co. Kilkenny."*

#### (c) **Cultúr-Culture**

##### **Creative Ireland/Cruinniú na nÓg Update**

Majella Keating Creative Communities Engagement Officer delivered a Presentation outlining the background of the Creative Ireland Programme as well as Cruinniú na nÓg and Nighttime Economy.

- Open Call Launch, January 6<sup>th</sup> 2025.
- Creative Ireland and Cruinniú na nÓg grant applications were assessed by and independent panel.
- Creative Ireland Grant
- 67 applications received (requesting €220,700).
- 39 have been approved.
- 28 were ineligible as they did not meeting the standard criteria.

##### **Cruinniú na nÓg and Night Time Economy**

- 24 applications: received (requested €57,851).
- 20 have been approved following the assessment, generating over 52 events across Kilkenny.
- All the applications were of a very high standard.
- 4 were ineligible as they did not meeting the standard criteria.

Ms. Fiona Deegan (DoS) thanked Majella Keating and commented on the diverse range of work. Joe Lyons welcomed the funding and the inclusivity. Cllr. Marie Dollard noted the power if the arts to bring people together. Cllr John Coonan also thanked Majella Keating and the inclusivity and noted the way older people really appreciated it

#### (d) **Timpeallacht- Environment**

##### **(i) Kilkenny County Council Burial Ground Bye Laws 2024**

Mr. Tim Butler (Dos) provided the report. Burial Grounds were up to now governed by Guidelines in Kilkenny City and County with most Local Authorities having byelaws. Initially the proposal was to bring in the Bye Laws for St Keiran's Cemetery only. However, after bringing the proposal through the Strategic Policy Committee the proposals was expanded to include all opened Council Burial Grounds. Draft Bye-Laws were prepared and considered by the Environment Strategic Policy Committee at its meeting on 2nd May and 5th December, 2024. It was agreed to proceed to advertise the Bye-Laws and Draft Bye-Laws were subsequently placed on display from Friday, 6th December, 2024 to Friday, 17th January, 2025. Submissions on the Bye-Laws were invited up to Friday, 24th January, 2025. Mr Butler provided ~~Tim provided~~ and overview of the submissions and proposed amendment.

Chair of SPC 4 Cllr Eugene McGuinness welcomed the Bye-Laws which are necessary to ensure all citizens can visit and pay respect to family and friends. Cllr. David Fitzgerald noted that there has been significant disquiet where the burial ground has become a place of gathering., He asked that the byelaws be resourced and that the staff be supported to implement them. Cllr. Andrew



McGuinness asked what had changed in terms of the size of gravestones and if the CCTV was active. Cllr Tomas Breathnach enquired about a register of all graveyards, Cllr Fedelis Doherty asked that monument providers be involved so that they would know what is acceptable. Cllr Maria Dollard requested a campaign to make people aware of how to access the Columbarium wall.

Cllr Eugene asked the Gardai to redouble their efforts in relation to substance use and Anti-Social Behaviour. Cllr Joe Malone congratulated Eugene as chair of SPC 4 but said that he had consistently made Gardai aware of the drugs issue and feels we are at a crisis point. Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick sought clarity about the funding that was provided for CCTV and asked that we expedite that noting here are legislation issues.

Mr. Butler replied to queries raised and noted that CCTV can be dealt with by Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) once operational. Mr. Butler noted that the Bye-Laws will come in to operation one month after their adoption.

Seán Ó hArgáin cited a vacuum of information in the absence of the JPC and delay in establishing LCSP.

It was proposed by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness seconded by Cllr. David Fitzgerald and agreed:

*'That we the Members of Kilkenny County Council hereby adopt the Burial Ground Bye Laws of Kilkenny County Council 2024 as amended'*

**(ii) Climate Action Grants Update**

Ms. Clare Prendergast Climate Action Officer provided a presentation on the Climate Action Grant Leaflet Launched by the Climate Action Office to guide local communities and individuals on climate action initiatives. This leaflet provides essential information on what grants are available to assist and support groups. The guide provides information on 31 sources of funding available to communities and households for projects such as making homes warmer, creating new community facilities such as cycleways and community gardens; energy upgrades to community buildings; protecting monuments from climate change.

Phase 2 of the Climate Action Fund will be open for applications in September 2025, but the Climate Action team are taking expressions of interest now. Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick and Cllr. Joe Lyons complemented Clare and her team.

**Cllrs. Tomás Breathnach proposed a 10 minute adjournment which was seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness.**

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

Cllr. Michael McCarthy advised that the Chief Executive Report will be taken as read. Any questions can be taken up with the Chief Executive.

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

**3. Comhfhreagras - Correspondence**

Ms. Margo Hayes (SEO) provided a list of the correspondence. Cllr. Mary Hilda Kavanagh asked that the response to letters be forwarded to members as opposed to waiting for a Council meeting. If they are not to satisfaction, that we follow up again. Cllr Eugene McGuinness asked that the Fianna Fáil members follow up and put pressure on TDs.

Mary Mulholland (DoS) noted that we have a tracker in place and a summary which is in the CE report. She pointed out that the vast majority are at the acknowledgement stage and we will be doing the follow up and reminders regularly but sometimes it takes some months as it's a policy issue.

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)	Annual General Meeting	June 27 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 p.m.
(ii)	Workshop ( <i>Development Contributions &amp; Capital Programme</i> )	June 30 <sup>th</sup>	3.30 p.m.
(iii)	CPG	June 14 <sup>th</sup>	4.00 p.m.
(iv)	July Plenary Council Meeting	July 21 <sup>st</sup>	3.00 p.m.

6. *Plé ar Thuairiscí & Moltaí ó Choistí an Comhairle* - Consideration of Reports of Committees

None

7. *Guó 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

None.

10. *Aon Ghnó Eile* - Any Other Business

Cllr. Fedelis Doherty noted that she had supported the motion at the May meeting regarding and she asked for that to be reflected in the minutes.

*"That the Members write to the Minister for Transport in support of Waterford Airport in its endeavours to secure funding from the Department to further develop the airport given its strategic importance to the economic development of the Southeast Region*

11. *Fógraí Rúin* - Notices of Motion

**12 (25) Cllr. Maurice Shortall**

It was proposed by Cllr. Maurice Shortall seconded by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick and agreed:

*"To ask the Housing Minister James Browne to provide clarity on the housing grants for elderly people when it pertains to heating. The advised eco solutions (biomass oil) are not available in counties like Kilkenny and second-hand oil burners are not a viable solution. Vulnerable elderly in our community are being forgotten about."*

Mr. Ian Garnder (DoS) spoke cited report he prepared in January 2025 on the issue. The Housing Section have been in contact with the Housing Department. The Grant covers the repair of an existing boiler as well as the repair or replacement of any other part of the system. HVO Boilers can be funded, most boilers use both but they need to be used with HVO and the Council require a declaration to confirm this.

**13 (25) Cllr. Andrew McGuinness & Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh**

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

*"In recognition of the uncertainty caused by the absence of an up-to-date national policy/regulation, this Council calls on the Minister to introduce a temporary pause on all large-scale onshore wind farm developments, pending the finalisation and adoption of revised Wind Energy guidelines/regulation."*

**14 (25) Cllr. Seán Ó hArgáin**

It was proposed by Cllr. Seán Ó hArgáin seconded by Cllr. Maria Dollard that:

*"That Kilkenny County Council states its abhorrence of the continuing humanitarian emergency in Gaza, brought about by the genocidal actions of the Israeli Government, led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his Government. This Council notes and agrees with the description of the Israeli Government's actions as 'war crimes' by Taoiseach Micheál Martin and by Tánaiste Simon Harris as 'genocide' and a 'blatant violation of international humanitarian law.' Along with Uachtarán na hÉireann, Michael D. Higgins, they have clearly spoken on behalf of the Irish people.*

*We again condemn the actions of Hamas on October the 7th, 2023 and call for the immediate release of all Israeli hostages held by them.*

*The reaction of Israel, however, has been catastrophic. The murder of over 53,000 Gazan citizens, over a third of whom were children, is one of the worst death tolls of any conflict in the 21st Century. Israel's stated objective to now permanently occupy the Gaza strip and its two-month blockade of all humanitarian aid and food to the area are in utter breach of all international law. On behalf of the people of Kilkenny, we demand an immediate ceasefire and the immediate allowing in of food and medical supplies.*

*Until a permanent ceasefire is declared and delivered on by the Israeli Government, we will not invite or welcome any visits by the Israeli Prime Minister or any Israeli diplomatic representatives to our City and County.*

*We also request that the Ambassador of Palestine to Ireland, Dr. Jilian Wahba Abdalmalid be invited to address our Council as she has done in other Councils"*

Cllr. Maria Dollard noted that there is no neutral position, we are being called on to take A stand on this.

Cllr Andrew McGuinness as whip or Fianna Fáil and in conjunction with the whip of Fianna Gael Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh (as agreed by both groups) proposed an amended motion.

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness seconded by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh that

*"As members of Kilkenny County Council we are very aware and deeply saddened by ongoing conflicts In Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan and all areas experiencing war. We are mindful that the eyes of the world are now focused on the Israel – Iran conflict and it is important that we keep the plight of Gaza and the West Bank to the fore. The immense suffering and loss of life resulting from wars in so many parts of our world is horrific and unjustifiable. We stand in solidarity with those affected and urge all parties to pursue dialogue, peace and a resolution that safeguards human life and dignity.*

*We support the position of the Irish Government, acting for all Irish Citizens, in condemning the actions of aggressors in conflict and in taking all actions possible to bring about dialogue, cease fire and humanitarian assistance, to ease suffering and work towards lasting peaceful settlements.*

*We want to acknowledge the role of our peace keepers from James Stephens Army Barracks, who actively contribute to maintaining peace and preserving life, in the Middle-East.*

*At a complex and volatile time in many conflicts, we want to ask global leaders to stand with Ireland in condemning acts of war and to take action to support peaceful, just and lasting solutions that uphold international law and human rights for all.*

*It is proposed that Kilkenny County Council write to the Minister for Foreign Affairs to clearly outline our opposition to the occupation of Gaza and the resettlement of the West Bank and to acknowledge the efforts made by government to advance dialogue and peace, in all conflicts"*

Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh and thanked Cllr. Seán Ó hArgáin and stated all wars need to be condemned and the solution is dialogue.

Cllr. Seán Ó hArgáin raised a point of order saying that this was not an amendment as it was a 'direct negative' and that there was no foresight provided. Cllr Michael McCarthy upheld the amendment and called for a roll call vote.

A roll call vote was taken on the proposed amendment and:

***Eighteen (18) voted in favour:*** Cllrs. Deirdre Cullen, Michael Doyle, Joe Lyons, Pat Fitzpatrick, Michael McCarthy, John Coonan, David Fitzgerald, Joe Malone, Andrew McGuinness, Jenny Catt Slattery, Fidelis Doherty, Pat Dunphy & Ger Frisby, Brian Cleere, Joe Sheridan, John Brennan, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael Delaney

***Thirteen (13) voted against:*** Cllrs. Seán Ó hArgáin, Stephanie Doherty, Maria Dollard, Eugene McGuinness,

***Two (2) abstained:*** Cllrs Tomás Breathnach & Maurice Shortall.

Therefore, the amendment was carried by 18 votes to 4

That concluded the business of the meeting.

  
CATHAOIRLEACH

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DATE

