

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 16th February, 2015 at 3.30pm

Chair: Cllr. P. Millea

Cllrs: M.H. Cavanagh, M. Shortall, J. Brennan, A. McGuinness, P. Fitzpatrick, M. McCarthy, M. Doyle, M. Doran, K. Funchion, P. McKee, M. Noonan, E. Aylward, T. Breathnach, F. Doherty, P. Dunphy, G. Frisby, P. Cleere, P. O'Neill, M. O'Neill, B. Gardner, D. Kennedy, J. Malone

Officials: J. Mulholland, J. McCormack, M. Prendiville, P. O'Neill, S. Walton, M. Delahunty, C. McCarthy, K. Hanley, B. Moloney, B. Tyrrell, M. Mullally and A.M Walsh

Apologies: Cllr. D. Fitzgerald

1. Confirmation of Minutes - Dearbhú Miontuairiscí:

- (a) Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday 19th January, 2015.** Proposed by Cllr. P. McKee, Seconded by Cllr. M.H. Cavanagh and agreed "That the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on the 19th January, 2015 as circulated with the agenda be and are hereby approved."
- (b) Minutes of Local Travellers Accommodation Consultative Committee Meeting held on the 29th January, 2015.** Proposed by Cllr. B. Gardner, Seconded by Cllr. J. Malone and agreed "That the minutes of the Local Travellers Accommodation Consultative Committee Meeting held on the 29th January, 2015 as circulated with the agenda be and are hereby approved."
- (c) Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 4 (Housing) Meeting held on the 28th January, 2015.** Proposed by Cllr. A. McGuinness, Seconded by Cllr. P. Cleere and agreed "That the minutes of the Strategic Policy Committee 4 (Housing) Meeting held on the 28th January, 2015 as circulated with the agenda be and are hereby approved."
- (e) Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 3 (Planning and Development, Heritage, Community, Arts and Culture) Meeting held on the 27th January, 2015.** Proposed by Cllr. M. Doyle, Seconded by Cllr. M. Noonan and agreed "That the minutes of the Strategic Policy Committee 3 (Planning and Development, Heritage, Community, Arts and Culture) meeting held on the 27th January, 2015 as circulated with the agenda be and are hereby approved."
- (f) Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 1 (Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism) Meeting held on the 15th December, 2014.** Proposed by Cllr. J. Brennan, Seconded by Cllr. M. Doyle and agreed "That the minutes of the Strategic Policy Committee 1 (Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism) meeting held on the 15th December, 2014 as circulated with the agenda be and are hereby approved."

Cllr. P. Millea took the opportunity to publicly thank all the volunteers especially Civil Defence, Sub Aqua Club, Fire and Rescue Services who have given great service and time in assisting the recovery of missing people from the River Nore over the last few weeks. He extended deepest sympathy to the families and friends of the late Derek Tyrrell, Patrick Langton and Anne Kenny on their tragic loss.

He extended congratulations to Bennettsbridge Hurling Club on winning the All Ireland Junior Hurling Club Championship.

Votes of Sympathy were extended to the following:-

- To Eamon Mahon Water Services Department and Teresa Mahon Finance Department on the death of their mother Mary Mahon.
- To the Andrews Family, Kilkenny City on the death of John Andrews former employee of Kilkenny and Waterford Borough Councils.
- To the Martin Family, Paulstown, Co. Kilkenny on the death of John Martin, retired employee.
- To Nora Breen, Tinneranny, Rosbercon, Co. Kilkenny on the death of her husband Tim Breen.
- To Ray Byrne and Family, Coolnaleen, Glenmore, Co. Kilkenny on the death Willie Maher.
- To James Doherty and Family, Forristalstown, Glenmore, Co. Kilkenny on the death of his mother Nell Doherty.
- To Breda Maher and Family, Oldcourt, Templeourm, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny on the death of her husband Willie Maher.
- To John Maher, Former Fine Gael Councillor, Oldcourt, Templeourm, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny on the death of his brother Willie Maher.
- To Margaret Helen O'Connor, Forristalstown, Glenmore, Co. Kilkenny on the death of her mother Nell Doherty.
- To Brid Fitzpatrick, Glenraha, Mullinavat, Co. Kilkenny on the death of her mother Nell Doherty.
- To John Brennan, Muckalee, Co. Kilkenny on the death of his father Matt Brennan.
- To Catherine Mooney, Side Gate, Moneenroe, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny on the death of her father Patsy Mooney.
- To Ann Ring, Barrack Street, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny on the death of her husband Justin Ring.
- To the McGrath Family, Dungooley, Carrigeen, Via Waterford on the death of Jimmy McGrath.
- To the Ryan Family, Clara, Co. Kilkenny on the death of Johnny Ryan.
- To Jono Reid, Merrydance, Rossenara, Kilmoganny, Co. Kilkenny on the death of his mother Maudie Reid.
- To James Doherty, Forristalstown, Glenmore, Co. Kilkenny on the death of his mother Nell Doherty.

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

(a) Housing and Other Disposal - Tithíocht & Díuscairt Eile

- (i) It was proposed by Cllr. P. McKee, Seconded by Cllr. A. McGuinness and agreed "That, in accordance with the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001, Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of the disposal of a plot of ground at Old Gold Links Road, Kilkenny which measures approx. 0.03 acres to Ms. Patricia King, 13 Haltigan Terrace, Waterford Road, Kilkenny for the sum of €2,500 with the purchaser being responsible for all legal costs, Auctioneer Fees and Land Registry Fees associated with the sale."

(b) Corporate Affairs – Gnóthaí Corparáideacha

(i) Presentation from Butler Gallery

Cllr. P. Millea welcomed Anna O'Sullivan and Barbara Anne Harkin to the Council Chamber.

Ms. O'Sullivan and Ms. Harkin gave a powerpoint presentation to the members. They outlined to the members the current location of the Butler Gallery, work programmes undertaken over the years, their contribution to education of Arts within the County and wider afield.

In their presentation they also updated the members of the proposed new location for the Butler Gallery. This project has been in planning since 2004. In 2007 Evans Home was identified as a suitable site. Funding of €2m has been confirmed by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Agreement has also been reached "in principle" from Failte Ireland to match funding for Butler Gallery as part of Phase 2 of the Medieval Mile Project.

Cllr. Millea thanked both speakers for their contribution and insight into the work undertaken by the Butler Gallery.

Cllr's M. Noonan, B. Gardner, T. Breathnach and A. McGuinness thanked Ms. O'Sullivan and Ms. Harkin for their presentation and for their work in the development of Arts in the City and County.

(ii) Chief Executive's Report

Mr. Mulholland presented his report which had been circulated to members with the agenda. He referred to the following areas:-

- Rates – Bills are being issued in February
- Festival Grants – subject to separate item on the agenda
- Update on Technical University for the South East (TUSE)
- Update on Shared Services – Fire and Library service with Carlow County Council
- Roads Grants – subject to separate item on the agenda
- Environmental Inspections for 2015
- Progress on employment under the Gateway Scheme
- Requested members to complete the Declaration of Interests by the end of February 2015
- Update on Commemoration 2016, Arts Grants 2015 and International Communities in Bloom
- Housing – separate report listed on the agenda

Cllr. Millea thanked Mr. Mulholland for his detailed report on the areas referred to in his update to the members.

Contributions were received on a number of issues from Cllr's P. McKee, M. O'Neill, M.H. Cavanagh, E. Aylward, M. Noonan, P. Dunphy, K. Funchion, B. Gardner, F. Doherty, P. Cleere, P. Fitzpatrick, T. Breathnach, M. Doyle and M. Shortall.

Queries were raised on the following:-

- Regular updates on the progress on the Technological University
Urge the Executive to ensure that Kilkenny is prioritised for 3rd/4th level education/campus in the City, merger is required to achieve university status, keep option open for creative arts course, clarify if Council is making a written submission to Mr. Kelly who was appointed by the Minister to lead a process of engagement.
- Commemoration 2016
Level of funds made available nationally for commemoration 2016 is unacceptable – notification of fund for Kilkenny.

- Gateway Scheme
Number employed in all areas, provision of training to have the people engaged on road works etc., have any gained full-time employment with the local authority.
Requirement to lift the recruitment embargo for local authorities to replace necessary staff.
- Reduction in Road Grants
Clarity required on the use of funds. Cllr. P. Cleere proposed that a letter be sent to the Minister to allocate additional monies in road grants, this was seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzpatrick and agreed.
- Shared Services
Members in general issued their concerns and opposition to the shared library service with Carlow County Council. Clarity was required on impacts for staff numbers, budgets and infrastructure. Rural service is already restricted, concern that the County Librarian post remains unfilled, options to avail of service of volunteers. Book funds very low, need to be increased, loss of this vital service to communities, lose control of service, who has to agree on implementation plan.

Cllr. M.H. Cavanagh requested the meeting to consider Notice of Motion No. 3 (15) as it relates to the library service.

Cllr. P. Millea requested approval of the members to bring this notice of motion forward. Members agreed to this.

At this stage Cllr. M. Noonan proposed "That the Members Kilkenny County Council oppose any plan towards shared library services between the Counties of Carlow and Kilkenny due to the adverse impact it will have on resources, library staffing and the provision of a County Librarian for each County. Kilkenny County Council will work with all stakeholders including the Department of Environment to develop a sustainable funding model that would not downgrade services, achieve required efficiencies and ensure that each affected County has a dedicated County Librarian. This motion recognises the vital economic, social and cultural service that our libraries provide to both urban and rural communities and the positive influence they can have on literacy levels Nationally."

This was seconded by Cllr. M. Shortall. Cllr. Gardner requested that her name be added to the notice of motion. Members agreed to this motion.

Mr. J. Mulholland responded to the issues raised by the members.

In relation to the University for the South East he advised that the local authority is not in a position to seek any commitment from Mr. Kelly. He advised that he has made it quite clear the concerns of the members at his meeting with Mr. Kelly. Mr. Kelly is due to report back to the Minister by the end of March.

Mr. Mulholland advised that Kilkenny County Council has not made any allocation in the Budget 2015 for funds for Commemoration 2016. This will be a matter for discussion during the deliberations on Budget 2016.

Mr. Mulholland advised that there is ongoing recruitment under the Gateway Scheme. The target for recruitment for Kilkenny is 80. A number of participants have already returned to further education. Mr. Delahunty advised that a grant is allocated to the local authority for training and protective clothing. The members were advised that a work force plan was being finalised for the organisation. This plan will be subject to discussions with the unions and staff and will have to be approved by the Department.

Mr. Mulholland advised the meeting that shared services for the library and fire services is a policy of the government and local authorities are required to comply with national policy. He stated that there will be no change to the service, no libraries will close, no reduction in staff numbers, members will still be required to provide a budget as normal for the library service. He emphasised that the service will not be worse off. Government policy is to reform the service and to deliver a more efficient service. He acknowledged that changes may take place at senior level i.e County Librarian. Draft implementation plan needs to be prepared and staff/unions will be consulted.

In relation to embargo on recruitment all service areas have been affected except for the fire service. The housing department is barely able to meet the needs of the service, work force plan will take all these matters into consideration. It will also review the staff profile and the future staff numbers due to retire etc.

Mr. Walton responded to the queries raised on the reduction in road grants and advised that members can decide to set aside funds for Local Improvement Schemes.

(iii) 2016 Commemoration – Nomination of members

Mr. Mulholland advised that a sub-committee was being established for the 2016 Commemoration and that there should be a representative from each party. Following a discussion it was agreed that seven elected members would be on the committee.

The names of Cllr. J. Malone and Cllr. E. Aylward were proposed by Cllr. A. McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. G. Frisby and agreed.

The names of Cllr. M.H. Cavanagh and Cllr. F. Doherty were proposed by Cllr. J. Brennan, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Neill and agreed.

The names of Cllr. D. Kennedy and Cllr. B. Gardner were proposed by Cllr. K. Funchion, seconded by Cllr. M. O'Neill and agreed.

The name of Cllr. T. Breathnach was proposed by Cllr. M. Shortall, seconded by Cllr. T. Breathach and agreed.

Cllr. P. Millea advised that the Chairperson of the committee was to be elected by the committee at their first meeting.

(iv) Agree allocation for Arts and Festival Grants

Mr. J. Mulholland advised that members during their deliberations on budget 2015 agreed that applications would be sought in respect of the various grant allocation for Festival and Arts Grants.

Mr. B. Tyrrell advised that the grant scheme was advertised and the closing date for submissions was the 6th February 2015. 41 applications were received and the budget of €60,000 has been allocated to 30 groups. Details of the applications and recommended grant allocation was circulated to the members.

Contributions were received from Cllr. P. Cleere, M. Noonan, M.H. Cavanagh, M. Shortall, A. McGuinness, T. Breathnach, F. Doherty and P. Millea.

Members thanked the Executive for accommodating as many groups as possible and welcomed the distribution of funds to the entire County. Members asked that a more strategic approach be taken with key events such as St. Patrick's Day and Christmas

markets and discussions should take place in relation to this at SPC level. A number of members referred to the allocation given to the Municipal Districts and if members wished that money from this allocation could also be given for these events.

Mr. B. Tyrrell advised that the period for making applications was short due to the timing of such events early in the year. It is possible that some allocations will not be taken up and any available funds will be re-allocated.

Mr. Tyrrell suggested that an event be arranged to present the funds to the various groups.

Cllr. Millea agreed to this subject to members approval. All members agreed.

(c) Roads - Bóithre

(i) Regional and Local Road Allocations 2015

Mr. S. Walton referred to his report circulated to the members. He advised that the overall roads allocation for 2015 is €8.876m.

Meetings will be arranged at Municipal District level to discuss the Road Work Scheme for 2015. The Road Work Scheme will come back for final adoption by the members at the March meeting.

Details of Circular RW 2/2015 –Regional and Local Road Grant Allocation 2015 was issued to the members for their information and details of the total allocation of €8,876,788 was also circulated.

Contributions were received from Cllr's E. Aylward, P. Dunphy, K. Funchion, and B. Gardner in relation to low cost safety improvement works, road safety in housing estates and reduced cost of tar.

Mr. Walton responded to the issues raised and advised that tenders are received three times a year for road materials. He stated that progress has been made with low cost safety schemes but is it a matter of funding to progress the remaining projects on the list.

(ii) Speed Limit Review 2013

Mr. Walton referred to his report dated 12th February, 2015 circulated to members. He advised that draft guidelines have been issued by the Minister. Final document is expected in May 2015. It is recommended that the SPC 2 will undertake a comprehensive review of the draft guidelines and make a submission to the Minister.

The main provisions of the draft guidelines are listed in the report circulated. As part of the national review of speed limits, the existing 80kph speed limit on local roads will be replaced with new rural speed limit signs.

Contributions were received from Cllr's B. Gardner, A. McGuinness, P. McKee, E. Aylward and M.H Cavanagh.

Issues raised by members were as follows:-

- Timeframe for a county wide speed limit review
- Discussion at Municipal level
- Provision of ramps, safety signs in housing development – apply to Department for funds
- Provision of appropriate signage much more effective
- Detection of speeding offence and responsibility of drivers

Mr. Walton responded and advised that speed limit review can commence for the County, review needs to be advertised for public consultations and we must liaise with the Gardai. The implementation of revised changes requires a substantial financial investment to put them into effect. It will be a matter for members to provide/set aside the funds from the Roads budget. Enforcement of speed limits is also required.

(d) Finance – Airgeadais

(i) Draft Development Contribution Scheme

Mr. Mulholland advised that the Draft Scheme has been circulated to members and has also been discussed at a recent SPC meeting. Copy of presentation given at the SPC meeting was also circulated to all members in advance of this meeting.

Contributions were made by Cllr's P. Cleere, M.H. Cavanagh and P. Dunphy. Members requested that the following amendments be made to the draft scheme before it is put on public display.

- Amend the band 201m² to 250m² in rural house to 201m² to 275m².
- Include additional band from 276m² to 300m² at a rate of €22.50.
- Leave the status quo on agricultural development i.e exemption of 500m² on each application.
- Community facility development be granted 100% reduction for not-for-profit organisations e.g Communities, sports groups etc.

Mr. Mulholland stated that the approval of the draft scheme is a matter for the members and changes to the scheme is at the discretion of members.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Cleere, seconded by Cllr. P. Dunphy and agreed "That the draft development contribution scheme as amended be approved to go on public display as prepared in accordance with Section 48 as amended of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000-2013."

(e) Finance - Airgeadais

(i) Housing Report

Mr. J. McCormack referred members to the detailed Housing report circulated to the members with the agenda. He advised members that he was only going to highlight the major issues affecting housing at this time.

Mr. McCormack advised members that there are serious issues in the area of homelessness. There is a serious lack of supply in the housing market and there is no evidence of any new supply being constructed.

Since the 1st January, 2015 there has been 123 presentations to the homeless service. The local authority are now relying on the provision of accommodation in B&B's and hotels. There is significant pressure in Kilkenny City.

Contributions were made by Cllr's M. Shortall, P. Dunphy, M. O'Neill, K. Funchion, J. Brennan, D. Kennedy, M. Noonan, P. Cleere and T. Breathnach.

The main issues/queries raised by members were as follows:-

- Engagement with Focus Ireland and other Voluntary Housing Agencies
- Decrease in number on approved housing lists for the smaller towns
- Review of tenancy agreements for rural houses in relation to control of dogs and other animals
- New applications for 2015 for Housing Adaptation Grant
- Review of vacant units in private developments particularly in the Ferrybank area, engage with owners to bring these units onto the market for accommodation
- Has Council a land bank for housing purposes
- Availability of funds to incentivise private owners to improve houses to make them suitable for renting
- Living above the shop scheme, Funds to renovate derelict property
- Update on new units for St. Catherine's Halting Site
- Update on Horse Project
- Taking in Charge of Private Developments

Members paid tribute to the Housing staff dealing with crisis situation on an on-going basis.

Mr. J. McCormack responded to members queries. He advised that the full housing report was discussed in detail at the SPC meeting. The issue in relation to non-availability of service with Focus Ireland will be raised with them.

In relation to the Housing Adaptation Grant, it is unlikely that any new applications will be accepted during 2015 as the commitments made on 2014 will fully utilise the 2015 Budget. He gave details on the number of units in the HAP/RAS scheme and that the assessment of needs does not include transfer applications.

The Department is briefed on a regular basis in relation to the homeless situation in Kilkenny. Monies will be provided in the capital programme for new builds but this will take approx. 18 months to deliver the new units.

The Housing Department is available to discuss with any owner who wishes to make their property available for letting and advise what grants/incentives are available. There is on-going engagement with NARPS in relation to distressed units with a view to releasing them for social housing.

Inspections are carried out on a regular basis on private rented property.

Mr. McCormack updated the members on the proposed plans for new housing at Wetlands, and the Horse project in the Eastern Environs.

(f) Environment – Timpeallacht

(i) Draft Litter Management Plan

Mr. P. O'Neill advised that a draft Litter Management Plan has been prepared in accordance with the legislation.

Ms. Bernadette Moloney gave a powerpoint presentation on the requirement to review the Litter Management Plan every three years. The public consultation process will run during February and March. Submissions will be reviewed and the draft plan may be amended. It is expected that the final plan will be presented to the Council in April/May 2015.

In her presentation she highlighted the main headings of the Draft Plan and the policy objectives to be contained in the plan. A copy of her presentation was circulated to members for their information.

Further discussion on the draft plan will be held at each Municipal District Meetings.

Cllr. P. Millea thanked Ms. Moloney for her presentation.

(f) **Economic Development – Comhfhreagras Práinneach**

(i) LECP (Local Economic Community Plan) Update

Mr. McCormack advised that the economic plan is being drafted in accordance with “Putting People 1st Agenda”. Public consultation is required on the draft and arrangements will be made for the public’s input into the plan. The plan will identify/prioritise areas for funding. It is expected that the draft plan will be placed before the members in September/October 2015 for approval.

3. **Urgent Correspondence - Comhfhreagras Práinneach**

None.

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

None.

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

- (i) Agree dates for receptions for Mr. Phil Hogan and Ms. Ann Phelan T.D – Cllr. P. Millea advised that the CPG has recommended the following dates:-
- 6th March, 2015 – Special Meeting for reception for Mr. Phil Hogan – EU Commissioner
 - 23rd March, 2015 – Reception for Deputy Ann Phelan at 5.30pm

It was proposed by Cllr. G. Frisby, seconded by Cllr. M. O’Neill and agreed.

- (ii) Schedule of meetings from February - March 2015. Proposed by Cllr. G. Frisby, seconded by Cllr. M. O’Neill and agreed.

- (iii) Deputations from Kilkenny Tourism

Mr. Mulholland advised that a representative from IDA will attend the March meeting and give a presentation.

Cllr. P. Millea requested approval of the members to receive the IDA at 2.30pm and members agreed to this.

Cllr. Millea further advised that a deputation from Kilkenny Tourism will also be received at the March meeting. This will be facilitated depending on the agenda.

6. Consideration of Reports and Recommendations of Committees of the Council - Plé ar Thuairiscí agus Moltaí ó Choistí an Comhairle:

- (i) Chairperson's Report on SPC 4 – (Housing) held on the 28th January, 2015. Proposed by Cllr. A. McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. G. Frisby and agreed "that the Chairperson's Report on the SPC 4 meeting held on the 28th January, 2015 be noted and approved."

Cllr. M. Shortall asked that consideration be given to the provision of stoves in all social houses.

- (ii) Chairperson's Report on SPC 3 - (Planning and Development, heritage, Community, Arts and Culture) held on the 27th January, 2015. Proposed by Cllr. J. Brennan, seconded by Cllr. D. Kennedy and agreed "that the Chairperson's Report on the SPC 3 meeting held on the 27th January, 2015 be noted and approved."
- (iii) Chairperson's Report on SPC 1 - (Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism) meeting held on the 15th December, 2014. It was proposed by Cllr. P. McKee, seconded by Cllr. M. Doyle and agreed "that the Chairperson's Report on SPC 1 meeting held on the 15th December, 2014 be noted and approved."
- (iv) Chairperson's Report on SPC 2 - (Infrastructure, Transportation, Fire and Emergency Services) held on the 12th December, 2014. It was proposed by Cllr. E. Aylward, seconded by Cllr. J. Brennan and agreed "that the Chairperson's Report on SPC 2 meeting held on the 12th December, 2014 be noted and approved."
- (v) Chairperson's Report on SPC 5 – (Environmental Protection, Water Services and Energy) meeting held on the 11th December, 2014. It was proposed by Cllr. M. Shortall, seconded by Cllr. G. Frisby and agreed "that the Chairperson's Report on SPC 5 meeting held on the 11th December, 2014 be noted and approved."

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

None.

8. **Education & Training – Oideachas agus Oiliúint**

(ii) Conferences – Request for approval to attend as per circulated list.

Proposed by Cllr. G. Frisby, seconded by Cllr. J. Brennan and agreed.

(ii) Summary proceedings at Conferences –

Councillor	Date of Conference	Title of Conference
F. Doherty	28 th November 2014	Maximising EU Funding Opportunities 2014 - 2020
M. Doran	28 th – 29 th November 2014	Funding Public Services – General Taxation or What?
B. Gardner	12 th – 13 th December 2014	Protected Disclosures Act, 2014
E. Aylward	28 th – 29 th November 2014	Effects of Budget 2015
M.H. Cavanagh	5 th – 6 th December 2014	Alignment of Local Government and Local Development

Proposed by Cllr. G. Frisby, seconded by Cllr. J. Brennan and agreed.

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

None.

10. Any Other Business - Aon Ghnó Eile

Cllr. M. O'Neill requested consideration be given to receiving a presentation from "Lifeline". Cllr. P. Millea advised that their letter has been received and that there is a waiting list for presentations to the Council and they will be facilitated in due course.

11. Notices of Motion - Fógraí Rúin:

1 (15) – Cllr. Fidelis Doherty – 12th January, 2015

It was proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, seconded and agreed "That Kilkenny County Council seek to ensure that the National Flag of Ireland, the tricolour, when displayed in public places and locations be kept in good condition at all times. This national emblem is part of the country's identity, and a significant symbol of Ireland and should be in its best display at all times, and, if the flag on display is in disrepair, it should be replaced."

2 (15) - Cllr. K. Funchion, D. Kennedy and M. O'Neill – 12th January, 2015

It was proposed by Cllr. K. Funchion, seconded by Cllr. D. Kennedy and agreed "That This Council calls on the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Heather Humphreys to recognise and act on her responsibility as Heritage Minister to protect and preserve the historic Moore Street area of Dublin City, including the terrace 10-25 Moore Street which was occupied by the Volunteers at the end of Easter Week 1916 and where the final meeting of the Provisional Government of the Irish Republic took place. This requires the preservation not only of the National Monument 14-17 Moore Street but the protection of the terrace and of the integrity of the surrounding area which has been described as 'the lanes of history' and which has the potential to be sensitively developed as an historic quarter of our capital city, enhancing the living market trading tradition and bringing to life the area's central role in the 1916 Rising."

Cllr. K. Funchion requested that the notice of motion be taken as read and this was agreed by all members.

3 (15) - Cllr's . M. Noonan, M. Shortall, E. Aylward, M. Doyle, K. Funchion, D. Kennedy, M. O'Neill, P. Fitzpatrick, P. McKee, T. Breathnach, D. Fitzgerald and F. Doherty – 28th January, 2015 & 5th February, 2015

This was discussed at Item 2 (b) "That the Members Kilkenny County Council oppose any plan towards shared library services between the Counties of Carlow

and Kilkenny due to the adverse impact it will have on resources, library staffing and the provision of a County Librarian for each County. Kilkenny County Council will work with all stakeholders including the Department of Environment to develop a sustainable funding model that would not downgrade services, achieve required efficiencies and ensure that each affected County has a dedicated County Librarian. This motion recognises the vital economic, social and cultural service that our libraries provide to both urban and rural communities and the positive influence they can have on literacy levels Nationally."

4 (15) – Cllr. Malcolm Noonan – 28th January, 2015

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Noonan, seconded by Cllr. M. O'Neill and agreed "That Kilkenny County Council would pursue alternative proposals to achieve the objective of provision of a new County Library recognising that the approved project at John St may not be realised due to funding challenges. Such alternatives would include a sympathetic, design led intervention on the Carnegie Library (a protected structure) at John's Quay and extending the floorspace at the Loughboy Library by leasing the vacant unit beside the Library to expand services to the community there."

Cllr. M. Noonan requested members to accept the motion as read. This was agreed by all members.

5 (15) – Cllr. Andrew McGuinness – 2nd February, 2015

It was proposed by Cllr. A. McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. J. Malone and agreed "That Kilkenny County Council initiates the making of a bye law under the Control of Horses Act 1996 that prohibits the racing of animals and animal drawn vehicles on public roads in County Kilkenny."

Cllr. A. McGuinness requested that the process to amend the bye law commence.

Cllr. T. Breathnach asked if amenity areas could also be included.

Mr. O'Neill advised that the draft bye law would be prepared for public consultation, and that it would need to be clear what a "public road" is. Including amenity areas would not be very defined in the legislation.

6 (15) - Cllr. Andrew McGuinness – 5th February, 2015

It was proposed by Cllr. A. McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. M.H Cavanagh "That Kilkenny County Council adopts a policy to maximise re-homing of dogs by the new Service Provider and that animal welfare be prioritised. That Kilkenny County Council will monitor all of the activity of the pound and that regular reports be presented to the elected members for analysis and that a cross-representational consultative committee be set up during the transition phase from the ISPCA to the new Service Provider to assist the Local Authority in its aim to maximise re-homing."

Contributions were received from Cllr's A. McGuinness, M.H Cavanagh, K. Funchion, B. Gardner, E. Aylward and M. Noonan in relation to this notice of motion. A number of members requested that "no kill policy" be included in the notice. Queries were raised in relation to the tender for the provision of the dog warden service. Members supported the establishment of a cross-representative consultative committee.

Mr. Mulholland advised members that a tender process is in train. Fair procedure is required and he will not be discussing the process at this time.

Mr. P. O'Neill advised that the consultative committee will assist the local authority in their policy relating to animal welfare and the re-homing of dogs. He outlined the statistics for the period 1st June 2014 to 31st January 2015. 130 dogs surrendered, 90 of which were re-homed, 25 re-claimed and 10 (7.8%) were put to sleep. The majority of dogs are re-homed. Members should be aware that there is a legal obligation to the farming communities in relation to sheep worrying by dogs.

Mr. O'Neill suggested that the consultative committee be made up of three Elected Members, County Veterinary Officer, two Animal Welfare nominees to be nominated by the Dog Trust of Ireland, two IFA nominees and a Senior Local Authority official.

Members requested that four Elected Members sit on the committee in order to have cross party representation and this was agreed. Members agreed to the notice of motion and the make-up of the consultative committee. It was agreed that the elected members nominations would be as follows:-

- One nominee from Fine Gael
- One nominee from Fianna Fail
- Two nominees from within Labour, Sinn Fein, Green Party and Independent

It was agreed that the names of the four nominees would be submitted to the Meetings Administrator.

Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr's F. Doherty, D. Kennedy, A. McGuinness and M. Noonan be nominated onto the committee.

7 (15) – Cllr. Ger Frisby – 6th February, 2015

It was proposed by Ger Frisby, seconded by Cllr. P. Millea and agreed "That Kilkenny County Council write to Irish Water requesting that the residents of Ferrybank and Slieverue have their original water supply from Clonassey reinstated, if the problem with limescale in their current supply is not addressed and treated at source."

8 (15) – Cllr. Tomas Breathnach and Cllr. Maurice Shortall – 8th February, 2015

It was proposed by Cllr. T. Breathnach, seconded by Cllr. M. Shortall and agreed "that Kilkenny County Council should write to the Minister for Agriculture to urge the appointment of additional Teagasc Advisors to the Waterford Kilkenny Advisory Region to bring the minimum number to 20 so as to have a more realistic number of advisors per farmer client, to help to achieve more sustainable farms within the region and to achieve the strategic objectives set out for Harvest 2020 and beyond."

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

1 (15) - Tipperary County Council – 19th December, 2014

It was proposed by Cllr. M.H Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. E. Aylward that notice of motion "That Tipperary County Council support the upcoming Referendum on marriage equality to be held in the Spring of 2015" be noted as read.

2 (15) - Carlow County Council – 5th January, 2015

It was proposed by Cllr. M.H. Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. E. Aylward that notice of motion "That Carlow County Council calls on the Minister for Justice and Equality to bring forward much needed legislation in order to regulate shops that give Cash for Gold" be noted as read.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____