

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting of Council
held at 2:00 p.m.
Monday 16 December 2019
Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare.

Members Present: Councillor S Doyle (Cathaoirleach), Councillors A Breen, V Behan, A Breslin, F Brett, B Caldwell, B Clear, M Coleman, A Connolly, Í Cussen, B Dooley, K Duffy, T Durkan, A Farrelly, A Feeney, D Fitzpatrick, C Galvin, N Heavey, I Keatley, C Kelly, N Killeen, V Liston, N Ó’Cearuíl, V P Martin, P McEvoy, F McLoughlin Healy, J Neville, P O’Dwyer, T O’Dwyer, C Pender, R Power, E Sammon, M Stafford, M Wall, B Weld and B Wyse.

Apologies: Councillors P Hamilton, S Moore, P Ryan and P Ward.

Also Present: Mr P Carey, Chief Executive, Messrs J Boland, E Ryan (Directors of Service), Ms A Aspell and Ms S Kavanagh (Directors of Service), Ms F Millane A/Head of Finance, Ms C O’Grady (Meetings Administrator) Ms K Keane (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

01/1219

Vote of Sympathy

The Cathaoirleach welcomed the members to the meeting and extended her sympathy to the family of the late:

Joan Flynn, Mother of Colm Flynn, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment Section

Colm O’Sullivan, Father of Irene McMahon, School Warden, Transport Section

The Cathaoirleach also noted that it was the 4th anniversary of the passing of the late Councillor Willie Crowley and remembered him and his family at this time.

A minute’s silence was observed.

02/1219

Adjournment of Business

The Cathaoirleach sought the members approval to adjourn all non-statutory business listed on the agenda to the January 2020 meeting of full council.

Resolved with the agreement of the members present, all non-statutory business listed on the agenda was adjourned to the January 2020 full council meeting.

03/1219

Adoption of Minutes

The council considered the minutes of the monthly meeting on 25 November 2019 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor Wall and agreed by the members present, that the minutes of the monthly meeting on 25 November be adopted. The progress report was noted.

04/1219

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report

The members noted the Chief Executives monthly management report.

Resolved with the agreement of the members the Chief Executive's monthly management report was noted.

05/1219

Section 183 Notices for Lease of Lands

The members considered the following Section 183 Notice pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act, as amended:

- i. Disposal of land at Goffs Avenue, Greenhills, Kill.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Brett, seconded by Councillor Durkan and agreed by the members present, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, that the council consents to the disposal of the lands at i) above in accordance with the statutory notices circulated on 02 December 2019.

05/1219

Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2019-2024

The members considered the Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2019-2024 and the report from the Corporate Services Department, circulated previously.

The Cathaoirleach stated that under the draft scheme, a 6th SPC was being introduced titled Climate Action. In relation to the request for a nominee from the youth sector to sit on a committee, she suggested that this proposal be referred to the PPN to agree a pilot scheme and its implementation would be subject to a pilot scheme being agreed.

Following discussion, the members also agreed that costs incurred by the PPN nominees in attending SPC meetings, would be covered by the council.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fitzpatrick, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and agreed by the members present, the Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2019-2024 was adopted.

06/1219

Gnó an Chathaoirleach/Chairs Business

Councillor Doyle stated that along with the Chief Executive, she had the honor of attending the Pride of Place awards in the Lyraght Estate, Kilkenny two weeks ago and welcomed three exceptional community groups to the meeting who had represented County Kildare at the IPB Pride of Place Awards and had achieved huge success.

She stated that this was one of the most prestigious competitions in Ireland which celebrated unsung community heroes and their voluntary work. These groups made a significant difference in the places where they live, inspiring friends and neighbours to get involved and improving the lives of all in their community adding that it was known affectionately as the Community Oscars.

Councillor Doyle confirmed that Kildare County Council had nominated the following three groups -

- Andrew Meadows Housing Estate in Athy which won first prize in the Housing Estate category for their vibrant Residents' Association, estate maintenance programme and activities promoting social inclusion and multiculturalism.
- The Zero Waste Community Garden Rathcoffey who achieved second place in the Creative Place Initiative category for its innovative work in promoting collective gardening,

sustainability and biodiversity. The Cathaoirleach noted this group was no stranger to awards, having won the Get Ireland Growing Award earlier that year.

- County Kildare Activator Programme who was also nominated for its work and was proving to be a unique twist on inclusive physical activity. Councillor Doyle stated that this programme was aimed at persons with balance, stability, or mobility issues and was delivered in the comfort of their own community environment. She confirmed there were now in excess of 11 groups running Activator classes throughout the county with on average 320 people taking part weekly and acknowledged Frank and Gaye Blake for the tremendous work they do in this area.

On behalf of the council, the Cathaoirleach extended her heart felt congratulations to all the groups and thanked them for their tireless work in their communities.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed staff member, Ms Niamh Dunne to the meeting. Councillor Doyle confirmed that Ms Dunne commenced employment as a Tenancy Sustainability Officer with Kildare County Council in December 2017 and had been nominated by the council to take part in the Young Ireland Programme 2019. She stated that the Young Ireland Programme exists to develop the communication skills and broaden the horizons of people in the early stages of their working lives confirming the programme is open to anyone in the formative years of their career, irrespective of age.

The Cathaoirleach confirmed that Ms Dunne was runner up in the Young Ireland Thinker of the Year Award 2019 and made a presentation to her on behalf of the council to acknowledge and celebrate her significant achievement.

07/1219

Comhfhreagras/Correspondence

The Meetings Administrator confirmed 4 items of correspondence had been received and circulated to the members, which comprised of 3 resolutions from other local authorities and one accompanying presentation.

08/1219

Comhdhálacha agus Traenáil/Conferences and Training

The Meetings Administrator confirmed there was no request for conference and training approval this month.

Mr Joe Boland advised the members that he had just circulated a note re a Climate Action training seminar on the 21 January 2020 for senior staff and elected members and encouraged as many members to attend. He outlined that the seminar would give an overview of the overall training plan for the sector, it would detail the leadership role of the local authority and identify the key next steps and priority action areas.

Variation 1 of County Development Plan 2017-2023

The members noted the publication of proposed Variation No 1 to the County Kildare Development Plan 2017-2023.

Adjournment

As the members had agreed to adjourn all non statutory business to the January 2020 meeting of full council, the Cathaoirleach concluded the meeting. She thanked the members and the staff for all their hard work during the year noting it was a particularly busy one with the local elections and the commencement of a new council. She stated that despite political differences, it was incumbent on the members to find consensus and to keep their focus on delivering to the public. She wished the members and staff a very Happy Christmas and every good wish for the new year ahead.

The Chief Executive thanked the Cathaoirleach and the members for their continued support and wished everyone a very Happy Christmas and new year.

The members thanked the Cathaoirleach for her role in representing the county as first citizen and for chairing the meetings and wished her a very Happy Christmas and new year.

The meeting concluded.