

MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 18TH MAY, 2020 AT 3.00 P.M.

Chair: Peter Cleere.

Cllrs: John Brennan, Martin Brett, Pat Dunphy, Pat Fitzpatrick, Denis Hynes, Andrew McGuinness & Eugene McGuinness

Officials: Colette Byrne, Tim Butler & Anne Maria Walsh.

It was agreed to proceed with Monthly Meeting with a Quorum present. Therefore, all other Elected Members were excused from attending meeting due to Covid-19 restrictions.

1. **Confirmation of Minutes**

(a) **Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday, 17th February, 2020**

Proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett and agreed:

“That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday, 17th February, 2020 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved”.

(b) **Minutes of Special Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Tuesday, 25th February, 2020**

Proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. Eugene McGuinness and agreed:

“That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday, 25th February, 2020 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved”.

(c) **Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday, 23rd March, 2020**

Proposed by Cllr. John Brennan seconded by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness and agreed:

“That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday, 23rd March, 2020 as circulated with the Agenda be and are hereby approved”.

Cllr. Peter Cleere extended votes of sympathy to:

- Martina Comerford on the death of her mother Alice Comerford.
- Evelyn Graham on the death of her mother Evelyn Graham.
- Shane Leahy on the death of his father Jimmy Leahy.
- Damien Brett on the death of his father Liam Brett.
- Mary Gaffney on the death of her father Freddie Kavanagh.
- John Quilty on the death of his mother Mary Quilty.
- Larry Dunphy on the death of his mother Anna Dunphy.
- Cllr. Michael McCarthy on the death of his sister-in-law Ursula O’Leary.

2. (a) **Roads**

(i) **Roadworks Programme 2020**

Mr. Tim Butler advised that the Road Works Programme has been presented to all Members at their relevant Municipal District Meeting and has been agreed. The Programme requires approval of the Plenary Council.

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett and agreed:

“We the Members of Kilkenny County Council approves the Roadworks Scheme for 2020, as circulated.”

- (i) **Section 85 Agreement: Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project**
Mr. Tim Butler advised the meeting that Kilkenny County Council is the lead authority in the Eastern Region. There are ten Counties in the Region. Kilkenny County Council will carry out the functions and works on behalf of the other nine local authorities to complete the LED Energy Efficiency Project. The works will be funded by loan and the financial savings in energy achieved will pay the loan charges. The technical staff in Kilkenny County Council will also be funded by the other local authorities. Section 85 Agreement is required to be approved by the Elected Members.

Contributions were received from Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick.

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett and agreed:

"We the Members of Kilkenny County Council approves that Kilkenny County Council enter into a Section 85 Agreement under the Local Government Act 2001 with 9 Local Authorities [i.e. Carlow County Council, Kildare County Council, Longford County Council, Louth County Council, Meath County Council, Offaly County Council, Tipperary County Council, Westmeath County Council and Wicklow County Council] to facilitate the LED Project."

- (b) (i) **Annual Report**
Ms. Colette Byrne presented the Annual Report for 2019. She advised that the report contains a summary of all the activities of the Council for 2019 and the financial statement. Details of Members expenses and conferences are required to be included. The adoption of the Annual Report is a reserved function of the Council.

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Pat Dunphy and agreed:

"That the Draft Annual Report for 2019 is hereby approved by the Members of Kilkenny County Council."

- (ii) **Audit Committee Annual Report 2019**
Mr. Tim Butler advised that the Annual Report for 2019 for the Audit Committee has been circulated for information of the Members.

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. Denis Hynes and agreed:

"That the 2019 Annual Report of Kilkenny County Council Audit Committee be hereby noted as read."

- (iii) **Suspend Standing Order No. 11**
Ms. Anne Maria Walsh advised that under Standing Order No. 11 adopted by the Council in 2019, it is a requirement that the Members attending the meeting shall record/enter their names in the Attendance Register. Due to restrictions/hygiene requirements etc. for Covid-19 it is recommended that the requirements under Standing Order No. 11 be suspended at this time.

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

"That Kilkenny County Council hereby suspends the requirements under Standing Order No. 11 that each Elected Member enter his/her name in the Attendance Register."

The attendance of Members will be recorded by the Meetings Administrator.

3. **Correspondence**

None.

4. **Business Adjourned from a Previous Meeting**

None.

5. **Schedule of Meetings**

(i) **Agree date for Annual Meeting & June Council Meeting.**

Cathaoirleach advised that the CPG proposes that the Annual Meeting and Monthly Meeting be held on Friday, 12th June, 2020.

It was proposed by Cllr. Martin Brett, seconded by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick and agreed:

"That the Annual Meeting of Kilkenny County Council be held on Friday, 12th June, 2020 at 3.00 p.m. and the June Monthly Meeting be held on Friday, 12th June, 2020 at 4.00 p.m."

(ii) **Agree Venue for Annual Meeting & Council Meetings in June & July.**

Cathaoirleach advised that in order to facilitate all Elected Members attending the meetings in June and July that an alternative venue is required. Members were advised that the Watergate Theatre has been booked for the June Meetings.

It was proposed by Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, seconded by Cllr. Pat Dunphy and agreed:

"That Kilkenny County Council hold their AGM and Monthly Meetings for June and July in the Watergate Theatre, Kilkenny City."

(iii) **Agree date for Meeting in Committee regarding Budget 2020**

Cathaoirleach advised that the CPG recommends to the full Council that a Special Meeting in Committee be convened to discuss the impacts on our Budget for 2020 arising from Covid-19. All Members need to attend this Special Meeting to consider the implications arising from loss of income of rates, parking charges etc.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Pat Fitzpatrick, Pat Dunphy, John Brennan and Peter Cleere in relation to preparing a detailed report for the Members including recoupment of losses on rates from the Department etc.

Ms. Colette Byrne responded to the Members and advised that a report will be issued. The Council has written and are in contact with the Department in relation to additional funding. She advised that there may not be decision from the Department by the beginning of June. The collection on Rates will be seriously impacted.

It was proposed by Cllr. Pat Dunphy, seconded by Cllr. John Brennan and agreed that:

"That Kilkenny County Council will hold a Special Meeting in committee on Friday, 5th June, 2020 at 3.00 p.m. in the Watergate Theatre."

Cathaoirleach advised that the CPG meeting will proceed this meeting at 2.00 p.m. in the Watergate Theatre also.

6. **Consideration of Reports and Recommendations of Committees of the Council**

None.

7. **Other Business set forth in the Notice convening the Meeting-**

None.

8. **Conferences - Request for approval to Attend**

None.

9. **Matters Arising from Minutes**

None

10. **Any Other Business**

- (a) Cllr. Pat Dunphy requested clarification on the payment of Amenity Grants. He stated that a lot of voluntary work is being done on keeping amenities maintained and grass cutting is being done. He proposed that the Amenity Grants should not be withheld this year. This was seconded by Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick and agreed by the members present.

At this stage Cathaoirleach Peter Cleere withdrew from the meeting due to conflict of interest. Cllr. Andrew McGuinness took the Chair.

- (b) Cllr. Denis Hynes referred to the recent announcement of job losses at Banking 365. He stated that 78 people will be losing their jobs. Their contracts with CPL are expiring and will not be renewed. He referred to the bail out received by the bank from the Government and questioned whether the job losses are necessary.

He requested a letter be sent to the Minister for Finance and CEO Bank of Ireland.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Pat Fitzpatrick, Eugene McGuinness and Pat Dunphy supporting the proposal to write to the Minister and the CEO.

Ms. Byrne advised caution as there may be further job losses announced by other business following closures to the restrictions.

- (c) Cllr. John Brennan requested clarity on Housing Aid for the Elderly and Housing Adaptation Grants. He stated that works have been carried out and inspections are required to enable payments. Applications should be processed for essential works.

Contributions were received from Cllrs. Pat Fitzpatrick and Pat Dunphy in relation to OT Reports and inspections. Mr. Butler advised that necessary OT Reports are being done where there is an absolute emergency and any works completed will involve self-certification to process grant payments. Ms. Colette Byrne advised that the Council will facilitate emergency works to enable people to come home from hospital etc.

She urged caution in making any decisions on provision and spending in the current budget. All members need to be consulted on any implications for our current budget. Any decisions should be made after the Special Meeting In-Committee when the Members have all the information available. We are currently reviewing all service areas to identify savings.

- (d) Cllr Pat Dunphy requested that the grant to Kilkenny Tourism be paid. First payment of €25,000 has been made. It is essential that the remainder of the grant €50,000 is paid to assist Kilkenny Tourism to get back up operating and promoting Kilkenny as a tourist destination for the domestic market.

Ms. Colette Byrne advised that this can be further considered at the Special Meeting on 5th June, 2020.

11. **Notices of Motion**

None.

12. **Notices of Motion from other local authorities seeking support of Kilkenny County Council**
None.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH

DATE