

**MINUTES
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH
HELD ON 17th July 2024 in Council Chamber, Dungarvan**

PRESENT

Cllr. Seanie Power, Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Liam Brazil

Cllr. Catherine Burke

Cllr. Declan Clune

Cllr. John O’Leary

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Claire Hartley, DoS, Housing, Community and Emergency Services

Mr. Gabriel Hynes, SE, Roads

Ms. Maria Goff, SEE, Roads

Mr. Niall Kane, SEO, Environment

Ms. Aisling O’Sullivan, SEP, Planning

Mr. Richie Walsh, SEO, Economic Development

Ms. Honor Dunphy, Meetings Administrator

VOTES OF SYMPATHY

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its sympathy to the families of the late Susan Bergin, Angela Lacey, Eamon Power, Jim Kirwan.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its congratulations to Bernadette Drohan, and all involved in the successful running of the Comeragh Wilds festival. Cllr. Brazil noted that need to provide additional financial support for the festival when reviewing 2025 festival allocation.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held 17th April 2024 proposed by Cllr. O’Leary, seconded by Cllr. Clune and agreed by all.

Minutes of District Special Meeting held 30th April 2024 proposed by Cllr. Brazil seconded by Cllr. Clune and agreed by all.

Minutes of District Special Meeting held 5th June 2024 proposed by Cllr. Brazil seconded by Cllr. Clune and agreed by all.

Minutes of District AGM Meeting held 26th June 2024 proposed by Cllr. Brazil seconded by Cllr. Clune and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

None

3. REPORTS

(a) Roads

Cllr. Clune acknowledged work in terms of Portlaw Village and Ballyshunock, enquired if carry out any preventative maintenance in terms of cutting and spraying as some areas are very overgrown. Noted that advanced communications in terms of roads works at Coolfin in Portlaw resurfacing was less than 24 hours on Map Alerter and requested that more notification is given to allow people to plan accordingly and suggested that approach WLR to communicate the message. Noted that the R680 is in poor condition following the mains rehabilitation works requested an inspection. Request traffic survey on Queen Street in Portlaw to determine volume, type and speed of traffic as need extra measures to slow down traffic. Requested update on the Carrick Road project.

Cllr. Burke commended works in Portlaw, requested timeline on safety measures in Bunmahon area to connect to boardwalk, connection from west to east of village and requested shared space signage in Bunmahon village. Disappointed with loss of funding for pavement works at Carroll's Cross, requested update on addressing coastal erosion and flood prevention at Boatstrand, requested traffic calming measures for approach to Kill village.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that the normal procedure is 24-hour advance notice as in most cases they are weather dependent, the process in place is notification via Map Alerter which goes to all social media platforms and local media. Will arrange for traffic survey in Portlaw, noting there will be a speed limit review and also national changes that will lower speed limits on both urban and rural roads. He outlined that it is not reasonable to put in engineering measures in all locations, driver behaviour needs to be compliant with speed limits. Works on the Carrick Road is pending outcome of legal case, will revert when case is completed and revert with schedule of works. The loss of funding for Carroll's Cross is as a result of a the TII redistribution of fund, have made representation to TII on the matter. Informed the members that site cleaning is currently taking place and concrete channels being put in place in preparation for winter flooding, progressing it on a phased basis. Coastal erosion requirements on Boatstrand have been assessed, finalising the design and will be seeking funding to realign this section of road. Kill village traffic calming is subject to available resources. Currently no funding for new footpaths in Bunmahon. Noted that growth at junctions is an issue and landowners need to ensure proper maintenance is carried out.

M. Goff, SEE, noted that weed control at Ballyshunock and junctions is planned, delayed due to poor weather conditions and have programme of works to address areas of concern. Signage to be erected on road to GAA in Bunmahon.

Cllr. O' Leary outlined that the reallocation of TII funding is unsatisfactory and unacceptable, requested update on proposed road improvement works on the R680 in Kilmeaden. Noted issue of poor footpaths on Brown Street in Kilmeaden and requested cleaning of road signage in the district.

Cllr. Brazil outlined his disappointment in removal of TII funding and requested meeting is scheduled with TII to discuss. Requested update on traffic calming in Lemybrien and options for provision of car park at Coumshingaun, need for traffic calming at Mahon Bridge. Noted concern of diversion of large vehicles onto small roads and issue of roads not suitable for this traffic with narrow roads and low hanging trees.

Cathaoirleach requested meeting with Dunhill residents regarding possible improvements in the village, requested update on Glenstown Bridge and noted need for hedge cutting in general, particularly at junctions.

G. Hynes, SE, noted that will request delegation to go to Dublin to meet with TII regarding funding reallocation. Informed the members that the tenders for the Old Kilmeaden road have been received, contract to be awarded with works to commence in August and will be a 3 month programme of works. Noted that there is a programme in place for the presentation and cleaning of road signage and is underway across the district. The provision of carpark at Coumshingaun is with Coillte and landowners. Outlined that carrying out works to improve sightlines and reviewing traffic calming measures options at Mahon Bridge. Traffic accidents on N25 can cause difficulties in diversions onto other roads and note issue of having trees cut back and need to issue notice to landowners. Will arrange meeting with Dunhill resident noting that no significant funding at present but can look at small measures. Hedge cutting season is from 1 March to 31 August, there are exemption where there is a road safety issue and landowner can carry out some measures to address along the grass verge.

M. Goff, SEE, footpaths in Brown Street allocation for some works but not replacement, €50k allocated for Bunmahon, Glenstown Bridge contract awarded and waiting on commencement date.

G. Hynes, SE, working on Lemybrien traffic calming, current programme going to tender January 2025 and will make details available for September meeting, commence March 2025 and is subject to TII funding.

Cllr. Brazil enquired if can do something temporary in the interim to take trucks off roads at Lemybrien.

G. Hynes, SE, will revert to TII with options.

Cllr. Clune enquired if there is a better way to allocate funding, to do by location rather than spread across areas.

G. Hynes, SE, noted that current allocation under capital footpath programme is €400k per year across city and county with €200k allocated to Comeragh. To deal with footpaths need significantly more funding than receiving, as a district need to prioritise footpaths that are defective as a matter of urgency.

(b) Planning

Cllr. O' Leary noted removal of landmark water pump in Kilmeaden village and requested it is relocated in the locality.

Cllr. Brazil enquired about number of planning applications in Comeragh district in comparison to last year and if there are any small developments planned, enquired if any update on the Coumnaagappul wind farm.

A. Sullivan, SEP, outlined the disused water pump was temporarily removed and is due to be reinstated at the same location. Noted that planning applications for the Comeragh district are slightly reduced but over the years they are consistent. There are some pre planning discussions for developments outside of Kilmeaden and not aware of any correspondence in relation to Coumnaagappul wind farm.

Cllr. Power enquired about extension of the Development Contributions exemptions.

A. Sullivan, SEP, stated that the exemptions have been extended to 2025, no payment on commencement of the build and need to be substantially complete before the expiration of their planning permission.

(c) Housing

Cllr. Burke noted lack of social housing across district, requested update on vacant properties in the district, and timeframe for works to be completed on 40 Brown Street Portlaw and if any other vacant properties are being identified across the district. Requested update on number of houses included under

the deep retrofit scheme and enquired if any research on impact of new measures and if tenants are fully aware of how to use the new systems.

Cllr. Brazil enquired if there is any landbank in Comeragh district for council to build houses and requested map illustrating locations. Requested update on odour issue in Pinewood estate, Kilmacomma which need to be progressed with Uisce Eireann. Outlined issue with grants for older people and delay in getting payment for works once completed. Noted issue with CBL and lack of access to properties for local people.

Cllr. Clune supported issue as raised for Pinewood, noting that truck damaged septic tank and leak as a result requesting EPA are contacted to carry out testing to determine if there is an issue. Requested map and list of LA landbanks in district that are suitable for affordable sites. Noted that housing maintenance don't seem to have capacity for anything outside of emergency works, need an extra plumber for maintenance and servicing and requested addition of housing maintenance option for CRM.

C. Hartley, A/DoS, will provide information on landbank for September meeting, will revert in relation to status of 40 Brown Street. Will revert with details on the deep retrofit scheme and noted that currently developing a leaflet for tenants to outline use of new systems. Will continue to pursue issue in Pinewood with Uisce Eireann and revert to EPA to review potential leak. Noted that strive to have efficient payment of contractors, in some cases there can be delays as a result of sign off and paperwork. Disagree that CBL is not working as it does allow for local priority. Will talk to the maintenance team regarding resources for the Comeragh district, noting have to work within allocated resources. Adding housing maintenance to CRM maintenance is not option as the current system has to managed separately, customer service staff are trained to handle and direct the issues accordingly and in many cases information is required from the tenant.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Power supported Cllr Brazil in relation to CBL, enquired if payments for housing adaptation grants could be made to the contractor directly. Requested update on vacant priest house in Clonea Power and vacant house in Deerpark.

C. Hartley, A/DoS, noted that grants have to be paid directly to the homeowner.

D. Quinn, SEP, noted that currently in communications with the holders of the bond for Deerpark.

(d) Environment

Cllr. Brazil requested update on use of CCTV and requested pilot in Comeragh district.

Cllr. O'Leary enquired about waste prevention workshop in Portlaw and if there are any plans for similar workshops.

Cllr. Burke requested details on the retrofit of streetlights and list of areas where it will occur.

N. Kane, SEE, noted that establishment of oversight committee required to enable roll out of CCTV, the public need to report incidences of illegal dumping as a justification is required for each case. Waste prevention workshop was held on the of bins and will revert on other planned events.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that the retrofit programme is due to commence in the Dungarvan Lismore district in coming weeks with Comeragh in late November, will revert with details.

(e) Economic

Cllr. Clune requested update on proposed walking trails.

Cllr. O'Leary requested update on proposed Kilmacthomas distillery.

Cllr. Brazil requested update on funding for repairs to the Mahon Falls walkway.

R. Walsh, SEO, will revert with details in relation to update on walkways and proposed distillery. Noted that received outdoor recreation funding to stabilise bank on Mahon Falls walkway, further funding is required for the path infrastructure.

(f) Taking in Charge

Cllr. O’Leary requested update on taking in charge of Cruachán housing estate,

Cllr. Clune requested update on Cul Rua in Portlaw and timelines on works.

Cllr. Brazil noted crack on wall between GAA field and Cruachán View in Kilmacthomas.

D. Quinn, SEP, appreciate status of these are slow moving noting that working collaborative with roads section, tender for CCTV out at the moment for both estates to review state of infrastructure that will allow for snag list on works to be done. Will review issue with wall as outlined.

Cllr. O’Leary noted that the process for Cruachán View is slow and needs to be resolved within an agreed timeline.

D. Quinn, SEP, noted that waiting on additional information from the developer and is actively pursuing the completion of the taking in charge process.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Noted.

Cllr. Clune outlined his disappointment in response from the Minister.

5. NOTICE OF MOTION

None

6. AOB

Cllr. Burke outlined issues with water supply in Bunmahon requesting letter is issued to Uisce Eireann on behalf of the district in relation to the need for a new water treatment plant.

Cathaoirleach confirmed that letter will issue.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____