

MINUTES OF JUNE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 19TH JUNE, 2017 AT 3.00 P.M.

Chair: David Fitzgerald

Cllrs: M. H. Cavanagh, M. Shortall, J. Brennan, J. Malone, M. McCarthy, E. Aylward, T. Breathnach, P. Dunphy, G. Frisby, F. Doherty, A. McGuinness, B. Gardner, S. Tyrrell, D. Kennedy, M. Doyle, P. Millea, P. Cleere, D. Fitzgerald, M. O' Neill, P. O' Neill, M. Noonan and P. Fitzpatrick

Officials: Colette Byrne, Simon Walton, Martin Prendiville, Tim Butler, Mary Mulholland, Fiona Deegan, Michael Delahunty, Bríd Hynes, Tony Lauhoff, Kevin Hanley & Anne Maria Walsh

Apologies: P. McKee

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

(a) **Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday 15th May, 2017**

Proposed by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, seconded by Cllr. Melissa O'Neill and agreed:

"That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday 15th May, 2017 as circulated with the agenda be and are hereby approved".

(b) **Minutes of SPC 2 - Infrastructure Policy, Transportation, Fire & Emergency Services held on Friday, 3rd March, 2017.**

Proposed by Cllr. Matt Doran, seconded by Cllr. Michael Doyle and agreed:

"That the Minutes of SPC 2 Infrastructure Policy, Transportation, Fire & Emergency Services held on Friday 3rd March, 2017 as circulated with the agenda be and are hereby approved".

Cllr. David Fitzgerald congratulated the following:

- All who took part in the All Ireland Hurling Feile last weekend.
- Dicksboro and James Stephens Hurling/Camogie Teams on winning their divisions in the National Finals.
- Springview B&B, Urlingford on the Best B&B National Award.
- Kilkenny City Tag Rugby - All Ireland Winners.
- Kilkenny Musical Society on receiving awards for Best Director and Best Male Singer for their production of "Parade".

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

- Patricia Dwan, Finance on the death of her mother Eily Burke.
- Mary Byrne & Family on the death of her husband Denis Byrne [former Town Sergeant].
- John Burke [member of SPC 3] on the death of his mother Mary Burke.
- Brenda Kavanagh on the death of John Kavanagh, Freshford.
- Leahy Family on the death of George Leahy.
- Family & Friends of those involved in Grenfell Tower tragedy.

Cllr. David Fitzgerald reminded the members that the closing date for property owners to appeal the rate valuation is today.

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 & Other Disposal – Tithíocht & Díuscairt Eile**

- (i) It was proposed by Cllr. Michael McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Sean Tyrrell 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 its interest in a plot of ground at Ballyroe, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny to Ken Crosby, Ballyroe, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny for the sum of €3,360.00 with each party being responsible for their own legal costs associated with the sale. Plot measures 0.29 acres.”

(b) **Planning – Pleanail**

- (i) ***Taking in Charge of Estates: 5 House Development at Ballygearda, Hugginstown, Co. Kilkenny***

It was proposed by Cllr. Eamon Aylward, seconded by Cllr. Fidelis Doherty and agreed:

“That the County Council of the County of 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 Public Notice and listed below, to be a Public Road”. Estate:- 5 House Development at Ballygearda, Hugginstown, Co. Kilkenny.

- (ii) ***Taking in Charge of Estates: 10 House Development at Cooleigh, Carrigeen, Co. Kilkenny***

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Dunphy, seconded by Cllr. Eamon Aylward and agreed:

“That the County Council of the County of 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 Public Notice and listed below, to be a Public Road”. Estate:- 10 House Development at Cooleigh, Carrigeen, Co. Kilkenny.

- (iii) ***Taking in Charge of Estates: The Steeples, Gowran, Co. Kilkenny***

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. Peter Cleere and agreed:

“We the members of Kilkenny County Council approve the initiation of proceedings for the taking in charge of the following development in accordance with 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”- TC149- The Steeples, Gowran, Co. Kilkenny.

(c) **Environment - Comhshaol**

(i) **Graveyard Grants 2017 Phase II**

Ms. Mulholland referred to report circulated and advised that a further round of grants for seven graveyards amounting to €3,500 is recommended for approval.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Noonan, Shortall & O'Neill in relation to the following:

- Use of weed killers
- Heritage Officer to liaise with local committees.
- Consideration to planting of wild meadows and proper signage.

It was proposed by Cllr. Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. McCarthy and agreed "That Kilkenny County Council approves the payment of Graveyard Grants 2017 (Round 2) in accordance with the list circulated to the Members."

(d) **Roads - Bóithre**

(i) **Pilot Community Flood Resilience Projects [Presentation].**

Mr. Simon Walton referred to Report circulated with the Agenda and advised that the proposed minor works will be funded by the OPW for these pilot projects. The Local Authority will be required to fund the annual maintenance/operating cost for the flood warning/alert system at an approximate cost of €40,000. It is the intention of the Local Authority to continue to seek to have Flood Relief Schemes advanced under the Major Capital Schemes.

Mr. Tony Lauhoff, Senior Engineer gave a powerpoint presentation. He presented an overview of the Pilot Scheme, assessment of the flood extents, number of properties involved and surveys undertaken, recommended works and costs of each Scheme and estimated costs for a flood warning system.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. M. Doyle, P. Cleere, D. Kennedy, B. Gardner, M. Noonan, P. Dunphy & T. Breathnach.

Members welcomed the proposed works under the Pilot Community Flood Resilience Projects for Thomastown & Graiguenamanagh and requested that the major works would also be undertaken under the major Capital Funding Schemes.

The issues raised by members related to the following:

- Seek funding on the ongoing maintenance costs from OPW and what is included in these costs.
- Consider other low cost measures for flood relief e.g. flood catchment projects.
- Delays in progressing works.
- Clarify position with Inistioge.

Mr. Tony Lauhoff & Mr. Simon Walton responded to the issues raised and advised that they will write to OPW seeking the payment of the maintenance costs.

(e) **Community & Culture - Pobol Cultúr**

(i) **Part 8 Fairgreen, Callan, Co. Kilkenny**

Mr. Tim Butler advised the members that issues raised in the public submissions have been considered and amendments have been made to the plans that were advertised in relation to traffic management and demountable bollards. The Chief Executive is recommending that the proposed Scheme as amended be progressed.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Doran, Tyrrell, Fitzgerald and Doherty on the proposed development.

It was proposed by Cllr. Doran, seconded by Cllr. Tyrrell and agreed:

“We the members of Kilkenny County Council approve the proposed Regeneration Project at Fairgreen, Callan, Co, Kilkenny as outlined in report dated 12th June, 2017 in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2015 and the provisions of Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2015”.

(ii) **Framework For Town Centre Renewal**

Mr. Michael Delahunty gave a powerpoint presentation on the proposed Framework for Town Centre Renewal. In his presentation he gave an overview on the following:

- Background information
- Key elements of the Framework
- Next steps for the Council.

Details were given in relation to:

- Retail Consultative Forum
- Establishment of a Working Group/Town Centre Management Partnership.
- Stakeholder Engagement & Health Check.
- Key Qualities of a Healthy Vibrant Town Centre.
- Key attributes of a successful town.
- Preparation of a Town Centre Plan and interventions that could be included.

He outlined the next steps for Kilkenny County Council and proposed that Callan and Inistioge would be pilot towns. Following on from this, other towns and villages will be identified for preparation of plans.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Fitzgerald, O'Neill, Doherty, Shortall, Gardner, Noonan, Tyrrell and Breathnach in relation to the following:

- Who is the Lead Agency?
- Town Teams – socially inclusive.
- Community Workshops – avail of expertise from all sources.
- Funding for development of Town Planning.
- Regeneration/Revitalising Town Centres.

Mr. Delahunty responded to the queries raised by members. He advised that all Agencies, PPN's etc. will be involved in developing town plans and the funding sources will be identified to assist in regeneration and improving Town Centres.

(f) **Housing - Tithíocht**

(i) **Pre Part 8 Housing Donaguile Castlecomer**

Mr. Simon Walton advised that Kilkenny County Council intends to proceed with a Part 8 application for houses on Council land at Donaguile, Castlecomer. It is proposed to construct 33 houses. Ms. Eimear Cody gave an overview of the proposed developments in a powerpoint presentation. She outlined the following in the presentation:

- Current demand for Housing in Castlecomer.
- Location of Site.
- Overview of house types and layout of the Scheme.

She advised that Stage 1 approval has been received from the Department. The Part 8 proposal will go to statutory consultation in the next few weeks.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Shortall, Brennan, Fitzpatrick, Tyrrell, Kennedy, Malone, O'Neill & Fitzgerald in relation to the following:

- Traffic management plan for that area in Castlecomer.
- Sufficient periods for Public Consultation – arrange venue in Castlecomer.
- Welcomed development and proposed mix of 1 and 2 bed units.
- Provision of serviced sites across the County.
- Status on proposed infrastructure in Western Environs – LIHAF.

It was proposed by Cllr. Shortall, seconded by Cllr. Fitzpatrick and agreed that the Council proceed to advertise Part 8 proposal.

Cllr. D. Fitzgerald advised members that he proposes to set up a cross party task force on Housing. It was agreed to consider this at the proposed Housing Workshop In-Committee.

Cllr. P. Cleere proposed that the date of the Workshop In-Committee be Wednesday, 28th June, 2017 at 4.00 p.m. this was seconded by Cllr. A. McGuinness and agreed.

(g) **Economic Development - Forbairt Eacnamaíochta**

(i) **Invest Kilkenny**

Ms. Fiona Deegan, LEO gave a powerpoint presentation of the role of “Invest Kilkenny” and the Economic Development Team. She advised that the Economic Development Team has re-developed the website, redesigned promotional material and have produced 5 videos in order to attract businesses to Kilkenny. Members were shown 2 of the videos.

Members welcomed the new material and particularly the videos which will be of great assistance in publicising Kilkenny.

Queries arose from Cllrs. Fitzgerald, Gardner, Shortall and Noonan in relation to promoting Kilkenny, housing shortages for new people and attracting EU funding.

Ms. Colette Byrne and Ms. Fiona Deegan responded to the queries and advised that Kilkenny County Council’s liaises with IDA, Enterprise Ireland and Connect Ireland on an ongoing basis. Every effort is being made to progress infrastructure in the Western Environs to enable housing construction to commence. The main issues for the Council is seeking businesses to locate in the Abbey Creative Quarter and the delivery of housing units.

Consideration is being given to resourcing an EU Unit at Regional Level where specialist experience can be acquired.

(h) **Finance - Airgeadas**

(i) Three Year Capital Programme [*Report Attached*].

Mr. Martin Prendiville gave a powerpoint presentation to the members. In his presentation he gave a detailed overview on the following:

- Requirement to prepare a Three Year Capital Programme.
- Estimated Expenditure in the Draft Capital Programme.
- Current Financial Position.
- Funding sources identified and secured
- Details of projects in each service area.

He advised members that the full details is included in the Report circulated to members with the Agenda.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Fitzgerald, Doherty, Aylward, Noonan, Gardner, Breathnach, McGuinness, Tyrell and Cleere.

As the time of the meeting was approaching 6.00 p.m. it was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. M. O'Neill that Standing Orders be suspended to complete this item.

The issues raised by members related to:

- N76 Road Realignment - Landscaping Budget
- N25 Waterford/New Ross Road Upgrade
- Woodstock - Sub-Committee to meet.
- Estimated income from Development Levies.
- Increase in Community & Cultural Facilities Grant.
- Greenway in South Kilkenny.
- Western Environs - Flood Risk Assessment.
- Location of New City Library and Evans Home Development.
- Restoration of Greensbridge.
- Redevelopment of City Hall.
- Concerns on link from Bateman Quay to new Bridge.
- Travellers Horse Project.
- IT - open source software.
- Options for Bridging Finance.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Cleere, seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzpatrick and agreed:

“We the members of Kilkenny County Council approve from the Three Year Capital Programme of Kilkenny County Council for the period 2017 - 2019 be adopted”.

Cllr. Noonan requested that his reservation on the proposed Link Road from Bateman Quay to the new Bridge be noted.

That concluded the business of the meeting.