

Kilkenny County Council – Joint Policing Committee

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday, 23rd February, 2015 at 3.30 p.m. in Council Chamber, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny

PRESENT: Cllr. Patrick McKee, Chairman, Cllr. Eamon Aylward, Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, Cllr. Ger Frisby, Cllr. Michael McCarthy, Cllr. Melissa O’Neill, Cllr. Patrick O’Neill, Cllr. Maurice Shortall, Cllr. David Kennedy, Cllr. Pat Dunphy

Superintendent Pdraig Dunne, Kilkenny Garda station

Brian Tyrrell, Senior Executive Officer, Kilkenny County Council
Catherine Cooney, Staff Officer, Kilkenny County Council

Apologies: Cllr. Michael Doyle, Deputy John McGuinness, T.D.

Cllr. Patrick McKee, Chairman - opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance.

Item No. 1: Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 17th December, 2014.

It was:

Proposed by: Cllr. David Kennedy

Seconded by: Cllr. Patrick O’Neill

And Resolved:

“That the minutes as presented to the meeting are hereby adopted.”

Item No. 2: J.P.C. Work Plan 2015

1. Sulkies

Cllr. Patrick McKee advised the meeting that draft Bye Laws have been prepared in relation to the control and regulation of sulkies and the public consultation process will commence shortly. All Members welcomed the preparation of the draft Bye Laws and raised the following concerns and suggestions:

- Introduction of an age limit for drivers of sulkies.
- Impounding of horses.
- Enforcement of Bye Laws when in place.
- Set Up Sub-Committee to deal with this issue.
- Refer draft Bye Laws to An Garda Síochána for consideration and comments.

Superintendent Pdraig Dunne advised the committee of some statistics in relation to the number of horse related incidents in 2014 that the Gardaí responded to and as a result of which people have been arrested and prosecuted. Superintendent Dunne also advised that the Gardaí would welcome the referral of the draft Bye Laws for consideration.

The Committee agreed to establish a sub-committee to deal with this issue consisting of the following Members:

Cllr. Maurice Shortall, Cllr. David Kennedy, Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Patrick O'Neill, Cllr. Breda Gardner, Cllr. Malcolm Noonan, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Cllr. Patrick McKee, Mr. Brian Tyrrell and a Garda Representative.

It was agreed that the sub-committee would look at all issues in relation to the control and regulation of horses and it will be possible to segregate issues in order to advance one while dealing with others.

2. Community Alert

Members expressed their support for the Community Alert Scheme and put some queries to Superintendent Dunne regarding the operation of the Scheme.

In response Superintendent Dunne stated that he was delighted to have the opportunity to discuss the Community Alert Scheme which has been a huge success for the Gardaí as well as local communities. He listed the Community Alert Schemes currently in operation in Kilkenny and informed Members that the Gardaí will give whatever support necessary to any community who wish to set up a Community Alert Scheme in their area.

The Committee agreed that it is the intention of the Joint Policing Committee to go out to the community as part of the work plan. Therefore, it was further agreed that the next Joint Policing Committee meeting will be held in the Parish of Lisdowney.

Mr. Brian Tyrrell stated that he would make contact with the relevant people in Lisdowney to make arrangements and at this meeting he suggested that a presentation be made on the Community Alert Scheme.

3. Review of tourism Information Signage

Mr. Brian Tyrrell informed the meeting that the Gardaí requested that this item be placed on the work plan for the Joint Policing Committee. He agreed to liaise with Failte Ireland to see what feedback they are receiving in relation to information signage and also with Kilkenny Tourism.

4&5. Suicide Prevention and Domestic Violence

Cllr. Patrick McKee stated that the Steering Group decided that Suicide Prevention and Domestic Violence are two issues to be reviewed by the Joint Policing Committee on an ongoing basis.

Members supported the Steering Group's decision and made the following suggestions:

- SafeTalk Training Programme operated by the HSE should be promoted and rolled out to all areas.
- Signage highlighting relevant help line phone numbers should be erected in areas of the City and County.

Mr. Brian Tyrrell suggested that at the next Joint Policing Committee being held in Lisdowney that information on both these issues would be made available to those in attendance.

Cllr. Michael McCarthy suggested that Cllr. Joe Malone would be requested to attend the next Joint Policing in light of his experience in dealing with suicide prevention.

Any Other Business

- Cllr. Ger Frisby raised an issue regarding the availability of a Garda Liaison Officer in Ferrybank. Superintendent Dunne agreed to consult with his colleague Superintendent Aidan Brennan and will have information at the next meeting.
- In the absence of Cllr. Kathleen Funchion, Cllr. David Kennedy on her behalf requested a meeting with Superintendent Dunne regarding anti-social behaviour in Callan. Superintendent Dunne asked that Cllr. Funchion make contact with the Garda Station to arrange this meeting.

The meeting then concluded.