



**Minutes of meeting of Full Council held at 3:00 p.m.
Monday 24 June 2024 in the Council Chamber
Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare**

Members Present: Councillors J. Neville,(Cathaoirleach) P. Balfe, V. Behan, A. Breen, A. Breslin, F. Brett, B. Caldwell, B. Clear, S. Doyle, K. Duffy, G. Dunne, T. Durkan, W. Durkan, A. Farrelly, A. Feeney, D Fitzpatrick R. Heather, N. Heavey, C. Kelly, I Keatley N. Killeen, M. Leigh, T. McDonnell, P. McEvoy, P. Melrose, S. Moore, N. Ó Cearúil, T. O'Dwyer, P. O'Dwyer, , C. O'Rourke, L. Panaite Fahey, C. Pender, R. Power, S. Ní Raghallaigh, E. Sammon, D. Trost, P. Ward and B Wyse

Online: Councillor B Dooley

Apologies: Councillor. B. O'Loughlin,

Also Present: Ms. S. Kavanagh (Chief Executive) Ms. A. Aspell, Ms. M. Higgins, A Dunney and Mr. E. Ryan (Directors of Service) Ms. C. Barrett, (A/Director of Service), Ms. E. Hanlon Head of Finance, Mr T Shanahan (Meetings Administrator), Mr J Hannigan (Meetings Secretary) and other officials.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the June monthly meeting of the Council and invited, the Meetings Administrator, Mr. T Shanahan advised to read a notice. Mr Shanahan advised that this meeting was being live streamed to the Council's YouTube channel, and read a notice advising the members that they, in line with Standing Orders, did not have privilege. He advised that notices were also being displayed



advising the public that recording of the meeting was prohibited, and live streaming was taking place. All were advised that the meeting would not be recorded.

01/0624

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.

02/0624

Minutes and Progress Report

The council considered the draft minutes of the monthly meeting held on 27 May 2024 and the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Moore and agreed by the members present that the draft minutes of monthly meeting held on 27 May 2024 be adopted. The progress report was noted.

03/0624

Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report

The members noted the Chief Executives monthly management report.

04/0624

Bereavements

The Cathaoirleach advised that he had been informed of the following bereavement Michael Cahill Retired Staff Member Corporate Services
And asked the members to observe a moments silence.

A moments silence was observed.



05/0624

Gnó an Cathaoirleach/Cathaoirleach's Business

The Cathaoirleach advised that he had nothing to report at this point, having taken up the office the previous Friday.

06/0624

Comhfhreagras/Correspondence

The Meetings Administrator confirmed two items of correspondence had been circulated to the members along with the progress report. A resolution from Tipperary County Council re Supports for farmers impacted by Ash Dieback and Circular LG 10-2024 Summary for Members - Local Authority Members (Gratuity) Regulations 2024.

He also advised that details of the New SPC scheme had been circulated to the members. It was hoped to have this brought to the members later in the year

The report was noted.

07/0624

Conferences and Training

The meetings administrator advised that details of AILG induction training had previously been circulated to the members. Two were in person events and the remainder were online, and if members wished to attend, could they advise Members Services and register their interest with AILG and this would be listed for agreement of the elected members at the next meeting.

AILG	AILG Elected Member General Induction Training	AILG	Mullingar Park Hotel	Thursday 11 July 2024 9.30-1.00p.m
AILG	AILG Elected Member General Induction Training	AILG	Radisson Blu Hotel Cork	Saturday 13 July 2024 9.30-1.00p.m



Kildare County Council

AILG	Role and Functions of Local Authority	AILG	Webinar	Friday 28 June 10.00-11.30 (online)
AILG	Role Of Elected Members	AILG	Webinar	Friday 5 July 10.00-11.30 (online)
AILG	Role of Chief Executive	AILG	Webinar	Friday 12 July 10.00-11.30 online
AILG	Local Authority Financing, Funding and Expenditure	AILG	Webinar	Friday 19 July 10.00-11.30 online
AILG	Elected Members Governance and Oversight Role	AILG	Webinar	Friday 26 July 10.00-11.30 online
AILG	Local Authority Plans incl Corporate Plan, Delivery Plan, Development Plan and Climate Action	AILG	Webinar	Friday 2 August 10.00-11.30 online

The report was noted.

08/0624

Provision of Childcare in the County

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

That this Council develops a comprehensive strategy for the adequate provision of childcare in the County with other local and national agencies.



The motion was proposed by Councillor Ó Cearúil and seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick.

A report from Ms M Higgins, Director of Services, Climate, Community, Environment and Water stated that the provision of childcare services does not fall within the remit of Kildare County Council. Kildare County Childcare Committee is responsible for development of such strategies.

Councillor Ó Cearúil informed the meeting that this motion came about as a significant issue raised during the local elections. The Councillor noted the council was responsible through the County Development Plan to plan for provision of childcare spaces. He believed developments being provided did not always meet the needs of the parents and advised that developers had applied for change of use from Creche to other uses in many cases.

While he accepted it was the responsibility of the County Kildare Childcare Committee to develop the strategy, he believed that all stakeholders, needed to be brought together to come up with strategies to resolve the issue of lack of or unsuitable childcare facilities. The Council because of its role in the planning process and strategic development needed to take the lead on this.

Members supported the motion and made the following points

This was an issue since 2019.

The County Childcare Committee had previously been invited to meet the members but had declined.

Creches had been built but were not in use because they were unviable.

The council had put in planning conditions that creches were to be built in the *first* phase of development.

The council should look at providing/supporting Community run creches.



Creches have a life cycle and on occasions were not being provided in the right locations.

As estates matured there was issues with traffic coming to creches from outside estates causing congestion.

Developers could build the facilities but did not have the expertise to run them.

Could the Childcare Committee be made into a prescribed body.

Had the council considered approaching sports clubs to see if they could provide creche facilities.

Could this be considered by the Planning and Economic Development SPC and that there be engagement with stakeholders such as Tusla and the Department of Education.

Creche operators needed volume to make their service viable.

Mr Dunney informed the meeting that the Planning Department provided spatial planning via statutory plans. Prescribed bodies were set out in primary legislation. He wasn't sure that it was appropriate for the Planning SPC to deal with.

He believed that the Department of Education would not see it as part of their responsibility to provide childcare facilities. He did acknowledge that developers had difficulty getting staff to run creches.

He could not recall in his time the council granting a change of use for premises conditioned as childcare.

Ms O'Brien advised that the council were involved with community run creches around the county. She would extend an invitation to the Kildare County Childcare Committee to meet with the members. She believed the timing was right for this as they had access to the most up to date AIRO information available. She also advised that through LECP they have engaged with the County Kildare Childcare Committee.



Councillor Ó Cearúil suggested that he wanted follow through on this motion.

Ms Kavanagh informed the meeting that this was a very important issue. Sports and community centres as a model for creches operating may not be a viable model as they needed scale. She did not agree that this be dealt with through SPCs but should be dealt with through the LCDC, with the most appropriate approach being contact with the County Kildare Childcare Committee to seek a meeting with the members.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Ó Cearúil and seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick and agreed by members that the council would contact the County Kildare Childcare Committee to seek a meeting with the members.

09/0624

Recreation and Amenity Capital Investment

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

That this Council adopt a policy to ensure the equitable delivery of R&A (recreation and amenity) capital investment for the period of the Council. That priority projects in each LEA be identified with a practical delivery schedule and resourced accordingly for delivery and that a dedicated meeting of Council is scheduled bi-annually to review reports on full capital programme, to ensure optimum delivery in this sector of Council responsibility.

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

A report was received from Ms M Higgins, Director of Services, Climate, Community, Environment and Water stated that the allocation of development levies between departments is determined by the Development Contribution Scheme 2023 – 2029. Development levies along with available grant funding and LPT, forms the basis for allocating funding to the various projects under the Capital Programme 2024 to 2026. This capital programme is noted by the elected members as part of the budgetary process. The members have the opportunity to discuss the Capital Programme at the



May Municipal District meetings each year and will be provided with a briefing on the 2025-2027 Capital Programme in November 2024.

Councillor Doyle informed the meeting that capital funding was in her opinion was well utilised for Housing and Road projects but believed that gaps in capital expenditure were on Social Infrastructure. This investment was fundamental in building strong and stable communities and was needed when communities were starting up.

She advised that we were at the mercy of central Government for funding and suggested a twice yearly meeting or a committee be formed to discuss capital programme. She described this meeting as a means of teasing out problems and seeing how they could be overcome.

The members raised the following:

While spend on Housing and Roads was on target it appeared that the percentage spent on recreation was low.

A swimming pool was needed but was not on the current programme.

Land needed to be purchased for these projects, this is an additional challenge.

Loneliness was a major problem in both urban and rural communities, community facilities are important in combating this problem.

A twice-yearly meeting at Full Council level would help.

Pressure needed to be put on central government to secure more funding.

The economy was in a good shape and now was the time to invest in these.

Ms Kavanagh informed the meeting that the Executive took the delivery of Capital Projects very seriously; it was an agenda item on the management team meetings held fortnightly and they were looking for ways to advance each project and to deliver them in a timely manner.



She advised that through the various plans that the council zone lands for appropriate use. The issue then is to translate what the council put on a zoning map into reality.

She advised that there was a limited fund available to fund capital projects with the council relying significantly on development contributions to fund Capital projects. She advised when other funding streams were identified, the executive would look to see if this could be used to advance capital projects. This could cause some projects to leapfrog others as when the opportunity presents itself, we take it.

She disagreed that Community and Amenity projects were being sacrificed for Housing and Roads. She pointed out that Kildare was one of the fastest growing counties in Ireland which placed immense pressure on delivery and demand.

She noted again that the Capital programme had been discussed at Municipal District level already this year, but while she had no issue with holding bi annual meetings if that was what the members wanted, this would have to be agreed a part of the meetings calendar.

Councillor Doyle thanked Ms Kavanagh for her response and advised that councillors were persistent and should keep the pressure on central government until we got the answers that were needed.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick and agreed by members that future dates for bi-annual full council meetings on the Capital Programme would be agreed.

10/0624

Public Lighting

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

That the council give an explanation as to why, what happens next and how Enerveo, the contracted Public Lighting supplier, can withdraw its services, without a pre-conditioned six-twelve months period of notice and leave unfinished work and un-repaired road lighting as major health and safety issues.



The motion was proposed by Councillor Moore and seconded by Councillor McEvoy

A report from Ms C Barrett, A/Director of Service, Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces stated that Kildare County Council's public lighting contractor Enerveo has given the 24 July 2024 as the final date of operations in Kildare, following the expiry of their contract. Kildare County Council has tendered for a new public lighting maintenance contractor, has issued letters to the relevant tenderers and is expecting to award the contract in early July 2024. It is expected that the new contractor will work through current public lighting maintenance issues, following the award of contract.

Councillor Moore informed the meeting that he was shocked when he was informed that the current supplier was withdrawing from the contract. He was concerned about repairs to the current stock.

Members advised that in their opinion lights were not being repaired in a timely manner over a long period of the contract.

Members queried if the current method for reporting outages was managed by the council or the contractor.

There was an audit carried out recently and were unrepaired lights part of the audit?

Were there penalties for the contractor for not repairing lights in a specified period of time.

Ms Barrett explained that Kildare County Council's public lighting contractor has given the 24 July 2024 as the final date of operations in Kildare, following the expiry of their contract. Kildare County Council had tendered for a new public lighting maintenance contractor many months ago in anticipation of this fact, has issued letters to the relevant tenderers and is expecting to award the contract in early July 2024. It is expected that the new contractor will work through current public lighting maintenance issues, following the award of contract.

She confirmed that the complaints database was managed by the council, not



exclusively by the outgoing contractor and that the successful contractor would take over and use this information.

She advised that this matter was not part of the Energy Efficiency review that had been carried out, which was perhaps the audit referred to by the member.

Councillor Moore asked that the successful contractor start with a priority list and progress be monitored.

Ms Barrett advised that the online reporting system would continue to operate.

The council had approximately 28,000 lights, there were occasions where lights were out for reasons beyond our control.

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

The meeting concluded.