

**MINUTES
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH
HELD ON 20th November 2024 in Council Chamber, Dungarvan**

PRESENT

Cllr. Seanie Power, Cathaoirleach

Cllr. Liam Brazil

Cllr. Catherine Burke

Cllr. John O’Leary

Apologies: Cllr. Declan Clune

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

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

Mr. Gabriel Hynes, SE, Roads

Ms. Maria Goff, SEE, Roads

Ms. Dawn Wallace, 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 Kieran Walker.

VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its congratulations to all Tidy Town Groups with mention of Stradbally who won Gold Medal.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of District Meeting held 16th October 2024 proposed by Cllr. O’Leary, seconded by Cllr. Brazil and agreed by all.

Minutes of Budget District Meeting held 16th October 2024 proposed by Cllr. Burke, seconded by Cllr. O’Leary and agreed by all.

2. MATTERS ARISING

None

3. REPORTS

(a) Planning

Cllr. Brazil enquired if there has been an extension of the exemption in relation to Development Contribution charges extension and enquired if it is too late for applicants to apply for it.

Cllr. Power noted his support to the extension of the scheme, requesting that final letters of commencement notice to issue to enable applicants to avail of the scheme.

Cllr. O'Leary enquired if the commencement notice for Ceol na Mara in Kill has been received, requested details on which heritage grant old churches can avail of.

A. O'Sullivan, SEP, informed the members that the waiver for Development Charges will cease at the end of December, noting that applicants will need to have their commencement notice lodged with the planning authority by the 17th December and building works commenced by the 31st December 2024 in order to avail of the waiver. Noted that there have been no further developments with Ceol na Mara since the grant of planning permission. Will provide the members with a list of what structures have qualified for the various conservation funds.

(b) Environment

Cllr. Brazil thanked Dawn in relation to the mattress amnesty held recently enquiring if there was a big take up on the day and the associated costs.

Cllr. Burke noted that residents of Cois Cille in Dunhill have requested use of disused water tank site for storage of lawnmower and if this can be progressed. Noted need for protection of sand dunes in Bunmahon, currently waiting on funding for fencing to protect the sand dunes and enquired if the whole area can be fenced off.

Cllr. O'Leary enquired if takeaway businesses are involved in the pledge for a cleaner greener Waterford that has currently been taken up by 1,000 businesses.

Cllr. Power enquired about the notice given to farmers in relation to farm inspections and what is undertaken during the inspection.

D. Wallace, SEO, revert with costings from the amnesty event, which was funded though anti-dumping initiative, it was very successful with in excess of 400 mattresses brought in. Requested more detail regarding the Dunhill issue, will liaise with Biodiversity Officer in relation to the Bunmahon sand dunes. Business pledge is specifically about prioritising energy efficiency and not waste, waste enforcement officers target businesses. The council is mandated to undertake a number of types of farm inspections such as agricultural practices, farmers are notified in advance to looks at management of silage, spreading practices and storage. Where no notice given, it pertains to complaints on pollution issues. Will provide guidance on obligations in relation to the Nitrate Directives.

(c) Roads

Cllr. Burke requested public lighting from Cois Cille estate to Dunhill village, request from Sea Safety Centre in Boatstrand harbour for an external electrical outlet for the harbour.

Cllr. O'Leary requested update in relation to progress of traffic calming measures in Kilmeaden, issue in relation to bus service at location during the works and what the future pick up service would be, welcomed the works at the location enquiring about the overall cost of the scheme. Noted issue with need for a controlled pedestrian crossing at the bus stop by Centra in Kilmeaden. Highlighted issue of speed by estates and need for speed cameras to be used.

Cllr. Brazil requested update on speed limit review, noted need for hedge cutting to be undertaken and enquired about provisions in place for dealing with upcoming bad weather forecasted and support by

roads. Acknowledged recent meeting with TII noting issues relating to the Comeragh district were raised. Thanked all staff who have worked across the district during the year.

G. Hynes, SE, severe weather forecasting a complex weather front advising to expect hazardous conditions in the morning and resulting disruptions. Roads crews will be gritting during the night, details of routes on the website. Speed limit review will commence with changes to road speed signs, changes on local roads from 80kph to 60kph, waiting on legislation from central government and will commence in January 2025. This will be followed by urban areas reverting to 30kph and will involve preparation of draft plans, will include a public consultation process and is a six month process. Acknowledged hedge cutting works carried out by landowners and need to ensure that cut hedges along with overhead branches. TII meeting was productive, confirmed plan to go to tender Q1 2025 for Lemybrien and to commence works in Q3. Will review issue of speed in Kilmeaden as part of speed limit review, will review options for pedestrian crossing. In consultation with Bus Eireann in relation to traffic calming scheme in Kilmeaden and impact on drop off location.

M. Goff, SEE, new public lighting for Cois Cille in Dunhill can be considered for 2025 programme of works, will follow up on funding with Biodiversity Officer in relation to Bunmahon. Will revert regarding outdoor electrical point for the harbour. Old Kilmeaden road traffic calming scheme is due for completion mid-January 2025.

Cllr. Brazil noted there are a number of reported public lighting outages.

G. Hynes, SE, will review.

Cllr. O’Leary noted that N25 not part of the National Development Plan and beholds all members to set about having this changed. Supported by Cllr. Burke and need to push this as a priority.

G. Hynes, SE noted that N25 upgrade is required on safety and economic grounds, it cannot be progressed unless it forms part of the NDP.

(d) Housing

Cllr. Burke acknowledged prompt response to emails, enquired when granted transfer under medical priority 2 that the letter that issues includes information on it for the recipient. Requested promotion of plans for social housing in Comeragh.

Cllr. Brazil requested follow up on information on land bank in Comeragh district, enquiring if there is a good take up on the vacant house grant and how long inspection takes.

C. Hartley, A/DoS, will talk to team about explanation for Medical 2 priority and add to the letters issued. Outlined that currently 238 applications for the vacant property grant with turnaround of 120 days, high take up on grant in Waterford and in line with national average on turnaround time and is resulting in bringing vacant and derelict sites back into use. Will distribute map on land bank to members, review of housing delivery action plan and will continue to deliver housing units as part of the plan, noting the LA home loan is also available.

Cllr. Power acknowledges the vacant property grants and positive impact it is having.

Cllr Burke enquired if local authority would buy vacant properties.

Cllr. O’Leary welcomed housing adaption grant to increase from €30k to €40k, enquiring when increase will be applied.

C. Hartley, A/DoS, noted that purchase of land is considered under the Buy and Renew scheme, date increase will be applied is the 1st December.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

None

5. NOTICE OF MOTION

None

6. AOB

Cllr. Burke noted Wi-Fi is needed at Kilmacthomas library and need to get associated infrastructure in place. Requested update on Red Cross building in Portlaw and addressing issues in the building and need to ensure funding is in place to resolve the issues.

H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator will refer issue on Kilmacthomas library to the appropriate section, confirmed that funding has been approved to address the issue with the roof on the Red Cross building and the issue is being addressed.

Cllr. Brazil proposed that December meeting is cancelled as close to Christmas, with provision that can call a special meeting if decision is required. Seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed by all.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Dated: _____