

MINUTES
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING
DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH
HELD ON 17TH MAY 2023 in Civic Offices Chamber, Dungarvan

PRESENT

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

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Claire Hartley, SEO, Housing
Mr. Gabriel Hynes, SE, Roads
Ms. Maria Goff, SEE, Roads
Mr. Niall Kane, A/SEO, Environment.
Ms. Aisling O’Sullivan, SEP, Planning.
Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its sympathy to the families of the late Jill Whelan, Michael O’Regan, Patrick Hynes, Walter Goff (father of Maria Goff, Comeragh district area engineer).

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its congratulations to the Waterford Minor Camogie team who reached the final, an historic event as first time reached an All-Ireland Camogie final. Carrick United Under 16 girls all Ireland league,

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held 17th April 2023 proposed by Cllr. Barron seconded by Cllr. O’Leary and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. Clune noted omission from last month’s minutes regarding referral to the fire service and keeping community safe framework and to check on the pre-determined availability rules as to why nearest station didn’t turn out to an incident.

3. REPORTS

(a) Roads

Cllr. Clune enquired if any update received from NTA regarding funding for project in Brown Street Portlaw. Requested road from Ballyshunnock reservoir to Carroll’s Cross to be reviewed due to reports of subsidence.

Cllr. O'Leary outlined his disappointment in withdrawal of funding from Active Travel projects in Kilmeaden, Lemybrien and Dunhill enquiring if there is a risk of other projects not progressing and if funding not drawn down in other areas could it be availed of for the Comeragh district.

Cllr. Power noted dangerous junction on Ballymacarbry road at turn off to the Nire requesting mirror to assist.

Cllrs. Clune, Barron and Power supported Cllr. O'Leary in the funding of Active Travel projects for Comeragh district.

Cathaoirleach outlined that it is wrong for schemes to be reduced, a lot of work done in preparation for the works and projects are ready to progress but are now on hold due to the change in criteria. He noted that people in rural areas have the same rights to improvements in infrastructure as people living in cities and will have a negative impact on communities. Enquired if the traffic calming works for Lemybrien will commence this year and if a continuous white line can be provided on N25 road by a private entrance. Noted odour issue from manholes in Stradbally to Ballyvooney that need to be investigated. Welcomed opening of playground in Durrow and the extended car park at Mahon Falls, noting need to look at plan to be able to walk from McGrath's Cross to Mahon Falls.

Cllr. O'Leary commended all involved in the projects as mentioned along with opening of the new link from Kilmeaden to the railway station on the Greenway.

Cllr. Clune noted that the work being undertaken in the Comeragh district is remarkable, important factor that we all work together for the betterment of the Comeragh district.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that there are limited sources of funding and this year's budget hasn't matched inflation. There is a need to invest more and would welcome additional funding to allow for more work in relation to the upkeep of local and regional roads and to improve on strengthening works. Regrettable that the NTA change the criteria for active travel projects which has impacted on some projects not proceeding. Council will continue to put the projects to the NTA for reconsideration, currently it is large urban areas where get considerable active travel benefit. Brown Street is currently under review and resubmitted to NTA as the tender was awarded before criteria changed. Informed members that not installing new road mirrors as there have associated liability issues, will review the junction to see if other improvements can be made. Traffic management is progressing in Lemybrien, finalising design for water connections and carrying out some site investigation works, liaising with landowners and construction due to start early next year. Difficulties with installing a continuous white line for a resident on N25 as interferes with overtaking capacity, not suitable to put in and not approved by TII.

M. Goff, SEE, will review issue at Ballyshunnock and refer issue in Stradbally to water services.

Cllr. Barron encouraged to hear that reverting to NTA with projects enquiring if St. Anne's Terrace in Kilmacthomas is included.

G. Hynes, SE, prioritising the projects that are ready to proceed with the TII and will also include St. Anne's Terrace.

Cllr. Clune enquired if funding is not granted this year can it be applied for next year.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that criteria have changed so may not get funding as it is focusing on high population areas.

(b) Planning

Cllr. Power attended meeting regarding solar farm in Clonea Power, community concerned that concerns not listened to with 320 submissions made in relation to the application, issue that need to increase bond.

Cllr. O'Leary outlined that need to have renewable energy, however the application for Clonea Power is too big for such a small community, should be a shared responsibility and shouldn't fall on just one community. Concerned about solar panels, may create a food shortage as reducing good agricultural land.

Cllr. Clune outlined that no one is opposed to solar power, but the scale is too big, noting that he has been informed that not all submissions acknowledged which will impact on right to appeal to An Bord

Pleanála. Issue with no evaluation given to the remediation of the site at the end of its useful life, bigger costs to remediate the lands over that than the amount of the bond stipulated in the permission.

Cllr. Power noted additional companies looking at solar farms with no national guidelines to regulate it.

A. O'Sullivan, SEP outlined that the solar farm planning application is still a live application so precluded from discussing the details. Noted that 324 valid submissions were received, all were acknowledged by post or email. Each submission was formally assessed, and notification of decision notified to all, application was reviewed by the case planner, reviewed by Senior Executive Planner and the Director of Service. All those that made a valid submission will be able to engage further with the statutory process.

Cllr. Power enquired if there was a site inspection.

A. O'Sullivan, SEP, confirmed that there was a site visit.

Cllr. Clune enquired about process for evaluating the cost of remediation.

A. O'Sullivan, SEP, noted that there is no national guidance and would welcome the councillors support on having national guidelines developed for overall regulation.

(c) **Housing**

Cllr. Barron requested update on the houses in Bye Lane in Kilmacthomas and Rossmore.

Cllr. Power enquired about grass cutting in housing estates and responsibility for carrying out the work.

Cllr. O'Leary enquired about the council's role in ensuring planning is adhered to when a housing development is commenced and if there are inspections of the construction. He also commented that the development in Kilmeaden for 25 houses and 6 apartments ceased work for a week enquiring as to reason for stoppage. When planning granted for large number of houses enquired as to the councils roll during building to ensure that the planning is adhered to and if there are any independent inspections.

Cllr. Clune noted that previously the council carried out the first grass cut of the season and residents maintained thereafter nothing there seems to be an inconsistency in policy between urban and rural areas, stating that the green area in Coolfin is very overgrown.

Cllr. Brazil enquired if it is illegal to dispose of cur grass at the side of the road, highlighted continuing issue with odour from sewers in Kilmacomma. Enquired if can get old barracks back into use as residences and enquired if there is more demand for 2 bed than 3 bed on the housing list.

C. Hartley, SEO, outlined that Bye Lane is due to be advertised on CBL. Will revert with plans for Rossmore. Housing section doesn't have resources for grass cutting in estates and will refer issue to tenancy management team, residents' association need to carry out in the long term. Will review issue Kilmeaden stating that council does have a role in building control. Will revert with update on Kilmacomma. Council has a strong track record for repair and lease scheme to bring back derelict buildings into use and continues to progress. Housing continues to meet the needs of people in relation to the provision of adequate properties, additional two bed properties due to come available.

G. Hynes, SE, encourage mulching, grass disposed outside of property is a waste and falls under waste enforcement.

N. Kane, SEO, noted that grass shouldn't be discarded in public places and is subject to a litter fine.

(d) **Environment**

Cllr. Clune raised concerns about wastewater flowing in Bunmahon, EPA recently published the bathing quality map of Ireland, assessed water quality Bunmahon and in bottom 6% of all national areas tested. Uisce Eireann need to prioritise a new water treatment for the locality. Has A/SE in Water contacted UE and discussed this issue.

Cllr. O'Leary enquired if funding for the anti-dumping initiative is provided externally and who approves.

Cllr. Brazil noted that illegal dumping continues, not doing enough to apprehend and is there any progress with the use of the CCTV.

N. Kane, A/SEO, still awaiting the decision on the legal review for use of CCTV and will revert when details received. Funding for anti-dumping initiative is national funding, the executive assesses projects for allocation of funding.

Cllr. Power enquired about chemical amnesty day.

N. Kane, A/SEO will revert with details outlining that it relates to chemicals that households want to dispose of, does not include farms. Uisce Eireann due to issue information in relation to Bunmahon.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None

5. NOTICE OF MOTION

None

6. AOB

Cllr. Clune wished Dermot Keyes well in his new career as he finishes up in his current role, acknowledging his coverage of meetings, supported by all.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____