

MINUTES

COMERAGH DISTRICT GMA MEETING

DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH

**HELD ON 5TH NOVEMBER 2020 BY ZOOM CALL AND IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CIVIC OFFICES, DUNGARVAN**

PRESENT:

Cllr. Seanie Power, Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Liam Brazil

Cllr. John O'Leary

Cllr. Ger Barron

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. M. Walsh, Chief Executive

Mr. I. Grimes, Director of Services Housing, Community & Emergency Services

Mr. B. Pollard, Head of Finance

Mr. D. Murphy, Financial Accountant

Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Cllr. Declan Clune

Meetings Administrator outlined the draft Supplementary Standing Orders, as issued by the Department, regulating the proceedings of the council in holding remote meetings as requiring adoption by the members in order to take effect. Noted that an additional section was required as follows: in the event that connectivity was lost section 15(b) defined alternative means of voting by contacting the meetings administrator by phone and registering the vote by phone. The Supplementary Standing Orders were proposed by Cllr. Barron, seconded by Cllr. Brazil and agreed by all.

Chief Executive outlined the purpose of the meeting that he noted is limited in terms of function, can only vary local charges and there are no local charges currently within the Comeragh district. Outlined that the meeting is an opportunity to outline issues prior to the framing of the main budget. Noted that income levels have reduced substantially as a result of the pandemic where rates base are effected in the tourism, hospitality, retail sectors along with small businesses. Current situation in case of next year's budget is very much dependent on receiving Government support and clarity from the Department on this matter. Acknowledged that have received significant support across the sector in relation to rate waivers and additional grant supports.

B. Pollard, HoF outlined aspects of the discretionary spend along with the details as allocated for the Comeragh district as per supporting documentation circulated.

Cllr. Brazil enquired if the figures relate to 2020 acknowledging it will be a tough year ahead with reduced incomes. Satisfied if the figures remain the same for 2021 but would like to see increased funding for the Comeragh district highlighting that the district has more roads in comparison to other

districts. Acknowledged that the 2020 budget was well spent and believes the CLÁR programme is very successful. Increase in local roads and guarantee that LIS and CIS will go ahead as normal.

Cllr. Barron queried why there was zero spend on street cleaning and maintenance.

B. Pollard, HoF outlined that the figure outlined discretionary spend only, street cleaning costs covered under local staffing and local road maintenance costs and the figures presented relate to 2019 actuals.

Cllr. O’Leary highlighted the need to have additional funding for provision of public conveniences along the Greenway, noting it has been a very beneficial social outlet for people during the pandemic, supported by Cllr. Power.

Cllr. Brazil enquired if money for the houses in Kilmacthomas is ring-fenced.

I.Grimes, DoS confirmed the money is ring-fenced and contractor is due on site in Q1, 2020.

Chief Executive outlined public facilities are temporary in Durrow and will look at requirements for other locations noting there are few solutions that are cost effective. Outlined that significant capital investment into the Greenway that supports businesses, once out of Covid 19 facilities in coffee shops and restaurants used again and would encourage businesses to do so when possible.

Cllr. Brazil noted difficulty in dealing with the Development Plan process remotely and having adequate input into the process requesting postponement of the plan to allow public forum.

Chief Executive outlined that there is no discretion in extending the timelines on the development plan, acknowledge the difficulties noting the preference of being in a situation that would allow physical meetings. We do not have a venue of significant scale and currently cannot get a location as contrary to regulations. The situation will be kept under review, there is a significant window between now and end of January to allow the council engage in the preparation of the draft. Hopeful that at the end of current Level 5 restrictions we can revert to normal meetings, noting that in the interim need to make the remote meetings work.

Cllr. Brazil asked for hard copies of the documentation in advance of meetings

Chief Executive outlined that it will be a matter for council to outline what is needed in order to support them fully.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated _____