

**MINUTES
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH
HELD ON 16th FEBRUARY 2022 BY MS TEAMS**

PRESENT

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

Roll call carried out by meetings administrator.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Ivan Grimes, DoS, Housing
Mr. Gabriel Hynes, SE, Roads
Ms. Maria Goff, A/SEE Roads
Mr. Luke O’Brien, AO, Environment.
Mr. Liam McGree, SP, Planning
Mr. Donal Ó Murchadha, 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:

- Peggy Power
- Walter Murphy
- Andrew Rockett
- Kathleen Fahey
- Mary O’Brien
- Nooney Brazil
- Bridget Casey

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its congratulations

- Ballygunner Hurling Team on winning the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Competition
- Irish Independent best visitor attraction award for the Greenway
- Portlaw GAA and AFC for funding received from Sports Capital Grants

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held 19th January 2022 proposed by Cllr. Power, seconded by Cllr. Barron and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Cllr. Clune enquired about work programme for Town Centre First funding and to have this dealt with at next meeting and requested update on the Active Travel Plan for 2022.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that have just been advised of allocation, need to finalise programmes for the districts, will have a workshop and special meeting thereafter and workshop will include briefing on Active Travel and Capital footpaths programme.

I.Grimes, DoS, will follow up with economic development for update on the Town Centre First Plan.

3. REPORTS

(a) Planning

Cllr. Clune acknowledged the work of the Executive and members in the preparations for the draft Development Plan.

Cllr. Power noted a number of constituents are concerned about one off housing in rural areas and need to assure people of their options.

Cllr. Brazil thanked all involved in the draft plan, noting it is a good plan for the County and agreed with concern for housing in rural areas, noted continued issues with delays on pre planning meetings.

L. McGree, SP, acknowledged comments of the members and will pass to staff, also acknowledged additional work of the councillors in the process. Noted concerns in relation to the rural housing policy noting that no fundamental change to the policy, aiming to make it more straight forward to enable people to be considered for planning and accommodated in their native areas. Acknowledge there is an issue with pre planning meetings and currently addressing it to get on top of the backlog. Outlined next steps in the Development Plan process.

Cllr. Brazil informed meeting that the appeal against the Glanbia Cheese Plant in Belview has been dismissed. Supported by the Cathaoirleach and district members.

(b) Roads

Cllr. Clune raised issue about public lighting in Portlaw nothing the roundabout at Coffey's corner in Coolfin, bridge at Fogarty's are areas that are very dark in the evening and asked for a lighting solution to be provided. Outlined that there is additional traffic on the L4034 in Portlaw noting concerns about speed and enquired if any traffic calming measures could be installed at the location. Outlined that viewing mirror damaged on roadside directly opposite Priest Lane.

Cllr. Brazil welcomed positive decision of An Bord Pleanála in relation to carpark at Mahon Falls, outlined that Crough Wood temporarily closed due to subsidence enquiring as to when issue will be resolved. Outlined that need explore options to link the Greenway to the Mahon Falls.

Cllr. Power outlined lights are not working in Pine Wood estate in Kilmacomma, requested traffic calming in from Kilmacomma and option for driver feedback sign and moving the 50kph sign further out the road. Raised lighting requirements by church in Clonea Power and Fewes.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that the LED public lighting programme due to commence in Q3 of 2022, this will result in replacing heads which will give greater intensity, noted that there is a limited fund for additional lights suggesting it can be achieved under Active Travel and can be discussed in upcoming workshop. Welcomed the decision for Mahon Falls, currently finalising design to go to tender with an anticipated commencement in September, similar programme for Mahon Bridge. Outlined there is an issue with

embankment at Crough Wood which is being investigated by Coillte to determine necessary remedial measures. Objective to have Greenway extended to Mahon Falls and would be significant and worthwhile development that will require additional funding. Outlined that research indicates that driver feedback signs lose their effectiveness when located permanently in an area, can consider moving their location around the district. Preference is for engineering measures to be undertaken to slow down traffic and informed members that speed limit review is due to be carried out this year.

M. Goff, A/SEE, noted that ducting at Coffey's Corner installed for future lighting and need to find budget to complete. Will review Bridge Street as part of Active Travel Programme, ESB scheduled to complete works at Kilmacomma and will review options for Fewes.

Cllr. Clune, noted issue with L4026 junction where lines of sight remain an issue enquiring what permanent solution can be put in place, supported by Cllr. O'Leary.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that have agreed a design for the location, requires significant plan and a traffic calming scheme and hopeful it can be funded under Active Travel and currently engaging with NTA.

(c) Housing

Cllr. Clune requested update on housing development plan for the district.

Cllr. Power requested update on Coolfin Woods and issue with drain, noted issue with drain odours from Respond houses in Kilmacthomas that need addressing, update on details of the Repair and Lease scheme, Noted need for representative from Irish Water to attend public meetings to address issues.

Cllr. Barron welcomed progress on new houses in Kilmacthomas enquiring when they will be allocated, satisfied with the compromise on entrance to river walk and asked for progress on lighting for the area.

Cllr. Brazil asked when houses in Kilmacthomas will be allocated and if members could receive list of who houses were allocated to. Requested update on refurbishment of house in Stradbally with fire damage, need to have issue in Kilmacomma addressed in relation to ongoing odour issue, agreed with need to have Irish Water at meeting to address and resolve ongoing issues.

Cllr. Clune agreed with need to have Irish Water at meeting to deal with ongoing issues in Bunmahon, Kilmacomma, Dunhill and proposed to invite Irish Water to meeting to get resolution.

I.Grimes, DoS, responded that currently waiting on feedback from the Department on the proposed housing delivery plan and will arrange a workshop to review. Estates team and capital team liking with Coillte to review issue in Coolfin, Respond responsible for issue with their houses in Kilmacthomas and will circulate information regarding the repair and lease scheme. Noted that vast majority of allocations are carried out via CBL and is hopeful that allocations for new houses in Kilmacthomas will be completed shortly. Works ongoing on house in Stradbally, no update on river wall lighting and acknowledges ongoing issues in Kilmacomma.

Cllr. O'Leary enquired if there is criteria on allocation where bonus points given if person from local area I.Grimes, DoS, noted that currently no credit given for being from the area outlining that the SPC is due to review the scheme of allocations and will raise issue of weighting.

(d) Environment

Cllr. Clune outlined the ongoing issue with littering on country roadsides acknowledging the work of local clean up groups in their work to clean up their local areas.

Cllr. Brazil supported Cllr. Clune noting the issue is out of hand and need to address education with schools. Noted that issue with Kilmacomma needs to be addressed with Irish Water and addressed.

Cllrs. O'Leary and Power supported Cllr. Brazil.

L. O'Brien, AO, will refer issues and concerns to Senior Engineer in Water Services regarding issue raised. Advised that environmental awareness officer is engaged with a school's programme in the schools and give support in relation to addressing issues and have a suite of education programmes.

Cllr. Brazil enquired if can request a member of Irish Water to attend a meeting as not getting action on issues.

G. Hynes, SE, noted that Irish Water have a separate mechanism to address issue with local representatives as local authority is only a contractor for Irish Water.

(e) Taking in Charge

Cllr. Barron enquired about Cruachain View in Kilmacthomas as hasn't progressed.

D. Ó Murchadha, SEE, noted progression of issues has been slower due to Covid 19, he will circulate protocol in relation to the Taking in Charge of developments.

4. TAKING IN CHARGE – Fan Glas, Kilmeaden – Completion of the Process

G. Hynes, SE, outlined the details and notifying that intend to proceed with a Part V11 for village which will include new footpaths, raised tables, realignment of the road, improved connectivity around village and out to wetlands and river walk. Going on display and will be taking submission and will revert to April meeting with recommendation for consideration.

Cllr. O'Leary noted and welcomed significant proposal that will greatly improve connectivity for Dunhill.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None

6. NOTICE OF MOTION

None

7. AOB

Cllr. O'Leary welcomed decision to have the R117 included in the new contract renewal, supported by all the members.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____