



MINUTES OF PLENARY MEETING OF KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 19TH DECEMBER, 2022 AT 3.00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL & VIA MS TEAMS

Chair: Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick.

Elected Members: *Council Chamber*

Cllrs. Eamon Aylward, John Brennan, Tomás Breathnach, John Coonan, Matt Doran, Michael Doyle, David Fitzgerald, Joe Malone, Michael McCarthy, Andrew McGuinness, Eugene McGuinness, Fidelis Doherty, Pat Dunphy.

MS Teams

Cllrs. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Deirdre Cullen, Michael Delaney, Maria Dollard, Ger Frisby, Denis Hynes, Patrick O'Neill.

Officials: Sean McKeown, Tim Butler, Martin Prendiville, Mary Mulholland, Fiona Deegan, Denis Malone, Anne Maria Walsh, Kevin Hanley, Nicolaas Louw, Aileen McGrath, Seamus Kavanagh, Brendan Sheehan & Catherine Cooney.

Apologies: Cllrs. Martin Brett, Peter Cleere & Joe Lyons.

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

- (i) **Minutes of November Plenary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council**
Proposed by Cllr. John Coonan, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed.
"That the Minutes of November Plenary Meeting held on Monday, 21st November, 2022 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (ii) **Minutes of Statutory Budget Meeting of Kilkenny County Council**
Proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Matt Doran and agreed.
"That the Minutes of Statutory Budget Meeting held on Friday, 25th November, 2022 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (iii) **Minutes of Adjourned November Plenary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council**
Proposed by Cllr. Ger Frisby, seconded by Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh and agreed.
"That the Minutes of Adjourned November Plenary Meeting held on Monday, 28th November, 2022 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (iv) **Minutes of SPC 3 Meeting: Housing**
Proposed by Cllr. Joe Malone, seconded by Cllr. John Brennan and agreed.
"That the Minutes of SPC 3 Meeting: Housing held on Thursday, 2nd June, 2022 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".
- (v) **Minutes of SPC 3 Special Meeting: Housing**
Proposed by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Joe Malone and agreed.
"That the Minutes of Plenary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday, 17th October, 2022 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved".

Fógraí - Announcements

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick congratulated:

- Ballyhale Shamrocks on winning the semi final AIB All Ireland Club Championship.
- James Stephens Camogie Team who reached the All-Ireland Intermediate Final.
- The four athletes from Kilkenny City Harriers on their success in the European Cross Country Championships in Turin.

He wished the Wellie Race Castlecomer every success on New Year's Day.

He wished all the citizens of Kilkenny a very Happy Peaceful Christmas and joy and goodwill in the New Year.

He wished Private Shane Kearney a return to good health from his injuries.

Vótaí Comhbhrón - Votes of Sympathy

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick extended vote of sympathy to the following:

- Mary Walsh, Housing Department on the death of her mother Kathleen Cahill, Thomastown.
- Family of the late San Byrne, Paulstown [*Pensioner*]
- Family of Private Seán Rooney, Defence forces on his tragic death.
- Family of the late Denis Vereker, Tullogher.
- Family of the late Margaret Murphy, Slieverue.
- Family of the late Anthony Mulhearn, Mullinavat.
- Family of the late Nicholas Walsh, Mooncoin.
- Family of the late Sean Ryan, Carrigeen.
- Family of the late Tom Roche, Inistioge.
- Family of the late Ned Butler, Piltown.
- Family of the late Joan Dunphy, Mooncoin.

All Members were associated with the votes of sympathy.

2. (a) (i) *Cuid 8 Molta: Bóthar Bhaile Dhún na nGall* Proposed Part 8: Dunningstown Road

Ms. Mary Mulholland gave a PowerPoint Presentation on Proposed Part 8 – Housing Development on the Dunningstown Road, Kilkenny for Members information.

In her Presentation she gave an overview on the following:

- Approved numbers for Housing in Kilkenny City.
- Proposed Public Meeting in January 2023.
- Location of site.
- Plans for six Own Door Apartments.
- Two 2-Bed and four 1-Bed.
- 3D views of proposed development.

She advised that it is intended to proceed to the Statutory Planning process in January 2023.

(ii) *Ag Glacadh i gCúram - Taking in Charge*

It was proposed by Cllr. Matt Doran, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed that:

“That the County Council of the County Kilkenny, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Section 11 of the Roads Act 1993 and in compliance with Section 180 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended by Section 59 of the Planning & Development Act 2010, hereby declares the road listed in the Public Notice and listed below to be a Public Road.”

Development: TC150 – Kiln Lane, Clashacollare, Callan, Co. Kilkenny

(b) (i) Polasaí Peataí in Árasáin - Pets in Apartments Policy

Mr. Michael Leahy referred Members to the report circulated with the Agenda. He advised that the use of apartments for social housing is in keeping with national policy on housing densities. Following receipt of a large number of complaints the Housing SPC requested a review of the position in keeping pets in apartments. It was agreed to provide a policy on pets in apartments. A limited number of apartments will be designated where space is provided and where potential disruption to other tenants is minimalised. Priority will be given to support pets where the medical need has been identified. The draft policy has been agreed by the SPC and it is recommended for approval by the Plenary Council.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Maria Dollard, Fidelis Doherty, Pat Fitzpatrick and Eamon Aylward.

Issues raised by Members were as follows:

- Designation of service animals.
- Breeds of dog not allowed.
- Review operation of Policy in twelve months.

Mr. Leahy advised that an amendment will be made to the Policy following Cllr. Maria Dollards contribution.

It was proposed by Cllr. Eamon Aylward, seconded by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness and agreed that:

“That the “Policy on Pets in Local Authority Social Housing Apartment Accommodation” is hereby approved by the Members of Kilkenny County Council.”

(c) (i) Nuashonrú ar Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide - Climate Action Update

Mr. Denis Malone gave a PowerPoint Presentation on Climate Action update.

In his presentation he gave an overview on the following:

- International/National Policy and documents.
- Regional Players – Southern Regional Assembly & South East Energy Agency.
- Climate Action Regional Offices – role of Regional Officers is to support and advise the Local Authorities.
- Role of Kilkenny County Council – prepare Action Plans – 6 Strategic Goals to be delivered.
- Overview of progress to-date on Climate Adaption Strategy 2019-2024.
- Next Steps – Five Year Plan – Action Plan for 2023 to 2028.
- Challenges facing Kilkenny County Council – culture change across the organisation and society.
- Goals to be achieved by 2030 & 2050.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. David Fitzgerald, Maria Dollard, Matt Doran, Tomás Breathnach, Pat Dunphy and Pat Fitzpatrick.

Issues raised by Members as follows:

- Iarnród Éireann –electrification of train line from Waterford to Dublin.
- Climate Change must be discussed and reviewed regularly at SPC, Plenary Meetings and MD Meetings.
- Actions set out – review, achievements how are they cross referenced to sustainable goals, specific targets on reducing emissions.
- Baseline Studies – data available.
- North/South Co-operation.
- Membership of Steering Committee.
- Target date for adoption of Climate Action Plan.

Mr. Malone responded to the issues and queries raised by Members. He advised that all decisions being made will be benchmarked against Council’s Plans and Policies and the sustainable goals. All Departments in the Council will be contributing to the targets in the Action Plan as Climate Change affects all services.

He advised that the Minister has until 6th March, 2023 to trigger the process for the Statutory Plan. The Plan will be subject to public consultation and will be adopted by the Members before March 2024.

Mr. Sean McKeown advised that the Climate Action Plan will set out targets for reduction in carbon emissions. He stated that Kilkenny County Council has less than 2% of total emissions for the County. There is baseline data on current emissions.

Cllr. Fitzpatrick thanked Mr. Malone for the Presentation.

(d) (i) ***Nuashonrú Géarchéime na hÚcráine - Ukrainian Crisis Update***

Ms. Fiona Deegan gave a PowerPoint Presentation on “Offer a Home” Programme.

In her presentation she gave an overview on the following:

- Programme to be managed by Local Authority.
- Offer of houses, apartments or holiday homes – stand alone units.
- Tax free payment of €800 per month to owner.
- Minimum period of six months.
- 21 offers received to-date.
- Process for applying and acceptance was outlined. Timelines are in place for each of the steps in the process.
- Standards required for properties offered.
- Formal agreement will be a licence.
- Responsibility of utility bills.
- Garda vetting not required as stand alone accommodation only required.
- Details available on website and separate e-mail address to make contact with Kilkenny County Council.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Pat Fitzpatrick, Andrew McGuinness, Matt Doran, Eugene McGuinness, David Fitzgerald and Deirdre Cullen.

Issues raised by Members are as follows:

- Co-operation of all agencies - HSE, ETB and KLP, Community support welcomed.
- Benefits for Communities in Housing displaced Ukrainians in the area.
- Derelict houses - challenge to make them liveable - services available.
- Unknown number of refugees coming to Kilkenny - how are all the services stress tested.
- Knock on affect for Housing Applicants in Kilkenny.
- Rough sleepers in the City.
- Acknowledged contribution of all schools - Department of Education for additional resources and integration of the Ukrainians into school life.

Ms. Deegan responded to the issues raised and advised that the properties being offered are not in the market for acquisition or leasing by the Local Authority. Properties must comply with all Housing Standards and Regulations.

She acknowledged all the interagency work especially those in the education area. Ms. Mulholland updated Members on the various funding schemes available for vacant houses:

- Repair and Leasing Scheme.
- Buy and Renew Scheme.
- Vacant Housing Refurbishment Grant.

Kilkenny County Council is promoting all these schemes but there is very little take up.

Ms. Mulholland advised that all rough sleepers have been offered accommodation. Homeless Action Team (*Interagency Group*) meet every Monday to discuss clients that are homeless. Outreach service is in place and they check in daily to assess the needs of the homeless clients.

(e) (i) *Nuashonrú Straitéise Creative Ireland - Creative Ireland Strategy Update*

Ms. Mary Mulholland gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the Creative Ireland Programme. In her presentation she gave an overview on the following:

- New Strategy for period 2023-2027.
- Actions areas and Priority Objectives for the new Strategy.
- Contents of the new Strategy.
- High level priorities for Local Authorities.
- Review of 2017-2022 Programme - €1/2m invested in Kilkenny.
- Projects Highlights of the 2017-2022 Programme that received national recognition.
- Potential areas of improvement for next programme.
- Process for preparation of new Strategy will involve SPC Members and Plenary Council will approve the Strategy.

(f) (i) *Gairmeacha ag Cill Chainnigh - Careers at Kilkenny*

Ms. Aileen McGrath gave a PowerPoint Presentation on Careers Kilkenny 2022.

In her presentation she gave an overview on the following:

- Review of Careers event in December 2019.
- Event - 30th December, 2022 - Medieval Mile Museum.

- Featured Employers:
 - Financial Services.
 - Life Sciences.
 - Number of potential jobs on offer.
- Promotion of events – commenced in September targeting International and European audiences through social media platforms.
- Radio and paper advertisement.
- Kilkenny County Council will have a stand at the event also.
- Registration Process.

Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick wished the event every success.

Cllr. Maria Dollard complemented LEO on the event and thanked them for facilitating a stand for “Grow Remote”.

(g) (i) ***Tuarascáil Mhíosúil an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh***
Chief Executive’s Monthly Report

Mr. Sean McKeown, Acting Chief Executive presented his Monthly Report.

Cllr. Breathnach raised a query in relation to targets for Housing for All delivery. Ms. Mulholland advised that the overall delivery for 2022 is 183. The target for delivery in 2023 is 149. 136 units are in the pipeline and properties will be purchased to meet the 2023 target.

Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick stated that the report will be taken as read and any questions can be taken up with the Acting chief Executive.

(ii) ***Taisteal Eachtrach - Foreign Travel***

Mr. Tim Butler advised that the CPG have approved a delegation to travel to New York for St. Patrick’s Day in March 2023. The Cathaoirleach, previous Cathaoirleach and one Official will travel. Approval of the full Council is required.

It was proposed by Cllr. Joe Malone, seconded by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach and agreed that two Elected Members and one Official travel to New York for St. Patrick’s Day in March 2023.

(iii) ***Faomhadh - Deimhniú Aitheantais Shibhialta***
Approval - Certificate of Civil Recognition

This item was deferred.

3. *Comhfhreagras - Correspondence*

- (i) **Response from Minister for Social Protection [Notice of Motion 18-2022].**
 Correspondence from Minister for Social Protection in relation to Citizens Information Services was noted. Cllr. John Coonan welcomed the positive response.
- (ii) **Response from Professor Veronica Campbell [Notice of Motion 16-2022].**
 Correspondence from Professor Veronica Campbell, President of SETU in relation to the Technological University of the South East was noted. Mr. Sean McKeown advised that the submission was made to SETU. The SETU will engage with the Elected Members in the New Year on these submissions.

4. *Gnó ar athló ó chruinniúroimhe seo - Business adjourned from a previous Meeting*

None.

5. *Dátaí agus Amanta do chruinnithe a shocrú - Fix Dates & Times of Meetings*

(i) *Schedule of Meetings*

It was proposed by Cllr. Joe Malone, seconded by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness and agreed.

**6. *Plé ar Thuairiscí agus Moltaí ó Choistí an Comhairle*
Consideration of Reports & Recommendations of Committees of the Council**

(i) *Report of SPC 3 Meeting: Housing held on Thursday, 2nd June, 2022*

It was proposed by Cllr. Eamon Aylward, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed that Report of SPC 3 Meeting: Housing held on Thursday, 2nd June, 2022 be taken as read and noted.

(ii) *Report of SPC 3 Special Meeting: Housing held on Friday, 1st July, 2022*

It was proposed by Cllr. Eamon Aylward, seconded by Cllr. Joe Malone and agreed that Report of SPC 3 Special Meeting: Housing held on Friday, 1st July, 2022 be taken as read and noted.

**7. *Gnó Eile romhainn i bhFógra reachtála an Chruinnithe*
Other Business set forth in the Notice convening the Meeting**

None.

8. *Oideachas agus Oiliúint - Education & Training*

(i) Schedule of Conferences circulated with the Agenda was proposed by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Joe Malone and agreed.

9. *Gnótha ag éirí as Miontuairiscí - Matters Arising from Minutes*

None.

10. *Aon Ghnó Eile - Any Other Business*

(i) Cllr. Andrew McGuinness raised an issue in relation to treacherous footpaths following the recent severe weather spell. He requested that extra salt boxes be provided in Housing Estates.

Mr. Tim Butler advised that the recent severe weather was unprecedented, the temperatures were below normal winter temperatures. It is not possible to cater for all areas. There were numerous reports of crashes from across the County. The Council endeavours to inform people in advance. He stated that any amount of salt would not have worked. Consideration will be given to additional measures for the future.

(ii) Cllr. Joe Malone informed the Council that a Health and Wellness night will be held in O'Loughlin's in early January with a whole range of well known speakers. All are welcome to attend.

11. **Fógraí Rúin - Notices of Motion**

19 (22) Cllr. Peter Cleere

Notice of Motion No. 19 (22) was deferred to the January 2023 Plenary Meeting at the request of Cllr. Peter Cleere.

12. **Fógraí i dtaobh Rúin ó Údaráis Áitiúla eile ag lorg tacaíochta ó Chomhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh - Notices of Motion from other local authorities seeking support of Kilkenny County Council**

It was proposed by Cllr. Joe Malone, seconded by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness and agreed by all that the following Notices of Motion numbered 46 (22) and 47 (22) received from other Local Authorities be taken as read and noted:

46 (22) Mayo County Council

“Calling on the Minister for Housing & Local Government to make a fund available to enable the taking in charge of estates across Ireland that have not been taken in charge to address the legacy issue which is denying estates basis access services across our country. If supported, that the motion be circulated to all local authorities for support.”

47 (22) Limerick City & County Council

“That, Limerick City & County Council call on the Minister for Transport to adopt a policy at National level to have bus shelters constructed where there is a bus top and that this Motion, if adopted, be circulated to all local authorities.”

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick wished everyone a very Happy and Safe Christmas.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE