

**CEANTAR BARDASACH CHATHAIR CHILL CHAINNIGH
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KILKENNY CITY**

**MIONTUAIRISCÍ AR IMEACHTAÍ AN CHRUINNITHE MHÍOSÚIL A
TIONÓLADH AN 13^ú Deireamh Fomhair, 2023**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING
HELD ON 13th October, 2023 AT 2.30 P.M.**

Mayor, Councillor Joe Malone Presiding.

Present/ I Láthair:-

Councillors/Comhairleoirí: Cllr. Martin Brett, Cllr John Coonan, Cllr. Maria Dollard, Cllr David Fitzgerald, Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and Cllr Eugene McGuinness.

Also Present: Mr. Tim Butler Director of Services, Ms. Anne Maria Walsh Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Tony Lauhoff, Senior Engineer, Ian Gardner, Senior Engineer and Martina Walsh, Staff Officer.

MAYOR'S SUMMONS OF MEETING:

Notice dated 6th October, 2023, convening a Monthly Meeting for this date was read.

- 1. A dhaingniú Miontuairiscí Cruinnithe - Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting:**
Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 8th September, 2023 having been previously circulated was tabled for confirmation.

It was:

Proposed By: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness.

Seconded By: Cllr. Martin Brett

And Agreed:

"That the Minutes as presented to the meeting be and are hereby adopted".

- 2. Cúrsaí thabhairt ar aghaidh ordú ón Méara - Matters brought forward by direction of the Mayor:**

The Mayor brought forward the following:

- A minute's silence to acknowledge Israel and Gaza victims.
- Cllr Malone advised of the Tánaiste and Minister for Defence, Micheál Martin's upcoming visit on 31st October to Kilkenny Castle and James Stephen's Army Barracks to review the 123rd Battalion for duty with United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

- Commended Kilkenny on being the recipient of the Gold Medal County award and the South East Regional award in the Tidy Towns 2023 competition.
- Noted the 70th Anniversary Gala Dinner Celebrations for Kilkenny Harriers in Langtons Hotel on October 13th.
- Hosted a cycle in Kilkenny on 22nd September to promote Car Free Day of which was well attended. Over 100 students from local schools took part.

3. Plan Bainistíocha Bruscar – Litter Management Plan 2024-2026

This item was deferred to the November Meeting.

4. Bóithre – Roads Update

(I) Greensbridge Boardwalk Update:

Mr Tony Lauhoff presented to the Members the plan for the River Nore Boardwalk Project from the Abbey Quarter to Bishops Meadows.

Mr Lauhoff outlined that the Riverside Garden Project was the first phase of the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) and that the Greensbridge Boardwalk is the second phase and consists of both cycling and pedestrian paths. The proposed Development will go on public display shortly .

The Members thanked Mr Lauhoff for his Presentation.

Issues Raised :

- Access to the Boardwalk underneath Greensbridge instead of crossing road.
- Time frame involved.
- Impact on Flora & Fauna
- Materials used in construction to alleviate maintenance
- Installation of CCTV for monitoring of Anti-Social Behaviour.

Mr Tony Lauhoff responded that a link between Greensbridge and the Boardwalk under the arch of the Bridge would be considered. The materials used in construction will be recycled plastic, if the proposed plan is successful, construction may commence next summer.

He advised that consultation has taken place with a number of agencies including The National Wildlife Services, The Office of Public Works and Inland Fisheries Ireland. The issue of installation of CCTV cameras will be investigated.

(II) Monthly Roads Update.

Mr Ian Gardner, Senior Engineer gave a presentation to the Members on works engaged in since the September Meeting as follows:

- Improvement Works – Ormonde Street & Patrick Street
- Surface Dressing – Radestown Lane, Golf Links Road Laneways.
- Zebra Crossing – Outrath Road
- Footpath Improvement Works – Castle Road & Cedarwood Avenue.
- Cootes lane – site clearance.
- Traffic Signal Upgrade Works.
- Maintenance Works – including Newpark Fen & Ring Road Hedge maintenance
- Road Drainage – Ballyfoyle

The Members commended Mr Gardner on an extensive presentation. Issues raised as follows:

- Timeframe for completion of works on Cootes Lane.
- Surface Dressing on Golf Links Road only to a certain point on laneways.
- Slow progress of Improvement Works on Ormonde Street
- Traffic congestion at Loughboy outside schools.
- Delays in completion works at Ossory Bridge.

Mr Tim Butler responded to the issue of ongoing works on Ring Road and that the delay was due to unforeseen structural issues with Ossory Bridge and remedial works were needed. He advised that the Contractors involved have given a completion date for end of November.

Cllr David Fitzgerald spoke on the removal of the decorative panels from Ossory Bridge and proposed that they be relocated to a suitable place where they can be appreciated by the public as part of the heritage of the Diocese of Ossory.

Mr Butler responded that he has been in consultation with the family of the Sculptor and the Arts Office with a view to a suitable relocation.

Mr Ian Gardner advised Members that the proposed date for completion of current works at Coote's Lane is end of December. He also confirmed that the Surface Dressing at the Golf Links road laneways was requested by the Housing Department for a Housing Scheme. He advised that private tenants in the area should apply for the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS) where 10% of the cost is funded by the residents and the rest by the Department in order to extend the Improvement Works to other areas.

With regard to the works on Ormonde Street , Mr Gardner responded that these works were being undertaken outside of business hours so as not to adversely affect businesses in the area.

In relation to traffic congestion at Loughboy, Mr Gardner advised that the Safe Route to School Programme being implemented by the Active Travel Department was to encourage as many students as possible to walk or cycle to school and that Ms Caitriona Corr, the Cycling Officer was in ongoing engagement with the schools and relevant organisations on this matter.

5. Fógraí Rúin - Notices of Motion:

16(23): Proposed by Cllr Maria Dollard :

Seconded by Cllr Eugene McGuinness and agreed:

"That the Municipal District prepare and present a report to update the members on how the Municipal District is managing public areas for grass cutting. The report should be based on their obligations as the first Council in Ireland to officially partner with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan."

Cllr Maria Dollard spoke on the motion and noted that Kilkenny could be the first Council to lead the way in this regard.

17(23); Proposed by Cllr David Fitzgerald:

Seconded by Cllr Martin Brett and agreed:

" That Kilkenny MDC install and provide gullies to receive water from all down pipes which is currently discharging rainwater on to footpaths on all City centre streets to address public liability, health and safety issues arising from this practice."

Cllr Fitzgerald spoke on the motion. Mr Ian Gardner advised that drainpipes on the owner's property is not Council's responsibility to maintain & repair.

18(23): Proposed by Cllr David Fitzgerald:

Seconded by Cllr Andrew McGuinness and agreed:

"That Kilkenny MDC prepare a report on Shee Alms House to include a review of possible future uses for this important historic building. The future uses must include providing access to the general public on an on-going basis."

Cllr Fitzgerald spoke on the motion. Mr Tim Butler responded that the Council may seek expressions of interest for possible uses of the building and the Members will also get an opportunity to visit the building in the near future.

19 (23): Proposed by Cllr John Coonan:

Seconded by Cllr Andrew McGuinness and agreed:

"That an up to date position on the refurbishment and restoration of Kennyswell/St. Canice's Well be given including a full report to the elected members of Kilkenny City Municipal District.

Cllr Coonan spoke on the motion and described Kennyswell as a historic landmark that needed restoration. Mr Tim Butler responded that after consultation is held between the Heritage Officer, a representative from the National Parks and Wildlife and the Landscape Architect, a report will be presented to the Members.

20 (23): Proposed by Cllr Eugene McGuinness

Seconded by Cllr Maria Dollard and agreed:

To ask Kilkenny County Council to immediately introduce a "Tree Management Plan/Policy" for the City and County to ensure proper planting and pruning of trees in areas within the Councils ownership and should also form part of our "planning policy" going forward. This policy will allow for a more pro-active and systematic approach to tree management, resulting in a healthier tree population and creating a greener, more sustainable environment for resident and visitors to our County.

Cllr McGuinness spoke on the motion. Mr Ian Gardner responded that consultation is ongoing with the Planning Department on this matter.

Aon Ghnó Eile – Any Other Business.

Cllr Maria commended the Keep Kilkenny Beautiful Committee and the Volunteers for all their hard work and commitment that led to Kilkenny's success in the Tidy Towns Competition. She proposed that a Mayoral Reception be held to honour the volunteers. This was seconded by Cllr Andrew McGuinness.

The date for the Municipal District of Kilkenny Draft Budget 2024 Meeting was set for 27th October, 2023 at 3pm through Microsoft Teams.

Signed: _____

MAYOR

Date: _____