



MINUTES OF PLENARY MEETING OF KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD
ON MONDAY, 17 FEBRUARY, 2025 AT 3.00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY
HALL & VIA MS TEAMS

ATTENDANCE

Chair: Cllr. Michael McCarthy.

Elected Members: *Council Chamber*

Cllrs. Tomás Breathnach, Jenny Catt Slattery, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, John Coonan, Deirdre Cullen, Fidelis Doherty, Michael Doyle, Patrick Dunphy, David Fitzgerald, Pat Fitzpatrick, Ger Frisby, Joe Lyons, Joe Malone, Andrew McGuinness, Eugene McGuinness & Seán Ó hArgáin.

MS Teams

Cllrs. Brian Cleere, Michael Delaney, Maria Dollard & Joe Sheridan.

Officials: *Council Chamber*

Lar Power, Tim Butler, Mary Mulholland, Fiona Deegan, Ian Gardner, Margo Hayes, Aileen McGrath & Catherine Cooney, & Catherine Callaghan, TD.

MS Teams

Jan McIntyre & Natasha Newsome Drennan, TD.

Apologies: Cllrs. John Brennan, Maurice Shortall & Stephanie Doheny.

1. Dearbhú Miontuairiscí - Confirmation of Minutes

(i) **Miontuairiscí ar Chruinniú Buiséid Reachtúil - Minutes of Plenary Meeting**

Proposed by Cllr. Seán Ó hArgáin, seconded by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness and agreed:

“That Minutes of Plenary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday January 20th, 2025, as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved”.

Fógraí - Announcements

Vótaí Comhbhrón - Votes of Sympathy

Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Michael McCarthy extended vote of sympathy to the following:

- Graham Clarke, Piltown Area Office on the death of his mother Cora Clarke, Dublin.
- Niall O'Callaghan, Piltown Area Office on the death of his father Patrick Joseph O'Callaghan, Fedamore, Limerick.
- Family of Gerald (*Smiler*) O'Shea, St. Anne's Terrace, Mooncoin.
- Bernedatte Moloney, Climate Action on the death of her mother Maeve Moloney, Kiltoom, Athlone.
- John Powell, Caretaker on the death of his father Willam (Willie) Powell, Kilkenny.
- Family of the late James Coady Rahanna, Borris, Co Carlow.
- Family of the late Michael O'Brien (*Pensioner*).
- Family of the late Cllr. Anthony Waldron of Ballintobber, Roscommon.
- Family of Jockey Michael O'Sullivan of Lombardstown, Co. Cork following a tragic accident.
- Family of the late Phylliss Forristal, Glenmore.
- Family of the late Mary Grennan, Tullogher.
- Family of the late Christina Bartlett, Glenmore.
- Family of the late Paddy Doherty, Glenmore.
- Family of the late Billy and Peter Heffernan, Glenmore.

2. (a) *Tithíocht & Díuscairt Eile - Housing & Other Disposal*

- (i) It was proposed by Cllr Eugene McGuinness, seconded by Cllr John Coonan 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 small plot of land at 1 Breaghagh Court, Kennyswell Road, Kilkenny (as identified on the attached map) to Christine and Neil Kavanagh, 1 Breaghagh Court, Kennyswell Road, Kilkenny for the nominal sum of €10 (ten euro) with each party being responsible for their own legal costs associated with the sale. Site area measures 9m². The Consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required.”

- (ii) It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness seconded by Cllr. Seán ÓhArgáin 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 Property at Garden Row, Kilkenny, as identified on the attached map, by way of Lease to Kilkenny Employment for Youth Limited (KEY) for a term of 5 years at a rent of €7,500 per annum for years 1, 2 and 3 with an increase to €9,975 per annum for Years 4 and 5.”

- (iii) It was proposed by Cllr Deirdre Cullen, seconded by Cllr Joe Lyons 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 strip of land at Annamult, Bennettsbridge, Co. Kilkenny (as identified on the attached map) to Richard Butler, Knock, Danesfort, Co. Kilkenny for the nominal sum of €10 (ten euro) with both parties being responsible for their own legal costs associated with the sale. Site area measures 1200 m² (0.12 ha). The Consent of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is not required.”

(b) **Pleanail - Planning**

- (i) ***Aighneachtaí maidir le hAthrú Beartaithe 3 ar an bPlean Forbartha Cathrach agus Contae 2021***

Submissions to Proposed Variation 3 to City & County Development Plan 2021

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed:

“To clarify the settlement hierarchy in relation to small settlements in the City and County Development Plan 2021 (CCDP). Specifically, the changes are as follows:

- *to change the zoning of an area of green space, covering approx. 0.18 hectares (0.45 acres), at Loughboy in Kilkenny City from ‘Open Space’ to ‘Existing Residential’, in order to accommodate housing suitable for older persons / persons with disabilities on the lands highlighted (See Figure 1 of CE’s Report).*

“We, the Members of Kilkenny County Council, having considered the proposal to make Variation 3 to the Kilkenny City & County Development Plan 2021 - 2027 under Section 13 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended, and having considered the Chief Executive’s Report as circulated on the 11th February 2025, prepared in accordance with Section 13 (4) of the above Acts, outlining all submissions received on this proposal, the recommendations as set out in the Chief Executive’s report, and with our decision made at a meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on the 17th February 2025, do hereby resolve to vary the current Kilkenny City & County Development Plan in accordance with Proposed Variation 3.”

(ii) **Ag Glacadh i gCúram Taking in Charge [TIC 177]
Weir View Gardens, Castlecomer Road**

It was proposed by Cllr. Seán Ó hArgáin, seconded by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness and resolved 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 Planning & Development Act 2010, hereby declares the road listed in the Public Notice and listed below, to be a Public Road.”

(c) **Bóithre - Roads**

(i) **Cuid 85: Naisc Inbhuanaithe Ferrybank
Section 85: Sustainable Links Ferrybank (Belmont Road & Abbey Road)**

Following a comprehensive presentation by David O’Brien, Senior Executive Engineer with the Road Section.

It was proposed by Cllr. Ger Frisby, seconded by Cllr. Jenny Catt Slattery and resolved that:

“The Members of Kilkenny County Council approve the Section 85 in accordance with the Local Government Act 2001 and Section 14 of the Roads Act 1993 for the Sustainable Links Ferrybank (Belmont Road and Abbey Road) proposed scheme in Ferrybank, Co. Kilkenny.”

(d) **Forbairt Eacnamaíoch – Economic Development.**

(i) **Scéim na bhFéilte agus na nImeachtaí 2025 - Festivals & Events Scheme 2025**

Tim Butler, Director of Services, outlined that a provision of €120,000 has been included in the Council’s adopted Budget for 2025 for the Festival and Events Grant Scheme and he set out the criteria for project evaluation. Cllr. Dunphy, Cllr. Slattery, Cllr. Doherty, Cllr. Frisby and Cllr. Fitzpatrick expressed disappointment with the level of funding being provided to Iverk Show. Cllr. Fitzpatrick asked that Management engage with the Iverk Show Committee to ascertain which support could be provided to them by Kilkenny County Council. Tim Butler set out that other matters were considered when assessing grant applications including the financial standing of the entity and any other state grants received.

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick and resolved:

“That the Festival & Event Grants 2025 are hereby approved by the Members of Kilkenny County Council, as per Report circulated”.

(ii) **Scéim Deontais Caipitil Áiseanna Pobail agus Cultúrtha (CCFCS)
Community and Cultural Facilities Capital (CCFCS) Grant Scheme**

Ian Gardner, Director of Services, outlined that the Community & Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme is funded from development contributions and an annual budget of €250,000 is provided. The Scheme now requires to be reviewed and a new Scheme agreed to cover the next three year period 2025-2027. The proposed changes to the scheme are to:

- Increase in maximum grant funding to €50,000 (previously €45,000)
- Reduction in match funding requirement to 10% (previously 25%)

It was proposed by: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Deirdre Cullen and resolved:

“That the revised Community & Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme for the period 2025 to 2027 is hereby approved by the Members of Kilkenny County Council, as per Report circulated.”

(e) Pobol Cultúr - Community & Culture

(i) Deontais faoin Acht Ealaíon 2025 - Arts Act Grants 2025

Fiona Deegan, A/Director of Services, explained that in approving the 2025 Budget, Elected Members provided an allocation in the amount of €25,000 for the assignment of the Arts Grants in 2025. This recognises the provisions of the Arts Act 2003 whereby individual local authorities may provide financial assistance for the purposes of stimulating interest in the Arts, promoting knowledge and/or appreciation of the Arts and Enhancing standards in the Arts.

It was proposed by Cllr. Seán Ó hArgáin, seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and resolved:

“That Kilkenny County Council approves the allocation of €25,000 to the 33 applicants approved under the Arts Grants 2025, as per report circulated”.

(f) Gnóthaí Corparáideacha - Corporate Affairs

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

Cllr. Michael McCarthy advised that the Chief Executive Report will be taken as read.

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach queried the process of variation to the City and County Development Plan 2021. Cllr. Michael Doyle sought clarity in relation to the new City and County Development Plan. There was a discussion around cluster development and settlement boundaries with Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh seeking a report setting out the advantages and disadvantages of the settlement boundaries for the next meeting of the Council.

Cllr. David Fitzgerald sought clarity of the term of the next County Development Plan. Tim Butler, Director of Services, confirmed that the current Plan will be in place up to 2027. New Regulation are proposing a ten year term with reviews included in that timeframe.

Cllr. David Fitzgerald enquired if funding for the Kilkenny Ring Road was included in last week’s announcement and Mary Mulholland, Director of Services confirmed that this was included and a Feasibility Study/Traffic Analysis will be funded. Mary Mulholland noted that Management will continue to engage at every level and multi-annual funding commitment would be welcome.

Cllr. Ger Frisby thanked Mary Mulholland for the work she had done in relation to the N24 and asked if the N25 could be included in the discussion which was agreed.

Cllr Deirdre Cullen spoke about her disappointment in relation to postponement of the provision of wastewater treatment infrastructure in Bennettsbridge until post 2029, saying that the lack of this infrastructure is hampering development in villages as well as having an adverse impact on communities and schools. Cllr. Fitzpatrick, Cllr. Doyle, Cllr. Breathnach, Cllr. Catt Slattery and Cllr Dunphy agreed. Tim Butler replied that it is the intention of Management to develop a Policy and pilot to cater for rural villages where no waste water facilities are available. A National Working Group is in place to examine this issue which includes input from Uisce Éireann.

Cllr. Pat Dunphy requested that the Council would correspond with Uisce Éireann seeking a response to the issues raised by the Elected Members (*asked that we should write to Irish water and ask them to respond to the issues as outlined*).

(ii) Buan-Orduithe / Standing Orders

Mary Mulholland advised that following a consultation process with Party Whips, the draft Standing Orders are before the Members for approval with the following amendments for consideration:

- **Section 15:** Proposed amendment to categorise Notices of Motion.
- **Section 17:** Amendment proposed to include speaking rights to Elected Member to amend or oppose a Notice of Motion wording. Speaking to oppose a Motion at Cathaoirleach's discretion

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach acknowledged the work that has taken place but objected to the amendment in relation to Section 15. Cllr. Seán Ó hArgáin expressed approval for the modifications to Section 17 but believed that the proposed changes to Section 15 in the Draft Standing Orders were unnecessary. Cllr. Ó hArgáin proposed the following amendment to the draft Standing Orders and it was seconded by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach:

"That Section 15 to categorise the Notion of Motion would not be included"

A roll call vote was taken on the proposed amendment and:

Four (4) voted in favour: Cllrs. Maria Dollard, Eugene McGuinness, Seán Ó hArgáin & Tomás Breathnach.

Thirteen (13) voted against: Cllrs. Deirdre Cullen, Michael Doyle, Joe Lyons, Pat Fitzpatrick, Michael McCarthy, John Coonan, David Fitzgerald, Joe Malone, Andrew McGuinness, Jenny Catt Slattery, Fidelis Doherty, Pat Dunphy & Ger Frisby.

Seven (7) absent: Cllrs. Brian Cleere, Stephanie Doheny, Joe Sheridan, John Brennan, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael Delaney & Maurice Shortall.

Therefore, the resolution was defeated by 4 votes to 13.

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. David Fitzgerald and agreed:

"that we the Members of Kilkenny County Council hereby adopt the Standing Orders as amended with a review to take place after six months".

A roll call vote was taken and:

Thirteen (13) voted in favour: Cllrs. Deirdre Cullen, Michael Doyle, Joe Lyons, Pat Fitzpatrick, Michael McCarthy, John Coonan, David Fitzgerald, Joe Malone, Andrew McGuinness, Jenny Catt Slattery, Fidelis Doherty, Pat Dunphy & Ger Frisby.

Four (4) voted against: Cllrs. Maria Dollard, Eugene McGuinness, Seán Ó hArgáin & Tomás Breathnach.

Seven (7) absent: Cllrs. Brian Cleere, Stephanie Doheny, Joe Sheridan, John Brennan, Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Michael Delaney & Maurice Shortall.

Therefore, the resolution was passed by 13 votes to 4.

**(iii) Comhalta Tofa a Cheapadh at Choistí
Appointment of Elected Member to Committees**

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Joe Malone and resolved:

"That Kilkenny County Council hereby appoints Cllr. Michael McCarthy to the Association of Irish Local Government."

"That Kilkenny County Council hereby appoints Cllr. John Coonan to Kilkenny Carlow Education and Training Board."

"That Kilkenny County Council hereby appoints Cllr. Brian Cleere to Water Safety Committee."

3. Comhfhreagras - Correspondence

None.

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) Taisteal Eachtrach - Foreign Travel

Mary Mulholland informed the meeting that Penvenan, France, which is twinned with Castlecomer in Kilkenny, is celebrating the 25th Anniversary of this twinning partnership. Penvénan and Castlecomer Twinning Committee has invited the Cathaoirleach and his Partner to visit Penvenan, France in May 2025 for this event. As the approval of foreign travel by Elected Members is a reserved function approval for this trip is requested.

It was proposed by Cllr Joe Malone, seconded by Cllr Andrew McGuinness and resolved:

"that the Cathaoirleach will travel to Penvénan, France, to represent Kilkenny at the 25th Anniversary Twinning Event."

Cllr Fidelis Doherty said that it would be important that the Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District would also attend as they would be required to host a delegation in 2026. Mary Mulholland outlined the issue with accommodation in the area but agreed to investigate the possibility of the Cathaoirleach of the Castlecomer Municipal District travelling pending being able to source accommodation.

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

None.

**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

Schedule of Conferences circulated with the Agenda was proposed by Cllr. John Coonan, seconded by Cllr. Jenny Catt Slattery and agreed.

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

Deontais Oiriúnaithe Tithíochta - Rialacháin Athbhreithnithe

Housing Adaptation Grants - Revised Regulations

Following up from an item raised at the December 2025 Plenary Meeting, Cllr Pat Dunphy spoke about how replacement of fossil fuel boilers with a new fossil fuel boiler is not eligible for funding under the terms of the new regulations. Only second-hand boilers are funded as part of the scheme. Several Elected Members including Cllr. Joe Lyons, Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick and Cllr. John Coonan agreed that new boilers should be funded. Cllr. Joe Sheridan requested that the Council write to the Department seeking a reversal of this decision.

Ian Gardner responded by saying that it is an EU Directive that state funding cannot be used for fossil fuel equipment. He explained that they can provide funding for repair and ancillary works and assist applicants in any way possible.

10. Aon Ghnó Eile - Any Other Business

None.

11. Fógraí Rúin - Notices of Motion

01 (25) Cllr. Seán Ó hArgáin

It was proposed by Cllr. Seán Ó hArgáin, seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed:

"That Kilkenny County Council commences the process of investigating the possibility of making a bid for Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann to return to Kilkenny City in the future."

Tim Butler advised a Feasibility Study in relation requirement of accommodation, local and value for money.

02 (25) Cllr. Stephanie Doheny.

Due to the absence of Cllr. Stephanie Doheny it was agreed to defer this item to the March Plenary Meeting.

03 (25) Cllr. Pat Dunphy

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Dunphy, seconded by Cllr. Fedelis Doherty and agreed:

"That Kilkenny County Council write to the Department and Uisce Éireann asking them to resolve the ongoing water leaks in Mooncoin Parish in the Village of Mooncoin, Grange, Portnahully and Tubbrid. Residents are without water every week at some stage and when they have it the pressure is too low to get to the tank in the attic. This is a weekly occurrence and there is an urgent need to replace the piping in these areas".

A number of Elected Members from the Piltown Electoral Area spoke at the meeting in support of the Notice of Motion.

Water outage notifications were read out to the meeting by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach outlining daily interruption to supply in the area this week.

Mary Mulholland agreed to write to the Senior Executive Engineer in Water Services Operations to ascertain whether it is proposed to seek funding for further Mains rehab and what efforts are being made to improve supply to affected householders in the interim.

That concluded the business of the Meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE