



**KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**CLIMATE ACTION**  
**STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE 07<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022**  
**10AM COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND MS TEAMS**

**PRESENT**

Councillors: Bill Clear (Chair), Peter Hamilton, Fintan Brett, Ciara Galvin,

Sectoral Interests: Theresa Scanlon, Secretary, NIHBS  
Loretta Neary, Assistant Secretary, NIHBS  
Paula Somers-Kennedy, Treasurer, NIHBS  
Kevin Ford, Conservation Area Officer, NIHBS  
Gerard Dornan, Chair, Maynooth Cycling Campaign

Officials: Joe Boland, Director of Services  
Paula O'Rourke, Climate Action Officer  
Edel Donnelly, Clerical Officer

Apologies: Councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil, Ursula King PPN Representative

**AGENDA ITEM 1: TO NOTE THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022 AND 'TALK & WALK' VISIT TO TEAGASC ASHTOWN RESEARCH CENTRE, ON 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022**

Minutes of meeting of the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were adopted by all members present.

**AGENDA ITEM 2: TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

No matters arising.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: APOLOGISES RECEIVED FROM URSULA KING NEW PPN REPRESENTATIVE WHO COULD NOT ATTEND**

In the absence of Ms. King, a brief overview of Ms. King's qualifications was given by Paula O'Rourke, Climate Action Officer.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: PRESENTATION FROM THE NATIVE IRISH HONEY BEE SOCIETY (NIHBS) TO CONSIDER DECLARATION OF NATIVE IRISH HONEY BEE CONSERVATION AREA ON COUNCIL LANDS**

Loretta Neary, Assistant Secretary of the NIHBS gave a very informative presentation. The following are the main points noted

- NIHBS established in 2012, cross-border organization with 800 members
- Only one Native Irish Honey Bee *Apis mellifera mellifera* (*Amm*) in Ireland commonly known as the Black Bee
- Serious problem with the importation of non-native honey bees as they openly breed with native honey bee causing hybridization thus reducing the genetic purity of the native honey bee
- Hybridisation can result in an often aggressive cross
- Importation of non-native honey bees can also result in the introduction of invasive species such as Varroa, a parasitic mite
- Honey bees are treated as domestic animals in Europe and therefore can be transported between countries however the trading of honey bees can be controlled for conservation reasons and this responsibility lies with each member state
- Senator Vincent P. Martin has brought legislation before Senate, Protection of the Native Honey Bee Bill 2021 which the NIHBS support. This Bill is currently at stage 4 in the Senate and if passed will ban the importation of non-native honey bees into Ireland. It will also involve the appointment of inspectors to ensure no non native honey bees are not being imported or breed illegally
- 2012 circa 100 Queen imported, 2021 circa 1279 imported Queens
- Misconception imported honey bees better honey producers
- Climate Bar Association examining legal options for protection of the native honey bee and believe the Precautionary Principle should be used to prevent total species loss
- NIHBS Conservation Areas (CAs) are one of the key tools to protecting our native honey bee population and ensuring their purity remains high. Declared CAs undertake to keep or allow only native honey bees while encouraging new members and participants to do likewise
- Variety and quantity of CAs have continued to increase year on year

#### **Questions**

**The members asked the following questions and raised the following points**

- Do we know native honey numbers in Ireland
- How badly hybridized is the population
- How effective are the native honey bees at reproducing
- If there was a ban on the importation of non-native honey bees will the native honey bee recover
- Is it possible to know when buying honey if it is produced by native honey bees
- Councillor Bill Clear pointed out the great opportunity to become an exporter of honey and the economic opportunities it could provide
- It was also pointed out that there was funding available through the Climate Innovation Fund and that the member could apply for funding in 2023

**Action: Councillor Bill Clear (Chair) proposed that the Declaration of Native Honey Bee Conservation Area on Council Lands be referred to full Council and this proposal was seconded by Councillor Peter Hamilton and agreed by all members.**

**AGENDA ITEM 5: PRESENTATION FROM GERRY DORNAN, CHAIR OF MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN, ON WHO HEAT TOOL WITH REGARD TO ACTIVE TRAVEL AND BENEFICIAL ECONOMIC VALUES ASSOCIATED**

**Action:**

**AGENDA ITEM 6: PRESENTATION FROM PAULA O’ROURKE ON THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN INCORPORATING DECARBONISING ZONE DRAFT GUIDANCE AND PROGRESS TO DATE**

**Action:**

**AGENDA ITEM 7: OPEN DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL TOPICS THE COMMITTEE TO PURSUE IN 2023**

This item was deferred to a later date

**AGENDA ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was noted.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: TO NOTE DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

This item was deferred to a later date.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and meeting closed at 12.40pm