

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

**MIONTUAIRISCÍ AR IMEACHTAÍ AN CHRUINNITHE MHÍOSÚIL A
TIONÓLADH AR AN 14 Ú MÁRTA 2025 AG 2.30PM**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING
HELD ON 14TH MARCH, 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 Maria Dollard, & Cllr David Fitzgerald.

Apologies : Cllr Joe Malone

Also Present: Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services, Ms. Margo Hayes, Senior Executive Officer, Mr. Stan Cullen, A/Senior Engineer, Ms Martina Walsh, Staff Officer.

MAYOR'S SUMMONS OF MEETING:

Notice dated 4th April 2025 convening a Monthly Meeting for this date was read.

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

(i) Amended Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 14th February 2025, having been previously circulated, were tabled for confirmation.

It was:

Proposed By: Cllr. Eugene McGuinness.

Seconded By: Cllr. John Coonan.

And Agreed:

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

With regard to these Minutes, Cllr O'hArgáin queried when the new signage would be erected on Green's Hill Road. He also raised the question as to when the new Community Safety Partnership Committee would be established.

Mr Stan Cullen responded that the signage will be erected in the near future.

Mr Tim Butler informed the Members that a legislation issue led to the delay of

the Community Safety Partnership Committee being established and that nominations for Local Authority Members and members of the Garda Síochana are now being sought.

(ii) Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 14th March, 2025, 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 hereby adopted".

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

Mayor Andrew McGuinness proposed that the next Meeting be held in the Black Abbey Church to mark its 800th Anniversary this year.

Proposed By: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness

Seconded By: Cllr. Seán O'hArgáin

And Agreed:

"That the MD Meeting on 9th May, 2025 be held in the Black Abbey Church"

3. Boithre – Roads Monthly Update.

Mr Stan Cullen presented the monthly Roads Update to the Members which included the following works:

- New Pedestrian Crossing on Johnswell Road. – Active Travel.
- Bus Stop installation at Butts Green.
- Footpath repairs at Leggettsrath and Richview.
- Improvement Works at O'Loughlin Road and Melville Heights.
- Erection of St Kieran's Street hoarding .

He also advised the Members of the following works that are underway.

- Survey on O'Loughlin Road Safety Scheme.
- Progression of Watergate Urban Park.
- Tholsel Works underway
- Design works on St Mary's Lane Enhancement Scheme.
- THRIVE application on Carnegie Library.
- Community Consultation Event on 30th April on the Butts Regeneration Scheme.

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

Elected members raised the following:

- Significant disruption to residents of O'Loughlin Road while the survey was underway.
- Timeline for completion of pedestrian crossing for Castlecomer Rd & Johnswell Rd.
- Double yellow lines needed on O'Loughlin Road in front of Nowlan Park to prevent buses parking there.
- Update on drainage system at O'Loughlin Road.
- Issue of derelict sites.
- Repair needed for broken signage around central islands on Johnswell road.
- Timeline on proposed occupancy for derelict site on St Kieran's Street.
- Update on funding for Carnegie Library.
- Lack of buses at Butts Green for school going children need for the TII to provide extra to relieve traffic congestion at school times.
- Funding available through Ossory Youth and Educational Training Board for murals similar to the site at St Kieran's Street.
- If perennial planting could be considered by the Nursery instead of annual planting to reduce maintenance.
- Repair of pothole on Greensbridge.

Mr Stan Cullen & Mr Tim Butler responded to all issues.

- CCTV assessment of O'Loughlin Road shows the drainage system is working. The topographical survey is for design work on the railway bridge at O'Loughlin road. This work is expected to be completed by July 2025.
- Review to be undertaken on works needed on central islands around the City.
- Double yellow lines at Nowlan Park will be installed.
- Conditions of the planning permission for CBS school requires a survey to be undertaken on public transport.
- Derelict sites are entered on a derelict site register and a levy of 7% of the market value of the property is levied annually on the owners. With regard to St Kieran's Street site expressions of interest have been received for development subject to planning.
- Review of planting to be undertaken to include more perennials especially at roundabouts where safety is an issue.
- Carnegie library is part of the THRIVE funding Scheme.
- All request for repairs be emailed to kmd@kilkennycoco.ie

4. Fógraí Rúin - Notices of Motion.

4(25): *Proposed by Cllr. John Coonan*

Seconded by Cllr. O'hArgáin,

And Agreed:

"That Kilkenny City Municipal District prioritise and address the drainage, water logging and deteriorated state of the cobble lock surface in William Street."

Cllr. Coonan spoke on his motion.

All members were supportive of the motion. Mr Cullen advised that this matter would be addressed.

6(25): *Proposed by Cllr. Seán Ó hArgáin*

Seconded by Cllr Andrew McGuinness:

And Agreed:

"Dog Fouling and Control

In light of recent announcements of additional funding for the control of dogs, Kilkenny Municipal District asks that additional powers and resources be provided to deal with dog fouling and inappropriate disposal of dog waste bags.

That Kilkenny Municipal district would examine the provision of a dog park facility ion the city area, similar to the facility installed in Dunmore Countryside Park."

Cllr O'hArgáin spoke on his motion. He commended the Dunmore Countryside Park but noted that a site within the City would facilitate those without their own transport. All Members agreed with the Motion.

In relation to the issue of dog fouling Mr Tim Butler responded that Environment Section use the See/Saw App and any litter or dog fouling offences can be submitted on this app and will be dealt with by Environment Section. He also advised that additional funding has been made available from the Department of Community & Rural Development for two Dog Wardens for Carlow & Kilkenny. He also referred to the Green Dog Walker Campaign launched by Kilkenny County Council and encouraged all dog owners to get involved.

Mr Butler advised that no funding is available at present for a second dog park facility in Kilkenny but that it will be looked at in the future.

7(25): *Proposed by Cllr. David FitzGerald:*

Seconded by Cllr Andrew McGuinness

And agreed:

"That Kilkenny MDC prepare a report on the future use of Shee Alms house to include all potential options and to prepare a public consultation process to

seek the views of the public on this unique heritage property in the heart of Kilkenny City."

Cllr Fitzgerald spoke on his motion. He raised the issue of the missing plaque from the building commemorating the Shee family and proposed that it should be reinstated .

All Members agreed with the motion . The Members requested that a workshop be held to discuss possible uses for the building

Mr Butler responded that a number of expressions of interest have been received from interested parties and agreed on a workshop being held to discuss the matter.

8(25): Proposed by Cllr. David FitzGerald:

Seconded by Cllr Seán O'hArgáin

And agreed:

"That Kilkenny MDC prepare a trial park and ride edge of City car and cycle park as a pilot project as a step towards the delivery of multiple long term park and ride facilities located at the terminus points of the City bus service."

Cllr Fitzgerald spoke on his motion and acknowledged that this motion had been raised in the past.

Mr Stan Cullen that under the SUMP process the need for such a facility was highlighted and that the idea was being explored by Kilkenny County Council in the medium to long term and a detailed analysis of same would be made.

9(25): Proposed by Cllr. John Coonan:

Seconded by Cllr Maria Dollard

And agreed:

"That the Local Authority provide an up to date position for Kilkenny regarding the provision of a changing places facility including Plans and Timeline for the provision of same be outlined to Kilkenny City Municipal District."

Cllr Coonan spoke on his motion and all Members supported same. It was noted that it had been 5 years since this proposal was originally raised.

Cllr Coonan also suggested liaising with the Office of Public Works and supporting them in this proposal.

Mr Tim Butler responded that this facility was absolutely necessary and that the second toilet had being closed previously due to due to anti-social behaviour. He advised that a planning application had been lodged with An Bord Pleanala to seek approval for a 24hr changing facility at the Abbey Quarter area.

He advised that plans to reorganise the Market Yard to include a changing facility was also being investigated.

10(25) : Proposed by Cllr. Maria Dollard:

Seconded by Cllr Seán O'hArgáin

And agreed:

"That Kilkenny Municipal District proceed with the provision of Hidden Disability parking spaces as per the motion passed at plenary in May 2022. These spaces would be clearly marked with signage. They are courtesy spaces, used at the discretion of the public when needed by those with a sensory or hidden disability, such as Autism, learning disabilities or temporary mobility impairments for which a blue badge is not appropriate."

Cllr Dollard spoke on her motion. All Members supported the motion.

Mr Stan Cullen advised that the Market Yard and St Mary's car park were being investigated as possible sites for installation of these spaces. He did reiterate, however, that such spaces are not governed by the Road Traffic Act and would be courtesy spaces only.

11(25): Proposed by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness:

Seconded by Cllr Andrew Mc Guinness

And Agreed:

"To ask Kilkenny County Council to lay out clearly what proposals are under consideration for the development of the derelict site at Newpark Close which is currently being used as an illegal dumping ground constituting a major health and safety issue in the area."

Cllr Eugene McGuinness spoke on his motion and it was supported by all the Members.

Tim Butler responded that this area is part of the Urban Regeneration Plan.

He advised that the matter of illegal dumping would be fully investigated and that there will be full consultation with the residents on any proposals for the area.

5. Aon Ghnó Eile - Any Other Business

That concluded the business of the Meeting.

Signed:

MAYOR

Date:
