

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting of Council

held at 2.00pm

Monday 24 June 2019

Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare.

Members Present: Councillor S Doyle (Cathaoirleach), Councillors V Behan, A Breen, 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, P Hamilton, N Heavey, I Keatley, C Kelly, N Killeen, V Liston, V P Martin, P McEvoy, F McLoughlin Healy, S Moore, J Neville, N Ó’Cearúil, P O’Dwyer, T O’Dwyer, C Pender, P Ryan, E Sammon, M Stafford, M Wall and B Wyse.

Apologies: Councillors R Power, P Ward and B Weld.
Mr N Morrissey, Director of Services

Also Present: Mr P Carey, Chief Executive, Messrs J Boland, T McDonnell, P Minnock and Ms S Kavanagh (Director of Services), Mr G Halton (A/Director of Service) Ms F Millane (A/Head of Finance), Ms M Mclvor (Meetings Administrator), Ms K Keane (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

01/0619

Vote of Sympathy

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

Mr Michael McWey Former Caithaoirleach Kildare County Council.

Thomas Slattery brother of Eugene Slattery, Plant Operative, Water Services Department.

Tony McGarr, brother of Maurice McGarr Water Services Department.

Denis (Dinny Whelan) brother of Maurice, Aiden, and John Whelan in Water Services and Sarah McHugh Motor Taxation Department.

The Cathaoirleach also paid tribute to the late Councillor Manus Kelly who was killed tragically in a car crash at the Donegal rally.

A minute's silence was observed.

02/0619

Adoption of Minutes

The council considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of 13 May 2019 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members, the minutes of the meeting of the 13 May be adopted and the progress report noted.

03/0619

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report

The members noted the Chief Executives monthly management report.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked regarding the practise that advance notice had to be given to the Cathaoirleach if members wish to query any item in the Chief Executives report at the meeting, as this requirement was not set out in Standing Orders. The Cathaoirleach stated the report was before the members for noting and that advance notice was required to enable a meaningful response to be provided.

Resolved with the agreement of the members that the Chief Executive's monthly management report be noted and a procedure to deal with queries arising from the Chief Executives report be included in the review of Standing Orders to be considered by the Protocol and Procedures Committee.

04/0619

Gnó an Chathaoirleach/Chairs Business

The Cathaoirleach confirmed she would not be providing a monthly update at every meeting but would keep the members advised of issues of relevance. She referred to her comments at the annual meeting regarding a workshop for members to discuss priority items raised on the canvas during the recent local election and confirmed that this was being arranged through the LCDC and would take place on Thursday 11 July at 7pm and formal notice would issue to the members shortly.

The Cathaoirleach also reminded the members that the presentation to Colm McLoughlin CEO Dubai Duty Free was taking place on Wednesday 26 June at 12 o'clock and all members were invited.

05/0619

Comhfhreagras/Correspondence

The Meetings Administrator confirmed 6 items of correspondence had been received and circulated to the members which comprised of 3 responses to motions from councillors, 1 motion referral from Galway County Council, a copy of Circular LG03 2019 and the revised Code of Conduct for Councillors and correspondence from Minister Michael Ring T.D. in relation to the development of the Gov.ie website. The Meetings Administrator also advised the members that notice of the opening of the Audit 2018 would be published shortly.

06/0619

Comhdhálacha agus Traenáil/Conferences and Training

The Meetings Administrator referred to the report dated 20 June 2019 circulated to the members. **Resolved** on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by all members present having regard to Section 142(5) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by Section 53(2) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 the following approval was granted for the attendance of Councillors Weld, Ó'Cearúil and Liston at the 39th MacGill Summer School 2019 conference from 21-26 July in the Highlands Hotel, Glenties, Co Donegal.

The following approval was granted to Councillors B Caldwell, P Ryan, A Farrell, N Heavey and C Kelly at AILG Training for elected members on the 11 July in the Mullingar Park Hotel, Co Westmeath and Councillor N Killeen at AILG Annual Training for elected members on the 13 July in the Horse & Jockey Hotel, Co Tipperary.

Tuairisceana Reatha Feidhmeanna na Comhairle Contae
Current Motions Kildare County Council Functions

The Cathaoirleach noted items 6, 7 and 15 on the agenda all related to climate related matters and proposed, with the agreement of the members, to take them together after the presentation on the Draft Kildare Climate Adaptation Strategy.

Resolved on the proposal of the Cathaoirleach and with the agreement of the members, items 6, 7 and 15 on the agenda would be taken together after the presentation on the Draft Kildare Climate Adaptation Strategy.

07/0619

Charge for Pay Parking at Electric Charging Points

The following motion in the name of Councillor Clear was considered.

That the council defers any decision to charge for pay parking at electric charging points until there is sufficient charging points in the county. Currently there are 12 charging points county wide but this number needs to grow substantially if we are to favour electric cars over petrol/diesel but in the event of pay parking being introduced, the first two hours should remain free.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Clear and seconded by Councillor Fennelly.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council introduced a County Parking Framework Policy in 2016 to ensure that pay parking policy is consistent throughout the county. The policy does not make reference to free parking or specifically to the use of electric vehicle (EV) charge points either on or off-street. There are currently 6 EV charge points/spaces in operation in the following off-street car parks: Fairgreen, Naas (2), Hedermans, Naas (2) and Meeting Lane, Athy (2). The current Pay Parking Bye Laws include for the future provision of EV charge points in Sallins, Newbridge, Celbridge, Kildare, Leixlip, Maynooth, Clane and Kilcock. In addition, 2 further EV charging points are planned for the car park at Áras Chill Dara. There is no national legislation which provides for an exemption from parking charges for EVs. Any proposed change to the current policy and/or Bye Laws will require input from the Roads, Transport and Public Safety SPC and the elected members in the respective municipal districts.

The Roads Department regulates EV charging bays to ensure that vehicles pay and display to guarantee turnover and access to other vehicles and to maximise the use of the charge points.

Kildare County Council is fully supportive of Government policy and the move towards a carbon neutral transport environment and the Roads Department will work to achieve the objectives on the rollout of EV charging infrastructure in support of the recently published Draft Kildare Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024.

Councillor Clear thanked the Roads Department for the report noting that the Draft Climate Action Strategy was listed on today's agenda and other local authorities do not charge for EV charging bays. He asked that the matter be referred to the relevant Strategic Policy Committee for further consideration. Mr Halton confirmed there was no national legislation governing the introduction of free parking for EV charging bays but with the agreement of the members, was a matter that the Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services SPC could consider. Following a query with regard to the cost implication of such an initiative, Councillor Clear indicated that the cost of allowing free parking in the bays currently in-situ would cost the council €260 approx a year which he was willing to assign from Naas Municipal District LPT monies. Councillor Clear also noted that this charge had been introduced without any advance warning which was not good practise.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Clear, seconded by Councillor Fennelly and agreed by the members present that the motion that - The council defers any decision to charge for pay parking at electric charging points until there is sufficient charging points in the county. Currently there are 12 charging points county wide but this number needs to grow substantially if we are to favour electric cars over petrol/diesel but in the event of pay parking being introduced, the first two hours should remain free – be referred to the Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services SPC for consideration.

08/0619

Community Groups CCTV Applications

The following motion in the name of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer was considered.

That the council provide an update as to the status of the publication of the technical specification required for community groups in order to progress their CCTV applications.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer and seconded by Councillor Keatley.

A report was received from the Economic Development, Community and Culture Department informing the members that for the information of the new council a presentation that was given to the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) in March 2019 was attached which sets out the current position. The CCTV policy that was adopted by the JPC is also attached for ease of reference. There is a minimum technical specification included in the Department of Justice scheme but the CCTV equipment also needs to be compatible with Kildare County Council's existing equipment.

An Garda Síochána are working on an information pack for Community Groups that should be very helpful and the council would follow up with them to find out when that will be ready.

Councillor O'Dwyer stated this issue had been raised in rural areas repeatedly during the recent election campaign and noted that the Government's National Grant Programme expired in November. She noted that a JPC sub-committee meeting had been held with the Gardai recently and that it appeared the only item outstanding was the technical specification and requested clarity in this regard.

Ms S Kavanagh stated that Kildare County Council had been to the fore on this important issue and that a huge volume of work had gone into it by the JPC sub-committee tasked with advancing the matter. With the member's approval, she confirmed another meeting of the sub-committee would be called to finalise details of the information pack, to include the technical specification and Councillor O'Dwyer would be invited to attend the meeting. She clarified that each application would then have to be considered and listed for approval at the September meeting of the JPC. Ms Kavanagh also confirmed the council would contact the Department of Justice to ask if any extension to the timeline of the grant programme was being considered.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer, seconded by Councillor Keatley and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and a meeting of the JPC sub-committee be arranged and clarity sought from the Department of Justice around timelines for the scheme.

09/0619

Kildare Comhairle Na nÓg

The following motion in the name of Councillor Farrelly was considered.

That the council writes to Kildare Comhairle Na nÓg, inviting a delegation of young people to present an overview of their work to date as well as recommendations as to how Kildare County Council can work in partnership with the Youth Council in order to support their endeavours.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Farrelly and seconded by Councillor Ó'Cearúil.

A report was received from the Economic Development, Community and Culture Department informing the members that subject to agreement from the members the council will write to Kildare Comhairle Na nÓg as requested.

Councillor Farrelly outlined the importance of getting the Kildare Youth Council involved in local issues to allow their voices to be heard. He stated that in 2018, there were 120 members in Kildare Comhairle na Nóg which also has a representative on the national youth body. He noted that in the last census, County Kildare was identified as having the fastest growing youth population ie. 0-24 year olds, at 37% which was the highest in the state.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Farrelly, seconded by Councillor Ó'Cearúil and agreed by the members present that the council writes to Kildare Comhairle Na nÓg, inviting a delegation of young people to present an overview of their work to date as well as recommendations as to how Kildare County Council can work in partnership with the Youth Council in order to support their endeavours.

10/0619

MapRoad System

The following motion in the name of Councillor Wyse was considered.

That the council allows councillors to directly access the roads database via the Pavement Management System.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Wyse and seconded by Councillor Durkan.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the MapRoad system has been developed since 2014 by the Local Authority sector and the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport to support local authorities in managing their road asset. It is supported by a dedicated shared service (the Road Management Office - RMO) and the Local Government Management Association (LGMA). The system includes inventory and condition data on the road network and other road assets. Modules have also been developed to support roadworks licensing. The data contained has been collected or inputted directly by staff in the council; by use of data transferred from existing legacy systems and by external organisations working on behalf of the council and DTTAS. The data contained in the system is in different states (verified or unverified; draft, planned, approved, complete) dependant on whether it has been verified for use or not and whether is approved by the relevant staff in the council or RMO. Some data may also be subject to GDPR or is subject to licensing agreements with third parties.

The RMO and LGMA are working on developing a suitable portal to provide verified approved data for use by non-technical staff and believe this approach will offer councillors and other stakeholder the best means of getting information from the system. In the interim should any councillor have any specific enquiries the Roads Department is in agreement to request the RMO to provide report(s) based on information available from the system.

Councillor Wyse referred to a recent case whereby it had taken 4 months to establish the ownership of a road and asked that as a system already exists, could the members be given access to it to assist them in these types of queries in the future. He noted that a simple filter system could address verification and GDPR requirements.

Mr Halton acknowledged the members frustrations and confirmed he would contact the RMO and LGMA to clarify the timelines on the delivery on the portal for councillors and update the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wyse, seconded by Councillor Durkan and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and clarification sought from the RMO and LGMA on the timelines for delivery of the portal for councillors.

11/0619

Broadcasting at Public Meetings

The following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin Healy was considered.

That the council recognises the key role of public participation in local government as outlined by the 2013 report of the Working Group on Public Participation in Local Government, and also in the Council of Europe's 'Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the Decision-Making Process', adopted in October 2009 and to which Ireland is a subscriber; the council therefore resolves to implement the webcasting of public meetings of the Full Council in order to meet the Code's principles of participation, trust, accountability and transparency.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Wall.

A report was received from the Housing and Corporate Services Department informing the members that if the members were in agreement, this matter should be referred to the next meeting of the Protocol and Procedures Committee. The committee can then consider matters

such as the law in regard to public and private entitlements (including GDPR), defamation, policy & procedure, cost, retention, a pilot or trial period, timeline for review of operation.

Note to members:

The Council of Europe established, in 2009, a Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the Decision Making Process. This was primarily to assist Non Governmental Organisations (NGO's). In 2013 the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government established a working group on Citizen Engagement with Local Government to make recommendations on more extensive and diverse input by citizens into decision-making processes and to allow for facilitation of input by citizens into decision making at the local government level. The group was chaired by Fr Sean Healy of Social Justice Ireland. The Group recommended that, 'a Public Participation Network be established in each local authority area to enable the public to take an active formal role in relevant policy making and committees of the Local Authority'. The Group submitted a report to the Minister in early 2014, and the relevant provisions were transposed into law during early 2014

In 2014, the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (now the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government) directed that Public Participation Networks (PPN) be set up in each local authority area in Ireland (S46 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014). The aim of this was to provide 'a framework for public participation in local government,...by which citizens and communities will be encouraged and supported to participate in the decision-making processes of the local authority'. Kildare PPN was set-up as an independent entity in 2015 by Kildare County Council who facilitated the formation of the PPN's Secretariat (i.e. Steering Committee) to lead the development of the PPN.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy stated this issue has been debated in the chamber over the last number of years and she hoped that the new council would support the introduction of webcasting of council meetings. She asked that there be no further delay in introducing it given it was what the electorate wanted and was in line with European legislation. She stated she did not want the council to be prescriptive today in terms of how the system will operate, costs etc and that in terms of benefits, her view was that there was no cost argument to be made.

A discussion ensued amongst the members and the following points were made:

- The introduction of webcasting would support accessibility, accountability and it would demystify the local government process.
- During the consideration process, members need to consider cost, defamation issues and privilege in the chamber.
- A review process/trial period should be included as part of its introduction.
- Once introduced at plenary council, consideration be given to introducing it at municipal district meetings

Mr McDonnell confirmed that as there was general agreement to the principle of introducing webcasting, the matter should now be referred to the Protocol and Procedures Committee to consider a specific proposal and that the members would need to make provision for its introduction during the forthcoming budgetary process.

The Cathaoirleach suggested that the word webcasting be replaced with broadcasting with the purpose of the Protocol and Procedures Committee being to explore all the options available for publication and report its findings and recommendation to the plenary council for approval.

The Cathaoirleach sought the members approval in this regard to which the members agreed.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy, seconded by Councillor Wall and agreed by the members present that the council resolves to implement the broadcasting of public meetings of the Full Council and refers the matter to the Protocol and Procedures Committee to consider a specific proposal and budgetary provision be made for its introduction during the forthcoming budgetary process.

12/0619

Issues raised by electors during Elections

The following motion in the name of Councillor McEvoy was considered.

That the council report on the main issues raised by electors during the recent elections following the changes made by the 2018 Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McEvoy and seconded by Councillor Wall.

A report was received from the Housing and Corporate Services Department informing the members that Statutory Instrument No. 620 of 2018 - County of Kildare Local Electoral Areas and Municipal District Order 2018 - revoked the previous relevant Statutory Instrument (S.I. No. 52 of 2014). It prescribed that County Kildare would have 5 municipal districts, and 8 local electoral areas. This was a change from the 2014 situation when the election was based on 5 local electoral areas

The schedule which accompanied SI 620 of 2018 described each Local Electoral Area. This resulted in boundary changes from the situation that applied in 2014.

Corporate Services prepared a revised polling scheme on 28th February 2019.

Members were briefed with respect to the polling scheme in March.

Corporate Services engaged in a public awareness scheme to highlight changes as follows:

- Social media notifications
- Leaflets supplied to elected representatives
- Parish Newsletters
- Notifications in libraries, Garda Stations, Post Offices
- Coverage on local radio

In general, there have been fewer issues raised in relation to this election than previous ones. No written complaints or submissions have been received. The County Registrar has not highlighted any issue raised at polling stations on the day of the election.

Anecdotally the following issues have been raised:

- three ballot papers, and confusion associated with same.
- some rooms in larger schools not being as identified on polling cards
- issue with some addresses being updated following receipt of eircode information ie. the address is correct, the eircode is correct however it appears the eircode label is incorrect.

Councillor McEvoy noted the contents of the report and asked that the council make a formal submission regarding the issues as outlined that had arisen during the recent election process.

Following a discussion amongst the members, the following points were made:

- Schools changing as a result of boundaries changing and rooms within schools changing, created a lot of confusion
- New local electoral area divisions dividing communities into different polling areas created a lot of anger, frustration and confusion
- Size of election boxes caused difficulties due to size and the fact there were 3 ballot papers and an increased number of boxes was needed.
- Splitting up the counts in the Count Centre took from the atmosphere/sense of occasion.
- Passes to the count centre and the restriction on the number each member received was not satisfactory and took from the sense of occasion

Mr McDonnell noted the member's comments and stated the council had no role in the revision of boundaries other than it had the opportunity to make a submission to the Boundary Commission in which we had asked that the boundaries remain unchanged. He confirmed the Boundary Commission made the changes from 5 to 8 local electoral areas based on population and noted that every division had been made on a townland boundary division. Mr McDonnell acknowledged the members comments regarding the number of ballots on the day but advised this was a matter for the County Registrar and confirmed that the confusion that arose around addresses and eircodes would be brought to the County Registrars attention also. He did note that following the circulation of the draft polling scheme in February, no submissions had been received on any of these matters. Mr McDonnell stated the issue of restricting access to the count centre was due to the capacity of the building and the associated fire safety requirements.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Wall and agreed by the members present that the council write to the Boundary Commission, the County Registrar and the relevant Government Department advising them of the issues arising in Kildare, as outlined by the members.

13/0619

Web Based/Webform enquiry sheet for tree pruning/removal

The following motion in the name of Councillor Killeen was considered.

That the council consider implementation of a web based/webform enquiry sheet with a unique identification number for members of the public to request that a particular tree in their locality be added to the pruning schedule or schedule for assessment for pruning or removal.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Killeen and seconded by Councillor Farrelly.

A report was received from the Parks Superintendent informing the members that the existing Customer Relationship Management system (CRM) is used to log and track any requests from members of the public. This includes tree work requests. Once a query, such as that outlined in the motion, is sent to customercare@kildarecoco.ie, the query is logged on the CRM system, the customer will receive an acknowledgement and a unique reference number for their query and a reply will issue subsequently, confirming the position/outcome in relation to the query raised.

Councillor Killeen stated the response to the motion did not address the issue of allowing the public to input into the process and asked if a simplified system could be devised that would allow for this.

Ms Kavanagh confirmed there was a system in place to manage the pruning of trees out of which requests are collated, examined and grouped for a subsequent tender process. She advised that the suggestion re a similar system to KLIPs being used was not a workable option as the KLIPS system was based on the fact that each public light had a unique identifier. She also referred to the matter of trees in public v's private ownership and the responsibility of landowners which is advertised each year by the Roads Department.

Councillor Killeen accepted the Directors response stating a system whereby members of the public could see where their tree pruning request was on the priority list, would be very helpful. Ms Kavanagh undertook to ask the Parks Department to see if the current system used by them could facilitate the reporting of priority request lists.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Farrelly and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and the Parks Department check the current system to see if it could facilitate the reporting of priority request lists.

14/0619

Presentation on Draft Kildare Climate Adaptation Strategy

Mr Joe Boland, Director of Service, Mr Alan Dunney and Ms Breda Maher of the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) attended the meeting to give a presentation on

the Draft Kildare Climate Adaptation Strategy which had recently gone out on public display. Mr Boland outlined the role of CARO and details of its extensive work programme confirming Kildare were the lead authority for the Eastern and Midlands region and had been to the fore in delivering on this body of work. He thanked the members for their support in this area emphasising it had to be a joint venture between the council and the public at large to deliver the aims of this strategy.

Ms Maher outlined the actions across the 12 areas in the Climate Action Plan 2019 and advised the members in relation to the local authority related actions. She also explained the climate change adaptation process and the difference between it and climate mitigation and detailed the high level goals relating to both. Ms Maher outlined how it was proposed to implement these goals and outlined the role of the members in this process. She confirmed that the plan was on display and open for public consultation to the 9 July following which a report would be compiled on the submissions received. Any amendments to the strategy would be published and SEA/AA criteria assessed. Ms Maher confirmed the approval of the members to adopting the plan was required by 30 September 2019.

Mr Dunney advised the members in relation to the Local Authority Energy NATIONAL Efficiency Targets, the sectoral mitigation process and the Covenant of Mayors which the council had passed a resolution in March 2018, to sign up to. He outlined the benefits of joining the Covenant of Mayors and thanked the members for their ongoing support in this area.

The Cathoirleach thanked Mr Boland, Mr Dunney and Ms Maher for the very information presentation and proceeded to take items 6, 7 and 15 on the agenda as previously agreed.

15/0619

Dedicated Special Policy Committee for Climate Change

The following motion in the name of Councillor Doyle was considered.

That the council request for the Minister of Department Of Housing, Planning and Local Government to facilitate the establishment of a dedicated Special Policy Committee for climate change, in order to ensure all environmental concerns are properly considered during policy formulation and that all such policies are sustainability proofed.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor McEvoy.

A report was received from the Water Services and Environment Department informing the members that this is a matter for the members to agree. By way of background, Guidelines for the establishment and operation of Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) were issued by the Minister of Environment Community and Local Government in 2014. This guidance provided that the number of SPC's in a local authority should be determined taking account of a number of factors and it set out that local authorities, where possible, will normally have 4 SPC's including the SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise. The SPC scheme 2014-2019 adopted by Kildare County Council on 26 November 2014 made provision for 5 SPC's as follows:

- Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning
- Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services
- Local Community and Cultural
- Housing
- Environmental Services and Water

Currently, no updated guidance has been received from Department of Housing Planning and Local Government in relation to this matter.

The suggestion of establishing a dedicated SPC to better co-ordinate policy inputs would likely add value to these matters as well as to ongoing initiatives and can be considered by the members. Members are advised that the current SPC scheme is due to be reviewed this year. It is fully accepted that there is considerable urgency to these matters.

Following a lengthy discussion in relation to the previous presentation and the motion under consideration, Councillor Doyle noted the discussion had highlighted the absolute need for a dedicated Climate Change Strategic Policy Committee. The members agreed that correspondence would issue to the Minister as requested.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members present that the council request the Minister of Housing, Planning and Local Government to facilitate the establishment of a dedicated Special Policy Committee for climate change, in order to ensure all environmental concerns are properly considered during policy formulation and that all such policies are sustainability proofed.

16/0619

Declaration of a Climate Emergency

The following motion in the name of Councillor Ó Cearúil was considered.

That Kildare County Council declares a Climate Emergency.

Prior to proposing his motion as listed on the agenda, Councillor Ó'Cearúil submitted an amended motion to the Cathaoirleach as follows:

That Kildare County Council declares a Climate and Biodiversity emergency.

The amended motion was proposed by Councillor Ó Cearúil and seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy.

On behalf of the Green Party, Councillor Martin submitted a further amendment to the motion to the Cathaoirleach as follows:

That Kildare County Council declares a Climate and Biodiversity emergency and that the council accelerates the process of providing the necessary budget and immediate practical planning for urgent climate adaptation and mitigation action and begins a meaningful public consultation process on climate mitigation.

Following discussion, the Green Party agreed to withdraw the amendment.

A report was received from the Water Services and Environment Department informing the members that the actions and approach currently being taken by the council summarises its commitment to the significant challenges at hand. It is accepted that there is a need for urgent action, an increased impetus and that there are greater challenges coming down the line. In this context, the attention of the members is drawn, in particular, the governance section of the Draft Adaptation Plan [Goal 1]. Please also see report for agenda item 10.

Councillor Ó'Cearúil stated his motion was in an effort to tap into the resources of the public at large and that it was incumbent on the council to declare this emergency and not just pay lip service to it. He stated policy's can tend to be aspirational and the council needs to devise plans that are tangible.

A lengthy discussion took place amongst the members with the following points made –

- Kildare County Council has taken on the challenge of climate change as it has said yes to the All-Island Pollinator Plan, has signed up to the EU Covenant of Mayors and the Regional Climate Plan prepared by the Regional Assembly is due to be adopted by the council at the end of the month.
- Declaring a Climate and Biodiversity emergency is symbolic and a signal of intent.
- Kildare County Council needs to do more as a lot of proposals made by councillors to mitigate climate change issues are rejected on the basis of budget thus the council needs to confirm where the money is going to come from.
- Why was Kildare County Council prioritising adaptation rather than mitigation and consultation?
- Actions taken to date by Kildare County Council are laudable however actions have to happen in the private realm also.
- Consultation needed with the PPN/Tidy Towns groups to ensure public engagement at every level and every policy adopted by the council needed to be climate proofed.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ó Cearúil, seconded by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and agreed by the members present that Kildare County Council declare a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency.

17/0619

Allocations for the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

The following joint motion in the names of Councillors Hamilton, Liston and Martin was considered. That the council outline how budget, resources and priority will be allocated to effect the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 given the extreme urgency for action in the context of the climate crisis and species extinction.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Hamilton and seconded by Councillor Martin.

A report was received from the Water Services and Environment Department informing the members that all actions are flagged as either ' budgeted ' or 'non-budgeted '. In relation to the

former, many actions relate to the reorientation of existing activity or to strengthening governance aspects and, therefore, do not have [significant] financial implications. In relation to the latter, the financial implications will be considered as part of the forthcoming 2020 annual budgetary process, the preparation of which will commence very shortly. There will likely be a need for prioritisation.

Councillor Liston stated that in terms of implementation of the Climate Action Plan, it would be helpful to see an estimate of the investment required in order to implement the plan as training alone would require a significant budgetary commitment. She also asked whether budget and resources would be assigned to the consultation process and how action items were to be prioritised as this was not detailed in the document itself. Councillor Liston stated she was pleased to hear the document would be a living and adaptive plan that would encompass citizen involvement. Mr Boland confirmed work on the budgetary aspects of the plan would be carried out over the coming months and members would be advised.

A lengthy discussion took place amongst the members with the following points made –

- Councillor Brett welcomed the members of the No Planet Bee Club, St Marys Secondary School, Naas and their teacher to the public gallery, who had made a presentation to the Naas Municipal District councillors the previous week
- Concerns were expressed over the councils capacity to deliver all the actions outlined and did the council have the staff and resources available to carry these out.
- That Kildare's PPN be more involved given they are more involved in other counties.
- Identify the practical challenge of moving away from car usage and using public transport given Kildare is a commuter county
- A local and national education process was vital to the success of the plan and a budgetary
- Budgetary provision to be included in the forthcoming budgetary process to reduce the use of Glyphosphates
- The Tidy Towns Awards governing body should build biodiversity into their judging criteria
- By declaring a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency, Kildare County Council has to reorganise and do things differently as it cannot continue as is.

The Chief Executive confirmed the area of climate change is a massive challenge for the local authority noting it is an All Government Plan and there was a legal obligation on the council to introduce this plan. He confirmed the council are only starting the public consultation process which will be a fluid process noting Kildare County Council has taken a leadership role on this

following a successful bid process. He stated the council has its own Climate Action Team who have undertaken excellent work in relation to climate action in a number of areas including public lighting, retrofitting of old buildings, updating our fleet etc. Mr Carey emphasised the importance of the council working with Tidy Towns groups, business groups etc in all our towns and villages and he was confident we were setting about this the right way but would rely heavily on the members input and support in this process. He stressed the importance of having Maynooth University working with the council and confirmed climate related actions would be considered in every aspect of the plan.

Ms Maher confirmed that following the adoption of the strategy, the Climate Action Team will have to put a plan in place and the members will have a role in relation to prioritisation and budgets.

Councillor Liston stressed the importance of making it clear how the public can participate in the process and what their scope of influence was as meaningful understanding would equate to meaningful responses. Ms Maher confirmed any recommendations or suggestions made to Kildare County Council during the statutory submission period would be considered.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Hamilton and agreed by the members present that the report be noted.

Tairisceana Reatha Nach feidhmeanna na Comhairle Contae iad Current Motions Non-Kildare County Council Functions

17/0619

Provision of Physiotherapy Services

The following motion in the name of Councillor Ryan was considered.

That the council writes to the Minister for Health, Simon Harris TD requesting him to consider providing and updating physiotherapy services for those who are on the public health waiting list in our county.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Ryan and seconded by Councillor McEvoy.

A report was received from the Housing and Corporate Services Department informing the members that this is a matter for the members to agree.

Councillor Ryan stated she was looking for a better service to be provided in the county and sought the members support in this regard. Councillor McEvoy suggested that the matter could also be raised by the members nominated to the Regional Health Forum.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ryan, seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members present that the council writes to the Minister for Health, Simon Harris TD requesting him to consider providing and updating physiotherapy services for those who are on the public health waiting list in our county.

In advance of closing the meeting, the Cathaoirleach noted it was the Director of Services Peter Minnock's last meeting and on behalf of the members thanked him for his service to the council over the years and wished him well for the future. The Chief Executive joined with the Cathaoirleach and the members in thanking Mr Minnock for his work and wished him well in his retirement.

The meeting concluded.