

**MINUTES  
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH  
HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023 in Civic Offices Chamber, Dungarvan**

**PRESENT**

Cllr. Liam Brazil, Cathaoirleach
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Cllr. John O’Leary
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Cllr. Seanie Power
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Cllr. Ger Barron
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Apologies: Cllr. Declan Clune

**OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr. Ivan Grimes, DoS Housing, Community & Emergency Services

Mr. Gabriel Hynes, SE, Roads

Ms. Maria Goff, SEE Roads

Mr. Raymond Moloney, SEE, Environment.

Ms. Aisling O’Sullivan, SEP, Planning.

Mr. Philip Blake, Executive Architect, Housing

Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY**

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its sympathy to the families of the late John Harney, Christy O’Brien, Mary Shanahan, Marie Terese Connolly, Bridget Cooney.

**VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS**

St. Declans Community College on winning Munster Camogie Final and Maurice, Kandice & Ava Barron on their attendance at the State of the Union address as guests of President Biden and First Lady Jill Biden.

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of District Meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 proposed by Cllr. Power seconded by Cllr. Barron and agreed by all.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

None

### **3. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 – Construction of a lift stair core to external elevation to the rear of the Old Convent Rossmore, Kilmacthomas – Completion of Process**

Proposed by Cllr. Barron, seconded by Cllr. O’Leary and agreed by all.

Cllr. Barron welcomed project, noted that it is a good news story for the Comeragh area and queried if compliant with the Habitat Directive. Enquired if the old nuns garden adjacent to Greenway could be used for access directly onto the Greenway.

I.Grimes, DoS outlined that the current funding will not cover this work but will review.

P. Blake, EA, confirmed that all relevant surveys have been carried out and are compliant.

Cathaoirleach welcomed project acknowledging that it is very positive to see old buildings coming back into use.

### **4. REPORTS**

#### **(a) Planning**

Cllr. O’Leary queried about application on Old Road in Kilmacthomas for housing development and if any further information on the plans and how it will affect and impinge on locals. Queried if there is any public consultation with communities outside of the normal planning process.

Cllr. Barron welcomed new development in Kilmacthomas, commenting that a number of residents have reservations about it, will need to look at access routes and footpaths for the proposed development, supported by Cllr. Power.

Cathaoirleach welcomed development noting need to look at infrastructure and services for the new residents and take on issues in submissions. Noted that additional houses planned in Kill also and need to ensure that the Causeway group look at land in Kill to provide additional lands for the school as an expansion will be required.

A. O’Sullivan, SEP, outlined that the application by SE Construction is for 98 houses, it is a live application so cannot comment further. Invited the public to look at application and engage with the process. In Kill there is an application for 15 houses and commented that do look at development impact on the local area will facilitate with groups a meeting to discuss extra space for community/ school facilities.

Cllr. O’Leary noted his concerns about the forward planning in areas such as Kilmeaden and Kill in relation to the impact on schools, welcomed additional houses but need to engage with other agencies to ensure adequate facilities are also provided.

Cathaoirleach enquired about lighting in Littlewood in Stradbally

A. Sullivan, SEP, currently consulting with ESB regarding connection and will revert.

#### **(b) Housing**

Cllr. Barron enquired when units in Bylane in Kilmacthomas will be going up on CBL.

I.Grimes, DoS, will review the list of people that have applied, payment to allow connection due to be made in coming weeks and then will review allocations.

Cllr. O’Leary asked for comment in relation to when planning for houses that need to ensure other needs of community are addressed.

I.Grimes, DoS, noted that planning is a statutory process, there isn’t a provision in the planning process for other state agencies to be consulted, agree there should be but difficult where there is not a statutory basis for it.

**(c) Environment**

Cllr. Power acknowledged work of Raymond Moloney wishing him well in retirement. Enquired about provision of resources for litter picking and noted poor condition of road from Kilmeaden to Carrick.

Cllr. O’Leary wished Raymond well, enquired if any update regarding achieving climate change target of no fuel cars by 2035 and what provisions need to be made to achieve it. Outlined black litter spot in Kilmeaden, complimented great work of the Kilmeaden Litter Lifters.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Brazil commented that Raymond was always fair and obliging, noted that issue of container in Bunmahon needs to be addressed. He noted that littering is getting worse, not right that communities must do clean ups, only way forward to address issue is the use of CCTV.

Cllr. Barron requested on proposed fire station in Kilmacthomas.

R. Moloney, SEO, outlined that the community spring cleans will be supported by the council, he commented that there is no excuse to throwing away of rubbish and still do not have authority to use CCTV yet and hope to get prosecutions once in place. Will look at using the vacuum cleaner at Pouldrew and Kilmeaden and will target areas such as this on regional routes. Container on Bunmahon was examined previously under environmental legislation, at that time didn’t fall within remit of environmental regulations but will have it reviewed. Thanked all councillors for comments noting it was a pleasure to come to monthly meetings and looks forward to spending more time in the Comeragh district hillwalking in the Comeragh mountains.

I. Grimes, DoS, noted that the Kilmacthomas fire station is included in the Capital Plan and aim to commence Part 8 in April.

R. Moloney, SEO, noted that understanding is that the sale of new petrol/diesel cars will cease by 2035 and hope that technology will improve to allow this to be achieved, need to increase the public infrastructure for charging points. New scheme launched to provide grant aid to GAA to provide EV charging points, commented that 80% of charging of EVs is done at home so need high speed charges in public areas.

**(d) Roads**

Cllr. Barron enquired if the old public pump at the Mahon Bridge car park can be protected and upgraded as part of the works to the car park.

Cllr. O’Leary noted his disappointment in reduced funding for active travel projects stating that Section 38’s carried out on projects and now may not have the funding to proceed. Members need to have this decision reversed and asked that a meeting is requested with the Minister Ryan and Minister Jack Chambers.

Cllr. Power supported Cllr. O’Leary, noting issue with danger for pedestrians walking from Cois Cille to school, there is a need to have projects such as there progressed in all rural areas.

Cllr. Barron commented that residents will be very disappointed in projects not progressing and need to have meeting as requested, there is a need to emphasis the danger in these areas and need to have areas addressed.

Cathaoirleach concurred that cuts to Active Travel funding are not acceptable, all towns are as equal to the larger areas and people in rural areas need these additional services. Requested update on addressing sightlines at Mahon Bridge and works in Lemybrien. Noted that as coming to end of hedge cutting season, need to contact Coillte to address their lands. Requested update on advancement of Mahon Falls

carpark and how long it will be closed. Outlined that the school in Stradbally is looking for additional signage. EV charging point needed for Stradbally Village enquiring if the Tidy Towns can be assisted in provision of this.

Cllr. Power need to looking at moving out the speed limit in Lemybrien as part of the speed limit review and enquired if there is follow up with landowners where notices for hedge cutting have issued.

Cllr. Barron compliment works on provision of sightline mirror at Mahon Bridge and supports works that need to be done there.

G. Hynes, SE, acknowledged that the roads grant funds have been announced, there was a 2% increase which is disappointing as doesn't match inflation. Confirmed that the projects on Carrick Road and in Kill will be completed, while Section 38 approved last year and if funding comes in place in future will be used for other projects. Schemes for Dunhill, Lemybrien and Old Kilmeaden Road, Boatstrand will now be on hold pending future funding from NTA. Will request meeting as requested. Hedge cutting end date is 1<sup>st</sup> March, acknowledge work by landowners, have been issuing notices and following up on them and noncompliance will result in prosecution. Will follow up with Coillte. Commenced speed limit review, workshop with members after Roads Work Programme, which will be followed by advertisement and receipt of submissions, will report back to district meeting and then full plenary for final approval. Agreed to undertake design in 2023 for Mahon Bridge to address sightline issues, will need to review what is required to take back parapet of bridge and if cost effective will programme works in 2024. Lemybrien design ongoing, due to carry out site investigation works, construction towards end of the year. Charging points in Stradbally can be applied for under SEAI grants.

R. Moloney, SEO, stated that next month the Community Action Fund will be launched, it includes a transport theme which may provide an opportunity to apply for EV points.

M. Goff, SEE, outlined that the pump at Mahon Bridge is part of the project, it will remain and be conserved, can look at enhancement works. Appointment of contractor for Mahon Bridge due in March. Mahon Falls works progressing and to schedule, due to be completed end March.

**(e) Taking In Charge**

Cllr. Power requested update on Deerpark, Clonea Power in relation to vacant house.

A. O'Sullivan, SEP, outlined that the issue is progressing with housing.

Cllr. O'Leary requested update on Cois Cille and Church Court.

A. O'Sullivan, SEP, noted that permission granted for Church Court so live application to complete works and when finished will be taken in charge by the council. Roads have advertised for Cois Cille for the statutory process for taking in charge and should be back to the members for April.

**4. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**5. NOTICE OF MOTION**

None

**6. AOB**

Cllr. Barron noted that the Old Mill in Kilmacthomas was previously proposed for a distillery, currently no progress on the site and it is getting more derelict, concern by residents enquiring about progress on the site.

I.Grimes, DoS, outlined that a proposal submitted to planning by developers to advance development of the project and can give update on progress once reviewed by planning.

Cllr. O'Leary requested update on the Greenway connection into Suir Valley in Kilmeaden, many residents not aware of new entrance enquiring if there is scope to provide more signage to the entrance, it is a new part of Greenway and enquired if there are any plans to official open it and acknowledge the provision of land by John Stevens.

M. Goff, SEE, noted that the work was carried out through active travel measures and will look at additional signage.

G. Hynes, SE, will look at arranging official opening.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

