

CEANTAR BARDASACH CHATHAIR CHILL CHAINNIGH  
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KILKENNY CITY

MIONTUAIRISCÍ AR IMEACHTAÍ AN CHRUINNITHE MHÍOSÚIL A TIONÓLADH  
AR 8 Ú MÁRTA 2024 AG 2.30PM

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF ADJOURNED MONTHLY MEETING  
HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> March 2024 at 2.30pm

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Martin Brett Presiding.

Present/ I Láthair:-

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

*Also Present:* Mr. Tim Butler Director of Services, Mr Ian Gardner, Senior Engineer, Mr Seamus Foley, A/Senior Engineer, Ms. Anne Maria Walsh Senior Executive Officer.

*Apologies* Cllr. Joe Malone

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MAYOR'S SUMMONS OF MEETING:

Notice dated 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2024, convening a Monthly Meeting for this date was read.

**A dhaingniú Miontuairiscí Cruinnithe - Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting:**

- (i) Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 having been previously circulated were tabled for confirmation.

It was:

**Proposed By:** Cllr. Andrew McGuinness

**Seconded By:** Cllr. John Coonan.

**And Agreed:**

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

Arising from the minutes Cllr Andrew McGuinness requested that a proposal be examined for parking for workers in the City. Cllr David Fitzgerald asked for an update on SUMP report

Mr Ian Gardner advised that the aim of the parking measures is to reduce dependency on parking in the centre of the City. The SUMP report will outline a number of options for example Park & Cycle, Park & Ride. It is expected that a report will come before the Members before the end of the year.

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

The Deputy Mayor extended a speedy recovery to Cllr Joe Malone Mayor. He wished every success to St Patrick's Festival & Tradfest. Cllr Brett also noted the following events:

- Lions Club Table Quiz.
- Sod turning for new schools such as CBS and Presentation Convent Secondary School.
- Opening of St Vincent De Paul Shop.
- Congratulated the Presentation Secondary School Volleyball Team & Loreto Secondary School Camogie Team.

Deputy Mayor extended a vote of sympathy to the family of Betty Miller, Kilkenny & Minnesota. A vote of sympathy was also extended to the Magner family, Dukesmeadows on the death of Seán Magner.

**2. Ceathrú na Mainistreach -Abbey Quarter Squash Court Update - Presentation.**

Mr Seamus Foley, Acting Senior Engineer gave a presentation on the renovation of the Squash Court within the Abbey Quarter.

In this presentation he gave an overview on the following:

- Site location & existing layout.
- Proposed site layout and Demolition plan.
- Proposed ground floor & first floor plan.
- Detailed overview of facilities to be provided.
- Expression of interest advertised and end user identified is Watergate Theatre.
- Part 8 Planning – Application to Kilkenny County Council or An Bord Pleanála depending on Environmental Reports. Applications to be submitted in the next few weeks.

Cllr Martin Brett thanked Mr Foley for his presentation.

Contributions were received from Cllrs David Fitzgerald, Andrew McGuinness, Martin Brett, Eugene McGuinness, John Coonan, & Maria Dollard.

Issues raised by the Members were as follows:

- Replacement of Squash Court in another location in the City.
- Loss of this facility is a concern.
- Need for a dedicated sports facility for minority sports & development of handball alleys.
- Need to revisit Urban Park Plan and explore opportunities and solutions for sports.
- Watergate Theatre need for additional space & availability of rehearsal space for all diverse groups
- Update on Watergate Park.

Mr Butler, Mr Foley & Mr Gardner responded to the issues raised. Members were advised that sports groups should liaise with Sports Partnership to prepare a feasibility study on sharing a facility.

Mr Gardner advised that tenders have been received for the Watergate Park Project and are being assessed. Construction will take approximately six months.

Mr Foley advised on the various rooms to be included in the renovation of the building.

### **3. Trádáil Ócáideach - Casual Trading.**

Mr Ian Gardner advised that the Casual Trading Bye-Laws are normally extended each year to provide for trading on Saturday and Sunday for the months of May, June, July, August & September.

It was:

**Proposed By:** Cllr. Andrew McGuinness

**Seconded By:** Cllr. John Coonan.

**And Agreed:**

*That trading be permitted for the period 1st May, 2024 to 30th September, 2024 in accordance with the Casual Trading Bye-Laws.*

### **4. Bóithre - Roads:**

#### **i. Monthly Update.**

Mr Ian Gardner gave a Presentation on the Works Update for the month of February 2024. In his presentation he gave an overview of the following:

- Bus Shelters.
- High St Pavement Repairs.
- Parade signage removal.
- Footpath Repairs & Trip Hazard Repairs.
- Hebron Road Zebra Crossing.
- St Mary's Avenue Resurfacing Work.
- Safer Routes to Schools.
- Bicycle Facilities.
- Preparation for St Patrick's Festival.

The Members thanked Mr Gardner for his presentation. Contributions were received from Cllrs. David Fitzgerald, Eugene McGuinness, Maria Dollard, John Coonan, Martin Brett and Andrew McGuinness.

Issues raised as follows:

- Consistency in the replacement of Public Lights.
- Replacement of Lanterns in areas of the City.
- Replacement of paving instead of repairing it.
- Planting of Trees.
- Resurfacing works by various Utility Companies post installation.
- Accessible Bus Shelters and number of Bus Shelters provided to date.
- New routes for City Bus – any proposals.

Mr Ian Gardner responded to the issues raised by the Members.

## ii. Road Works Programme.

Mr Ian Gardner referred to the Draft Road Works Programme for 2024 circulated to the Members. He advised that approximately €2 million in funding is available to the Municipal District for all road works. The cost of work has become more expensive over the last few years. Details of the proposed works have been discussed and agreed at the recent Workshop.

Contributions were received from Cllrs David Fitzgerald, Eugene McGuinness, Maria Dollard, Martin Brett, & John Coonan.

Issues raised as follows:

- Update on Northern Ring Road extension & funding available.
- Active Travel Funding.
- Welcomed the inclusion of issues raised by all Members over the last year.

All Members thanked Mr Gardner and his team for all their work over the year.

Mr Butler advised on the status on the Northern Ring Road Extension and Active Travel funding.

It was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr Andrew McGuinness.

**Seconded By:** Cllr David Fitzgerald

**And Agreed:**

*That the Road Works Programme as outlined in the report circulated be approved for inclusion in the Road Works Programme for 2024.*

## 5. Fógraí Rúin - Notices of Motion.

**6(24): Proposed By:** Cllr. John Coonan

**Seconded By:** Cllr. Andrew McGuinness

**And Agreed:**

*"That the restoration of the deteriorated patio and footpaths at Upper Patrick street opposite the St John of God School be undertaken as a matter of priority for school children, pedestrians and residents in the area."*

Cllr Coonan spoke on the motion. Mr Gardner advised that funding is provided for these improvements in the 2024 programme.

**7(24): Proposed By:** Cllr Eugene McGuinness

**Seconded By:** Cllr Andrew McGuinness

**And Agreed:**

*"To ask Kilkenny County Council to consider installing an additional pedestrian crossing on the town side of the Johnswell road, close to the bus stop to help facilitate school going children crossing to and from the estates of Lintown, Beechlawns and Rosewood."*

Cllr Eugene McGuinness and Cllr Andrew McGuinness spoke on the motion. Mr Ian Gardner advised that additional pedestrian crossings are being provided from Active Travel Funding and this request will be included in the list.

**8.(24) Proposed By:** Cllr Eugene McGuinness

**Seconded By:** Cllr David Fitzgerald

**And Agreed:**

*"To ask Kilkenny County Council to undertake a full audit of all taxi ranks in the City with a view to providing clearer and more defined road markings, signage and taxi shelters where feasible. Under SUMP public transport is clearly defined as crucial and is prioritised which also includes Taxis and as such proper taxi ranks with shelters must be provided where feasible to fully utilize this valuable resource."*

Cllrs Eugene McGuinness, Martin Brett, Andrew McGuinness & David Fitzgerald spoke on the motion. Concerns were raised in relation to taxi bays relocating to other areas etc as required. Mr Butler advised that a workshop be arranged with the Taxi Drivers to discuss all their concerns in relation to taxi ranks, set-down areas etc. There is a need to designate Patrick Street as an alternative taxi rank to facilitate civic events. Members were agreeable to meeting with representatives of the Taxi Drivers.

**9.(24) Proposed By:** Cllr Maria Dollard

**Seconded By:** Cllr Eugene McGuinness

**And Agreed:**

*"To call on Kilkenny County Council to declare Kilkenny City a poster free zone for the duration of the Local election campaign, in the interest of the environment, sustainability and solidarity with the efforts of Kilkenny County Council, Voluntary groups, residents' associations, businesses and many Kilkenny people, to achieve success in the National Tidy Towns competition 2024"*

As it was approaching 4.30pm it was:

**Proposed By:** Cllr David Fitzgerald

**Seconded By:** Cllr Eugene McGuinness

**And Agreed:**

*"To suspend Standing Orders to complete Item 6."*

Cllrs Maria Dollard, Andrew McGuinness, Eugene McGuinness, David Fitzgerald, John Coonan and Martin Brett all spoke on this motion.

Concerns were raised in relation to the area of the City to be zoned poster free, all Candidates abiding by any decision made, designation of a central location for posters and use of other social media platforms in lieu of posters.

Mr Butler advised, that this would be a voluntary code to be abided by all Elected Members. The Members cannot require other candidates to abide by a Poster Free Zone in the City. Following the discussion, general consensus was not reached and it is a matter for each Member to agree to a position on a Poster Free Zone.

**6. *Aon Ghnó Eile - Any Other Business.***

That concluded the business of the Meeting.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAYOR**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_