

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting of Full Council held at 3:00 p.m.

Monday 31 July 2023 on Microsoft Teams.

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

Apologies: Councillor E. Sammon.

Also Present: Ms S Kavanagh Chief Executive, Ms. A Aspell, Ms. M Higgins, Mr A Dunney (Directors of Service) Ms. C Barrett, (A/Director of Service) Ms. F Millane (A/Head of Finance), Ms. C O'Grady (A/Director of Service and Meetings Administrator), Mr. J Hannigan (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the July meeting of Council online and sought the members continued co-operation in adhering to protocols on speaking times to continue the efficient use of the time available.

01/0723

Bereavements

The Cathaoirleach extended his sympathy to the family of the late Peter MacNamara, brother of John MacNamara, Environment Seamus Fitzsimons, father of Brendan Fitzsimons, Climate Action

A minute's silence was observed.

02/0723

Declaration of Interests

The Cathaoirleach sought from the members any declarations of conflicts of interest or pecuniary or beneficial interests under Section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended. There were no declarations.

03/0723

Minutes and Progress Report

The council considered the draft minutes of the annual meeting and the special meeting held on 23 June 2023 together with the draft minutes of the monthly meeting held on 26 June 2023 and the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy seconded by Councillor Moore and agreed by the majority of the members present with Councillor McLoughlin Healy abstaining, that the draft minutes of the annual meeting and the special meeting held on 23 June 2023, together with the draft minutes of the monthly meeting held on 26 June 2023 be adopted.

The progress report was noted.

04/0723

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report

The members noted the Chief Executives monthly management report.

05/0723

Section 183 Notice for Disposal of Lands

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

- i. Disposal of 0.409 hectares of land at Maudlins, Naas, Co Kildare (Statutory notice of 05 July 2023, circulated previously).

This was proposed by Councillor Moore seconded by Councillor McEvoy Councillor McLoughlin Healy expressed her concern about the disposal and how a valuation of €0 was put on this parcel of land. She also stated that the protocol on

returning compulsory purchased land to the original owner was not always adhered to.

It was explained that the land was approx. 1 Meter wide and 400 meters long. She was advised by Councillor Brett that the land was zoned Green Belt. Ms Barrett informed the meeting the land had been CPO'd as part of the N7 Naas road widening and interchange scheme and had been held onto until the route for the cycle lanes from Naas to Kill had been agreed. The land was not required for the cycle path. As part of the legal agreement when the land was compulsory purchased it was agreed that any land that was not required would be returned to the vendor with a €0 value. Councillor McLoughlin Healy asked for a copy of the agreement of sale to be circulated but was informed by Ms Barrett that this was legally privileged information.

Councillor McLoughlin was unhappy with this.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Moore seconded by Councillor McEvoy and agreed by the majority of the members present with Councillor McLoughlin Healy not in agreement, that the disposal of 0.409 hectares of land at Maudlins, Naas, Co Kildare as set out in the Section 183 notice be approved.

The members considered the disposal of 0.481 hectares of land at the ESB site, Leixlip, Co. Kildare (Statutory notice of 14 July 2023, circulated previously).

This was proposed by Councillor Caldwell and seconded by Councillor Hamilton Councillor Killeen asked about what community gain was in this for the people of Leixlip. The Celbridge Leixlip members supported the proposed sale of the land and the development of the 32 units on the site. The centre of Leixlip would benefit from this.

Ms A. Aspell informed the meeting that a community facility was to be developed as part of this project. In response to a query from Councillor McLoughlin Healy Ms Aspell explained that the sale of the site to Cluid would allow them to apply for funding to develop the site. Cluid had been selected because of their record in developing and management of this type of project. She also explained that the site was not surplus to requirement but was for development.

Ms Kavanagh explained that in general the council would determine if land was surplus to requirement prior to consideration for sale and if so then they would bring it forward to the council for approval but in some specific cases like this, the land would not be surplus but would require to be transferred to allow it be developed by the AHB.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Caldwell seconded by Councillor Hamilton and agreed by the majority of the members present with Councillor McLoughlin Healy abstaining that the disposal of 0.481 hectares of land at the ESB site, Leixlip, Kildare as set out in the Section 183 notice be approved.

The members considered the disposal of 5.94 square meters of land for an ESB substation kiosk site at Mountain View, Athgarvan, Co Kildare (Statutory notice of 17 July 2023, circulated previously).

The disposal was proposed by Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor A Connolly. Councillor McLoughlin Healy queried if this was the same piece of land which she had previously opposed. Ms Aspell explained that the ESB were replacing an ESB pole with a cabinet and this was why they required this piece of land.

The members asked that this item be moved. Councillor McLoughlin Healy disagreed

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor A Connolly and agreed by the majority of the members present with Councillor McLoughlin Healy not in agreement, that the disposal of 5.94 square meters of land for an ESB substation kiosk site at Mountain View, Athgarvan, Co Kildare as set out in the Section 183 notice be approved.

06/0723

Filling of Committee Vacancies

The members considered the filling of the following committee vacancies.

- Transportation, Safety and Emergency Services SPC
- County Joint Policing Committee
- Kildare Heritage Forum
- Monread Community Centre

Councillor Hamilton proposed Councillor Bob Quinn to fill all of the committee vacancies. This was seconded by Councillor Moore.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Hamilton seconded by Councillor Moore and agreed by the members present that Councillor Bob Quinn fill the vacancies on the committees held by former Councillor Colm Kenny.

07/0723

Witness Affixing of the Council Seal

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

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Hamilton seconded by Councillor Moore and with the agreement of the members that Councillor Quinn be approved to witness affixing of the Council Seal.

08/0723

Nomination of External Member to the Housing SPC

The members considered the report circulated in advance of the meeting in relation to the appointment of an external member to the Housing SPC to fill the union pillar vacancy.

Ms Aspell informed the meeting that Mr Ger Dunne had been nominated by the Union Pillar to replace Mr Billy Wall and she was seeking the members approval.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Moore and agreed by the members that Mr Ger Dunne be appointed as an external member to the Housing SPC.

09/0723

Maynooth Decarbonising Zone

The members considered the proposal to adopt the Maynooth Decarbonising Zone Chapter of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan.

Ms. P. O'Rourke briefed the members on the importance of adopting the Maynooth Decarbonising Zone Chapter of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan

She provided a number of statistics showing the sources of CO2 emissions and explained that while there had been a drop in emissions since 2018 we are still a long way off the target of 36,000 tonnes set for the end of the decade. She also

highlighted that the largest contributor was residential. She also showed an innovative distribution curve to demonstrate how the public react to new innovations and the importance of early adopters.

Councillor Hamilton thanked Ms O'Rourke and advised the members of the importance of achieving the targets set. The biggest contributor to CO2 emission in Maynooth was residential. He gave an estimate of costs of €250 million that would be required to retrofit houses in one town in Kildare to B1 standard. This would have to be repeated across Kildare.

Councillor Ó Cearúil commended all the engagement work undertaken and stressed the importance of bringing people along with the plan.

Councillor Feeney enquired about the older housing stock and retrofitting these. She also suggested liaising with Maynooth University.

Members made the following contributions.

They commended the work done to date.

This need to be rolled out across the County.

Park and Ride facilities in Maynooth would help reduce emissions.

It was important that people were brought along on this, perhaps TDs could help with this.

Ms Higgins thanked the members for their contributions and agreed that there are challenges ahead. Data is what tells the story. She thanked the team for their enthusiasm and work.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Ó Cearúil and agreed by the members that the Maynooth Decarbonising Zone Chapter of the Local Authority Climate Action Plan be adopted.

10/0723

Bi-Annual Update from Development Control Section

The members considered the report previously circulated in relation to the taking in charge status of residential estates in the County.

Mr. J. Hennessy Building Control, advised that the information in the report was correct as of the 30 June

The total number of estates not taken in charge was 328 and these had been categorised under 5 different headings.

It was confirmed that the section are currently dealing with 78 requests to be taken in charge. 27 are in category 2, construction is complete and the developer is engaging with the council. 51 fell into category 3, construction has ended but further investment may be needed.

10 estates had been taken in charge in the first 6 months of the year and there would be further requests put to the members later in the year.

Councillor Killeen asked about the 127 estates in category 3 and enquired how much would it cost to bring these up to the standard.

Mr Hennessy advised that 51 have requested to be taken in charge and there has been no request received from the remainder. He could not give an estimate to the cost.

Councillor Moore asked was a plebisite of home owners required and if so was a simple majority sufficient to request taking in charge. Councillor Doyle enquired about making the Taking in Charge policy available on the website so that householders and developers could see what was required.

Mr Henessey informed the members that the policy was already available on the website.

The report was noted.

11/0723

Quarterly Update on Climate Action

The members considered the Quarterly Update on Climate Action.

Ms Higgins informed the meeting that a comprehensive report had been circulated to the members. She informed them that Kildare County Council was the lead authority for 17 local authorities and stressed the importance of taking a strategic view on Climate Action. She drew their attention to a number of items in the report.

- Climate action Plans which had to completed by February 2024
- Training was continuing. A webinar was being planned for Quarter 3.

- She advised that grant assistance was available from SEAI and there were plans to decarbonise leisure centres.
- Community Activation Planning Toolkits called 'living toolkits' will be developed to help participants to turn their ideas, insights and actions into practical projects and realities. The living toolkit approach supports the many communities that already have community climate/transition plans or local action plans in place and works to support the realisation of community-led actions.

She also referred to the work carried out by the CARO office in preparing activation plans.

She also advised that the Climate Action Team was working to deliver these.

Councillor McEvoy asked that members be kept updated on progress on developing living toolkits.

The report was noted.

12/0723

Gnó an Cathaoirleach/Cathaoirleachs Business

Councillor Fitzpatrick informed the members that he had attended an event in London as part of Speaker of the Isles.

He informed the members that the upgrade of the chamber was continuing and that September Municipal District meetings would be held in the Aras but might not take place in the chamber.

It was clarified that the upgrade was in progress, it was a new system and once installed staff would need to be trained on its use.

13/0723

Comhfhreagras/Correspondence

The Meetings Administrator confirmed sixteen items of correspondence had been circulated to the members along with the progress report. These included five motion referrals from other local authorities, four replies to correspondence issued

and seven acknowledgements.

The correspondence was noted.

14/0723

Conferences and Training

The Meetings Administrator referred to the conference and training report which had been circulated to the members and recommended by the Corporate Policy Group. She sought retrospective approval for the attendance of Councillor Brett at the AILG training event, Úisce Éireann- A Briefing for Councillors' in Sligo on the 22 July.

Approval was also sought for Councillors Kelly, N Connolly, F Brett and B Caldwell to attend an in person training event, Sligo Park Hotel, Co Sligo, taking place on 13 September 2023 at a cost of €125 plus Travel and Subsistence.

She also gave notice of 2 Webinars Integrating Energy Supply and Planning 22 September and Age Friendly Ireland 13 October.

There was a further Councillor Security Training Event in Hotel Kilmore Cavan on the 19 October at a cost of €80 plus travel and subsistence. There were no requests to attend.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor S Doyle seconded by Councillor P McEvoy and agreed by all, that the above requests as set out in the training and conference report be approved.

15/0723

Environment and Water Services Strategic Policy Committee

The members received a report from the Chair of the Environment and Water Services Strategic Policy Committee Councillor S Doyle.

Councillor Doyle outlined the membership of the committee and the key policy areas they were concentrating on currently. The committee had met 4 times in the previous 12 months.

The September 2022 meeting reviewed the tidy town results. Volunteers from County Tidy Towns were invited to attend a Presentation from Christy Boylan (Tidy Town Adjudicator of longstanding)

The December 2022 meeting included a presentation on cemetery provision in the county: Reilly Undertakers attended meeting to give insights into shift in traditions and demand, outlining factors influencing change and the move to crematorium, Columbarium Walls and Ash Plots.

She informed the members that all Crematoriums were privately operated within the country. Proposals for a number of Columbarium Walls within County Cemeteries were outlined at the meeting. A presentation was also made on Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems was given outlining the changes in assessment on foot of 2021 Code of Practice. Members discussed difficulties being experienced by planning applicants. It was agreed that the threshold of suitability was now much higher.

In March 2023 there was a dedicated meeting to consider use of Big Belly Solar Powered Compacting Bins with Waste Segregation Capacity.

It was recommended that the Transport Department would examine introduction in high use urban areas, with the scope to respond to festivals and events through use of mobile units.

At the May meeting a presentation was made on the Draft Regional Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy. Target of the Plan is to achieve 0% waste growth per person.

Dr. Joseph Roche of TCD, gave an engaging and informative presentation outlining the operation and value of Citizen Science, giving case studies that demonstrated key achievements that have enhanced science, referencing European Led Portal Platform eu-citizen.science that supports citizen science engagement.

The members visited Green Generation Plant in Nurney to view the operation of large scale waste conversion to Gas Network

Councillor Doyle thanked Mr J Boland who had recently moved to An Bord Pleanála for his work with the SPC

The members welcomed the use of Big Belly compactor Bins which required only 8 hours of sunlight per month to operate. There was one operating in Poplar Square, Naas whose use reduced the requirement for emptying.

The report was noted.

16/0723

Bridging Finance Provision

Councillors Suzanne Doyle, Carmel Kelly, Noel Heavy, Michael Coleman, Brian Dooley and Anne Connolly

That the council create a bridging finance provision with appropriate policy, to support community and voluntary groups with grant applications for recreation and amenity facilities, that require retrospective draw downs on capital investment supports. This facility has the capacity to leverage significant amounts of capital investment to advance much needed community supports and enable our capital programme to significantly expand on the many projects in the delivery pipeline.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor Leigh. Councillor Doyle asked that the motion be adjourned to the September meeting pending the receipt of a response to a letter from the A/Head of Finance to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage seeking clarification as to whether a local authority is legally empowered to create such a provision and to advance such finance.

It was agreed by the members that the item be adjourned to the September meeting pending a response from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

17/0723

Vacant Non-Residential Council Owned Properties

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

That the council update the members with a list of vacant non-residential Kildare County Council owned properties in the county.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Neville and seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer.

A report from Ms M McIvor A/Director of Services, Corporate, People and Cultural Services stated that a list of current vacant non residential properties was being compiled. In the interests of the security of the various sites, it was circulated directly to members for their information.

Councillor Neville thanked the executive for the listing.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Neville, seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer and agreed by the members present that the report be noted.

18/0723

Street Parking Management Service Provider

The following motion in the name of Councillor Seamie Moore was considered by the members.

That elected members request that Kildare County Council in renegotiating its new contract for a Street Parking Management Service Provider, ensures to provide a "Discount Benefit" for members of the public who wish to purchase 'On Line Parking Accommodation' but are presently surcharged for using this type of payment system.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Moore and seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer.

A report from Ms C Barrett, A/Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that at present there are three methods of paying for on street and off-street parking; (a) cash (b) debit/credit card and (c) Apcoa Connect App. There is no additional cost associated with first two methods of payment, however there is an additional cost associated with the use of the Apcoa Connect App which is already subsidised by Kildare County Council. Users of this app pay an additional charge of 10% of the cost of the parking. The app provides additional services including searching for carparks and the topping up of payments.

The Transportation Directorate will consider all aspects of the parking experience when the next tendering process for parking services is undertaken in 2024.

Councillor Moore thanked Ms Barrett for the report but expressed his disappointment at the 10% surcharge associated with the Apcoa App. The idea of online was to make things easier and less expensive. He was supported in this by Councillor Coleman who was of the view that it should be the same cost for all pay parking users irrespective of the payment method used.

Ms Barrett informed the members that the Transportation Directorate will consider all aspects of the parking experience when the next tendering process for parking services is undertaken in 2024.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor T O'Dwyer that the report be noted.

19/0723

Publishes of Road Network in Kildare as GIS Data

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

That the council publishes the road network in the county as GIS data on the Government Open Data portal at <https://data.gov.ie>, to allow citizens to determine the precise extent of the public road network, and to look up local road identification numbers.

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

A report from Ms C Barrett, A/Director of Services, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that regional and local road network data is currently available to local authority staff and certain Government departments through the *MapRoad* system. The Road Management Office is progressing plans to make this data publically available before the end of this year on the Open Data Portal.

Councillor Wyse stated that he felt that some roads were not being repaired because they weren't on a map. This information was needed to see what roads were taken in charge. He welcomed the fact that this was being progressed.

Councillor P O'Dwyer queried the accuracy of the taken in charge information.

Ms Barrett reiterated that as it said in her report, she hoped that this would be in place by the year end.

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

20/0723

Kildare Energy Agency

The following motion in the name of Councillor Peter Hamilton was considered by the members.

That the council includes planning and supports for a Kildare Energy Agency in the Climate Action Plan, bringing multiple stakeholder groups, funding sources and resources together to support homeowners, businesses, schools and community groups in the planning, financing and project management of complex energy transition projects.

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

A report from Ms M Higgins, Director of Services, Climate, Community, Environment and Water stated that the need to decarbonise our economy and lifestyles can be overwhelming. Assistance is required to demystify and support with the processes involved. Maynooth as the Decarbonising Zone (DZ) and test-bed for community driven actions is proposing to address this issue under actions 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6 as reproduced below. (Note, adoption of the Maynooth Decarbonising Zone Plan is being requested at today's full council meeting)

4.4 Develop a central digital platform for climate action guidance for communities and businesses within Maynooth.

4.5 Facilitate a drop-in clinic or hub within Maynooth to support communications and raise climate action awareness.

4.6 Undertake a feasibility study to develop a low-energy community centre within the town and an information hub.

The Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LA CAP) will be in consultation phase in late summer/early autumn and further consideration can be given at that stage.

Councillor Hamilton thanked the Director for her response.

He advised that the council needed to broaden the model on supports to help achieve the Climate Action Plan. There are massive challenges ahead. He felt that there was a need for a trusted advice source for schools and small businesses. He gave examples of what other local authorities were doing. He believed that the SEAI did not fill this gap.

Councillor Heavey asked if the council could investigate if the centre of excellence proposed for Newbridge might have a role in this.

Ms Higgins advised that she would come back to the councillor on the Centre of Excellence. She believed that there was a need to demystify the process. The Decarbonizing Zone process in Maynooth was a test bed for the delivery of this. Perhaps the library network might also have a role to play. The LA CAP was in consultative stage at this time.

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

21/0723

Ownership of the Tower on the Hill of Allen

The following motion in the name of Councillor Rob Power was considered by the members.

That Kildare County Council work with relevant stakeholders to examine the opportunity to take ownership of the tower on the Hill of Allen recognising it as a key landmark within the county and in a bid to secure the site for future generations.

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

A report from Ms M McIvor A/Director of Services, Corporate, People and Cultural Services stated that the objective of this motion is to be commended and the council would support any efforts to protect this significant landmark for future generations. However, this motion has significant revenue and capital funding implications and, as such, will need to be scoped out before the Executive could respond to this request. We will commit to making contact with relevant stakeholders to put together a discussion document that can be circulated to the elected members for further consideration. The timeframe for furnishing the document will be contingent on resources being assigned to the new Property Management Team and can't be fixed at this time.

Councillor Power informed the meeting that the Tower was in private ownership. It was an iconic symbol for Kildare. He appreciated the Chief Executives support of any efforts to protect this significant landmark for future generations. He suggested that councillors should visit the site and asked for a vote on his motion. He was seeking to start the process.

Members made the following points.

- It should be taken over by the OPW and they should be included in any conversation.
- It was a very important structure.
- Safe access to the site needed to be provided.
- The Tower needed to be preserved.
- The Tower had been previously in the ownership of a state company.

Ms Kavanagh informed the meeting that conservation and preservation is the first consideration and that this project needed to be scoped out. The following needed to be considered. How much would it cost? Did we have the capacity to carry it out? where could we secure funding? It would require a plan similar to Dun Ailinne. She had committed that the Property Management Team, when resources allowed, would look at it to see what the council can do.

Councillor Power welcomed the Chief Executives response and understood that the local road would also require upgrading which would make it financially prohibitive.

A collective approach by Property Management Team, Kildare Failte, Just Transition should be considered.

With the agreement of all the members it was agreed that the Property Management Team, when resources allowed, would look at it to see what the council can do.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Power, seconded by Councillor Neville and agreed by members that the Property Management Team, when resources allowed, would look at this to see what the council can do.

22/0723

Policy on Restricted Pets for Tenants

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

That the council develop a policy on restricted pets for tenants so problematic issues can be dealt with.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Killeen and seconded by Councillor Vera Louise Behan.

A report from Ms A Aspell, Director of Services, Housing and Regeneration stated that the primary legislation in this area is the Control of Dogs Act 1986, as amended. This act outlines the responsibility of dog owners and places additional controls on specific dog breeds (known as restricted breeds). The council's tenancy agreements outline the position regarding the keeping of pets. Four different tenancy agreements exist depending on the type of unit being let:

- Council owned units or standard leased units: there is no ban on the keeping of restricted breeds.
- Enhanced Leased units: the keeping of restricted breeds is not permitted.
- Home for Life Mortgage to Rent units: the keeping of dogs which appear on the restricted list is not permitted.

A tenant or complainant can make a personal application to the District Court, under the Control of Dogs Acts 1986, as amended, in relation to persistent nuisance caused by a barking dog. Complaints relating to dogs are referred to the Environment Section of the council and are dealt with under The Control of Dogs Act 1986, as amended. It is recommended that this motion is referred to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee for further consideration, legal advice may be required.

Councillor Killeen informed the meeting that the problem with these breeds are noise and fighting. The council has a responsibility to keep tenants safe. Councillor Killeen was happy to have this referred to the Housing SPC for consideration.

Councillor Behan supported the motion and pointed out that the council only have one animal welfare officer. It is very important to support tenants and tenant liaison officers who may be in fear of these dogs. It was the dog owners who were causing the problem.

Ms Aspell agreed to refer this to the Housing Strategic Policy Committee.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Killeen, seconded by Councillor Behan and agreed by members that this motion be referred to the Housing SPC for consideration.

23/0723

Cancellation of Licensed Outdoor Events

The following motion in the name of Councillor Bob Quinn was considered by the members.

That the council ensures that in the event of unfavourable weather leading to the cancellation of a licensed outdoor event, it will act as the lead agency in co-ordinating an emergency response for impacted parties.

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

A report from Ms A Granville, A/Director of Services, Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development and Emergency Services stated that Outdoor Events with an excess of 5,000 attendees (other than sporting events) are licensed in accordance with Section 230 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), this licensing process is coordinated through the relevant Local Authority. The Statutory Stakeholders are the Local Authority, An Garda Síochána and the Health Service Executive.

The obligation is on the Event Organiser, as part of their licence application, to provide the principal response agencies with a Draft Event Management Plan, to be finalised and agreed in advance of the event. This Plan is required to address, amongst other things, the organizational responsibility of various event managers on the site including but not limited to the Event Controller, Event Safety Officer and Site Manager. These and their staff are wholly responsible for safety of attendees on the site.

In the event of unfavourable weather leading to the cancellation of the event, it is the responsibility of the Event Organiser and their senior team to communicate this to the patrons of the event and to ensure an orderly departure from the site in the event of full cancellation or to communicate alternate plans in the event of another course of action being chosen, i.e., partial cancellation or postponement.

The Statutory Stakeholders would expect to be consulted by the Event Organizer in the decision-making process, however, they do not have a direct role in this decision.

Notwithstanding the above, each of the Emergency Services (Fire Service, An Garda Síochána and the Ambulance Service) will undertake their statutory duties in the event of an accident or emergency to which they are called to assist by either the event organizer, or a member of the public.

Councillor Quinn thanked the Director for the detailed response. Global boiling was now the norm. Cancelled events could have an economic or reputational damage on local businesses. The council were one of four statutory bodies. Every plan should include a Climate Response Plan.

Councillor McEvoy informed the meeting that the council should work towards the greening of festivals. Public Transport needed to be considered. The Council was

not the lead authority. Look at the National Ploughing Championship, this was an example of how to manage severe weather.

Mr Dunney informed the meeting that under the Planning Act there are 4 statutory bodies who are consulted when licencing events. The organiser has to have contingency plans in place to deal with various contingencies including severe weather events.

Councillor Quinn informed the meeting that he had read the licence conditions and there was no responsibility on the organiser to look after those who are stranded as a result of being unable to attend due to the event being cancelled.

Ms Kavanagh agreed that organisers should have plans to deal with severe weather events in place but could not agree to the council taking the role of lead agency. She did agree that a Climate Response Plan should be included in future planning regulations.

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

The meeting concluded.