

CEANTAR BARDASACH CHATHAIR CHILL
CHAINNIGH MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF
KILKENNY CITY

MIONTUAIRISCÍ AR IMEACHTAÍ AN CHRUINNITHE MHÍOSÚIL A
TIONÓLADH AN 12 Ú IÚIL 2024 AG 2.30PM

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING
HELD ON 12TH JULY, 2024 at 2.30 p.m.

Mayor, Councillor Andrew McGuinness Presiding

Present/ I Láthair:-

Councillors/Comhairleoirí:	Cllr John Coonan, Cllr. Maria Dollard, Cllr David Fitzgerald, Cllr. Joe Malone, Cllr Eugene McGuinness & Cllr. Seán O'hArgáin,
Also Present:	Mr. Tim Butler Director of Services, Ms. Anne Maria Walsh Senior Executive Officer, Mr Ian Gardner, Senior Engineer, Mr Alan Hyland, Executive Engineer & Ms Martina Walsh, Staff Officer

MAYOR'S SUMMONS OF MEETING:

Notice dated 5th July, 2024 convening a Monthly Meeting for this date was read.

- 1. A dhaingniú Miontuairiscí Cruinnithe - Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting:**
(i) Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 10th May, 2024 having been previously
circulated were tabled for confirmation.

It was:

Proposed By: Cllr John Coonan.

Seconded By: Cllr Maria Dollard

And Agreed:

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

- (ii) Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 28th June, 2024 having been previously
circulated were tabled for confirmation.

It was:

Proposed By: Cllr Eugene McGuinness.

Seconded By: Cllr Seán O'hArgáin

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:

- Requested an update on the 15min grace period for On Street parking in the City.
- Appealed to anyone with information to come forward with regard to a vicious attack on John St on July 9th in which a man sustained serious injuries .
- Extended sympathy to the family of the late Don Barnett who had been a great supporter of the Kilkenny-Minnesota Town Twinning
- Requested an update on the Draft bye-laws for St Kieran's Cemetery.
- Update also sought on the Lacken Board Walk Refurbishment.

Mr Ian Gardner responded that a Meeting regarding the changes in Parking Charges was scheduled for the following week and that Members would be updated accordingly. He spoke of the work involved with change of signage etc. He advised that numerous representations were received in advance of the Local Elections and together with the moving of offices from City Hall has resulted in a longer timeframe in dealing with some of the changes in Parking Charges .

Mr Tim Butler responded that with regard to the Draft Bye-Laws for Burial Grounds a meeting would be held with Environment Section, S.P.C Committee and Municipal Districts Members to look at the 14 Burial Grounds in the County and to implement Bye-laws for all.

He also advised the Members that tender was awarded for the Board Walk. Work is progressing well but he could not give an exact timeline for completion.

The following matters were raised by Cllrs Seán O'hArgáin, Eugene McGuinness, Maria Dollard, John Coonan & David Fitzgerald.

- The main gates of St Kieran's Cemetery not open on Sundays and access a problem through the small gates.
- Possibility of extending the access from the top of the steps at the Boardwalk to a viewing point at Lacken.
- The definition of "Matters brought forward by the Mayor" as to whether this item may include matters that could appear as Agenda items.

Mr Tim Butler responded to all matters. He advised that the Boardwalk was being looked at by the Active Travel Department and he would revert to Members with any update on same.

He also advised that "Matters brought forward by the Mayor" can be included in the Draft Standing Orders for adoption by the Members to determine if such matters may be opened to the floor for debate.

Bóithre- Monthly Roads Update.

Mr Ian Gardner, Senior Engineer gave a presentation to the Members on Road Works undertaken since the May Meeting as follows:

- St. Fiacre's Place Improvement Works (Phase 2).
- Footpath Repairs – De Loughrey Place, Bishop Birch Place, Mother of Fair Love, Kells Road, Freshford Road & Granges Road.
- Safe Route to School – Dunningstown Road Junction & Zebra Crossing at Freshford Road.
- Bus Shelters – McDonagh Junction & Cillin Hill.
- Linear Park Access.
- Water Station at the Parade.

Other works included the erection of Bunting around the City , planting & vegetation maintenance and pavement repairs.

The Members thanked Mr Gardner for his presentation.

Issues raised as follows:

- Possibility of extending the Footpath Repairs Programme to include repairs planned for the term of the Council.
- Is there a plan for further Water Stations to be installed.
- Reusable water bottles be given out with Council logo.
- A call for a Workshop in relation to Safe Route to Schools Programme.
- Frequency of grass cutting and the removal of grass.
- Renewal of lighting on Pedestrian Street Crossings.
- Problem of litter at Market Yard.
- Flower bed at St Fiacre's Place too large and cars parking behind it.
- If the cost of footpath repairs after utility works can be recouped from the utility company.
- Height of vegetation at roundabouts in the City impairing visibility.
- Overgrown hedges at Lovers lane.
- Dislodged cobble-lock on High Street a problem for wheelchair users.
- Possibility of erecting notices making the public aware of the Improvement Works undertaken by Kilkenny County Council similar to those in European cities.
- Disability Access parking at Linear Park.
- Timetable to be installed at Bus Shelters in the City.
- Hedge cutting to be planned before bird nesting season.
- KK2 bus route changes in both directions.
- Greensbridge's Footpath in need of repair.
- How it is determined which surface material is used for foot path repairs.
- Possibility of a report on proposed works in addition to the report on works undertaken.
- Dog fouling & need for more litter bins.

Mr Gardner addressed all the issues raised. He advised the Members that all representations should be emailed to kmd@kilkennycoco.ie and spoke of the increased volume of representations received prior to the Local Elections in June 2024. He noted that a report could be issued on proposed Footpath Repairs in excess of one year however it would be subject to change frequently as more urgent repairs arose. He advised that when utility companies carry out repair works a bond is signed for a two year period and after such time if reinstatement works are necessary then the costs are borne by the Council.

He advised that cost was a prohibitive factor for provision of further Water Stations and that this would be reviewed.

Mr Gardner advised that particular attention is given to the Market Yard with regard to Litter-Picking and that the outdoor benches installed during Covid had exacerbated the litter problem and that a new scheme was being looked at for that area.

With regard to removal of grass after grass cutting he advised that it was more environmentally-friendly to leave the grass ferment and that it would not be cost efficient to remove it after each cut. With regard to the high vegetation at roundabouts he responded that there is a safety issue for crews working on these areas and that the possibility of low maintenance planting is being investigated.

Mr Gardner advised that work on overgrown hedges is only undertaken by the Council if there is a safety issue otherwise it is the responsibility of the land owner.

Mr Gardner also advised that renewal of Road Markings and Lighting at Pedestrian Crossings were being constantly monitored and replaced where necessary as is the case with cobble lock.

Suitability of materials used whether it be concrete or tarmac in repairs are determined on a case by case basis.

He advised that due to lack of sufficient road space at the Linear Park it may not be feasible to have Disability Access Parking.

Mr Tim Butler advised that the new KK2 bus route would run in both directions and that a Real Time Bus Schedule was being rolled out by the National Transport Authority on a national basis.

He informed the Members that six monthly reports on the Safe Route to Schools Programme would be made available.

He advised that the erection of signs notifying the public that Improvement Works had been carried out by Kilkenny County Council could be reintroduced.

4. Fógraí Rúin - Notices of Motion:

12(24) ; Proposed by Cllr Andrew McGuinness Seconded by Cllr Joe Malone & agreed:

“That this Council investigate the possibility of implementing the following for the John Street area:

1. Upgrade the footpaths: In keeping with the Service Plan for 2024, John Street footpaths require improvements to encourage and facilitate Active Travel.
2. Create a looped tourist trail to incorporate John Street: This trail will be designed to bring visitors to the John Street area and complement the Medieval Mile. The trail can be included on all digital and printed assets created by the Council and all tourism and retail bodies, encouraging footfall to the John Street area. The trail could be a self-guided interactive tourist attraction with QR codes on the historical buildings along the route.
3. Signage for the car parks at County Hall and Wolfe Tone Street, both at the entrance point to the city and throughout the city: This will ensure that visitors to Kilkenny can easily access these car parks and it will reduce the number of cars entering the core city centre. Plus, as these car parks are owned by Kilkenny County Council this will increase the Council’s revenue.”

The Mayor spoke on his motion and all the Members supported the Motion. Mr Tim Butler advised Members that a meeting would be held with John Street residents with regard to the proposal. He also informed the Members that a Contractor has been appointed to install lighting at John’s Priory and that plans for Carnegie Library and County Hall were already in the pipe line and that a Consultant’s report was due in November. He advised Members that County Hall Car Park is now open 24 hrs to the Public at a cost of €2 per day.

13(24): Proposed by Cllr. Seán O’hArgáin. Seconded by Cllr Maria Dollard & agreed:

“ That Kilkenny Municipal District of Kilkenny County Council restates its total support for the completion of Kilkenny’s Ring Road and seeks a clear outline of the current works and works planned on Kilkenny Ring Road and on the roads planned to service the CBS Secondary school currently under construction. That this outline would include an update on the Castlecomer to Freshford Road section of the Ring Road, including the legal and planning issues outstanding and a timeline for the next actions to be taken. That this outline and timeline would be made publicly available to deter the concerns and confusion which currently exist among the general public and specifically those in the areas most directly affected.”

As it was approaching 4.30 p.m Cllr Andrew McGuinness proposed extending the time allowed in the Standing Orders to complete this Motion. This was seconded by Cllr John Coonan and agreed.

Cllr O'hArgáin spoke on his motion and all Members agreed with same.

Mr Tim Butler explained the lengthy process with regard to the completion of the Ring Road was not due to inaction by Kilkenny County Council but as a result of an appeal made by a third party which resulted in a change in European Law. Approval of funding from the Department of Transport was only received last year and Consultants have been appointed. He advised that a six monthly report would issue to Members informing them of the progress.

14(24): Proposed by Cllr. Seán O'hArgáin.

“ That Kilkenny Municipal District of Kilkenny County Council will seek a meeting with Transport for Ireland to discuss the expansion of Kilkenny City's Bus Service, including the following priorities:

1. An expansion of the number of routes in the service to include more areas of the city.
2. That these services would include pick-up and drop-off facilities for residents of the Hebron Park/Kieran's Crescent/Millennium Court area and Seville Lawns/Margaret's Field areas and other residential areas, where residents are currently forced to walk over a kilometre to access the existing routes.
3. That these services would also service important retail and employment areas, including Kilkenny Retail Park and Purcellsinch Business Park.
4. That these services would service medical facilities at Kilcreene Orthopaedic Hospital and nursing homes including Archersrath and Drakelands nursing homes.”

This Motion was deferred to the next Meeting.

This concluded the business of the Meeting

Signed: _____

MAYOR

Date: _____