

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting of Full Council
held at 3:00 p.m.
Monday 21 September 2020
Newbridge Town Hall, Newbridge, Co Kildare.

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

Apologies: Councillors M Coleman, C Galvin, S Moore, N Ó'Cearúil, R Power and P Ward.

Also Present: Mr P Carey, Chief Executive, Ms A Aspell, Mr J Boland, Ms S Kavanagh, Mr T McDonnell and Mr E Ryan (Directors of Service), Ms B Sweeney A/Head of Finance, Ms F Millane Financial Accountant, Ms K Keane (Meetings Administrator) and Mr J Hannigan(Meetings Secretary).

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the September meeting of full council.

01/0920

Bereavements

The Cathaoirleach extended his sympathy to the family of the late:

Maura Lynch mother of Patrick (Paddy) Lynch Housing.

Thomas Kennedy Father of Karen Ennis Transport.

Noeleen McCarthy Mother of Mary McCarthy Housing and Aunt of Mona Deegan Corporate Services

Peter O' Mahoney father of Peter O' Mahoney Community Warden Supervisor (Environment/Roads)

Daniel Lawless father of Elizabeth Lawless, NRO.

James Batten father of Nina Turner, Corporate Services.

The Cathaoirleach also acknowledged the passing of the late Pat Smullen, Jockey.

A minute's silence was observed.

02/0920

Minutes and Progress Report

The council considered the minutes of the special meeting on the 8 June, minutes of the special meeting held on the 9 June and the monthly meeting held on 27 July 2020 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Brett, seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members present, that the minutes of the special meetings on the 8 June, special meeting on the 9 June and the monthly meeting held on the 27 July be adopted. The progress report was noted.

03/0920

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report

The members noted the Chief Executive's monthly management report for September.

04/0920

The members considered Section 183 Notices pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended:

- i. Lease of lands at Coill Dubh, Naas to Coill Dubh Football Club
- ii. Disposal of 0.18ha. of land at Tully East, Maddenstown

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Farrelly and agreed by the members present that pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended: The Section 183 Notices for the Disposal of 0.18ha. of land at Tully East, Maddenstown and the Lease of lands at Coill Dubh, Naas to Coill Dubh Football Club, were approved.

05/0920

Filling of Casual Vacancy

The members considered nominees to fill the casual vacancy in the membership of the council arising from the election of former Councillor Vincent P Martin to Seanad Éireann. The Cathaoirleach welcomed Senator Martin to the meeting and congratulated him on his election to the Seanad and wished him well in his new role. The Meetings Administrator confirmed that as former Councillor Vincent P Martin was a Green Party member, it fell to the Green Party to nominate a person to fill the casual vacancy and in this regard, the Green Party had confirmed they were nominating Mr Colm Kenny.

Councillor Hamilton proposed Mr Colm Kenny, Green Party member to fill the vacancy created by the election of former Councillor Vincent P Martin to the Seanad. He also paid tribute to the work carried out by his former councillor colleague for his integral role in building up the membership of the Green Party in Kildare. Councillor Brett seconded the nomination.

As there were no other nominations, Mr Colm Kenny was deemed co-opted to the council and was invited by the Cathaoirleach to take his seat. The Cathaoirleach and members welcomed Councillor Kenny to the council and wished him well for the future. In accepting the appointment, Councillor Kenny thanked his proposer and seconder for the nomination. Dúirt sé gurbh mór an honor a bhí air a bheith ina sheasamh ansin i hAlla an Chondae. He also thanked his family and the Green party in Kildare. He thanked Senator Martin and acknowledged the work of former Green Party councillors Sean English and JJ Power

The Chief Executive welcomed Councillor Kenny to the council stating he looked forward to working with him, and all the members, in partnership to support and improve our county. He also congratulated former Councillor Vincent P Martin on his election to the Seanad.

Resolved on the nomination of Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Brett and agreed by the members present, that Mr Colm Kenny fill the casual vacancy in the membership of the council following the election of former Councillor Vincent P Martin to the Seanad.

06/0920

Committee vacancies

The members considered nominees to fill the committees' vacancies of the council arising from the election of former Councillor Vincent P Martin to Seanad Éireann -

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor Sammon and with the agreement of the members, the appointment of Councillor Colm Kenny to the following committees, was approved

- County Joint Policing Committee
- Kildare Heritage Forum
- Monread Community Centre.

On the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Keatley and with the agreement of the members, Councillor Peter Hamilton was nominated to the Climate Action SPC.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Liston and with the agreement of the members, Councillor Hamilton nomination to the Climate Action SPC, was approved.

On the proposal of Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor Doyle and with the agreement of the members, Councillor Colm Kenny was nominated to the Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services SPC.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Pender, seconded by Councillor Doyle and with the agreement of the members, Councillor Colm Kenny nomination to the Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services SPC, was approved.

07/0920

Chairperson of the Climate Action SPC

The members considered the appointment of Chairperson to the Climate Action SPC.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Doyle and agreed by the members that Councillor Peter Hamilton be appointed as Chair of the Climate Action SPC.

08/0920

Witness Affixing of the Council Seal

The members considered the nomination to witness affixing of the Council Seal.

Resolved with the agreement of the members that Councillor Colm Kenny be approved to witness affixing of the Council Seal.

09/0920

Annual Budget Meeting

Ms Millane advised the members that in preparation for the Budget, the statutory budget meeting take place on Monday 23 November at 3.00 pm in Newbridge Town Hall and a briefing for members be held on Monday 16 November at 3.00 pm in Newbridge Town Hall.

Resolved with the agreement of the members that the statutory budget meeting take place on Monday 23 November at 3pm in Newbridge Town Hall and a budget briefing take place on Monday 16 November at 3pm in Newbridge Town Hall.

10/0920

Local Property Tax - local adjustment factor

The members considered the Chief Executives report on options for setting the Local Property Tax (LPT) local adjustment factor that had been circulated previously. The following points were raised by the members

- LPT funding had been very important for local communities and it was incumbent on the members to get the most value from LPT for its citizens
- There are large numbers of people who do not have the ability to pay due to changes in their circumstances
- The tax has been very well spent to date
- That all discussions held by municipal district members on how funds were distributed, should be held in public.
- The proposed funding review that was due to take place nationally had not yet taken place and the members should reduce the local adjustment factor to put pressure on the Government to carry out this review.

Ms Millane informed the members that the method of distribution of the LPT amongst the Municipal Districts was agreed in 2019, and that this distribution method was for the duration of the current council.

Mr Carey asked the members to carefully consider the challenges facing Kildare County Council at this time and asked them to take account of the benefits that this funding has brought to local communities. He noted there were several very ambitious projects taking place by the Public Realm Team and asked that the status quo on the LPT rate be maintained

The Cathaoirleach advised the members that any motions from the floor had to be submitted to him in writing. The Cathaoirleach received four motions from the floor as follows:

Motion 1

Councillor S Doyle proposed:

That the base rate be set at 7.5% for 2021

Councillor Fitzpatrick seconded Councillor Doyle's motion.

Motion 2

Councillor F McLoughlin Healy proposed:

That the council reduces the legal adjustment factor by the maximum amount until such time as there is public consultation and participation in how local property tax is allocated.

Councillor N Connolly seconded Councillor McLoughlin Healy's motion.

Motion 3

Councillor N Killeen proposed:

That the council reduce the LPT by 5% for 2021 seeing as there is an inability to pay issue and an ability to spend with regard to the fact the proposed funding review that has as yet not taken place, increased pressure should be put on central government for to urgently undertake the review.

Councillor Pender seconded Councillor Killeen's motion.

Motion 4

Councillor Liston proposed

That there is no variation of the base rate of 0.18 %

Councillor Hamilton seconded Councillor Liston's motion.

The Meetings Administrator read the four motions into the record stating that as per standing orders, they would be taken in the order that they were submitted. The Cathaoirleach confirmed the vote would be taken by way of a show of hands.

Resolved with 22 members voting in favour, six members voting against and two members abstaining, that in accordance with the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 (as amended) the members agreed to increase the base rate of Local Property Tax by 7.5% for the year 2020 in respect of relevant residential properties situated in the administrative area of Kildare County Council.

11/0920

Budgetary Reports for up to 30 June 2020

The Meetings Administrator referred to the budgetary reports for the six months up to 30 June 2020. Ms Millane reported that she expected the outturn for 2020 to be on target but that 2021 would be very challenging.

Resolved with the agreement of the members, the reports were noted.

12/0920

Overdraft of €4.5m for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

The members considered the continued overdraft of €4.5m for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Duffy seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick and agreed by all members present that the continued overdraft of €4.5m for the year ended 31 December 2020 be approved.

13/0920

Audit Committee Charter

The Meetings Administrator advised that a copy of the charter had been circulated previously to the members. Ms Aspell informed the members that it was her intention to have this presented to them earlier in the year but due to the pandemic, it had been delayed.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by all members present that the Audit Committee Charter be adopted

14/0920

Audit Committee Annual Report 2019

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Dr Moling Ryan to the meeting and thanked him for his work as Chairperson of the Audit Committee. He also thanked his fellow members of the Audit Committee Councillors Killeen and Councillor Moore for their work to date.

The Audit Committee Annual Report 2019 was noted.

15/0920

Gnó an Chathaoirleach/Chairs Business

The Cathaoirleach congratulated Councillor Evie Sammon on her recent engagement. He also expressed his thanks to the councillors for their work during the month of August during the lockdown of County Kildare and for their support in lobbying for a meeting with the Minister for Health and taking part in the tri-county meeting with the other affected counties. The Cathaoirleach also acknowledged the work of the Deputy Chief Executive Mr Joe Boland during this time.

16/0920

Comhfhreagras/Correspondence

The Meetings Administrator confirmed eight items of correspondence had been received and circulated to the members, with the progress report.

17/0920

Conferences and Training

The Meetings Administrator referred to the report dated 19 September 2019 circulated to the members. The Meetings Administrator confirmed there were 2 requests for retrospective approval and 5 requests for approval for attending a conference this month. Councillor Liston asked that her name be added to National Housing Conference 2020 a virtual Conference being held on the 26 November.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Doyle 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 retrospective approval was granted for the attendance of Councillor Sammon at AILG Module 3 Training Seminar 2019 on the 6 August in the Horse and Jockey Hotel Thurles and the attendance of Councillor J Neville AILG Module 3 Training Seminar 2019 on 11 August in the Hodson Bay Hotel Athlone and approval was granted for the attendance of Councillors N. Killeen, A. Feeney N. Connolly C. Pender P. Hamilton and V Liston at the National Housing Conference (online event) on the 26 November.

18/0920

Members appointed to Other Bodies/Committees

The members noted the reports from the members who were appointed to the County Kildare Leader Partnership and the South Western Regional Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce. had been circulated to the member for noting.

19/0920

Referral from the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District Committee

The following motion on behalf of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District was considered.

That the council invite Waterways Ireland to a meeting of the full council to discuss opportunities around the Blueway.

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

A report was received from the Planning, Strategic Development and Public Realm Department informing the members that this was a matter for the members to agree. If agreed, a request would issue to Waterways Ireland to discuss opportunities around the Blueway with the members via Microsoft Teams.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Durkan seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the members present that the meeting be set up with Waterways Ireland to discuss opportunities around the Blueway.

20/0920

Reports to Council

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

That the council provide a list of all the organisations or groups that are required to provide reports to the council including, but not exclusive to, organisations/groups that are required by statute to report and organisations/groups that are required to report as part of the terms of a funding agreement with the council.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor Pender.

A report was received from the Corporate Services Department informing the members that Section 141 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, referred to the duty of members appointed to other bodies, including the requirement to report to the council annually or at any other time, if so requested by resolution or by the Cathaoirleach. A list of the other bodies to which councillors were nominated was available on the council's website, on the Members Information Portal and was submitted to the members, for ease of reference.

A report was also received from the Arts Service Section informing the members that all recipients of Arts Act Grant funding and other advertised grants from Kildare Arts Service were required to

submit a report on the use of their grant to Kildare Arts Service by the end of October in the year the grant was received. All groups in receipt of regular annual funding from Kildare Arts Service were required to submit a report at the beginning of each calendar year.

The names of these regularly funded organisations (RFO's) who were required to submit a report to Kildare Arts Service for 2020 were submitted to the members.

The list of recipients of Arts Act and grant funding who were required to report back to Kildare Arts Service by the end of October 2020 were submitted to the members.

A further report was also received from the Finance Department informing the members of the list of organisations that were required to provide a copy of their audited accounts to Finance each year and that this list was shown in Appendix VIII of the Annual Financial Statements.

A further report was also received from the Economic Development, Community and Culture Department informing the members that the community department received a report on activities from each of the following groups annually -

- Kildare Youth Services (Comhairle Na nÓg and others)
- Kildare Public Participation Network

Sports Partnership

- Football Association of Ireland (Leinster region)
- Leinster Rugby
- Leinster GAA

A further report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs) that were in receipt of funding were required to complete an annual compliance report with Kildare. Funding was provided to AHB's from the Capital Assistance Scheme, Capital Loan and Subsidy Scheme and the Social Leasing Programme. The AHB's reported annually to Kildare County Council and provided information under details of directors, rent calculations, occupancy rates, financial statements and insurance details. The list of AHB's were submitted to the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Fiona McLoughlin Healy seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by the members present that the report be noted

21/0920

County Speed Limit Review

The following adjourned motion in the name of Councillor Angela Feeney was considered.

That the council provides an update to members on the current status of the County Speed Limit Review, with associated timelines for its implementation.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Feeney and seconded by Councillor Breslin.

A further report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the current position was that Kildare County Council were carrying out a County Speed Limit Review. As part of this process Kildare County Council was currently reviewing the speed limits in accordance with “Road Traffic Act 2014” and “Guidelines for Setting and Managing Speed Limits in Ireland”.

As part of the legal requirement the Roads and Transportation Section was presently preparing the a “Schedule of Proposed Amendments” to be presented to the elected members of each Municipal District in October 2020.

Once the “Schedule of Proposed Amendments” was agreed, the next stage was drafting the “Draft Bye Laws Revision A” for public consultation. The Roads and Transportation Section was aiming to have the public consultation stage completed in Quarter 4, 2020 and targeting the County Speed Limit Review to be adopted in early 2021.

It should be noted that the target dates above might change due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Councillor Feeney welcomed the report as it provided clarity and a target date of early 2021. She enquired on progress with implementing Jakes Law and if it was possible to request speed limits of 30km in the vicinity of all schools. During the discussion the members raised the following points

- Would amendments be accepted before or after the public consultation.
- Why was it taking so long to introduce the reduced speed limits.
- Could a progress report be produced by municipal district to show what areas have been surveyed
- Could estates and schools be reviewed separately from the rest of the network

Mr McDonnell informed the members that proceeding on a municipal district by municipal district basis would involve a separate legal process for public consultation, preparation of drawings, consultation with An Garda Síochána etc. If the council were to change direction now it would add to the length of time it would take to introduce the changes. He confirmed there would be opportunities for the members to submit their views on the proposals at municipal district briefings.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Feeney seconded by Councillor Breslin and agreed by the members present that the report be noted, and the members would be briefed at their respective municipal district meetings

22/0920

Public Dog Parks

The following adjourned motion in the name of Councillor Tim Durkan was considered.

That the council considers providing public dog parks throughout the county on council owned lands where suitable, or lands where development is prohibited due to the proximity of such lands to the motorway network.

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

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that there was no objection in principle to the provision of dog parks at appropriate locations on council owned land. However, this was subject to identifying locations that were suitable to cater for them and to which there were no objections. Funding would also have to be identified to provide them. There was no capacity within the current programme of works for the Parks Section to progress this at the moment however, it could be considered for a future works programme.

Councillor Durkan welcomed the report stating finance needed to be put aside for this item.

Councillor Hamilton advised that a proposal to develop pathways and trails was previously discussed. Councillor Brett advised the members that a public dog park had been developed in the Naas municipal district and while it was welcomed by the public, it did not receive the support of the residents living in close proximity to the designated area.

Ms Kavanagh advised the members that more resources were required. There was a comprehensive work programme already planned but the members would get another opportunity to discuss this with the Parks Team when discussing the Open Space Strategy for 2021.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Durkan seconded by Councillor Duffy and agreed by the members present that the report be noted.

23/0920

Population Analysis

The following joint motion in the name of Councillors Tim Durkan, Angela Feeney and Peter Hamilton was considered.

That the council carry out a population analysis and forecast for Maynooth and Kilcock with a view to making a submission on the Dart Plus proposal to impress upon the relevant national authorities and the Minister for Transport the importance of ensuring a double dart line is delivered for Kilcock as it is the only town in North Kildare on the Dublin/Sligo train line not serviced by this proposed project.

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

A report was received from the Planning and Strategic Development Department informing the members that it was the function of the County Development Plan (CDP) to allocate population targets for each town and settlement in County Kildare through the plan formulation process which involved statutory consultation with the general public, prescribed bodies and consideration by the elected members. The current CDP set the targets to 2023 and beyond. The future population forecasts would need to be agreed under the review of the development plan which would begin in early 2021. It was important to note that targets for County Kildare to 2026 and 2031 were set out in the Implementation Roadmap for the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern Midlands Region, however these were not specific to each settlement within the county.

The Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied) identified population targets for Maynooth and Kilcock of 1,839 and 675 persons respectively from 2020-2023. It was likely, given that both towns were located within the MASP (Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan) that allocated levels of growth would be, at a minimum, retained at the current percentage in future development strategies for the county.

The NTA had agreed that it would consider the next phase of electrification, from Maynooth to Kilcock and beyond, in the review of the transport strategy. This was scheduled for the end of next year.

Councillor Durkan stated that the Electrification of the Irish Rail Network stopped 450 meters short of Kilcock. He noted that Kilcock was an area where there was significant housing development had taken place and to exclude it from the extension of the Dart service was an error. He asked that a submission be made on behalf of the executive and the members seeking that Kilcock be included in the plan.

Councillor Hamilton supported the motion advising that Kilcock should have been considered for inclusion in the electrification plan.

Mr McDonnell informed the members that he had raised the issue with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and the council was making a very strong case to the NTA to include Kilcock in the electrification of the Irish Rail Network

Councillor Durkan asked that the council write to the Minister for Transport to impress upon them, and the NTA the importance of delivering a double dart line for Kilcock

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Durkan seconded by Councillor Liston and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and that a letter issue to the Minister for Transport and the NTA, to impress upon him and the NTA the importance of delivering a double dart line for Kilcock.

23/0920

Pay Parking Meters

The following joint motion in the name of Councillors Aoife Breslin, Bernard Caldwell, Carmel Kelly, Tracey O'Dwyer, Evie Sammon and Paul Ward was considered.

That the council amend the current stickers on all Pay Parking Meters county wide, to reflect a 30-minute observation period; while the current social distancing requirements are in place.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Kelly and seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that they would not recommend a further extension of the observation period. An observation period was for the purpose of giving time to the motorist to get change of cash for the parking machine if required, a number of online services had been increased to facilitate motorists, including pay by phone where non-cash payments were available. Extending the observation

period would have a significant negative impact on business and motorists including a significant reduction in the turnover of parking spaces for motorists to access parking spaces, a reduction of footfall and customers for businesses, increased traffic congestion, additional confusion for the general public with constant changes to parking regulation and a reduction in revenue to pay for these services and the municipal district.

The council regulated illegal parking and managed parking spaces on public roads and in public car parks to ensure a regular turnover of parking spaces. This regulation of illegal parking and turnover of parking spaces would make our towns more accessible and more attractive to shoppers, customers, businesspeople and tourists. The current 30-minute observation before the purchase of a valid pay and display ticket and on the expiry of a valid pay and display (total of one hour plus the time the motorist has paid for) was more than adequate. The Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department would in fact suggest reducing the observation back to the standard 15 minutes observation period across the county, especially with the approach of Christmas to assist business growth and facilitate customers gain access to parking and local businesses rather than congesting valuable parking spaces discouraging on-street retail which might result in a further increase in on-line shopping.

Councillor Kelly advised that members of the public are questioning the 15 minutes as they are being told there is a 30 minute “grace period” She stated that the members are trying to get people to shop locally and that the information on the stickers needed to be clear and state 30 minutes.

Mr McDonnell advised the members that this could result in a reduction on the turnover of spaces.

Councillor McLoughlin Healy clarified that the motion was about attaching new stickers to the pay parking machines, advising the public that there was a 30 minute grace period and the only cost relates to the cost of the stickers. Mr McDonnell confirmed this was the only financial outlay related to the query being discussed.

The Cathaoirleach proposed that the motion be put to a vote.

Resolved with 25 members voting in favour, 1 member voting against and two abstentions, the motion that the council amend the current stickers on all Pay Parking Meters county wide, to reflect a 30-minute observation period; while the current social distancing requirements are in place, was carried.

24/0920

Enhanced Long Term Social Housing Scheme

The following joint motion in the name of Councillors Aidan Farrelly, Nuala Killeen and Chris Pender was considered.

That the council updates members on the Enhanced Long Term Social Housing Scheme; the projected number of units to be acquired by the council for 2020 and 2021; outlining the developers and investors associated with each agreement and the per unit costs associated with this scheme during the lifetime of the 25 year lease.

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

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the Enhanced Long-Term Social Housing Leasing Scheme was one of a suite of measures introduced under Pillar 2 of Rebuilding Ireland: An Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness. The scheme targeted newly built houses and apartments and was aimed at property developers and investors who had an ability to deliver housing at a reasonable scale.

The main features of the lease were:

- The lease term was 25 years.
- The Local Authority (the lessee) paid up to 95% of an agreed market rent at commencement of the lease to the lessor (owner of property).
- Rent was reviewed every 3 years, linked to the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP).
- The Lessor was obliged to provide Management Services for the properties.
- The Local Authority was the landlord to the tenant and collected differential rent from tenants.
- Each proposal should include a minimum of 20 no. properties in any Local Authority area (this could be spread across multiple sites).

To date no enhanced leasing units had been delivered however, Kildare County Council was in negotiation to lease 61 units in Barnhall, Leixlip; the units were currently under construction by Glenveagh Homes Limited. It was anticipated that the units would be delivered in 2021. The proposal was being advanced in association with the Housing Agency.

Councillor Farrelly outlined his concern about long term leasing and enquired if the council would be better off purchasing the units and if this scheme was in effect replacing Part V.

A discussion followed with the members stating they needed to be made aware of any plans that were in place in this regard and asked what criteria was used when selecting schemes.

Councillor Killeen expressed her concerns with this scheme and queried the length of social leasing contracts over five council term cycles. She noted the costs were at up to 95% of market rent yet we were facing into the biggest recession we have seen in 30 years. Councillor Killeen asked if that was a good accounting decision as there was no clarity that funding would be available to pay the rent should a different administration be in charge within the 25 years. She also stated she had a concern that the council would be asked to approve loans to cover the cost of this commitment, and that in her view this was not a good use of public money.

Ms Aspell informed the members that there was significant pressure on local authorities to provide social housing and that this was Government policy with relevant revenue streams in place to fund the scheme.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Farrelly seconded by Councillor Pender and agreed by the members present that the report be noted, and a briefing be arranged for the members.

25/0920

Rollout of Rural Broadband in County Kildare

The members agreed to take Councillor Behan and Councillor Wyse's motions together at this point of the meeting.

The following motion in the name of Councillor Behan was considered

That the council, through its Broadband Officer, advocates strongly for an increased pace for the rollout of rural broadband in County Kildare.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Behan and seconded by Councillor Wyse

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

That this council receives a report outlining the functions performed by the Broadband Liaison Officer and the extent of any Government funding provided to support this role and in the absence of the role being occupied at any time, details of the point of contact that is available to broadband service providers and Government officials to assist them in their efforts to improve broadband infrastructure and deliver the National Broadband Plan in our county.

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

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that National Broadband Ireland (NBI) had confirmed that surveying of premises was being carried out in all 26 counties during 2020. It was expected that deployment works would be initiated in all 26 counties during 2021. The National Broadband Programme would take 7 years to complete.

Councillor Behan stressed the importance of having quality broadband for each household noting that students who had poor/no broadband service were at a disadvantage.

Councillor Wyse noted that the report did not state that Government funding was provided to support the Broadband Officer role in local authorities. He confirmed that a budget of €1.4 million had been allocated to support the provision of a dedicated Broadband Officer in each of the 31 local authorities and the brief was clear that the funding was to support a dedicated role, not a part time role.

Councillor Wyse informed the members this investment by the Government reflected the importance of having a resource in the council that has in-depth local knowledge of broadband services in County Kildare. It also reflected the importance of having a Local Digital Strategy being in place, as the creation of a Digital Strategy is one of the reasons for this investment by the Government. He noted that the council are building a tech hub beside the council offices in Naas where we hoped to attract companies' dependent on digital services but was not leading the way in growing such a digital economy.

Mr McDonnell informed the members that he had met with the contactor and that this was a seven year Government contract working in all counties .He advised the members that the position of Broadband Officer was not a full time position but there had been issues with staff turnover and that the filling of staff vacancies was an executive function. Mr Mc Donnell reminded the members that a briefing with the National Broadband Office was scheduled at 11.00 am on the 19 October via Microsoft teams.

Councillor Wyse proposed an amendment to his motion which was agreed by the members That the council, through its Broadband Officer, advocates strongly for an increased pace for the rollout of rural broadband in County Kildare and the progress of work being done by the Broadband Officer and Broadband Liaison Officer will be reported in the Chief Executive's report in a new section entitled titled 'Digital and Telecommunications Development'

Ms S Kavanagh advised the members of the work being carried out by the Library Section and the role they could play in making broadband more available through longer opening hours and teaching the public how to use the service.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wyse seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and the progress of work being done by the by the Broadband Officer and Broadband Liaison Officer will be reported in the Chief Executive's report in a new section titled 'Digital and Telecommunications Development'.

26/0920

Additional Funding for Road Repairs

The following motion in the name of Councillor Anne Connolly was considered.

That having regard to the Programme for Government and Government plans to invest further in road infrastructure, fund safety improvements, provide cycle lanes and walking tracks, Kildare County Council in its preparation of the Capital Plan 2020 - 2022, should request extra funding from Central Government to address the poor quality of rural roads, the upgrading of footpaths and the provision of cycle lanes within the county.

The motion was proposed by Councillor A Connolly and seconded by Councillor Kelly

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare County Council continued to investigate and apply for funding, through various streams available, which would assist in providing the much-needed road infrastructure, safety improvements and cycle and pedestrian facilities for Kildare.

Councillor A Connolly accepted the report but advised that some rural roads were beyond patching and needed remedial works carried out.

Mr McDonnell informed the members that the council made its decisions on what roads need repairing based on technical assessments provided by the Roads Department in consultation with the municipal district engineers.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Behan seconded by Councillor Kelly and agreed by the members present that the report be noted.

27/0920

LPT Allocations to be completed by June each year

The following motion in the name of Councillor Noel Heavey was considered.

That notwithstanding binding guidelines/rules being introduced and accepted before May 2021, all matters pertaining to Local Property Tax (LPT) be completed by all Municipal District Committees in County Kildare before AGMs take place in July.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Heavey and seconded by Councillor Connolly.

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

Councillor Heavey asked that the details of the General Municipal District Allocation be circulated as early as possible and that it would be helpful if the Finance Department circulated the guidelines and figures as early as possible to enable councillors give due consideration to the matter.

Councillor Mc Loughlin Healy supported the motion stating that the councillors are allocated a large amount of taxpayer's money to distribute which should be done in an open, fair and effective manner. Councillor McLoughlin Healy enquired if there was a limit on the amount that be allocated to individual grant requests.

Ms Millane advised the members that the Schedule of Municipal District works was funded by pay parking revenues and LPT if required. The members had 6 months to determine larger projects, but that smaller project seemed to take longer to agree. She confirmed she would be attending the municipal district meetings commencing on the 14 October to discuss each individual Municipal District Draft Budget Plan 2021 stating this work had to be completed by the end of October. She noted that how the LPT allocation is distributed in each municipal district is entirely at the discretion of the members but ideally it should be completed by the end of the first quarter each year.

Councillor Heavey asked that a definite date be set for the completion of allocations and called for a vote on his motion. The members agreed.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Heavey seconded by Councillor A Connolly with 15 members voting in favour, seven members voting against and with six abstentions, the motion was carried.

28/0920

Working Hubs

The following motion in the name of Councillor Naoise Ó Cearúil was not heard as he was not in attendance at the meeting

That the council examines the possibility of remote working hubs throughout the county via the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC. These hubs would be council owned or rented properties to allow people to work remotely.

29/0920

Bonfires and Related Activities

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

That in view of the activities associated with Halloween and our COVID-19 environment, Kildare County Council ensures all possible measures are undertaken to help reduce the number of bonfires and related activities.

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

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that in normal circumstances the Community and Culture Department worked closely with a number of communities to promote alternatives to having a bonfire however, this might not be fully possible this year due to national guidelines pertaining at the time. Works undertaken by communities to develop a site normally used for a bonfire, was also recommended e.g. the creation of a seating or garden area. The result of these efforts had seen a general reduction in the number of bonfires as communities saw the benefits of protecting green areas.

The Parks Department would work with other departments e.g. Environment and Housing to examine particular areas to discourage the development of bonfires.

A report was also received from the Environment and Water Services Department informing the members that the council, with support from An Garda Síochána, local business and community groups, called on people in their local communities not to contribute to any bonfires at Halloween, and to respect both the environment and the health of their families and neighbours.

Through social media and other means, householders would be reminded of the risks arising from bonfires, the illegal nature of the activity, the effects on the local community and the negative effect on the general environment.

The communication would repeat the information that every individual had a responsibility to dispose of his/her waste correctly and legally.

It was illegal to dump or burn waste/rubbish of any description (including for a bonfire).

It was illegal to allow unauthorised waste collectors to collect and dispose of waste.

Bonfires caused dangerous pollutions. Toxins released into the air could contaminate the land around the fire and any area the smoke passed over.

Fire from bonfires was a potential safety risk as it could spread to nearby property.

When a bonfire finished burning, it could take several months for a green area to recover.

Fines would be imposed on those found responsible for providing and/or stockpiling rubbish for bonfires.

A report was also received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that Kildare Fire Service had no regulatory powers to prevent bonfires. This year, like previous years, the Fire Service would use local media and social media to promote fire safety around all aspects of Halloween, including bonfires.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor O'Dwyer seconded by Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer and agreed by the members present that the report be noted.

31/0920

Appeals Committee

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

That the council appoint an Appeals Committee to review and adjudicate on applications for reinstatement of a housing number.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle and with the agreement of the members, the motion was adjourned to the October meeting.

32/0920

Pay-parking App

The following motion in the name of Councillor Joe Neville was considered.

That the council ensures that in its Pay-parking app, each area with a different payment value can be denoted by a separate colour code.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Neville and seconded by Councillor Caldwell.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that the Pay Parking Section would follow up with APCOA and the App provider to investigate if this option was available.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Neville seconded by Councillor Caldwell and agreed by the members present that the report be noted.

33/0920

Housing Allocation Scheme

The following motion in the name of Councillor Íde Cussen was considered.

That Kildare County Councils Housing Allocation Scheme be reviewed to incorporate new measures for example to permit a break in time on the list for assessment, prioritising changes in circumstances, and to make provision for adaptations to One Person Dwellings to enable a family member/carer to live with an elderly resident to assist our elderly to remain in their homes.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Cussen and seconded by Councillor Feeney.

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that following discussions with Councillor Cussen regarding this motion and subject to the agreement of the elected members, the Housing Department was proposing that this motion be referred to the Housing SPC for discussion and consideration.

Councillor Cussen agreed that the motion be referred to the Housing SPC.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Cussen seconded by Councillor Feeney and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and this motion be referred to the Housing SPC

34/0920

Parking in a Disabled Parking Space

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

That the council write to the Minister for Transport requesting that the fixed charge penalty for parking in a disabled parking space without a valid permit be increased from €150 to €500.

The motion was proposed by Councillor B Clear and seconded by Councillor E Sammon.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Department informing the members that with the members agreement, a letter could issue to the Minister for Transport requesting that the fixed charge penalty for parking in a disabled parking space, without a valid permit, be increased from €150 to €500.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor B Clear seconded by Councillor E Sammon and agreed by the members present that the report be noted and a letter issue on behalf of the members to the Minister seeking an increase in the fixed charge penalty to €500 for illegally parking in a disabled parking space.

35/0920

Community Call groups

The following motion in the name of Councillor Vanessa Liston was considered.

That the council consult with community groups that participated in The Community Call during the first phase of the national COVID-19 response to gain an understanding of their experiences, what worked well and what could be improved on, and how this valuable network, services and social infrastructure can be strengthened for future needs.

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

A report was received from the Community and Cultural Development Department informing the members that the Community Call was established in March of this year in association with the Community Response Forum to assist many people in gaining access to services whilst cocooning. Most of the difficulties experienced stemmed from the fact that there was a loss of existing services to people who were accustomed to same and therefore needed help from the call. The call dealt with issues including providing transport to medical appointments, arranging to have shopping collected and delivered, providing advice to callers to assist in issues as a result of

being isolated and forwarding issues to the An Garda Síochána. A feature that emerged from the call was the provision of a library service to people who were cocooning.

The call also provided a platform for people to volunteer to provide assistance and these were directed to the volunteer network. The contacts forged between Kildare County Council and all the community services had been invaluable and would assist Kildare County Council in responding to any similar type of emergency should it be required.

There was continuous interaction with the various groups providing the services to help in developing ways of assisting the public where necessary. It should be noted that external services had been steadily coming back on stream and the number of callers to the helpline was decreasing accordingly. The Helpline continued to operate from Monday to Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day.

Any particular areas that the members wished to highlight could be brought to the attention of the forum groups for attention.

Councillor Liston informed the members that this forum showed the commitment and resilience of the communities and it was important that a review was undertaken with these groups to learn lessons from their experiences so these lessons can be applied in similar circumstances.

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

36/0920

Current Risk Register

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

That the council present the most current risk register to the council members to include; all risk registered from the low impact and low probability end through to the high impact, high probability end of the risk matrix and a report of how the risks are being managed.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McLoughlin Healy and seconded by Councillor N Connolly.

A report was received from Mr Joe Boland informing the members that as requested, a copy of the council's most recent Corporate Risk Register (June 2020) was being provided. He confirmed tha

the council was fully compliant with all public sector risk management requirements and these matters were the subject of annual overview by the Local Government Auditor as well as ongoing oversight by the council's Audit Committee.

He stated there were two fundamental elements to current procedures: The Departmental Risk Registers and the Corporate Risk Register. The former was updated on an annual basis and incorporated the red, amber and green system, as well as metric weightings in relation to both "probability" and "impact". These were examined by the Audit Committee on an ongoing basis. The Departmental Risk Registers set out the lower level risks within each Department and, as stated, included a detailed scoring and ranking system. These also fed into the higher-level Corporate Risk Register and, therefore, form part of a deliberative process. Accordingly, these are not made publicly available.

The process of risk management is overseen by the Senior Management Team who also had responsibility for approving the Corporate Risk Register. The last review was expedited in light of the current COVID-19 crisis and was very much couched within that context. It had also been discussed with the Chair of the Audit Committee. Risks were assigned to relevant senior staff under the overall direction of the Chief Executive. It also included a list of opportunities. The next review had just commenced and would be completed in mid-October 2020.

Councillor Mc Loughlin Healy welcomed the report stating that the purpose of her motion was to seek clarity and asked if she could receive a copy of the Departmental Risk Registers and details around the deliberation process. She also enquired as to how often the register was reviewed.

Mr Boland advised that the purpose of the Risk Register was the identification of specific risk, how management controlled that risk and their plans to mitigate the risk. He confirmed that notwithstanding the pandemic, the Climate Action Regional Office continued to advance their programme of work and had produced a document outlining 24 composite initiatives in support of Local Government, to be introduced and he would circulate this document to the members.

Mr Boland informed the members that the Risk Register was a standing item on the Management Team fortnightly agenda. He confirmed its purpose was in the identification, management and control of specific risks and that each Department had a responsibility to deal with the lower level risks. He confirmed the Risk Register was the first item checked by the Local Government Auditor and that the Audit Committee and Local Government Auditor were satisfied with the register.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin Healy, seconded by Councillor N Connolly and agreed by the members present that the report be noted.

Councillor Kelly congratulated the Community and Culture Department on the success of Culture Night 2020.

The meeting concluded.