

**MINUTES
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH
HELD ON 18TH JULY, 2019 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, DUNGARVAN**

PRESENT:

Cllr. Liam Brazil, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Declan Clune
Cllr. Seanie Power

Apologies: Cllr. O'Leary, Cllr. Barron
Cathaoirleach requested that every effort is made by all councillors to attend the District meetings.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. I. Grimes, Director of Services Housing, Community & Emergency Services
Mr. G. Hynes, SE, Roads
Ms. M. Goff, A/SEE, Roads
Mr. L. O'Brien, AO, Environment
Ms. H. O'Shea, SEP, Planning
Mr. R. Walsh, Head of LEO
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS:

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends a vote of congratulations to:

- Mr. Edmond Phelan on his appointment as president of the Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers Association.

All councillors acknowledged the work of Bernadette Drohan and the Comeragh's Wild festival committee and congratulated all involved in the event.

VOTES OF SYMPATHY:

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its sympathy to the families of the late

- Michael Walsh
- John Prender
- John Kelly
- John Nolan Snr

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Minutes of District Meeting held 23rd April, 2019 were proposed by Cllr. Clune and seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed.

Minutes of AGM Meeting held 12th June 2019 were proposed by Cllr. Power and seconded by Cllr. Clune and agreed.

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Planning

(a) Planning Lists – noted

(b) Material Contravention of the Waterford County Development Plan 2011-2017

H. O'Shea, SEP outlined the details of the proposed Material Contravention for Clonea Power GAA as per details circulated. She detailed that additional documents are to be submitted in relation to the proposed flood lighting so as to safeguard the amenity of the neighbours.

Cllr. Clune asked for clarification on the potential impact of the lighting. H. O'Shea confirmed that a lux lighting report has to be submitted prior to the commencement of the development.

Proposed by Cllr. Power and seconded by Cllr. Clune with unanimous support.

(c) Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended Planning & Development Regulations 2001 as amended Part VIII – Development of Greenway connection to Kilmeaden Village from Kilmeaden Railway Station, Co. Waterford – Commencement of Process

R. Walsh, Head of LEO outlined the detail of the proposed Part 8 and the benefit it will bring to people enabling access to the villages of Ballyduff and Kilmeaden.

Cllr. Clune asked for a total cost and timeline on the project.

R. Walsh, Head of LEO stated costs of the project will be approximately €120,000 with €96,000 coming from Town and Village renewal Scheme and remainder from council resources. It is envisaged that the project will be completed by April 2019.

Commencement of the process proposed by Cllr. Clune and seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed.

Cllr. Power conveyed his best wishes to Jim O'Mahony on his recent retirement, this was supported by all members.

4. Reports

(a) Environment

Cllr. Clune asked for update on Tannery report, requesting if a penalty can be applied to the consultants due to the delays incurred.

L. O'Brien, AO stated the work involved became more complex and resulted in delaying the completion of the report. Members will be informed when report is finalised.

Cllr. Clune asked if the signage on Stradbally beach is a permanent fixture, requested if new dog bins recently installed in Tramore can be rolled out to other towns and villages.

Cllr. Power raised issue of hedge cutting and his disappointment that earlier cutting of hedgerows hasn't been permitted. He is concerned with issues of road safety as a result of overgrowth which is prevalent on all rural roads.

Cllr. Brazil supported Cllr. Power and requested that where there is a danger that the hedges are cut back. Highlighted that illegal dumping continues to be a problem across the county and asked if swimming is permitted on Stradbally beach.

L. O'Brien, AO outlined that he will request Paul Carroll, Chief Scientific Officer to issue a report to members in relation to Stradbally beach. He confirmed that dog fouling bins can be provided where there are issues and outlined that normal waste bins can also be used to dispose of dog bags. He advised members that the public can report incidents of illegal dumping to the council and the hope is to gather information that would assist in identifying perpetrators.

G. Hynes, SEO outlined that under the Wildlife Act hedge cutting is not permitted from the 1st March to 1st September but where there is a road safety issue they can be cut. He stated that it is the responsibility of the land owner to address hedges and grass verges on local roads. He confirmed that the council can issue notification and instruction to landowners where there is a road safety issue.

(b) Roads

Cllr. Clune raised issue regarding recent fatality at Carroll's Cross on N25 stating that he contacted Minister Shane Ross and Minister John Halligan. He received response outlining that a meeting will be organised on site to outline the issues of concern, he asked for full support of members and council requesting the Cathaoirleach to chair the meeting. He outlined issue of weeds on Chapel Hill in Portlaw and need for traffic calming on the Carrick road in Portlaw to reduce traffic. Received representation from residents in Portlaw regarding All Together Now concert requesting alternative parking for people attending the concert as they are parking in the village. Requested update on replacement personnel for dealing with Taking in Charge.

Cllr. Power supported Cllr. Clune requested meeting with TII to deal with Carroll's Cross.

Cllr. Brazil stated that due to the sensitivities of the recent crash it was agreed to progress the requested meetings and cease discussion of the crash, agreed by all.

Cllr. Power asked for update on fingerposts in Clonmel, update on commencement of flood works for Clonea Power, highlighted that local road in Tinahalla road needs to be reviewed. Outlined issue with footpaths and need for signposts in Kilmacomma housing estate. Complimented work in Rathgormack under the CLÁR scheme.

Cllr. Brazil raised issue of need for extension of carpark at Mahon Falls, issue with traffic travelling at speed through Newtown and Kill village, requesting traffic calming measures to address the issue. Asked for update on timeline for resurfacing of road from Lemybrien to Kilrossanty and update on Downey's cross.

G. Hynes, SE outlined that contractor is appointed for Downey's Cross and work commencing on the drainage and pavement from Lemybrien to top of Pike Hill. Part of this contract includes the widening of local road at Downey's Cross which will commence in coming weeks. He informed members that there will be a stop go system in place while works are underway and advised that there will be some inconvenience during the works.

Cllr. Clune asked if there is provision for access of emergency vehicles while works are carried out.

G. Hynes, SE confirmed that provision will be made and emergency vehicles always get priority. He outlined that traffic calming measures in small villages is the ideal solution to reducing speed, this includes narrowing the carriageway and installing chicanes but provision of this infrastructure requires resources. Currently completing tender documents for fingerposts in Clonmel and anticipate being on site mid to late September. Advised that a Senior Executive Engineer is in place to deal with Taking in Charge and work will be progressed.

M. Goff, A/SEE advised that maintenance work is due to commence on Chapel Hill, Carrick Road. Will refer query regarding All Together Now to Paul Kelly. Will review issue of drainage at Tinahalla, contractor appointed for Clonea Power for flood mitigation scheme and expect works to commence end of July. Repairs to Kilmacomma footpaths are on a priority list but with limited budget will address when resources allow. Plan to carry out survey with preliminary design for both Mahon Falls carpark and Kilclooney Woods, also need to reach agreement with land owners and is subject to available funding. Confirmed that there is a Town and Village renewal scheme for a speed table in Kill Village. Expect to commence low cost safety at Brennans Cross in early August and Lemybrien Kilrossanty resurfacing works to commence early August.

G. Hynes, SE confirmed Lemybrien traffic calming scheme due to go to tender in 2 months with commencement in Q1 2020.

Cllr. Power complimented Cllr. Brazil with his persistence in pursuing the Downey's Cross project.

(c) Housing

Cllr. Clune asked if there is an option of provision of infill housing in Cúl Rua where there are 2 voids in existence. Enquired if options for houses in the area that are falling into disrepair could be explored. Requested an update on possible provision of additional houses for Kilmacthomas, Kilmeaden and Portlaw. In terms of notification to new tenants on success in receiving a house, councillors are not informed and asked if permission was provided by tenants that councillors could also be informed.

Cllr. Power asked if tenant purchase scheme is still open and how valuation of houses is undertaken.

Cllr. Brazil asked for update on houses in Kilmacthomas and progressing it to stage 2. Highlighted issue with number of vacant houses and ask for solutions to have them addressed.

I.Grimes, DoS stated that he will review vacant sites in Cúl Rua and options for them. With regard to vacant properties in general the council are interested in individual properties noting that there are a range of schemes available to address the issue, outlining that the Repair and Lease Scheme has been very successful in Waterford. Vacant homes unit details to be circulated. Tenant purchase scheme under review by Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government for 18 months with no indication that review has been completed, and an independent evaluation has been conducted by the council. It is the intention to bring the Kilmacthomas housing project as a Part 8 to the September district meeting which will progress it to stage 2. He outlined that not all tenants accept offered allocations but will continue to review the best option for the provision of information to councillors while taking GDPR guidelines into consideration.

(d) Planning

Cllr. Brazil asked for details on planning for the district with breakdown of type of planning applications received. He noted that a decision is due on a planning application for a new housing development in Lemybrien and is hopeful that it will be progressed as there is a housing need for the area.

Cllr. Power supported Cllr. Brazil in the need for the housing development to be progressed, Cllr. Clune highlighted the need to support smaller developments.

H. O'Shea, SEP stated that the numbers of applications have increased with smaller housing schemes being submitted. Decision on Lemybrien due next week and is aware of the need for the development. The planning authority is in favour of settlements of smaller units but there can be difficulties with having the required infrastructure and services in areas.

(e) Economic

Cllr. Clune outlined that recreational activities such as mountain bike trails and greenway connection to Portlaw need to be developed noting that the woods in Portlaw is underutilised and an untapped potential for the area. He requested that contact is made with Coillte to support developments in Comeragh area.

Cllr. Power outlined that there continues to be difficulties with Kilclooney woods noting that the double yellow lines are not having an effect on illegal parking and requested an update on applying for funding for the upgrade of the area.

Cllr. Brazil supported proposal to develop off road bike trails for the area.

R. Walsh, SEO agreed with potential of mountain biking and agreed to draft up proposal and revert to council as significant grant funding is provided for this area. There needs to be a supportive community element to progress these projects and will also liaise with Coillte. He noted that additional discussions need to happen with Curraghmore in relation to gaining access to Coumshingaun.

M. Goff, A/SEE met with Coillte regarding Kilclooney Woods, they plan to carry out a survey and develop outline of provision of additional parking. Enforcement of parking on double yellow lines is a matter for An Garda Síochána.

5. Section 38 Road Traffic Act 1994 – Traffic Calming Scheme – R677 Tech Road, Kilmacthomas – Commencement of Process

G. Hynes, SE outlined the proposed traffic calming scheme along the R677, Tech Road in Kilmacthomas outlining the main objective in providing a safer environment for people to cross the road and reducing vehicular speed. Will be published in local papers to allow for submissions and completion of process with report will be brought back to the district council meeting.

Proposed by Cllr. Clune and seconded by Cllr. Power.

6. Correspondence

None

7. Notices of Motion

1. Motion in the name of Cllr. Declan Clune

“That Comeragh District Council supports the call to change the polling station in Portlaw village from Portlaw N.S. to Portlaw Community Hall”

Cllr. Clune outlined the difficulties experienced by elderly and people with a disability accessing the building and requested that it reverted back to the Community Hall. It was agreed that a letter would issue to the County Registrar, Mr. Niall Rooney.

Motion proposed by Cllr. Clune, seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed by all.

2. Motion in the name of Cllr. Liam Brazil

“That Comeragh District Council calls on the Boundary Commission to re-name the Portlaw/Kilmacthomas District back to its original name of Comeragh District prior to boundary change in January 2019 as ‘Comeragh’ would be more suitable to cover the whole electoral area”

It was agreed that the motion would be brought to the attention of Eoghan Murphy, TD, Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government.

Motion proposed by Cllr. Brazil, seconded by Cllr. Clune and agreed by all.

8. AOB

None

Meeting concluded.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____