

**MINUTES  
COMERAGH DISTRICT MEETING**

**DÚICHE AN CHUMARAIGH  
HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2019 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES,  
DUNGARVAN**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr. Ray Murphy, Cathaoirleach
Cllr. Liam Brazil
Cllr. Seanie Power
Cllr. Michael J. O' Ryan
Cllr. Declan Clune
Cllr. John O'Leary

**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. R. Moloney, SEO, Environment  
Mr. J. O'Mahony, SP, Planning  
Mr. R. Walsh, SEO, LEO  
Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator, Corporate

**VOTES OF SYMPATHY:**

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

- Mr. John Power
- Tommy Lyons
- Michael Hickey

**VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS:**

To Stephen Lynch and Craig Dee, owners of Coach House Cafe in Kilmacthomas on winning the Waterford Chamber of Commerce 'Waterford's Best New Business Award'.  
Willie McGrath and Hayley Fitzsimmons on their success in the recent Special Olympics Games.  
Waterford Senior Hurling Team on reaching National Hurling League Final.

**1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:**

Minutes of District Meeting held 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 were proposed by Cllr. Brazil and seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed.

**2. Matters Arising**

Cllr. Clune requested update on the completion of the Tannery report and asked if Coillte have been contacted regarding the illegal dumping in Portlaw.

R. Moloney, SEO stated that the Tannery report is imminent and investigations carried out in Portlaw Woods indicated that dumping is old waste and it is due to be removed this week by Coillte.

Cllr. O'Leary asked what are the plans for the Tannery site into the future.

J. O'Mahony, SP stated that the Tannery report was commissioned to assess the level of contamination on the site and determine what the site could be used for. Hopeful that in the next Development Plan that there could be some reuse of the site, possible parkland with history of the site and having it as a tourism venture for Portlaw. The development is all contingent on outcome of the report.

Cllr. Murphy stated that next call of rural regeneration and development fund is in April and an application is due to be made for Portlaw, he outlined that it is imperative that the report is available for next meeting.

### 3. Planning

**(a) Planning Lists – noted**

### 4. Reports

**(a) Environment**

Cllr. Clune asked if any information on the unauthorised waste collector was discovered to enable prosecution.

Cllr. Brazil queried if support from the council for the Comeragh clean up on Easter Monday is organised. He suggested that the fine for illegal dumping is increased and asked for a letter to issue to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government.

R. Moloney, SEO stated that based on the evidence found they couldn't determine who collected the waste and therefore took a successful prosecution against the householder. The council has previously written to the Minister requesting an increase in the fine and this wasn't agreed to. He confirmed that all is in order for support of the Comeragh and other scheduled clean ups.

Cllr. O'Ryan acknowledged support from council for clean ups. Raised concern about speed of traffic on roads when people are litter picking on the roads and suggested a synchronisation between all agencies.

**(b) Roads**

Cllr. Murphy asked for update on Coolfin project and associated completion date; outlined issue relating to damaged wall at church and option of widening road and stated that 'no parking' signs are needed for Talbot Terrace. Enquired when work is due to commence on footpaths on Walsh's road in Kilmacthomas and outlined that resurfacing is needed on Kearney's road near Rathgormack.

Cllr. Clune asked for update on review of speed in Kill and highlighted that the footpaths are overgrown by Ballyshunnock and requested spraying of the area.

Cllr. O'Leary asked for update on representation to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) regarding the right hand turn on the N25 and issues at Carroll's Cross. Also asked for update on LIS applications and pointed out that there is an ongoing issue with the approach road from Dungarvan onto the Kilmeaden roundabout. Cllr. Murphy supported the need to adjust the entry onto the Kilmeaden roundabout.

G. Hynes, SE, outlined that a meeting has been arranged with regional office of the TII and issues as outlined regarding the N25 and Kilmeaden roundabout are on the agenda for discussion and will update at next district meeting. He confirmed that the LIS applications are currently being assessed and will be selecting projects in the coming weeks. In relation to speed survey in Kill village and speed survey he is hopeful that some adjustments will be made through accessing funding under the town and village renewal scheme. Currently looking at data from driver feedback signs to determine their effectiveness and will advise at next meeting.

M. Goff, A/SEE confirmed that shrubs and trees will be removed from corner of church in Portlaw. Outlined that the footpath section from Coffey's corner to Coolfin Woods is completed and will review replacing section of footpath at Walsh's road later in the coming months. Will review issue on Kearney's road and need for weed spraying at Ballyshunnock.

Cllr. Power outlined that cars parking on roadside by Kilclooney woods continues to cause a problem and asked for extra signage to be put up on road. Asked for the extension of the car park to be pursued.

Cllr. O’Ryan complimented work of roads section and enquired if remediation will be carried out on embankment at Halfway pub and at Nire Layby. Asked if lighting up the new bridge for special events on the N25 by Kilmacthomas could be investigated.

Cllr. Brazil asked for update on Lemybrien and Downey’s Cross and outlined his concern that the Downey’s Cross project won’t be addressed onto later in the year. Requested driver feedback signs for Newtown and asked for signage to be erected on roundabout in Kilmeaden to show people how to use it correctly.

Cllr. Power outlined that the Clár areas are due to be reviewed.

Cllr. Murphy supported Cllr. Power in relation to Kilclooney woods car parking and need to extend car park

G. Hynes, SE stated that the solution to issues at Kilclooney Woods is to extend the car park but the current roads work programme budget would not cover these works, he will look at additional signage for the area. He confirmed that a safety audit has been carried out in relation to Kilmeaden roundabout and it will be discussed at upcoming TII meeting. Not in a position to install driver feedback signs in all villages and requested that members wait for outcome of review in relation to their effectiveness. Noted comments in relation to Lemybrien and updated that they are currently in process of finalising design, land acquisition will be agreed in coming months and hope to award contract by year end and commence works early 2020. Noted comments with regard to Downey’s Cross outlining there is a schedule of works in other areas to be finalised and will commence it at the end of year.

M. Goff, A/SEE stated a site inspection was carried out at the Halfway pub regarding the embankment and are looking at improvements to be carried out in the area. Confirmed that plan to repair and replace like for like at Nire road layby.

Cllr. O’Leary supported driver feedback signs for Newtown considering the location to a school.

### **(c) Housing**

Cllr. Brazil acknowledged receipt of location map for the proposed housing scheme in Kilmacthomas and welcomes the development for the area. He outlined his concern with the processing of housing adaptation grants, the length of time involved and difficulties in people having to get three quotations. Cllr. Power supported Cllr. Brazil.

Cllr. O’Leary welcomes new proposed development for Kilmacthomas and stated that seldom see CBL units for the Comeragh area. He enquired about the numbers on the housing list for the Comeragh area and the timeline for the allocation of houses in Coolfin.

Cllr. Murphy also welcomes new development for the area and questioned the length of time it takes to process housing adaptation applications.

I.Grimes, DoS outlined that the housing section is submitting a first stage application to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for development on the site. It is proposed that it will be up to a 16 house project and welcomes all support from councillors for the project. In relation to the Housing Aid grants he outlined that the funding received is not sufficient to meet the demand or to tackle the backlog of applications. He stated that they are currently in process of reviewing how the grants are being processed and are planning to draw up new proposals for the administration of the number of grants handled by the housing section. He will review numbers for the Comeragh area but stated that this is difficult due to the how the information is currently held on a county wide basis rather than by district. He outlined that the project in Coolfin is largely completed, allocation will commence shortly and will be allocated through Choice Base Letting.

### **(d) Planning**

Cllr. O’Leary asked what powers the council has in relation to addressing issues of dereliction in privately owned houses. He outlined issues in relation to the Fán Glas housing estate in Kilmeaden and asked for them to be reviewed.

Cllr. Murphy asked for update on the Old Mill in Kilmacthomas and application by Gortnanore Distilleries, he outlined concern with the unsightly nature of part of the old building and enquired about the new solar panel application in Mothel/Curraduff area.

J. O'Mahony, SP stated that dereliction is dealt with under the Derelict Sites Act and the council can serve notice on an owner to carry out specific works in order to render the site non derelict and detailed the actions that can be enforced. Confirmed that the Taking in Charge officer is currently reviewing the issues in Fán Glas and will revert with update. The application for the Old Mill and the building will be reviewed as part of the planning application process. Confirmed that a planning application has been made for the solar panels.

**(e) Economic**

Cllr. Murphy acknowledged and thanked economic section in relation to the success of the Greenway, the number of visitors and the festivals that are developing around it. Acknowledged Town and Village renewal scheme and requested update on 2018 projects.

R. Walsh, SEO stated that he will discuss options for lighting the new bridge over the N25 with the roads section. With regard to Kilclooney woods car park he outlined that the route to Coumshingaun is not a registered walk and therefore there is a larger piece of work to be carried out to have the area formalised and compliant which will then enable access to funding to develop it. He outlined that the 2017 town and village renewal scheme projects are complete and the 2018 projects are primarily at technical assessment stage and procurement. Intention that works will be complete by the summer.

Cllr. Brazil asked for update on commencement of works at Mahon Bridge.

R. Walsh, SEO stated that it is hoped that works will be complete by the summer.

Cllr. O'Leary welcomes proposal for walkway from Kilmeaden to Greenway to enable safer access.

**5. Correspondence**

None

**6. Notices of Motion**

None

**7. AOB**

Cllr. Brazil asked for update on response from TII and outlined details on the Cycle for Positive Mental Health on Easter Sunday at 10am and asked for people to support.

H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator confirmed that no response has been received.

It was agreed that April would be the last meeting before the Local Elections of the Comeragh district.

Meeting concluded.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_