

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

**MIONTUAIRISCÍ AR IMEACHTAÍ AN CHRUINNITHE MHÍOSÚIL A
TIONÓLADH AR AN 10 Ú IÚIL 2025 AG 2.30PM**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING
HELD ON 10TH JANUARY, 2025 AT 2.30 P.M.**

Mayor Councillor Andrew McGuinness Presiding

Present/ I Láthair:-

Councillors/Comhairleoirí: Cllr John Coonan, Cllr Eugene McGuinness, Cllr Seán O'hArgáin, Cllr Joe Malone & Cllr Maria Dollard

Apologies: Cllr David Fitzgerald

Also Present: Ms. Catherine Cooney, A/Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Stan Cullen, A/Senior Engineer, Denis Malone Senior Planner and Ms. Joanna Pierce, A/Staff Officer.

MAYOR'S SUMMONS OF MEETING:

Notice dated 3rd January 2025 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 13th December, 2024 having been previously circulated were tabled for confirmation.

It was:

Proposed By: Cllr. Seán O'hArgáin

Seconded By: Cllr. John Coonan

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:

Mayor Andrew McGuinness thanked and commended the organizers, committee, volunteers, and all of the Council staff who contributed to the successful execution of the 2024 Yulefest festival.

The Mayor also thanked the Kilkenny Lions Club, Rotary Club, and other organizations that helped raise funds for people in need during Christmas time. He also expressed his gratitude to those who donated to the Mayor's Christmas Appeal and supported the Mayor's Christmas Concert.

The Elected Members also remembered the late Phyllis O'Rourke and shared memories of her as an exceptional community activist in Kilkenny City. It was proposed to send formal condolences to her family from the Kilkenny Municipal District. A minute of silence was held during the meeting to honour her memory.

3. Kilkenny Municipal District - Works Update

Mr. Stan Cullen presented an update on the Council's response to the severe weather affecting the City over the past few days. He explained how the Winter Maintenance Plan was enforced during the weather event and detailed how maintenance of the access routes across the City were prioritised.

- P1, P2, and P3 routes were treated 2-3 times a day from Thursday, January 2nd, until Friday, January 10th.
- The Severe Weather Assessment team held daily meetings to assess the impact of the weather and plan for the coming days.
- National calls with Met Éireann and various Government Departments and Agencies were held daily to prepare for changes in the weather.
- The focus was on the City routes to allow for business continuity and service availability.
- Footpaths along commercial facilities such as schools, GP practices, and centres for vulnerable users were prioritised.
- Additional equipment and fittings were sourced to adapt the machinery for use on footpaths, and chemical antifreeze was used on compacted ice.
- Defence Forces joined to help clearing the ice from footpaths.
- Flood risk assessments indicate a low risk but continue to be monitored as the snow thaws.

Mr. Cullen thanked the Defence Forces for their help in clearing the city paths and supporting the Council staff. He also praised the exceptional work done during the past week by the external staff and the office support from the Area Offices and County Hall.

Mr. Cullen provided an update on the ongoing works carried out across the City:

- Street sweeping and litter picking,
- Landscaping on Coote's Lane completed,
- Public lighting works delayed due to ESB's response to the impact of Storm Darragh,
- The Linear Park is near completion in preparation for its official opening early in the year, in January or February,
- The Carnegie Library Part 8 was published before Christmas and will remain on public display until the 28th of January, with submissions due before the 11th of February.

The Members welcomed the updates and thanked Mr. Cullen for the presentation.

All Members expressed their gratitude to the Council staff who worked during the severe weather and thanked them for their remarkable efforts.

Elected Members raised queries in relation to the following:

- Concern over footpaths during severe weather events.
- Supply of salt to the housing estates.
- Parking at the bottom of Greens Hill during icy weather.
- Clearing of footpaths for Schools.
- Availability of sandboxes on the streets for the communities.
- Litter issues related to vaping devices.
- Update on the Loughboy Park Housing Development issue and the plans for the area.
- Active Travel areas.
- Placing of Information boards/signs and social media coverage on Council projects highlighting Council initiative.
- The Winter Maintenance Plan.

Cllr. Eugene McGuinness paid tribute to retired Kilkenny County Council staff member Liam Gannon and praised his contributions to the City. Cllr. McGuinness wished him well in his retirement.

Mr. Stan Cullen and Mr. Denis Malone responded to all queries raised.

Mr. Malone also updated Members on the status of the Loughboy Housing Development, which is going through the land zoning process to change from open space to residential use. Subsequent to that will be the Part 8 process.

4. Appointments to Municipal Festivals' Committee

It was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness

Seconded by: Cllr. Joe Malone

And Agreed

“that the following Elected Members be appointed to the Municipal Festivals’ Committee:

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness as Chair of the Committee

Cllr. Joe Malone

Cllr. Eugene McGuinness.

The current Mayor of the Kilkenny Municipal District.”

5. Aon Ghnó Eile - Any Other Business

Water Sports Facility at County Hall.

It is agreed to hold a briefing on the 20th January before the Plenary Council Meeting from 2.00 – 3.00 p.m. to inform the Elected Members on the project prior to the commencement of the public consultation phase.

That concluded the business of the Meeting.

Signed:

MAYOR

Date:
