

**MINUTES OF NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2017 AT 3.00 P.M.**

**Chair:** David Fitzgerald

**Clrs:** Eamon Aylward, John Brennan, Tomás Breathnach, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Peter Cleere, Fidelis Doherty, Matt Doran, Michael Doyle, Pat Dunphy, Ger Frisby, Pat Fitzpatrick, Breda Gardner, Andrew McGuinness, Patrick McKee, Joe Malone, Michael McCarthy, Pat Millea, Malcolm Noonan, Melissa O'Neill, Patrick O' Neill, Maurice Shortall and Sean Tyrrell.

**Officials:** Colette Byrne, Mary J. Mulholland, Tim Butler, Sean McKeown, Martin Prendiville, Martin Mullally, Michael Delahunty, Kevin Hanley, Tony Lauhoff, Eimear Cody, Denis Malone & Anne Maria Walsh.

**Apologies:** Cllr. David Kennedy.

**1. Confirmation of Minutes - Dearbhú Miontuairiscí:**

**(a) Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2017**

Proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Peter Cleere and agreed:

“That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2017, as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved”.

Cllr. Breda Gardner asked for amendment to Minutes of Meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2017. She advised that she supported Notice of Motion 37(17) and wished to have her name added to this Motion. This was agreed.

**(b) Minutes of SPC 4: Housing held on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2017**

Proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy and agreed:

“That the Minutes of SPC 4 Housing held on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2017, as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved”.

**(c) Minutes of SPC 5: Environmental Protection, Water Services & Energy held on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2017**

Proposed by Cllr. Maurice Shortall, seconded by Cllr. Sean Tyrrell and agreed:

“That the Minutes of SPC 5 Environmental Protection, Water Services & Energy held on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2017, as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved”.

**(d) Minutes of SPC 5: Environmental Protection, Water Services & Energy held on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2017**

Proposed by Cllr. Pat Dunphy, seconded by Cllr. Joe Malone and agreed:

“That the Minutes of SPC 5 Environmental Protection, Water Services & Energy held on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2017, as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved”.

Cllr. Fitzgerald congratulated all involved in Savour Kilkenny. He advised that the Tánaiste is visiting Kilkenny on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2017. He reminded members that the switching on of the Christmas lights will take place on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 on the Parade at 5.00 p.m.

Cllr. Breda Gardner congratulated the Thomastown Camogie Team on winning the Leinster Final.

#### **Votes of Sympathy**

Cllr. David Fitzgerald extended votes of sympathy to the following:

- Mary Shepherd, Traffic Department on the death of her father Maurice Ryan.
- The Family of Patrick Holohan, Ahenny, Carrick on Suir.
- The Family of Michael Walsh, Rathcash.

At this stage Mr. Tim Butler, Director of Services read the following statement:

"There has been a number of social media post in the recent weeks referencing officials and elected members which have been totally inaccurate in its reporting and in a number of cases possibly defamatory in its nature. Kilkenny County Council completely condemns these posts which have no basis in fact and we would ask you as members to do likewise. Kilkenny County Council has every confidence in its staff and elected members in the professional and equitable manner in which they carry out their functions and duties for the public of Kilkenny."

Cllrs. M.H. Cavanagh, A. McGuinness, J. Malone, M. Noonan, M. Shortall, M. O'Neill and S. Tyrrell stated that they supported the statement and stated that they as Elected Members have confidence in the Executive and staff. Members do not condone the inaccurate/misleading content, racial and hateful comments in relation to staff and other communities.

Cllr. Fitzgerald welcomed the cross party support and stated that reports from Council meetings should be fair and balanced.

Cllr. Noonan requested that a signed statement be issued by all Members and the Executive and this was supported by Cllr. Fitzgerald.

Cllrs. Malone and McGuinness spoke about closing down the site. Cllr. Cavanagh asked the local media to report that the Elected Members and the Executive do not condone these posts on this site and any other site.

## **2. Business Prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Council** **Gnó forordaithe do réir Reachtaíochta, Orduithe Seasta, nó Ríin an Chomhairle.**

### **(a) Planning – Pleanail**

#### **(i) Part 8: House at Blackstaff, Callan**

Ms. Eimear Cody presented the Chief Executive Report on the Part 8 for the proposed development of a house at Blackstaff, Callan. In her presentation she outlined to members that the Council intends to construct a four bed group house to facilitate residents with disabilities as part of the national decongregation programme. No submissions were received during the statutory public consultation period.

Cllr. M. O'Neill asked for clarification on who will reside in this house. Ms. Cody replied to the queries raised.

It was proposed by Cllr. Joe Malone, seconded by Cllr, Sean Tyrrell and agreed that:

"We the members of Kilkenny County Council approve the Part 8 in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended and Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as amended, for Construction of a House at Blackstaff, Callan, Co. Kilkenny, as circulated."

(ii) **Part 8: 33 Units at Donaguile, Castlecomer**

Ms. Eimear Cody presented the Chief Executive Report on the Part 8 for the proposed development of 33 units at Donaguile, Castlecomer. In her presentation, she outlined to the members the breakdown on the units proposed, the housing list in Castlecomer, public information evening and summary of the three submissions received.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. M. Shortall, J. Brennan, P. Fitzpatrick and S. Tyrrell. Members welcomed the proposed development and requested the following to be taken into account in the detail design and construction of the project:

- reconfiguration of two junctions and traffic management.
- use of brick in the proposed units.
- recognition of the late Dr. McEaney,
- improvements to the water supply, booster pumps to ensure all existing residents are not affected.
- amenity/play area.

Ms. Eimear Cody responded to all the queries that arose.

Cllr. Fitzgerald advised that the naming of the proposed Scheme will be a matter for the Naming Sub-Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr. Maurice Shortall, seconded by Cllr. John Brennan and agreed that:

"We the members of Kilkenny County Council approve the Part 8 in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended and Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001, as amended, for Construction of 33 Units at Donaguile, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny, as circulated."

(iii) **Skate Park**

Mr. Tony Lauhoff, Senior Engineer gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed youth area and skate park at Abbey Quarter. In his presentation he outlined the following:

- Background to the proposed location.
- Site included in Part 8 - Riverside Garden Project.
- Process undertaken on consultation and funding received - 11 workshops held and over 200 young people engaged.
- Key objectives for Youth Space.
- Membership of Steering Group.
- Workshops focused on five themes:
  - (i) My Familiar Space.
  - (ii) My Social Space.
  - (iii) My Open Space.

- (iv) My City Space.
- (v) Shifting our Sense of Place.

- Feedback from Consultation and issues discussed.
- Sketch Design / Project Design / Outline Design.

Mr. Lauhoff advised the meeting that Kilkenny Recreation Sports Partnership has received a grant from Sports Ireland to go to detailed design. Next stage will be to commence Part 8 Planning and make application for Sports Capital funding. There will be ongoing engagement with youth community in the detailed design.

Cllr. Fitzgerald welcomed Nicola Keeshan and Catriona Corr from KRSP and Rosie Lynch from Callan Workshop Union who were involved in the consultation with the youth communities.

Cllr. David Fitzgerald welcomed this proposed project and noted that agreement of members is recommended to proceed to Part 8 Process and Detailed Design.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. A. McGuinness, M. Noonan, M. O'Neill, B. Gardner and T. Breathnach in relation to the following:

- Ongoing engagement with the young people.
- Facility for young people to hang out.
- Provision of small areas in existing playgrounds throughout the County for skate boarders.
- Indoor Skate Park.
- Young people complimented on their engagement, their views and proposals.

Mr. Lauhoff and Ms. Lynch responded to specific queries raised by Members.

It was proposed by Cllr. David Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed that Kilkenny County Council proceed to Part 8 for Youth Area and Skate Park at Abbey Quarter and the detailed design for this project.

Cllr. David Fitzgerald requested permission of the members to take Items 2 (d) (ii) and 2 (d) (iii) before the Housing Presentation. Members agreed to this.

(d) **Corporate Affairs - Gnóthaí Corparáideacha**

(i) **Fill vacancy on Education Training Board.**

It was proposed by Cllr. Matt Doran, seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy and agreed:

*"That Kilkenny County Council hereby appoints Cllr. Joe Malone to the Education Training Board".*

(ii) **Fill vacancy on Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee.**

It was proposed by Cllr. Matt Doran, seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy and agreed:

*"That Kilkenny County Council hereby appoints Cllr. David Kennedy to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee".*

(b) Housing- Tithíocht

(i) **Update on Housing**

Cllr. David Fitzgerald requested approval of members to take a part of the Housing Presentation in-Committee as a private individual is going to speak to the members about homelessness.

It was proposed by Cllr. David Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. Maurice Shortall and agreed that this would be taken in-Committee.

Public and Press left Council Chamber at this stage.

Public Meeting resumed at 4.30 p.m.

Contributions were received from Cllr. A. McGuinness, M. O'Neill, J. Malone, B. Gardner, M. Doyle and T. Breathnach in relation to homelessness and the housing crisis in Kilkenny City. Members thanked the individual and Manager of the Good Shepherd Centre for their presentation.

Cllr. David Fitzgerald invited Mr. Martin Mullally to give the Housing Presentation. Copy of presentation was circulated to the Members. Mr. Mullally gave an overview on the following:

- Housing Programme Delivery Methodology.
- Housing Demand.
- Available Social Housing Stock.
- Details of units to be delivered by 2021 i.e. 822.
- Overview of completions to-date, units under construction, units at Planning/Design/Tender stage, leasing options, approved Housing Bodies Programme and Single Acquisitions.
- Challenges to meet the target of 822.
- Accommodation available for homelessness.
- Update on Private Grants 2017.
- Update on Strategic Plan for people with Disabilities.
- Local Authority Voids.
- Mortgage to Rent Scheme.

Cllr. David Fitzgerald thanked Mr. Mullally for the detailed presentation.

Contributions were received from Cllr. M. Shortall, A. McGuinness, M. Noonan, P. Cleere, E. Aylward, M. Doran, T. Breathnach, M. O'Neill, J. Brennan, P. Dunphy, S. Tyrrell, F. Doherty and P. Fitzpatrick.

Issues raised by Members related to:

- Assisting AHB with technical support.
- Over reliance on HAP, need to encourage more landlords/home owners to give units/vacant houses.
- Part V Provision - allocate a percentage to disabilities.
- Development on lands at Loughmacask, status of site at Clish.
- Demand for small units, proposal for Broguemaker Building.
- Demand for Private Housing in order to attract foreign investment.
- Decongregation of people with disabilities.
- Organised begging on streets in Kilkenny.
- Loan Scheme for Tenants wishing to upgrade to solid fuel.
- Private Grants: HOP - never reach priority 2 applications.  
DPG - welcome continued commitment to fund these.
- Distressed Mortgages/Repossessed houses.

At this stage Cllr. David Fitzgerald advised as the time of the meeting is approaching 6.00 p.m. he requested approval of members to suspend Standing Orders to finish the Housing item and take item 2 (c) (i) - Presentation on Yulefest.

It was proposed by Cllr. Peter Cleere, seconded by Cllr. Michael McCarthy and agreed to suspend Standing Orders to complete item 2 (b) (i) and 2 (c) (i).

Mr. Mullally responded to all the queries raised by members. Ms. Cody advised that the building on the Castlecomer Road will be refurbished. Mr. Sherry, Good Shepherd Centre responded to queries on homelessness. Ms. Mulholland advised that the main challenges for Housing will be to deliver the 822 units. The assistance of the Elected Members is vital in the Part 8 process. A commitment has been given to public consultation at the earliest possible time. Decongregation of residents into local communities will be a focus for the Housing Department. Staff in Housing will continue to review any opportunity that arises in relation to the delivery of units.

It was proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed:

*"That a separate meeting be held to discuss housing issues every half year."*

(c) **Yulefest**

Cllr. Fitzgerald welcomed Ms. Paula Lawlor to the meeting.

Ms. Lawlor gave a PowerPoint presentation on Yulefest Kilkenny. In her presentation she outlined the mission statement, vision and objectives for the Christmas Festival which will run over the weekends in December.

She gave an overview of the many events that are planned for December including the "Star Project". All communities/schools/organisations have been encouraged to take part in "Star Project". The celebration will be across the entire County. Many events have been planned for many locations outside of Kilkenny City. There has been a lot of interest from national media.

Ms. Mulholland advised that Yulefest will commence at a launch in Butler House Gardens on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2017. She asked that the festival be promoted by all. Engagement from the communities on the "Star Project" is very welcome. Cllrs. Doran and McGuinness thanked Ms. Lawlor for the presentation and called on everyone to support this happy event.

Ms. Colette Byrne advised members that she is available if any member wishes to discuss any item on her monthly report.

Cllrs. Tyrrell and Fitzpatrick requested that the Chief Executive Report be listed earlier on the Agenda to allow Members an opportunity raise questions on it.

Cllr Fitzgerald advised that he will be discussing this at the next CPG Meeting.

That concluded the Business of the Meeting.

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CATHAOIRLEACH

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DATE