

***Minutes of the Piltown Municipal District Meeting held on Wednesday,
4th December, 2019 at 10.00am at the Ferrybank Area Office.***

Present: Cllr. Eamon Aylward, Cathaoirleach
Cllrs. G. Frisby, P. Dunphy, T. Breathnach and F. Doherty

In attendance: S. McKeown, Director of Services, B. Tyrrell, Meetings Administrator, S. Cullen, Area Engineer, Dearbhala Ledwidge, Heritage Officer & O. Bannon, Staff Officer

1. Confirmation of Minutes

MD Meeting 6th November – Proposed by Cllr. G. Frisby, seconded by Cllr. P. Dunphy and agreed.

Cllr. Aylward took the opportunity to congratulate Kilmacow on their success at the Pride of Place Awards, which he said was a fantastic achievement and a reward for the hard work of all involved. He also extended congratulations to Ballyhale in their achievement and acknowledged the hard work of all involved in organising the awards night, which took place in Kilkenny on Saturday night, 30th Nov.

Cllr. Breathnach agreed and also wished to acknowledge the support of the Council and all the people of Kilmacow in making this great achievement.

Cllr. Aylward also wished Mullinavat every success in the Leinster Intermediate Football Final next Saturday.

Budget Plan Meeting 6th November – Minutes were proposed by Cllr. P. Dunphy, seconded by Cllr. T. Breathnach and agreed.

2. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations

(c) Update on All Ireland Pollinator Plan

Dearbhala Ledwidge, Heritage Officer, was in attendance and circulated a report to the members, giving the background to Kilkenny County Councils support of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and its commitment to this initiative. It was noted that Kilkenny County Council was the first local authority in the Country to sign up to the All Ireland Pollinator Plan, an initiative led by the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

DL outlined the position with regard to pollinators, stating that 30% of Irelands pollinators face extinction and she outlined actions and initiatives being taken by KCC as part of its commitment to the Pollinator Plan, including the following:-

- Prepare annual Kilkenny Pollinator Plan and Report – Committee set up
- Adopted the garden bumblebee as its emblem
- Identify possible areas where action can be taken when reviewing all KCC Policies, including the County Development and Local Area Plans
- Raising awareness in all existing work areas and changing practices including mowing regimes, pollinator friendly planting, protecting habitats and reducing the use of pesticides
- Providing resources and information to communities and schools on how they can help and get involved to do their part

The members raised a number of queries to which DL responded, including maintenance on motorways and guidelines for TII, programmes for Schools, most effective plants and flowers to use and signage and information available. She thanked the members for their continued support and asked that they help in changing the public mindset and encouraging communities to take part in pollinator friendly initiatives.

All the members thanked Dearbhala for her interesting and comprehensive presentation and praised the work of KCC staff involved in promoting and driving this very important initiative.

DL withdrew from the meeting.

(a) Update on Monthly Roadworks Programme

SC circulated a report to the meeting and outlined details in relation to pavement works, discretionary maintenance and other works carried out in the area since the last meeting.

The following items were raised and discussed:-

Poulanassy Waterfall – Cllr. Aylward noted the delay in proceeding with Part 8, SC advised that he will have the opportunity to finalise matters with the Consultant before the end of the year. BT noted that a decision was still pending with regard to funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

LP3426 Ballyfasy bend – in answer to Cllr. Doherty's query, SC advised that the cost to complete this scheme was more significant than the funding available allowed in the current year, but consideration will be given to completing the scheme in 2020 using discretionary funding.

(b) Update on N25 New Ross Bypass

BT circulated update report to the members, this was noted.

Cllr. Doherty noted the tender competition had commenced for the upgrade to signage along existing sections of road and asked that signage for New Ross be included for road users who might not be familiar with the area, particularly along diversion routes.

(d) Kilkenny Greenway Update

SMcK advised that clearance works had commenced from Abbey Road to Aylwardstown and from New Ross to Glenmore in order to accommodate site investigation works. It was noted that some residents had raised concerns, however these had been addressed to their satisfaction and work was continuing on the detailed design which was expected to be completed by year end.

The following was also noted:-

- Car parking options were being explored, a meeting with Wexford County Council later today would provide a progress update.
- Wexford County Council to seek a meeting with CIE before the end of the year in order to get an update with regard to the abandonment order and the status of same.
- Arrangements would be made for Malachy Walsh & Partners to make a presentation to the members regarding the design of the greenway once same has been finalised.
- Application for additional funding of €2m under the RRDF was unsuccessful, the shortfall in funding will have to be met by Kilkenny, Wexford and Waterford County Councils.

3. Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Order or Resolution of the Municipal District Members for transaction at such meetings**(a) Agree date for Launch of Local Policing Partnership**

BT advised that the launch of the Local Policing Partnership will take place in Mooncoin Community Centre next Tuesday, 10th December at 4.00pm. It was noted that this launch was open to the general public.

4. Other business set forth in the Notice convening the meeting

None

5. Notice of Motion

None

6. Correspondence

It was noted that a letter of thanks had been issued to Frank Ronan, Chief Executive at Port of Waterford, for the tour of facilities at the Port and for his kind hospitality on 6th November.

7. AOB**Additional items raised by Members:-**

Cllr. Frisby

Agenda for TII meeting – Cllr. Aylward advised that a draft agenda had been sent to TII, but no confirmation of a meeting date had been received.

Cllr. Breathnach

Letter to Grace Rothwell – BT agreed to send letter of thanks to Ms. Rothwell, seeking a follow up meeting with her as agreed.

Changes to Engineering Areas

SC advised that changes in the Engineering Areas to reflect the changes to Municipal Districts would come into effect in January. He circulated information to members with regard to these changes and alterations to the multi-annual restoration improvement plan as a result of these changes. Details were noted.

Cllr. Doherty

N25 Junctions – Cllr. Doherty welcomed progress with regard to improving safety at junctions on the N25

Cllr. Aylward took the opportunity to thank all staff and journalists for their help and support over the past year and to wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____