

LOCAL COMMUNITY & CULTURAL STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

11.30 a.m. on Thursday 6th July 2023.

Members in Attendance:

Statutory	Non-Statutory
Local Government Elected Members: Cllr. Tracey O'Dwyer (Acting Chair) Cllr. Bernard Caldwell	Local Community Interests: Vivienne Kelly Keane Lorraine Benson PJ Fagan

Also in attendance: Marian Higgins (Director); Paula O'Brien (Senior Executive Officer); John Shannon (Administrative Officer); Ann Dooley (Staff Officer); and Colin Ennis (Clerical Officer).

- I. Declaration of pecuniary or beneficial interests**
Cllr. O'Dwyer asked the committee to declare if they had any pecuniary or beneficial interests with regard to today's agenda items. No declarations were made.
- II. Confirmation of Minutes**
The minutes of the meeting of the 4th of May 2023 were approved and adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Bernard Caldwell seconded by Vivienne Kelly-Keane. There were no matters arising from the minutes.
- III. Correspondence**
Cllr. O'Dwyer noted apologies for Cllr. Carmel Kelly (Chairperson), Cllr. Aoife Breslin, Cllr. Aidan Farrelly, Cllr. Evie Sammon and Maureen Bergin. There was a discussion on the Allotment Strategy that was previously circulated. Lorraine Benson to contact Simon Wallace in Parks directly to see if it is possible to link the proposed allotment strategy with community gardens.
- IV. Director of Service Progress Report**
Marian Higgins talked the committee through the recent Directorate changes and the updates will be sent to everyone. There was a question on the cost of the pop-up pool in Leixlip and the committee were informed that it was LPT sponsored and sponsored by Intel. The full cost is yet to be determined due to waiting on the running costs, but the committee thought the benefits outweigh the costs. There were further questions on money available for libraries purchasing books and when Naas Library will be open. There will be a follow

up with Gillian Allen for the book budget and the Naas Library will open around September.

V. Consideration of policy issues: Report on revised residents' association grant scheme (private estates)

John Shannon provided the report on revised residents' association grant scheme. There was a discussion around the price difference per square metre around the municipal districts and how these may be evened up in future. A further discussion ensued in relation to the clarification on Local Authority estates if most or all of the houses are now privately owned. John will send on the list of Local Authority estates before the next meeting.

VI. Update on Kildare Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

Susan Bookle gave the committee an update on the LECP. The committee were asked to encourage Residents' Associations to attend the LECP community consultations in conjunction with the PPN across the municipal districts. There was a discussion around how this plan sits with the County Development Plan and the differences between the two. Difficult decisions will have to be made on the priorities for 2024. There will be synergies between the LECP and Biodiversity Action Plan.

VII. AOB

The committee wished the new Biodiversity Officer well and it is hoped they may attend a future meeting. The timing of meetings was discussed, and it was agreed to move meetings to 10 a.m. starting in October. The committee was reminded that Social Inclusion Week is the end of September. There was a discussion on the policies that the group deals with and where they and other policies are on the council's website. It was agreed to discuss the possibility of listing all KCC's policies in a single location on the website with DoS for Corporate Affairs Eoghan Ryan at a future meeting.

The next meeting will be held in Áras Chill Dara on Thursday 5th of October 2023.

The meeting concluded.

Please contact jshannon@kildarecoco.ie if you would like a digital copy of any of the documents, reports or presentations noted in these minutes.

