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**MIONTUAIRISCÍ AN CRUINIÚ DE COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHIARRAÍ  
A THIONÓLADH I SEOMRA NA COMHAIRLE, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRÁ LÍ, AR AN  
LUAN, 21 DEIREADH FOMHAIR 2019**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN  
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, TRALEE ON MONDAY,  
21 OCTOBER 2019**

**PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR**

**Councillors/Comhairleoirí**

<b>Tom Barry</b>	<b>Robert Beasley</b>	<b>Michael Cahill</b>
<b>Patrick Connor-Scarteen</b>	<b>Brendan Cronin</b>	<b>Pa Daly</b>
<b>Charlie Farrelly</b>	<b>Jim Finucane</b>	<b>Breandán Fitzgerald</b>
<b>Fionnán Fitzgerald</b>	<b>Seamus Fitzgerald</b>	<b>John Francis Flynn</b>
<b>Cathal Foley</b>	<b>Michael Foley</b>	<b>Norma Foley</b>
<b>Michael Gleeson</b>	<b>Donal Grady</b>	<b>Jackie Healy-Rae</b>
<b>Johnny Healy-Rae</b>	<b>Maura Healy-Rae</b>	<b>Niall Kelleher</b>
	<b>Sam Locke</b>	<b>Dan McCarthy</b>
<b>Jimmy Moloney</b>	<b>Marie Moloney</b>	<b>Norma Moriarty</b>
<b>Terry O'Brien</b>	<b>Niall O'Callaghan</b>	<b>Bobby O'Connell</b>
<b>Michael O'Shea</b>	<b>Mikey Sheehy</b>	<b>Aoife Thornton</b>

**IN ATTENDANCE/I LÁTHAIR**

<b>Ms. M. Murrell, Chief Executive</b>	<b>Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Dir. of Rds, Transp'n &amp; Marine</b>
<b>Mr. J. Breen, Director Water Services</b>	<b>Mr. M. O'Donoghue, Director Housing</b>
<b>Mr. M. Scannell, Dir. Job Cr/Sust. ED</b>	<b>Mr. C. O'Connor, Director Corp. Servs.</b>
<b>Ms. A. McAllen, Head of Finance</b>	<b>Ms. J. McCarthy, Meetings Administrator</b>
<b>Ms. D. Griffin, SO Corporate</b>	<b>Mr. O. O'Shea, Press Officer</b>
<b>Ms. O. O'Shea, CO Corporate Support</b>	<b>Mr. J. Downes, CO Corp. Support</b>
<b>Mr. L. Quinlan, SEO Human Resources</b>	<b>Mr. G. O'Brien, A/SEO Environment</b>
<b>Mr. J. Kennelly, SE Rds, Transp'n &amp; Marine</b>	

The meeting commenced at 10.40 a.m.

Cllr. Cllr. Niall Kelleher, Cathaoirleach, took the Chair.

**Vote of Sympathy**

Cllr. Michael Gleeson proposed a vote of sympathy to Cllr. Niall O'Callaghan on the passing of his Aunt, Mary O'Callaghan. May she rest in peace.

**Vote of Congratulations**

The Cathaoirleach extended a vote of congratulations to Kerryman Dan Tim O'Sullivan on being given the freedom of the City of London.

**Vote of Congratulations**

The Cathaoirleach extended a vote of congratulations to Kerryman Oisín Murphy who was crowned the British flat racing Champion Jockey.

### **21.10.19.01 Cathaoirleach's Report on CPG meeting held on 15 Oct 2019**

The Cathaoirleach's report on the CPG meeting held on 15 October 2019, which had been circulated, was noted by the Members. The conferral of Civic Honours as set out in the report was unanimously agreed.

Cllr. Aoife Thornton said the Minister for Rural and Community Development announced this morning that Kerry LAG has been awarded an additional €500,000 in LEADER 2014-2020 funding. Kerry's Local Action Group was ranked first overall in the top ten performing LEADER Local Action Groups in the country.

Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher said, as Chairman of the LCDC, he was delighted to welcome this announcement and attributed this success to the collaborative work and commitment of the Kerry LAG comprising community groups and Elected Members of Kerry County Council.

### **21.10.19.02 Confirmation of Minutes**

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. B. O'Connell, SECONDED by Cllr. Michael Gleeson, it was resolved that the minutes of the September Ordinary Meeting of Kerry County Council held on 16 September 2019 be confirmed.

### **21.10.19.03 Chief Executive's Report to Council**

The Chief Executive's report for the month of September 2019, which had been circulated, was noted by the Members.

Cllr. Donal Grady welcomed progress with the provision of housing in Killarney. He asked for an update on the Housing Delivery Programme.

Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae welcomed housing for Killarney and asked when the tenancies will be allocated. She asked if the Trading Online Voucher Scheme has closed and when it will re-open.

Cllr. Robert Beasley welcomed the commitment of Clúid Approved Housing Body to the provision of housing units in Killarney. He said a number of Approved Housing Body units in Ballybunion have been unoccupied for a period of time and he asked when the construction of social housing units in Ballybunion would commence.

Cllr. Michael Gleeson congratulated the Arts Office, and all groups that hosted events, on the success of Culture Night which highlighted and acknowledged much of what is available in the county.

Cllr. Norma Foley welcomed the announcement regarding housing in Killarney and the role of the Approved Housing Body in securing that development. She commended the work of the Arts Office on the number of events held across the county for Culture Night. She suggested that there is scope to extend this beyond one night and perhaps hold a series of events over a weekend or week. She also commended the success of the Architecture Kerry weekend in highlighting the phenomenal architecture sites in the county.

Cllr. Charlie Farrelly welcomed the announcement of additional LEADER funding and acknowledged the tremendous work done by the LCDC.

Cllr. Michael O'Shea asked if Kerry County Council has ceased constructing social houses as the Approved Housing Bodies seem to be the only avenue for the provision of social housing construction. He asked if there is a provision in the County Kerry Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2022 to hold a conference on the Wild Atlantic Way.

Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae asked if Carbon Monoxide Alarms are being installed in new and existing housing stock. He asked for a report on future housing plans of Approved Housing Bodies in areas such as Kilgarvan, Sneem and Waterville and on areas where Kerry County Council will be progressing housing developments. He asked if Kerry County Council will be purchasing land in areas where they do not own land but there is a demand for housing.

Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher commended the success of the Kerry Culture Night and Architecture Kerry weekend.

The Chief Executive acknowledged the work of Clúid on the 59 housing units in Killarney along with the good partnership Kerry County Council has with all Approved Housing Bodies in working to deliver the Housing Programme. The allocation of tenancies at the Clúid development will go through the normal tenancy allocation process and it is intended to move them along as quickly as possible. She said Kerry County Council has a significant housing construction programme underway and there is an open call at present for turnkey developments. Updates on the Housing Capital Programme are provided to the Municipal District meetings. It is Kerry County Council's first priority to develop lands in its ownership. While an application for funding has been made for the Online Trading Voucher Scheme, with a response expected shortly, applications continue to be accepted.

#### **21.10.19.04 Filling of Casual Vacancy following the resignation of Toiréasa Ferris**

Mr. C. O'Connor, Director of Service, referred to Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, and said a casual vacancy shall be filled by the co-option by the Local Authority of a person to fill the vacancy, subject to such person being nominated by the same registered political party who nominated the person for election and written consent from the person being nominated. He confirmed that correspondence has been received from Sinn Féin confirming that they have nominated Cathal Foley to fill the position vacated by Toiréasa Ferris and written consent to being nominated has been received from Cathal Foley.

Cllr. P. Daly PROPOSED that Mr. Cathal Foley be co-opted to fill the casual vacancy following the resignation of Toiréasa Ferris. He said Cathal is a former member of Tralee Town Council and is embedded in the community of Tralee and Kerry.

Cllr. Robert Beasley SECONDED this proposal.

As there were no other nominations, the Cathaoirleach declared Mr. Cathal Foley to be co-opted to Kerry County Council to replace Toiréasa Ferris.

Cllr. Cathal Foley then took his seat.

On behalf of the Fianna Fáil party Cllr. Norma Foley congratulated Cllr. Cathal Foley on his co-option. She said it was a pleasure to work with him in Tralee Town Council; he is a fine public representative and is active in the community. He will make an excellent contribution to the Tralee Municipal District and Kerry County Council.

On his own behalf and on behalf of Cllr. Marie Moloney, Cllr. Terry O'Brien extended a warm welcome to Cllr. Cathal Foley, said he is delighted to welcome him back as an Elected Member, and added that they looked forward to working with him.

Cllr. Donal Grady welcomed Cllr. Cathal Foley to the Chamber and said he is very capable for the position.

Cllr. Sam Locke agreed with the sentiments expressed and said he worked with Cllr. Cathal Foley in Tralee Town Council and he will be an excellent member of Kerry County Council.

On behalf of the Fine Gael Party, Cllr. Bobby O'Connell welcomed Cllr. Cathal Foley and acknowledged his professional approach when he was an Elected Member of Tralee Town Council.

Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae wished Cllr. Cathal Foley the best on his co-option to Kerry County Council. He wished Deputy Martin Ferris the very best on his decision not to run in the next general election and said he worked for the betterment of this county.

Cllr. Michael Gleeson welcomed Cllr. Cathal Foley and wished him well in working in this Council Chamber.

Cllr. Charlie Farrelly welcomed Cllr. Cathal Foley, wished him the best in Kerry County Council and said he was a renowned worker in Tralee Town Council. He also wished Deputy Martin Ferris well.

Cllr. Brendan Cronin congratulated Cllr. Cathal Foley on being co-opted to Kerry County Council and wished him every success. He said his experience in public life would help him with his endeavours. He also wished Deputy Martin Ferris well in the future.

Cllr. Tom Barry welcomed Cllr. Cathal Foley to the Chamber and said he is a great addition to Sinn Féin and the Council Chamber. He wished him well and thanked him for the help he always provided.

Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher welcomed Cllr. Cathal Foley to the Chamber and said he looked forward to working with him over the term of the Council. He expressed good wishes to Deputy Martin Ferris and Toiréasa Ferris and their families into the future.

On behalf of management and staff, the Chief Executive welcomed Cllr. Cathal Foley to the Chamber and added that she looked forward to working with him.

Cllr. Cathal Foley thanked his proposer and seconder, and thanked members for their kind words, adding that it is a pleasure to be representing his town and county. He said he was looking forward to working with councillors, management and staff again. He acknowledged the work of former Councillor Toiréasa Ferris and said he hoped he could continue that work.

#### **21.10.19.05 Filling of Vacancy on Kerry Education & Training Board**

Cllr. P. Daly PROPOSED that Cllr. Cathal Foley be nominated to fill the vacancy on the Kerry Education and Training Board.

Cllr. Robert Beasley SECONDED this proposal and it was agreed.

#### **21.10.19.06 Disposal of Property**

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. John Francis Flynn, SECONDED by Cllr. Michael Cahill, it was agreed to approve the disposal of 164m<sup>2</sup> of office accommodation located in the Killorglin Area Services Centre Building in the Townland of Laharn, Parish of Killorglin Barony of Trughenackmy and County Kerry by way of a 5 year lease to South Kerry Development CLG and in accordance with the terms of notice issued 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, Section 211 and Section 211 (5) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and Article 206 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001.

#### **21.10.19.07 Incurring of Overdraft Accommodation for year ending 31 Dec 2020**

Ms. A. McAllen, Head of Finance, referred members to her report dated 16 October 2019 on this item, which was circulated, and she briefed them on the report.

On the PROPOSAL OF Cllr. M. Gleeson, SECONDED by Cllr. John Francis Flynn it was agreed to approve the incurring of overdraft accommodation not exceeding €10m for the 12 months ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

#### **21.10.19.08 Protocol for Civic Honours Conferral**

Mr. C. O'Connor, Director of Service, referred members to his report dated 17 October 2019 on this item, which was circulated, and he briefed them on the report.

Cllr. Aoife Thornton welcomed the protocol and application form and said it gives better transparency to proposals submitted for civic honours. It is only fair that proposals at Municipal District level are decided at that level where there is an understanding of the merit of the honour. She PROPOSED the adoption of the revised Protocol for Civic Honours Conferral.

Cllr. Pa Daly asked if all members must be consulted on proposals for Municipal District Annual Awards to be decided at Municipal District level.

Cllr. Sam Locke said this protocol is advantageous to Municipal Districts and Kerry County Council in the way honours will be conferred. He SECONDED the proposal to adopt the revised Protocol for Civic Honours Conferral.

Cllr. Norma Foley said in relation to any honours being conferred she proposed that it would be appropriate to have a distinctive emblem or presentation piece, bearing the coat of arms of Kerry County Council, to be awarded.

Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher seconded this proposal.

Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae supported the introduction of an emblem/presentation piece. She asked how many civic receptions are held per year at Full Council and Municipal District level. She asked how this protocol affects the Annual Awards night.

Cllr. Charlie Farrelly supported the introduction of an emblem/presentation piece for recipients of civic honours.

Cllr. John Francis Flynn asked if there is a limit on how many proposals any one member can put forward.

Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae said the conferral of Full Council and Municipal District Annual Awards on one night worked well earlier in 2019 and asked that the same format would be used for the next Awards night.

Cllr. Brendan Cronin said it is important that achievements being honoured with civic receptions are exceptional.

Cllr. Niall O'Callaghan supported Cllr. Cronin's comments that achievements being honoured with civic receptions should be exceptional, as this is the highest honour the Council can bestow.

Cllr. Terry O'Brien said to bestow a civic reception is the highest honour and asked that members respect this.

In response to Cllr. Pa Daly's query, Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher, clarified that all Members of the Municipal District must agree honours to be bestowed at Municipal District level. In response to Cllr. John Francis Flynn's query, he said there is no limit to the amount of recipients an Elected Members can propose.

Cllr. Brendan Cronin PROPOSED there would be a limit of one per member for Civic Receptions at Municipal District level.

Cllr. John Francis Flynn SECONDED this proposal.

Following clarification from Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher that proposals at Municipal District level must be agreed by all members and it remains that only two civic receptions will be held at Municipal District level per year, Cllr. Brendan Cronin withdrew his proposal.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Aoife Thornton, SECONDED by Cllr. Sam Locke, it was unanimously agreed adopt the revised Protocol for Civic Honours Conferral.

#### **21.10.19.09 Amendments to the Kerry County Council Standing Orders**

Mr. C. O'Connor, Director of Service, referred members to his report dated 17 October 2019 on this item, which was circulated, and he briefed them on the report.

Cllr. Bobby O'Connell PROPOSED the adoption of amendments to the Kerry County Council Standing Orders.

Cllr. Terry O'Brien SECONDED this proposal.

Cllr. Aoife Thornton welcomed the amendments to the Standing Orders.

Cllr. Sam Locke supported the amendments to the Standing Orders, particularly the amendment in relation to cross Municipal District issues.

Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae said every Elected Member should be able to raise whatever issue they see fit at Full Council level. He welcomed the proposal that an issue about another area could be raised; however, the requirement to bring it through a Municipal District meeting will cause a delay in addressing the issue. He PROPOSED the following amendment: 'That Elected Members would be allowed to raise any issue they see fit, by way of Notice of Motion, at Full Council.'

Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae **SECONDED** this proposal. She said while welcoming that cross Municipal District issues can be raised as it recognises the split of areas between Municipal Districts, the requirement to go through a Municipal District meeting is ridiculous.

Cllr. Norma Moriarty said given the timing of the Municipal District meetings, and **PROPOSED** that simply requiring a Joint Motion where it is agreed to submit a motion, would resolve this issue.

Cllr. John Francis Flynn supported the amendment proposed by Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae. He asked if it still stands that if an issue raised at Municipal District level has not been resolved or addressed to the member's satisfaction within two months, they may refer the matter to the full Council by way of Notice of Motion. He said the wording of notices of motions submitted by Elected Members should be accepted as submitted.

Cllr. Charlie Farrelly supported the amendment proposed by Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae and said every Member should be entitled to bring issues to Full Council.

Cllr. Aoife Thornton **SECONDED** Cllr. Moriarty's proposal, where joint would mean two Elected Members, not all Elected Members of the Municipal District.

Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae said where a motion is proposed and seconded that should be enough to bring it from Municipal District to Full Council. He said the wording of notices of motions submitted by Elected Members should be accepted as submitted.

Cllr. Donal Grady supported the amendment proposed by Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae.

Cllr. Marie Moloney asked if where a Municipal District is being serviced by two areas, why an Elected Members cannot submit a Notice of Motion at Municipal District and the relevant officials attend the Municipal District meeting.

Cllr. Brendan Cronin referred to the wording of notices of motions submitted by Elected Members and said Members should not be requested to re-word motions. The requirement that area specific issues are only raised at Municipal District level is restricted given the timing of Municipal District meetings. If a serious area specific matter arises and a Council meeting is scheduled, that matter cannot be raised at the Full Council meeting. There is a similar area regarding issues crossing engineering areas. It is the job of Elected Members to raise issues on behalf of constituents and an accommodation must be made for this. Issues are raised only when there is no progress at area level. In terms of joint motions, that should mean two Elected Members proposing the motion.

Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae said the proposal that a matter must be brought through a Municipal District meeting will result in unnecessary red tape. He reiterated that Elected Members should be able to raise issues at Full Council as they see fit as they are County Councillors and are to represent the county no matter what Municipal District they represent. He said the wording of notices of motions submitted by Elected Members should be accepted as they are submitted.

Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher said this matter was discussed at the extended CPG Group which represents the full council.

Cllr. Pa Daly agreed with previous speakers and said the powers to make decisions are being reduced by Government. This is an attempt to further restrict debate in this Council.

Cllr. Bobby O'Connell said as consensus cannot be reached this matter should be referred back to the extended CPG Group.

Cllr. Michael O'Shea said areas and boundaries have changed, e.g. Milltown is now within three Municipal Districts and we have to change along with that. Members must be allowed two motions at Full Council every month, one of which would be in relation to a local issue. Members should be able to raise motions affecting their parish/community irrespective of what Municipal District it is in.

Cllr. Sam Locke asked if it will remain that Elected Members can table two motions when a joint motion, through an Municipal District meeting, is being tabled regarding a cross boundary issue.

Cllr. Norma Foley supported Cllr. O'Connell's suggestion to refer this matter back to the extended CPG Group. She PROPOSED that an issue outside of an Elected Member's Municipal District area could be raised at their Municipal District meeting and if not satisfactorily dealt with it can be brought to Full Council.

Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae said it makes a lot more work for staff if they have to travel to multiple Municipal District meetings. Elected Members should be entitled to raise what they want at Full Council meetings.

Cllr. Jim Finucane said we have SPCs where there are issues that affected the entire county, e.g. Tourism and LNG. In some cases we have seen the system assist fragmentation and that leads to weakness. There appears to be consensus that Elected Members should be allowed raise an issue that affects the county.

Cllr. Aoife Thornton said issues must first be put to the local engineer and if not satisfied with the response within 14 days it could then be brought to Full Council. A reasonable timeframe must be allowed for.

Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae said it is not reasonable to expect a Municipal District Engineer to attend multiple Municipal District meetings.

Cllr. Donal Grady said the wording of notices of motions submitted by Elected Members should be accepted as they are submitted.

The Chief Executive said what members and management are trying to achieve is to help the Council meetings work as best they can and, importantly, keeping powers within the Municipal District. Any proposals must keep powers at Municipal District level as appropriate, thus the requirement for a motion to come through the Municipal District meeting. There has always been a provision that if the members were not satisfied with how something was progressing at Municipal District level that it could be brought to Full Council. It would not be appropriate to have notices of motion that bypass the Municipal District or in some way alter the balance of power between Full Council and Municipal District. This matter was discussed at the extended CPG meeting, along with a discussion whereby if something significant happens outside a Municipal District, which could impact that Municipal District, that this matter could be raised within that Municipal District. It was suggested by the extended CPG that this

motion could then come from that Municipal District for discussion at Full Council. Where there is a joint Municipal District issue management will ensure that as much information as possible is provided at the Municipal District meeting. By keeping discussion on the Chief Executive's Report only to items raised in that report, issues from Municipal Districts can be raised via Notice of Motion or under Any Other Business. The purpose of this is to make things work more efficiently. Allowing issues from Municipal District level at Full Council cannot override the Municipal Districts which are an important part of the Local Government system. Any amendment to the Full Council Standing Orders cannot result in diminishing the powers of the Municipal Districts.

Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher PROPOSED that this matter revert to the extended CPG group for further discussion.

Cllr. Norma Foley said she accepted the Chief Executive's comments in relation to the weakening of the Municipal District powers. She PROPOSED that if there is a significant issue outside of an Municipal District which impacts on an Elected Member's Municipal District/Parish that they would be entitled to raise it at Municipal District level and if not satisfied with the reply that they would move it straight to the next Full Council Meeting.

Cllr. Michael O'Shea agreed that the matter be referred back to the extended CPG and SECONDED Cllr. Norma Foley's proposal. He said powers must stay with the Municipal Districts which are working very well. Allowances must be made where a parish is overlapping and an Elected Member must be allowed table a notice of motion regarding this parish no matter what Municipal District it relates to.

Cllr. Aoife Thornton said this could create an unfair advantage for an Elected Member outside a Municipal District.

Cllr. Jim Finucane said Cllr. Norma Foley's proposal is reasonable and supported same. He said this matter should be decided at today's meeting. He called for a vote on this matter.

Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae said the requirement that the motion must be a joint motion from all members of the Municipal District must be removed. He said he wants to be able to bring a motion, regarding national primary or national secondary routes directly to Full Council, i.e. to have the right to table two notices of motion as he sees fit. He said he does not want to weaken the Municipal Districts, however, he feels hindered by the current Standing Orders on notices of motion.

Cllr. Jimmy Moloney supported Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae's request.

Cllr. Norma Moriarty withdrew her proposal.

The Chief Executive said in the interest of how this Local Authority operates and in protecting the powers of the Municipal Districts, the proposal from Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae would hinder the work of the Municipal Districts. In relation to Cllr. Norma Foley's proposal, management, working with Elected Members, could protect the Municipal District and we could operate within the confines of that proposal.

Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher said a vote would now be taken.

Ms. J. McCarthy, Meetings Administrator, advised that an amendment to the Standing Orders requires a resolution of the Council, approved by no less than half of the total membership (16 members) (Section 15(2) Local Government Reform Act 2014).

Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher said a vote would first be taken on Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae's proposal which was seconded by Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae as follows:

"We the members of Kerry County Council hereby resolve that we as Elected Representatives would be allowed to raise any relevant issue by way of Notice of Motion to Full Council."

The vote resulted as follows:

**For:** Cllrs. Tom Barry, Michael Cahill, Pa Daly, Charlie Farrelly, John Francis Flynn, Cathal Foley, Donal Grady, Jackie Healy-Rae, Johnny Healy-Rae, Maura Healy-Rae, Sam Locke **(11)**

**Against:** Cllrs. Brendan Cronin, Jim Finucane, Breandán Fitzgerald, Fionnán Fitzgerald, Seamus Fitzgerald, Michael Foley, Norma Foley, Michael Gleeson, Jimmy Moloney, Marie Moloney, Norma Moriarty, Bobby O'Connell, Michael O'Shea, Mikey Sheehy, Aoife Thornton, Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher **(16)**

**Not Voting:** Cllr. Robert Beasley **(1)**

**Absent:** Cllrs. Patrick Connor-Scarteen, Mike Kennelly, Dan McCarthy, Terry O'Brien, Niall O'Callaghan **(5)**

Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher declared the proposal DEFEATED.

Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher said a vote would be taken on Cllr. Norma Foley's proposal which was seconded by Cllr. Michael O'Shea as follows:

"We the members of Kerry County Council hereby resolve that if there is a significant issue outside of an Municipal District which impacts on an Elected Member's Municipal District/Parish that they would be entitled to raise it at Municipal District level and if not satisfied with the reply that they would move it straight to the next Full Council Meeting."

The vote resulted as follows:

**For:** Cllrs. Tom Barry, Robert Beasley, Michael Cahill, Brendan Cronin, Pa Daly, Charlie Farrelly, Jim Finucane, Breandán Fitzgerald, Fionnán Fitzgerald, Seamus Fitzgerald, John Francis Flynn, Cathal Foley, Michael Foley, Norma Foley, Michael Gleeson, Donal Grady, Jackie Healy-Rae, Johnny Healy-Rae, Maura Healy-Rae, Sam Locke, Jimmy Moloney, Marie Moloney, Norma Moriarty, Bobby O'Connell, Michael O'Shea, Mikey Sheehy, Aoife Thornton, Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher **(28)**

**Against:** **(0)**

**Not Voting:** **(0)**

**Absent:** Cllrs. Patrick Connor-Scarteen, Mike Kennelly, Dan McCarthy, Terry O'Brien, Niall O'Callaghan **(5)**

Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher declared the proposal CARRIED.

### **21.10.19.10 Membership of SPCs (Elected Members)**

Report dated 17 October 2019 on this item, which was circulated, was noted and it was unanimously agreed to note the membership of the SPCs (Elected Members) as follows:

#### **1. Economic Development, Enterprise and Community SPC**

Cllr. Michael O'Shea, Chair  
Cllr. Jim Finucane  
Cllr. Fionnán Fitzgerald  
Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae  
Cllr. Norma Moriarty – LCDC  
Cllr. Terry O'Brien  
Cllr. Niall O'Callaghan

#### **2. Roads and Transportation and Marine SPC**

Cllr. Mike Kennelly, Chair  
Cllr. Tom Barry  
Cllr. Séamus Fitzgerald  
Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae  
Cllr. Dan McCarthy  
Cllr. Aoife Thornton

#### **3. Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Planning SPC**

Cllr. Michael Cahill, Chair  
Cllr. John Francis Flynn  
Cllr. Cathal Foley  
Cllr. Michael Gleeson  
Cllr. Donal Grady  
Cllr. Jimmy Moloney

#### **4. Housing SPC**

Cllr. Norma Foley, Chair  
Cllr. Pa Daly  
Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae  
Cllr. Marie Moloney  
Cllr. Bobby O'Connell  
Cllr. Mikey Sheehy

#### **5. Culture & Heritage and the Gaeltacht SPC**

Cllr. Robert Beasley, Chair  
Cllr. Patrick Connor-Scarteen  
Cllr. Brendan Cronin  
Cllr. Breandán Fitzgerald  
Cllr. Sam Locke

### **21.10.19.11 Appointment of Ethics Officer**

Report dated 15 October 2019 on this item, which had been circulated, was noted.

Cllr. D. Grady requested guidelines on the meaning of ethics.

Ms. J. McCarthy, Meetings Administrator, said training on ethics is being arranged for Elected Members to give full clarity to members.

It was unanimously agreed to note that Ms. J. McCarthy, Senior Executive Officer had been appointed by the Chief Executive as Ethics Officer for Kerry County Council for the period 3 October 2019 to 2 October 2021.

#### **21.10.19.12 Presentation from Kerry Climate Action Network**

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Niall Kelleher, welcomed Ms. Martha Farrell and members of the Kerry Climate Action Network to the meeting and invited her to make a presentation to the Elected Members.

Ms. Martha Farrell, Kerry Climate Action Network, and her colleagues, Catriona Fallon, Thomas O'Connor and Lisa Fingleton made a presentation to the Elected Members which included the following:

- Maharees Conservation Association CLG Activities Controlling Sand Deposition
- Maharees Dune Protection/Regeneration – Dune Regeneration is working
- Coastal Erosion Risk Mitigation Study
- Local Community Climate Workshop and Networking
- Transition Kerry
- The Local Food Project
- Providing food security and creating space for those who want to grow their own food

Cllr. Norma Foley said huge credit is due to the Kerry Climate Action Network on highlighting the importance of climate change and how we can proactively become part of initiatives to improve and sustain our environment. She welcomed the projects outlined in the presentation. Much of what is happening at present to keep environmental issues on the agenda is being lead by young people. She referred to the recent adoption by Kerry County Council of a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 and the work of Mr. G. Riordan, Senior Engineer, and said to have a Climate Change Officer would be useful. Kerry County Council has a role to play in terms of leadership and action. There is an opportunity being presented that every project Kerry County Council is involved in would be climate-proofed to ensure it positively impacts on the climate. We thanked the presenters and said she looked forward to much more engagement with the Kerry Climate Action Network.

Cllr. Michael O'Shea complimented the work done at the Maharees. The issue of climate change must be taken seriously in order to provide for the next generation. He supported the suggestion of climate proofing projects.

Cllr. John Francis Flynn said it is important that the survey of Castlemaine Harbour progresses quickly. He referred to a project whereby allotments were set up in communities through Kerry County Council and said this is something that could be made available to more communities.

Cllr. Seamus Fitzgerald welcomed the work done at the Maharees and that a Coastal Protection Study will be done on the Brandon area. The food production area has changed and it is difficult to see a person making a livelihood in farming when people are buying produce that is being sold at low prices.

Cllr. Norma Moriarty said we are in climate crisis but it does present opportunities under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The person working the land has to be rewarded and assured of a decent level of living for their work. There is a link between the farmer and a high quality of food.

Cllr. Michael Cahill said climate change must be taken seriously by the general public and all our politicians. Rossbeigh beach has been affected by coastal erosion and sand dunes there have been breached. He commended students that recently took a lead on climate action.

Cllr. Sam Locke said Kerry County Council is working hard on climate change actions. The public must be encouraged to use initiatives such as the Tralee bus. He said many farmers will not sign up to become food producers as it will not pay them to do so.

### **Suspension of Standing Orders**

The Cathaoirleach indicated that it was 1.30 p.m. and it would be necessary to suspend Standing Orders.

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Michael Cahill, SECONDED by Cllr. Seamus Fitzgerald it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue.

Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae suggested that a project involving local schools would be useful and informative for the younger generation.

Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae said Kerry Climate Action Network does not use shock tactics on people in relation to climate change and works with sensible proposals. Food production must be sustainable and affordable for farmers as they are to adapt to new practices.

Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae said he agrees with points on both sides of the climate change issue. Solutions that are practical to people are useful. Initiatives are needed to keep people living and working in rural Kerry. Kerry County Council is doing a lot in this area, e.g. retrofitting public lighting and building houses to a high standard.

Cllr. Pa Daly said shock tactics should be used because climate change is already happening. Refugees are coming from South American countries to North America to flee climate change. He suggested that Kerry County Council could support locally produced food produce. If a person can afford it, they should be buying locally produced goods. Without an alternative fuel to coal, Government should not punish householders with carbon taxes. He said grant support for festivals should carry a condition that such festivals would be plastic free events.

Cllr. Jimmy Moloney said as Vice-Chairman of the Listowel Tidy Towns he has seen sustainability become a big factor in the Tidy Towns initiative. He suggested that the Kerry Climate Action Network could work with Tidy Towns groups on developing projects. It is very important that our roads are made more accessible and safer for cyclists. It should also be noted that under Kerry County Council's SPC Scheme 2019 there is an Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Planning SPC.

Ms. Martha Fleming said the Kerry Climate Action Network has had a lot of feedback and engagement from groups and would be delighted to work with Kerry County Council on projects.

Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher thanked the delegation from Kerry Climate Action Network for their presentation to Kerry County Council.

### **Lunch break**

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 1.40 p.m. The meeting resumed at 2.15 p.m.

### **21.10.19.13 Presentation on Shopfront Design Guidelines**

Mr. D. Ginty, A/Senior Planner, made a presentation to the Elected Members on the new Shopfront Design Guidelines for the County which included the following:

- Shopfront Design Guidelines are a guide on best practice in relation to shopfronts, which are a very important element of the streetscape
- Policy of Kerry County Council is to preserve and retain traditional shopfronts that contribute to the character of Kerry
- Shopfront Structure and components of a shopfront
- Benefits of a well design shopfront
- Planning permission and general design principles
- Streetscape and relationship to adjoining buildings and building overhead
- Access for all
- Traditional and Contemporary Materials; Colour, Fascia and Pilasters, etc.
- Signage, illumination/lighting, security/shutters, canopies and awnings

All Elected Members welcomed the guidelines and thanked Mr. Ginty for his presentation.

Cllr. Michael Gleeson welcomed the removal of plastic and neon lights in signage and recognition of the art of sign writing. He suggested that the compilation of a list of sign writers would be useful. He said the provision of internal security shutters may be an issue for pharmacies.

Cllr. Marie Moloney welcomed the retention of the character and style of old buildings. She said internal security shutters may be an issue for premises who have them in place to prevent damage to their windows. She asked if businesses that do not have signage that is in line with this guide will be required to change their signage.

Cllr. Aoife Thornton asked if these guidelines will be onerous in terms of the cost of signage on the shop owner.

Cllr. Michael Cahill said a grant scheme should be put in place for shop owners to paint their premises.

Cllr. Patrick Connor-Scarteen welcomed the ban on illuminated signage. He asked if more could be done in relation to derelict buildings and if grants will be made available to refurbish derelict buildings.

Cllr. Pa Daly asked if planning permission was required for a large sign on the Sports Direct building in Tralee.

Cllr. Robert Beasley said he hoped the guidelines will be fully implemented and that grants for derelict buildings will be made available.

Cllr. Donal Grady complimented the Planner in Killarney who has enforced this policy for shopfronts in the town.

Cllr. Fionnán Fitzgerald said the number of vacant premises in Castleisland was highlighted in the Tidy Towns results, therefore, a grant for businesses to bring their shopfronts in line with the guidelines could be considered to address this.

Cllr. Norma Foley asked how the guidelines will be enforced and if they will be enforced retrospectively. She welcomed that painting of temporary hoardings will be acceptable.

Cllr. Cathal Foley asked that the guidelines would be circulated to architects for their implementation on drawings for shopfronts.

Mr. D. Ginty, A/Senior Planner, acknowledged the concerns expressed regarding shutters for some businesses and said alternatives are available and can be included in a building. This is a guidelines document to give assistance and guidance. Kerry County Council has an active enforcement unit and any unauthorised works will be followed up. He undertook to check the position regarding the sign referred to by Cllr. Pa Daly and provide an update at Tralee Municipal District. Existing signs that are not in line with the guidelines will not be required to update their signage.

#### **21.10.19.14 Approval for the Opening of Tenders**

- a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Michael O'Shea, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Jim Finucane, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for Poulgorm Bridge – Junction Improvement Works – Closing date: 8 October 2019 at 4.00 p.m.
- b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Michael O'Shea, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Jim Finucane, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for Kerry County Council Topographical Survey Contract 2020 (multiple schemes) - Closing Date: 11 October 2019 at 4.00 p.m.
- c) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Michael O'Shea, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Jim Finucane, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for Comhairle na nÓg Programme County Kerry – Closing Date: 23 October 2019 at 12.00 p.m.
- d) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Michael O'Shea, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Jim Finucane, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for N69 Listowel Tree Clearance - Closing Date: 24 October 2019 at 4.00 p.m.
- e) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Michael O'Shea, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Jim Finucane, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for N69 Listowel Vegetation Clearance - Closing Date: 24 October 2019 at 4.00 p.m.
- f) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Michael O'Shea, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Jim Finucane, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for N69 Listowel Construction Cost Advisory Services - Closing Date: 28 October 2019 at 4.00 p.m.
- g) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Michael O'Shea, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Jim Finucane, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for Road Paver – Supply of One Road Paver – Finisher - Closing Date: 29 October 2019 at 12.00 p.m.
- h) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Michael O'Shea, **SECONDED** by Cllr. Jim Finucane, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for N69 Listowel Bypass Badger exclusion and fencing – Closing Date: 30 October 2019 at 4.00 p.m.

- i) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Michael O'Shea, SECONDED by Cllr. Jim Finucane, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for Kilderry Woods – Outdoor Exercise Equipment Park (supply & installation) - Closing Date: 30 October 2019 at 4.00 p.m.
- j) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Michael O'Shea, SECONDED by Cllr. Jim Finucane, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for N86 Ballynasare Lower to Annascaul & Doonore North to Ballygarret Road Improvement Scheme – Ground Investigation Contract – Closing date: 4 November 2019 at 12.00 noon.
- k) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Michael O'Shea, SECONDED by Cllr. Jim Finucane, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for N69 Listowel Bypass Claims Advisor, Expert Witness, Client Representation, Procurement Assurance Services – Closing Date: 4 November 2019 at 4.00 p.m.
- l) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Michael O'Shea, SECONDED by Cllr. Jim Finucane, it was agreed to approve the opening of tenders for Construction of 10 No. Housing Units and all associated siteworks (Phase 5) at Baile an Gharraí, Lixnaw - Closing Date: 6 November 2019 at 3.00 p.m.

### **Emergency Motion**

#### **Cllr. Michael Cahill PROPOSED:**

That Kerry County Council call on the Minister for Justice, Charlie Flanagan, to urgently review the policy of prisoner day release in light of developments in a recent high-profile case.

Cllr. Michael Cahill said the family of the deceased are extremely hurt that the individual in this case has been approved for day release, when they have received assurances from the Minister for Justice that he would serve the full term of his sentence.

Cllr. Donal Grady SECONDED this motion.

### **21.10.19.15 Notices of Motion**

#### **1. Deferral for State Exams due to Illness**

##### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Norma Foley PROPOSED:**

That Kerry County Council call on the Minister of Education to afford students who are hospitalised or have medical certification to sit state exams in July as is currently being offered to students who suffer a bereavement on or before the June sitting of exams.

#### **Ms. J. McCarthy stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.**

Cllr. Norma Foley asked that Kerry County Council would call on the Minister for Education to extend the recently introduced rule in relation to bereavement to also afford students who are hospitalised or have medical certification an exemption to sit state exams in July.

Cllr. Michael Gleeson SECONDED this motion.

#### **2. Scéim bunaithe ar an Scoláireacht Erasmus**

##### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Michael Gleeson PROPOSED:**

Toisc go ndeireann Bunreacht na h-Éireann in Airteagal 7 gurab í an Ghaeilge an teanga náisúnta agus an phríomtheanga oifigiúil tá sé fíorthabhachtach go mbeadh

cumas labhartha de'n scoth ag múinteoirí bunscoile na tíre chun an teanga a mhúineadh le h-éifeacht. Chun san a dheimniú táimse ag iarraidh ar an Rialtas scéim bunaithe ar an Scoláireacht Erasmus, go dtí an Ghaeltacht ar feadh bliana, a bhunú do's na h-ábhar múinteoireachta.

### **Dúirt Iníon Mhic Cárthaigh gur ceist í seo do na baill.**

Dúirt Clr. Michael Gleeson "Tá aithne againn go leir, a déarfainn, ar scoláirí de'n triú leibhéal a chuaigh nó atá anois thar lear ar scolaireacht Erasmus agus iad ag chur feabhas ar a líofacht teangan sa Iodáilis, sa Ghearmáinis, sa bhFraincís no i dteanga Eorpach eile. Is cinnte gur scéim iontach é an Erasmus mar tugann se seans dos na scoláirí maireachaint go laethiúil le cainteoirí dúchasa.

Tá tuiscint éigin agam féin ar an mbuntáiste a bhaineann le'n a leithéid de scéim mar an Erasmus. Fadó riamh chuas mar dhalta chónaithe go dti Coláiste Íosagáin I mBaile Mhúirne. Mo chéad oíche sa Choláiste bhíos féin agus bauchaill eile ag labhairt Béarla sa phasáiste. Shiúil dalta níos sine agus níos críonna suas chugainn agus duirt se: Labhartar Gaeilge anseo. Níor labharmar focal Béarla as san amach.

Tá roinnt mhaith daoine ag rádh liom go bhfuilid buartha mar gheall ar an gcaideán Gaeilge ag cuid de's na múinteoirí nua- cháilithe le blianta beaga anuas. Muna mbíonn and Ghaeilg réasúta líofa ag na múintoirí níl seans ar bith ag na daltaí óga bunscoile líofacht ná meas a fháilt ar an dteanga.

Thart ar deich mbliain ó shin nó mar sin, deineadh suirbhe de's na scoláirí I gColaiste Treanála agus d'admhuigh thart ar 25% díobh go rabhadar buartha faoin a gcumas chun Gaeilge a mhúineadh Da mbeadh an scéim Erasmus ar fáil dos na h-abhair mhuinteoireachta chun maireachaint go lán aimsearach sa Gaeltacht ar feadh se mhí, bheadh Gaeilge de'n scoth acu nuair bheadh siad ag dul amach ag múineadh go lán aimsearach.

Is í ár dteanga oifigiúil í agus tá aitheantas Eorpach ag an Gaeilge agus creidim go mba choir go bhfaidead sí aitheants do'n scéim Erasmus. Is beag cabhair nó dea-shampla atá tugtha ag ár bpoilaitheoirí náisiunta ó bhunú an Stáit ó thaobh cúrsai teangan dhe. Seo seans dóibh anois rud éigin dearfach a dhéanamh ar mhaithe leis an Oideachais agus ar mhaithe le'n ár dteanga ársa, fíor-shaibhir.

Tuigim go bhfuil feabhas bheag tagtha ar chúrsai le déanaí sa mheid is go bhfuil an deontas ar fáil arís do's an scoláirí chun trí sheachtain a chaitheam sa Gaeltacht ach dob fhearr I bhfad dá mbeid an scéim Erasmus ann doibh.

Léirigh an t-Aoire McHugh a shuim sa teanga nuair a bhí sé mar Aire Stáit Gaeltachta. Táimse anois ag iarraidh air féachaint go dearfach ar mo rún."

Chuidigh an Clr. Fionnán Mac Gearailt leis an rún seo. Aontaím go huile is go hiomlán leis an tairiscint seo atá ag an gComhairleoir Micheál Ó Gliosáin. Tá sé tábhachtach go mbeadh gramadach agus cumas na gaeilge ag múinteoirí sa todhchaí ach maraon le seo tá caint, snas agus cultúr na gaeilge tábhachtach. Chaith mise trí sheachtain sa Ghaeltacht nuair a bhí mé san ollscoil agus bhain mé an-chuid taitneamh as agus chuir sé feabhas ar mo chuid gaeilge. Rud iontach a bheadh sé go mbeadh seans ag múinteoirí agus mic léinn bliain a chaitheamh sa Ghaeltacht agus aontaím leis an tairiscint seo agus gabhaim buíochas do Chomhairleoir Micheál Ó Gliosáin dá bharr an obair a rinne sé chun é a chur ós ár gcomhair inniu.

### **3. Procurement Process**

#### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Jim Finucane PROPOSED:**

That this Council calls on the Minister to change the Procurement Process to allow the history of Contractors to be taken into account before the awarding of further Contracts.

#### **Ms. J. McCarthy stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.**

Cllr. Jim Finucane said there have been many cases where sub-contractors have not been paid by their principal contractor. It is essential that in awarding contracts the history of a contractor is taken into account.

Cllr. John Francis Flynn SECONDED this motion and said when grants are being awarded to people, the contractor should be paid directly by the Local Authority to ensure they are not left unpaid.

### **4. Visitor Experience Development Programme for North Kerry**

#### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Aoife Thornton PROPOSED:**

I request the members of Kerry County Council to support my call on Fáilte Ireland to commence the Visitor Experience Development Programme for North Kerry as soon as possible.

#### **The following reply issued:**

Fáilte Ireland have indicated that the Visitor Experience Development Programme for North Kerry will commence in Quarter 1 2020.

Cllr. Aoife Thornton said this programme was carried out successfully on the Skellig and there is significant capital behind these programmes. She acknowledged the reply to the notice of motion and asked that a letter issue to Fáilte Ireland.

Cllr. Jimmy Moloney SECONDED this motion.

### **5. Business Incentive Scheme**

#### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Michael Cahill PROPOSED:**

That Kerry County Council roll out the Business Incentive Scheme as a matter of extreme urgency whereby a Grant is allocated to persons who reopen vacant properties in Caherciveen, Killorglin, Killarney Dingle, Castleisland and Kenmare including all villages throughout South Kerry as this scheme will help revitalise South and West Kerry.

#### **The following reply issued:**

A pilot Business Incentive Scheme is currently being operated in Tralee on designated streets where vacancy levels are high. This pilot is in place for less than a year and is being reviewed in light of its effectiveness and other business support and Town Centre regeneration proposals. Following this review a report will be brought to Council in relation to the potential for further rollout of this or an amended scheme. Kerry County Council will continue to seek funding for the upgrade of Town and Village centres to incentivise investment by the private sector in their areas. Kerry County Council will also continue to work with the Local Business Sector in developing and implementing Economic Strategies for their areas.

Cllr. Michael Cahill said this is a grant scheme with a write off of rates by 75%, 50% and 25% over a three year period. Every town has old and vacant properties and

this could be an opportunity to revitalise towns and villages. He asked that consideration be given to extending the scheme to provide for a write off of rates by 100%, 75%, 50% and 25% over a four year period.

Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae **SECONDED** this motion and asked that this scheme would be extended to Castleisland and asked for an update report on the take up of the Business Incentive Scheme.

## **6. Electric Car Charging Points on the Wild Atlantic Way**

### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Robert Beasley PROPOSED:**

That the towns on the Wild Atlantic Way be granted power points for charging electric cars to benefit tourism.

### **The following reply issued:**

This is an objective that the executive fully supports. A proposal to have EV charging points in towns, villages and Blue Flag beaches has been included in a funding application to the Department of Rural and Community Development for the upgrading of facilities in coastal resorts and Blue Flag beaches under the Rural Regeneration Scheme. Kerry County Council will also consider proposals under the Climate Action Fund when calls for proposals are announced.

Cllr. Robert Beasley said it is important that all towns and villages along the Wild Atlantic Way would have power points for charging electric cars to help benefit tourism.

Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher **SECONDED** this motion and asked how much funding has been applied for and when a reply on the application is expected.

Mr. M. Scannell, Director of Service, said a Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF) application was submitted and it is hoped to have a response before the end of 2019. This application was part of a €1m application for electric vehicle charging points and other upgrades to these areas.

## **7. Retrofit of Local Authority Housing Stock**

### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Niall Kelleher PROPOSED:**

That this Local Authority in conjunction with the relevant Government Departments lead by example and develop a plan to retrofit Local Authority Housing stock.

### **The following reply issued:**

In the last 5 years, Kerry County Council has benefitted from funding for Energy Efficiency/Retrofit Programmes in two phases. Phase 1 of the scheme, that was funded under the Social Housing Investment Programme, saw Kerry County Council receive funding of approximately €1.9m in respect of a range of measures to improve the standard and overall quality of its social housing stock. Phase 2 was the latest funding allocation under the programme for energy retrofitting social homes. The programme provides funding for fabric upgrade works to dwellings with solid/hollow block wall construction and includes the provision of heating upgrades. As well as improving the energy efficiency of Ireland's social housing stock, the programme also brings about reductions in people's heating bills and helps tackle fuel poverty. As part of the EU Operational Programme 2014-2020, the programme attracts co-funding under the European Regional Development Fund. Under this Phase 2 of the Energy Efficiency/Retrofitting Programme, Kerry County Council has received an initial allocation of €570k. Kerry County Council intends to upgrade approximately 60

properties under this scheme in 2019. In addition to this programme, Energy Efficiency measures have also been carried out in approximately 290 vacant properties, that have been returned to use since 2014, under the Voids-Energy Retrofit EU ESRF programme. This area is currently under review nationally.

As Members will also be aware the funding approaches to the Voids programme is also under review with changes expected in the current approaches. This will also involve a fundamental review of approaches to general and preventative maintenance programmes. When we have further clarity on the expected changes and likely future approaches we will revert to Council.

Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher said not even 7% of our housing stock has been retrofitted. He proposed that a letter issue to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government calling for sufficient funding to be provided to Kerry County Council for an Energy Efficiency/Retrofit Programme in order to improve energy efficiencies and the standard and quality of its social housing stock.

Cllr. Michael Foley seconded the proposal to issue a letter to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government and moved notice of Motion No. 33.

**Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Michael Foley PROPOSED:**

That Kerry County Council would apply for Central funding to replace windows and doors in their Housing stock.

**The following reply issued:**

The replacement of windows and doors is generally considered in the context of energy efficiency retrofitting and in the last 5 years, KCC has benefitted from the funding for these programmes in two phases. Phase 1 of the scheme that was funded under the Social Housing Investment Programme saw Kerry County Council receive funding of approximately €1.9m in respect of a range of measures to improve the standard and overall quality of its social housing stock. Phase 2 was the latest funding allocation under the programme for energy retrofitting social homes. The programme provides funding for fabric upgrade works to dwellings with solid/hollow block wall construction and includes the provision of heating upgrades. As well as improving the energy efficiency of Ireland's social housing stock, the programme also brings about reductions in people's heating bills and helps tackle fuel poverty. As part of the EU Operational Programme 2014-2020, the programme attracts co-funding under the European Regional Development Fund. Under this Phase 2 of the Energy Efficiency/Retrofitting Programme, Kerry County Council has received an initial allocation of €570k. Kerry County Council intends to upgrade approximately 60 properties under this scheme in 2019. In addition to this programme, Energy Efficiency measures have also been carried out in approximately 290 vacant properties, that have been returned to use since 2014, under the Voids-Energy Retrofit EU ESRF programme.

As Members will also be aware the funding approaches to the Voids programme is also under review with changes expected in the current approaches. This will also involve a fundamental review of approaches to general and preventative maintenance programmes. When we have further clarity on the expected changes and likely future approaches we will revert to Council.

Cllr. Michael Foley said numerous Council Tenants were in contact with him regarding the poor state of their windows. Maintenance repairs are inadequate and while these works are on a list to be replaced there is no funding available.

Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae said more funding is required for maintenance of our housing stock, it's a health and safety issue and tenants cannot heat their homes. She asked what level of funding is available for housing maintenance.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue, Director of Service, said details of a significant change in the funding mechanism for vacant properties and voids is awaited from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. A report will be presented to Council when this information is received.

## **8. Burial Ground Capacity**

### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae PROPOSED:**

How many spaces are left in each graveyard in the County and what action is being taken to provide more space where room is running out.

### **The following reply issued:**

Kerry County Council has responsibility for the management and maintenance of 156 Burial Grounds around the County. An annual review of grave space capacity is carried out to determine which graveyards are reaching capacity. The Council have an ongoing land acquisition and development programme to address identified capacity issues. Details of the 2019 capacity review, which were circulated, outline what capacity remains and the approximate lifespan of the burial ground based on current levels of demand. Over the past few years, we have constructed new burial grounds in Killarney, Lixnaw and Abbey Island. We have also constructed extensions to Old Kilcummin and Rathass, Tralee.

Many challenges lie ahead for the Council, not only in the management and maintenance of our existing burial grounds but also in the provision of new burial grounds. This is an area that will be considered as part of the work programme for the Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Planning SPC during 2020.

Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae welcomed the reply and said his understanding is that capacity is at a critical point in four burial grounds in the county. He said in two cases landowners have indicated they are willing to work with Kerry County Council and he asked that this be followed up, particularly in Kilgarvan. He also asked that consideration be given to using lands in Kilgarvan that are in Kerry County Council's ownership.

Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae SECONDED this motion and said the capacity of burial grounds is of great concern in certain areas, e.g. Gneeveguilla. She asked that the full reply would be circulated to all Elected Members

Cllr. Robert Beasley moved notice of motion No. 27.

### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Robert Beasley PROPOSED:**

There are a number of graveyards in serious shortage of grave space around the county, what is the up to date position on this matter as many families have contacted me in relation to family members been buried in pathways which were never intended as grave.

### **The following reply issued:**

Kerry County Council has responsibility for the management and maintenance of 156 Burial Grounds around the County. An annual review of grave space capacity is carried out to determine which graveyards are reaching capacity. The Council have an ongoing land acquisition and development programme to address identified capacity issues. Details of the 2019 capacity review, which were circulated, outline what capacity remains and the approximate lifespan of the burial ground based on current levels of demand. Over the past few years, we have constructed new burial grounds in Killarney, Lixnaw and Abbey Island. We have also constructed extensions to Old Kilcummin and Rathass, Tralee.

Many challenges lie ahead for the Council, not only in the management and maintenance of our existing burial grounds but also in the provision of new burial grounds. This is an area that will be considered as part of the work programme for the Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Planning SPC during 2020.

Cllr. Robert Beasley expressed concern regarding capacity, in particular, at Causeway Churchyard. He said a commitment had been given that this burial ground would be walled in and asked that this would be followed up. He asked that Kerry County Council would speak with landowners in the vicinity in relation to acquiring additional land for the burial ground.

Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher **SECONDED** this motion and said the capacity of the burial ground at Gneeveguilla is of particular concern.

Mr. J. Breen, Director of Service, said a review of lands in Kilgarvan will be undertaken. In relation to Causeway, Kerry County Council will endeavour to resolve matters at that burial ground.

## **9. Fire Service**

### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Jimmy Moloney PROPOSED:**

How often were Tralee, Killarney and Listowel reduced to one pump Fire Stations for the months of August and September. Of the call outs from the three two pump stations how many Fire Fighters attended these calls.

### **The following reply issued:**

The Fire Service operates on the basis of having fire fighters on call to respond as required. Presently all firefighters are rostered on and thus available for duty.

When any one of our 2 tender stations is reduced from a 2 tender turnout down to a 1 tender turnout, due to firefighters being unavailable through absence or training requirements, the next tender from a neighbouring station on the Pre-determined Attendance list for that incident location is automatically mobilised to a call-out by the Munster Regional Communications Centre (MRCC) which handles all emergency calls.

Tralee was reduced down to a 1 tender turnout on 2 occasions during the months of August and September, Killarney was reduced down to a 1 tender turnout on one occasion during this time and Listowel was reduced down to a 1 tender turnout on one occasion during the months of August and September and were notified to MRCC.

There were 85 no. incidents involving the Tralee, Killarney and Listowel 2-pump Fire Stations during August and September. In the case of 83 no. of these incidents (97.65%), a sufficient number of personnel were in attendance having regard to Fire Service Operational Procedures. In the case of the remaining 2 incidents, 5 no. fire fighters responded in a single tender as determined by the Station Officer as an appropriate and adequate response.

Cllr. Jimmy Moloney said he believes there is a serious situation facing the fire service. 7 crew are required to run a fire truck and there are 12 official fire fighters in Listowel, a 2-pump fire station. If only one fire truck can be dispatched from Listowel Fire Station it will require back up from Ballybunion or Tralee Fire Station. He said he understands that recruitment is ongoing, but there is a health and safety risk to the public and the fire fighters if areas are left uncovered. He asked for clarification regarding availability of fire officers rostered on and on call.

Cllr. Sam Locke said the fire service is at crisis level and more personnel are needed on the ground, which was evident when flooding was experienced in Tralee during last week's severe weather event. He commended the staff of Tralee Municipal District for their work to try to assist the residents of the area involved.

Mr. J. Breen, Director of Service, said regarding response levels, all fire officers are available and rostered on. It is acknowledged that we have had to reduce station turnouts on certain occasions. Recruitment is underway at present. He said the level of response in Tralee last week was not what it should have been and he undertook to review it. There are times when cover is provided by other tenders and that is set out in the Fire Services Response. There are situations where staff are on sick leave or on training. There is a pre-determined level of cover. On two occasions the Station Officer made a decision on less numbers attending at incidents. In the case of gorse fires, and the scale of those fire, there can be a larger attendance. There is no situation where coverage by the Fire Service is not available.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue, Director of Service, said there is a formal roster in the Kerry Fire Service and fire officers are on duty and available for all calls unless they are approved for leave. If there is an alert they are required to attend and there are percentage attendance requirements in place. Not all fire officers will attend on all occasions. This is built into the availability requirements for the fire service in Kerry. There is also a cross over arrangement in place between fire stations. Not all incidents will require the attendance of two pumps. Depending on the classification of the incident, different responses will attend per the Chief Fire Officer. It is a regular feature of serious RTAs to draw on services across the county.

## **10. Kerry County Council Land Bank**

### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. John Francis Flynn PROPOSED:**

That Kerry County Council give a detailed update on any progress that has been made in moving forward of the construction of our landbanks and any plans going forward.

### **The following reply issued:**

A Report was presented to the Council in January 2019 which documented in detail, the current Land-Bank portfolio held by Kerry County Council. A further update was provided in May on progress.

Attached is a further update of land banks where more substantial progress has been made on advancing projects for the development of the Council land bank since the land report was presented to members.

Details of the Capital Programme is provided to Members at each MD Meeting.

In addition to the lands outlined to Council in January 2019, the Council acquired a corner site on Matt Talbot Road adjacent to the Denny's/Island of Geese site and this is currently being examined in the context of a Social Housing project within the overall Island of Geese development.

**Kerry County Council Landbank 14th October 2019 where Projects Advanced**

Name and Address	Area of land (ha)	Area proposed for development (ha)	Remaining land (ha)	Development Status at Previous report to Council	Details of further progress since land report
Ardbhearna, Kenmare 14	1.57	0.59	0.98	Current Project of 22 Units completed in 2018 and being occupied. A further project of an additional 14 new social housing units proposed in current Programme (Phase 4). Commence detail design 2019. Part VIII in place.	At Tender Stage (tender submissions closed)
Ardmoniel, Killorglin	0.5	0.5	0	14 new social housing units , construction to commence Q1 2019.	On Site December 2019/ January 2020 completion
Baile an Gharraí, Lixnaw	0.827	0.827	0	12 new social housing units proposed in current Programme (next phase) Part VIII in place. Commence detail design 2019.	10 Unit Project. At tender stage.
Balloonagh, Tralee	1.14	1.14	0	28 new social housing units , construction to commence Q2 2019.	Under Construction
Ballyferriter	1.206	1.206	0	Proposed new social housing development, design not commenced	Being reviewed - infrastructure
Ballylongford	0.31	0.31	0	Proposed new social housing development (8 Units), design not commenced	At detailed design
Ballyrickard Park/ Kerins Park, Tralee	0.768	0.768	0	Proposed new social housing development (20 Units), preliminary design commenced	At Part VIII Planning Stage.
Courthouse Lawn/ William Street, Listowel	0.176	0.176	0	7 new social housing units currently under construction	Under construction
Croogorts, Tralee	1.15	1.15	0	Potential new social housing project in current Programme (25 units), sketch design commenced	At detailed design. Part VIII approved.
Cuirt Eaglaise(Bridewell), Milltown	0.23	0.23	0	8 new social housing units under construction	Under construction
Doonard Lower, Tarbert	1.494	0	1.494	Under consideration. No proposals at present.	Part VIII to commence shortly
Farrantoreen, Killorglin	0.87	0.87	0	Under consideration for new social housing development. Design not commenced.	Site assessment and preliminary design underway
Farranwilliam, Ardfert	0.736	0.736	0	22 new social housing units in current Programme, Part 8 process just completed.	Under construction
Island of Geese, Tralee				NEW SITE	Site part of Island of Geese Site and part new site recently purchased. About to commence preliminary design.
Lohercannon, Tralee	19.27	2.7	16.57	56 new social housing units, Stage 1 approval in place. Design currently being finalised with Department. Part 8 process to commence Q1 2019.	At tender stage
Marconi, Ballybunion	1.02	1.02	0	Construction project in current Programme (10 Units). Design not commenced.	Project for 61 Units
Marconi, Ballybunion II	2.365	2.365	0	20 Units project in current Programme	Awaiting final Dept approval on tender.
Pinewood, Killarney (1)	0.03	0.03	0	1 new social housing unit just completed	Completed
Pinewood, Killarney (6)	0.14	0.14	0	6 new social housing unit Project in current Programme , construction to commence Q1 2019.	Under construction
Rahoonane, Tralee	0.262	0.262	0	Construction project in current Programme (8 Units). Design not commenced.	Revision of location and about to start revised planning process
Rathass, Tralee	0.12	0.12	0	Construction project in current Programme (no of units under review). Design not commenced.	At Design Stage.
Rathmore/Barraduff	1.07	1.07	0	20 Unit Project in current Programme, Part 8 process underway	At Tender Stage (tender submissions closed)
Rock Road Killarney	0.34	0.34	0	Recently acquired. Initial sketch design underway.	Detailed design - Part VIII in place
Tarbert	3.428	1.15	2.278	Project included in current Programme following re-routing of Overhead Line (15 units), sketch design commenced	Part VIII to commence shortly

Cllr. John Francis Flynn asked when projects with Part VIII approval will go to tender. As Kerry County Council has no lands in Killorglin he asked if lands are being sought there. He asked why some lands that were on the list presented in January are not listed today. He asked if there has been an update on contacting the Department regarding the debt on lands at Castleinch, Listowel.

Cllr. Pa Daly asked for clarification on the location of lands purchased at the Island of Geese site and Rathass.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue, Director of Service, said the lands purchased at the Island of Geese site are on the corner site at the back of the site to incorporate housing. The site at Rathass is between the existing halting site and the entrance to Rath Oraigh. He said detail on some lands that were on the list presented in January are not listed today as the notice of motion asked for details where progress had been made. There is no progress on lands that have not been listed. Kerry County Council is looking for lands in Killorglin. There is a four stage approval process with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government for housing developments. Following Part VIII approval, there is the appointment of designers, it then goes to tender and Departmental approval of the tender price is then required. There is long standing engagement with the Department regarding land loans. A resolution regarding lands at Castleinch, Listowel has not been identified and these lands are not currently developable. Lands that can be developed are being prioritised.

## **11. RAS Tenancies**

### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Pa Daly PROPOSED:**

That this Council acknowledges that it has a relationship with RAS tenants.

### **The following reply issued:**

Kerry County Council is part of a 3 way relationship in respect of RAS Properties.

- (i) Between the Council and property owner (landlord) where the Council agrees to pay the Landlord a fee for making the property available to scheme for an agreed term.
- (ii) Between the Property Owner (landlord) and the Tenant which is subject to a formal tenancy agreement.
- (iii) Between the Council and the tenant where the tenant pays the Council an affordable rent in accordance with Kerry County Council's Differential Rent Scheme.

The Landlord/Tenant relationship is between the Landlord and the Tenant and is subject to the terms and conditions set out in their Residential Tenancy Agreement.

Cllr. Pa Daly welcomed that there is a three way arrangement between Landlord, Tenant and Kerry County Council. He asked that Kerry County Council address a particular anti-social behaviour case.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue, Director of Service, said he is precluded from discussing third party cases. He said he has previously set out the facts on that case and it is not a RAS property.

## **13. Residential Properties in Killarney National Park**

### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Marie Moloney PROPOSED:**

That Kerry County Council would liaise with Killarney National Park, the National Park and Wildlife Services and with some joined up thinking, that agreement be

reached that the residential properties that the National Park own, that have been unoccupied for quite some time, be rented to tenants at an affordable rent in conjunction with Kerry County Council.

**The following reply issued:**

The Office of public Works (OPW) have confirmed that these properties are not available to Kerry County Council for Social Housing purposes.

Cllr. Marie Moloney expressed her disappointment with the reply and said these houses are sitting empty, they belong to the state, and could be used by the Local Authority for social housing and at the very least on a temporary basis between tenancies.

Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae **SECONDED** this motion and said these properties are unused and are falling into disrepair.

**14. Communications Infrastructure for 5G**

**Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Michael Foley PROPOSED:**

To ask Kerry County Council have they issued licences under Section 254 of the Planning Development Act 2000 or if there are applications pending to erect masts, monopoles or new structure to hold communications equipment specifically for 5G.

**The following reply issued:**

The Council has granted licences for two number poles, under the provisions of Section 254 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, for telecommunication infrastructure. The applications are not for 5G telecommunications

Cllr. Michael Foley said one can apply for a licence under section 254 of the Planning Development Act 2000 without going through the normal planning process for various items such as a town or landscape maps for indicating direction of places, a hoarding, fence or scaffold, etc. which is understandable. It is of concern, however, that a 15m mast or monopole can be erected for 5G in a public place such as housing estates or near schools without knowledge of the public. 5G is an unknown quantity regarding the dangers to public health. While in support for modern technology and the provision of high-speed broadband, he asked that the full planning process be applied to the construction of masts or monopoles for 5G within the vicinity of housing estates or schools until the full dangers are made aware of 5G. He asked if there are any applications pending decision from Kerry County Council.

Cllr. Aoife Thornton supported this motion and said it is a nonsense that planning permission is not required for this infrastructure.

Cllr. Brendan Cronin, in **SECONDING** this motion, said he supported the sentiments expressed in the motion, particularly given concerns regarding 5G. While telecommunication infrastructure remains outside the remit of planning permission people do not have the opportunity to voice their concerns.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Director of Service, said it is not technically correct to say planning is not required, it is a licencing process and there is a list of particular infrastructure which requires licencing rather than planning permission. There are no applications pending at present. It is understood that 5G technology will only be rolled out in the cities at present.

Cllr. Brendan Cronin asked if it is correct that telecommunications companies can erect a pole of 10m without licencing.

Mr. M. Scannell, Director of Service, said on public ground telecommunications companies require a licence from the Local Authority. They cannot be put through a process, e.g. a planning process, which is not required by law. There are exemptions regarding the erection of masts on buildings/land where a licence is not required.

### **15. West Kerry Community Hospital**

#### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Seamus Fitzgerald PROPOSED:**

That we the members of Kerry County Council write to the relevant management personnel in the HSE, expressing our anger, frustration and disappointment that instead of opening 8 additional beds at the West Kerry Community Hospital (as per HIQA permission), they have in actual fact to date closed 4 of the 43 beds that had been available to the patients for many years.

#### **Ms. J. McCarthy stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.**

Cllr. Seamus Fitzgerald the West Kerry Community Hospital was opened providing 43 beds to the community, however, four of the 43 beds have been closed. Initially this related to the lack of recruitment of nurses, however, it now relates to an embargo regarding Healthcare Assistants. 60 beds were to open in this hospital, currently 37 are open and the remaining beds must be opened. This matter must be highlighted nationally, it is a disgrace that our elderly are not taken care of.

Cllr. Jim Finucane said there must be recognition for front line public service staff. The current management of staff and resources by the HSE is unacceptable.

Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae moved notice of motion No. 29.

#### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae PROPOSED:**

That Kerry County Council would write to the Minister of Health regarding the lack of progress in opening the remaining 19 beds in Kenmare Community Hospital.

#### **Ms. J. McCarthy stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.**

Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae said a 40-bed hospital opened in Kenmare in 2013 which was considered necessary for the town and the hinterland it covered. 21 beds are open with the remaining 19 beds closed. He proposed that Kerry County Council seek a deputation with the Minister for Health to discuss these important issues for both communities.

Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae seconded the proposal to request a deputation.

### **16. Driving Education on the Secondary School Curriculum**

#### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae PROPOSED:**

That Kerry County Council writes to the Minister for Education and the RSA to look at both the possibility and feasibility of introducing Driving Education into the School Curriculum, whereby students would both learn the theory side in depth and also the practical driving practice whilst in Secondary School.

#### **Ms. J. McCarthy stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.**

Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae said the backlog in driving tests could be addressed by making driving education mandatory in schools. From 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Year students could learn the rules of the road in depth over three years, each secondary school would also have a model car whereby students would become familiar with the function of a car and learning basics such as changing a tyre, etc. In Transition Year/5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Year, students could sit their theory test in the mobile RSA unit which could visit the school. Following this, 12 lessons could be facilitated for students through the school; for those who cannot afford this, a subsidy should be made available from the RSA's budget. Once eligible to sit their driving test students could do so, again facilitated through the school, hence every student leaving school is doing so with a Full Driver's Licence and a much more educated and safe user of our roads.

Cllr. Dan McCarthy SECONDED this motion.

### **17. Consultation on Road Works**

#### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Patrick Connor-Scarteen PROPOSED:**

Road resurfacing, repairs and improvements are much welcomed in the County, however, greater consultation needs to take place with communities and businesses where such works take place.

#### **The following reply issued:**

All road improvements involving a realignment or alteration to the road layout undergo a formal public consultation process, either under Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations or under Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act. It is also the practice of the Council, to liaise with local businesses & property owners who may be impacted by such works, in advance of the approved works commencing on site and as the works progress.

Road Resurfacing and other maintenance measures are generally not subject to formal public consultation. However, where the works may have a significant impact on local businesses or properties, the local area staff liaise with the owners in advance of the works commencing. The majority of these works are presented to the elected members for consideration as part of the Schedule of the Municipal District Works Plans and Area staff are required to advise the members of the fortnightly works schedule.

Cllr. Patrick Connor-Scarteen said he does not believe the public consultation on road works is adequate. He referred to road works where unforeseen circumstances can arise and members of the public and businesses are not aware of revised road work plans. He said an audit of roads is required, works need to take place off season and more information must be given to the public and business via the Council's website and all social media.

Cllr. Brendan Cronin SECONDED this motion and the sentiments expressed regarding the contracting system. He said where contractors are not available for emergency works they should be removed from the list.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Director of Service, said the procurement process is conducted in accordance with national procedures. The history of contractors is taken into account. Kerry County Council does endeavour, where there is a requirement to extend a road closure for works, to place radio advertisements and there is consultation in the area.

## **18. Bonfires and Illegal Fireworks at Halloween**

### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Tom Barry PROPOSED:**

That Kerry County Council along with the Gardaí and the Kerry Fire Service will highlight the potential dangers involved from bonfires and illegal fireworks surrounding the Halloween festivities.

### **The following reply issued:**

Each year Kerry Fire Service runs a campaign to advise the public of the dangers of bonfires and illegal fireworks at Halloween. This includes advice on the siting, construction and supervision of bonfires as well as the potential serious personnel injury that can be caused by the use of illegal fireworks/bangers.

Kerry Fire Service also advise adults in particular to keep a watchful eye on the very young, the very old, and the vulnerable members of our society. We also ask parents to remind their children that Fire fighters and other Emergency Service personnel are there to protect them and their property and ensure the safety of the public and ask that they respect and co-operate with the emergency services: the Fire Service and council staff and Gardaí and ambulance crews carrying out their duties at Halloween.

These messages are communicated through social media (Kerry Fire & Rescue Service Facebook account), Radio Kerry Halloween Safety ad and through Halloween safety articles in Kerry's Eye and Kerryman newspapers.

This campaign will be run again this year.

Cllr. Tom Barry said Halloween is a time with potential dangers with bonfires and the use of illegal fire works, which can be ongoing from the end of September, causing residents in many estates to be living in fear at this time of the year. People involved in this behaviour must be held accountable. There are costs related to the clean up after Halloween.

Cllr. Robert Beasley SECONDED this motion.

## **19. Demountable Units**

### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae PROPOSED:**

To ask Kerry County Council how many demountable homes were given out in 2018 and 2019 to new and existing tenants.

### **The following reply issued:**

Kerry County Council acquired 5 new Demountable Units in 2018 which were allocated to 3 existing tenants and 2 new tenants. In 2019 we acquired one unit which was allocated to a new tenant.

Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae said Demountable Units are a critical means of providing housing for many people who want to stay on their own land. She asked why Demountable Units that are no longer in use are not transferred for use elsewhere. She asked how many Demountable Units Kerry County Council has and the breakdown of occupied and unoccupied units. Of the unoccupied units, she asked how many have been left on site or are in storage. She asked if the tractor and transporter for these units is still in the ownership of Kerry County Council.

Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae SECONDED this motion and said these units have been used previously in exceptional circumstances. It must be acknowledged that there continues to be a need for Demountable Units across the county and those units that are not in use should be upgraded and made available for emergency use.

Mr. M. O'Donoghue, Director of Service, said it was Department policy to move away from temporary housing solutions and it was considered that Demountable Units were not a permanent housing solution. A number of new Demountable Units have been acquired over the last number of years. It is not always possible to move Demountable Units safely or in a manner which would not damage the unit. A review of Demountable Unit applications is being undertaken at present. There are a number of unoccupied units which are unable to be moved. Kerry County Council does have the ability to site and re-site Demountable Units as the need arises.

## **20. Junior Cert Exam Results**

### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Fionnán Fitzgerald PROPOSED:**

That Kerry County Council write to the Minister for Education and Skills requesting that the results of the Junior Cert State Exams be released to students in early September as was the practice up to now. These results guide subject choice and level in 5<sup>th</sup> year and many of our students, parents and teachers are left without this valuable guide early in the academic year.

### **Ms. J. McCarthy stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.**

Cllr. Fionnán Fitzgerald said it is important that Junior Cert results are issued in early September as students are deciding on study subjects at that time based on choosing a career path.

Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher SECONDED this motion.

## **21. Age Limit for claiming Job Seekers Allowance**

### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Norma Moriarty PROPOSED:**

In light of the fact that the state pension age will be increasing to 67 from 2021, that we write to the Minister involved to ensure that the age limit for claiming Job Seekers Allowance is also increased to 67. This is crucially important as many are still forced to take retirement at the age of 65, currently these have to claim Job Seekers while waiting for their pensions to kick in. Said allowance cannot currently be paid to someone over 66. This would leave a whole cohort of people without any kind of a safety net unless this adjustment is made.

### **Ms. J. McCarthy stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.**

Cllr. Norma Moriarty said people must now go on Job Seekers Allowance for a period of one year between retiring and being eligible to draw down their pension. From August 2020, this will be a period of two years. The age limit for claiming Job Seekers Allowance must be increased to accommodate this gap.

Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae SECONDED this motion and said previously there was a transitional payment in place to cover that period. The inclusion of this category of person in the Job Seekers Allowance skews reporting on this allowance.

## **22. Traffic at Schools in New Road, Killarney**

### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Brendan Cronin PROPOSED:**

In light of the continuous traffic grid-lock adjacent to the secondary and primary schools in New Road, Killarney, I am requesting that the Operations Department do up a traffic Management Assessment to try and alleviate the current situation.

**The following reply issued:**

Following consultation with An Garda Síochána, Kerry County Council is now developing plans for additional signage and traffic calming measures along New Road and this matter will be brought back to the members of Killarney Municipal District before the end of 2019.

Cllr. Brendan Cronin said in this area there are three secondary schools with in excess of 1,500 pupils and two national schools with 1,000 pupils. The one-way system that is in place is not being adhered to by some people and this causes a safety issue for pupils and motorists. He proposed (1) that the engineers from Kerry County Council would meet with management of the five schools and the Gardaí; the Gardaí must deal with those that are not adhering to the one way system, (2) examine the possibility of designated drop off and pick up facilities and (3) consider the use of the new carpark at Rock Road as an access.

Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae SECONDED this motion.

The Chief Executive acknowledged the issue which must be resolved and the suggestion to provide a designated drop off point. She undertook to meet with management from the five schools to follow up on this matter.

**23. Grants for Sheep Tags**

**Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Dan McCarthy PROPOSED:**

To write to the Minister for Agriculture to extend the deadline for the grant for the sheep tags.

**Ms. J. McCarthy stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.**

Cllr. Dan McCarthy said it was not widely known that a grant was available for sheep tags and because of the double-tagging requirement all farmers should be allowed to get free sheep tags.

Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae SECONDED this motion.

**24. Taking in Charge of Estates**

**Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Mikey Sheehy PROPOSED:**

To call on the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to amend the current legislation which prevents Irish Water and by extension, County Councils from taking charge of estates where a developer has installed a sewage treatment system within the development.

**Ms. J. McCarthy stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.**

Cllr. Mikey Sheehy said as the treatment systems come to end of life this will have a considerable impact on the residents of affected estates. He asked that a request issue to the Minister to amend current legislation.

Cllr. Brendan Cronin SECONDED this motion and said there should be no obstacles to taking estates in charge.

## **25. Biodegradable Balloons**

### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Michael Gleeson PROPOSED:**

As non- biodegradable Balloons are a major cause of damage to wildlife on land and in water that this Council calls on the Government to insist that all Balloons sold in Ireland are biodegradable.

**Ms. J. McCarthy stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.**

Cllr. Michael Gleeson said when non-biodegradable balloons get blown into lakes, rivers and other watercourses they become an immediate danger to fish and animal life in the water as the balloons are easily mistaken for food and are ingested, ultimately resulting in the death of the creature by starvation. Biodegradable balloons would be less harmful and would most likely either break down naturally in the water or pass harmlessly through the creatures digestive system. He called on the relevant Government Department to take appropriate action and ban the sale of the non-biodegradable balloons.

Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher SECONDED this motion.

## **26. North Kerry Rural Recreation Officer**

### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Aoife Thornton PROPOSED:**

That Kerry County Council investigates the possibility of creating a Rural Recreation Officer post for the North Kerry Region, with responsibility for Tourism and Community Development. This position would be similar to what has been commissioned through the South Kerry Development Partnership for South Kerry.

### **The following reply issued:**

The employment of these officers is not considered to be within the remit of Kerry County Council but are more appropriate within the local development sector.

Both South Kerry Development Partnership and Údaras na Gaeltachta have been assigned officers in support of the development and management of walkways within their areas. Eamon O'Reilly of NEWKD has confirmed that an application has been submitted for the inclusion of the Dingle Way/Shannon Way/North Kerry Way and the Gleangeenty Walk in the Walks scheme to be supported by a Rural Recreation Officer.

Kerry County Council consider these positions are important in supporting the upkeep, management and improvement of these important tourist and recreation assets. Kerry County Council will support the Local Development Sector in the employment of these officers as they are best positioned to deliver improvements to these walking routes through TÚS and other employment schemes. The Council has delivered a number of projects in cooperation with the Local Development Sector and has been successful in securing grant funding for same.

Cllr. Aoife Thornton said the Elected Members of North Kerry want a quality of service and infrastructure in the North Kerry area. North Kerry must be treated equally to South Kerry with the provision of a Rural Recreation Officer. Significant funding has been granted for a greenway, including an obligation to provide a connection into Tralee. Significant projects are happening in North Kerry that need the support of a Rural Recreation Officer. A Rural Recreation Officer is needed urgently to start preparation on plans to provide the best experiences for visitors and residents in the North Kerry area.

Cllr. Jimmy Moloney SECONDED this motion.

The Chief Executive said the impact of the work of the Rural Recreation Officer can be seen in South Kerry. This is an issue that arose under the Tourism Strategy and the appointment of a Rural Recreation Officer for North Kerry is strongly supported by Kerry County Council and the Destination Kerry group. She said a letter of support for the position will issue from Kerry County Council on the application made by NEWKD.

### **28. Dedicated Lyme Disease Treatment Unit at UHK**

#### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Michael Cahill PROPOSED:**

That Kerry County Council call on the Minister for Health, Simon Harris TD, the HSE and the Department of Health to provide a dedicated Lyme Disease Treatment Unit at University Hospital Kerry to cater for the southern region as a matter of extreme urgency, as this horrible condition is becoming more prevalent, particularly in our own county and it is highly unacceptable to be sending more and more people abroad for treatment, that a Consultant in Infectious Diseases be appointed to UHK to help end the practice of Irish citizens traveling abroad for diagnosis and treatment and that the Minister and the HSE introduce an Educational and Awareness Programme for Primary Care providers including GPs, Public Health Nurses and the general public as a matter of priority.

**Ms. J. McCarthy stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.**

Cllr. Michael Cahill said it is unacceptable that people must travel abroad for treatment of Lyme's Disease. It's important that diagnosis and treatment would be available within UHK.

Cllr. Marie Moloney SECONDED this motion.

### **30. Social Welfare Entitlements for those born after 1/9/1946**

#### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Norma Foley PROPOSED:**

Due to a change in Social Welfare entitlements in December 2018, persons born after 1/9/1946 who spent time working in the home and who satisfied certain other criteria are now entitled to receive financial recognition and have been notified by the Department. However, those born before this date are excluded. This includes many women who worked in a pensionable capacity in state departments but due to the marriage ban up to the 1970s were forced to retire. That this Local Authority call on the Minister to immediately rectify this inequality and injustice and treat all women as equals irrespective of their date of birth.

**Ms. J. McCarthy stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.**

Cllr. Norma Foley said this is an inequality that must be addressed.

Cllr. Marie Moloney SECONDED this motion.

### **32. Primary Medical Centres**

#### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Marie Moloney PROPOSED:**

That Kerry County Council would request an update from the HSE on the provision of Primary Medical Centres for the County.

**Ms. J. McCarthy stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.**

Cllr. Marie Moloney asked that the HSE be requested for an update on the provision of Primary Medical Centres for the County.

Cllr. Dan McCarthy **SECONDED** this motion.

### **34. Road Safety Issues**

#### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae PROPOSED:**

That Kerry County Council would write to TII seeking a meeting with a delegation of Members and Management to discuss Road Safety Issues on our roads in Kerry especially around the legacy being left behind whereby dangerous junctions are not getting enough attention which is leading to both accidents and deaths on Kerry Roads.

#### **Ms. J. McCarthy stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.**

Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae said this delegation with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland is being sought to address dangerous junctions throughout the county and to seek an explanation from the TII regarding recommendations under the recent speed limits review.

Cllr. Charlie Farrelly **SECONDED** this motion. He said there are many dangerous junctions on the N21 which need to be addressed and residents of Cordal have signed a petition in this regard. He asked for a review of the recent changes: (1) the burial ground is no longer within the 50km/h speed limit (2) the 80km/h speed limit that was put in place on the approach to a junction and (3) that the 80km/h speed limit that was put in place at Kilmurry School to be replaced with a 50km/h limit.

Mr. C. O'Sullivan, Director of Service, said a delegation can be sought with the TII, however, it must be noted that the TII has done an assessment of the routes and junctions on the national road network. He said he could not deal with cases that are subject to a Garda investigation at present. In relation to speed limits, the speed limit in Cordal is not under the remit of TII as it is not a national road. Speed limits were reviewed over a two year period with extensive consultation and in compliance with new guidelines. Prior to the Bye-Laws being adopted by Council in February 2019, the proposed speed limits were on public display in 2018 through local media and the Public Participation Network. 80 submissions were in relation to the national road network and referred to the TII. 131 submissions were received from the general public on the speed limit proposals, which were considered at Municipal District level and Full Council prior to being adopted. Speed limit signs are being erected and any issues arising will be reviewed.

### **35. Funding from Irish Water**

#### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Patrick Connor-Scarteen PROPOSED:**

Please obtain a breakdown of funding from Irish Water to Kerry since its inception, please outline where and on what the funding was spent.

#### **The following reply issued:**

Kerry County Council will request this information from Irish Water. This information will be circulated to the members when received.

Cllr. Patrick Connor-Scarteen asked that the following request issue to Irish Water. "Please obtain a breakdown of funding from Irish Water to Kerry since its inception, please outline where and on what the funding was spent. Please ask what money is

to be spent in the coming year regarding Waste Water Schemes and the Mid-Kerry Water Scheme.”

### **36. Funding for Hedgecutting**

#### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae PROPOSED:**

To ask Kerry County Council that adequate funding for the cutting of all road side hedges be included in this year's budget as this is what is happening in other counties.

#### **The following reply issued:**

The Council is currently in the process of preparing the 2020 Budget for consideration and adoption by the members. As previously advised, there is a significant challenge in funding projected expenditure next year.

Under the provisions of Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993, it is the responsibility of owners or occupiers of lands to take all reasonable steps to ensure that any roadside hedge is not a hazard or potential hazard to persons using a public road.

Cllr. Maura Healy-Rae said we must be able to pay for basic services such as hedge cutting, which when uncut can be highly dangerous for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists. The current policy has not worked and at the recent LPT Budget Meeting commitments were given that there would be an Enforcement Officer in each Municipal District. She asked for clarification on the role of the Enforcement Officer and how the 10% increase on LPT will be used. She said other Local Authorities cut the hedges on main roads and provide a grant for hedgecutting on local roads, adding that it would be more productive of Kerry County Council to ring fence funding to address hedgecutting in the county this way.

Cllr. Dan McCarthy moved notice of Motion No. 40.

#### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Dan McCarthy PROPOSED:**

That the hedge cutting be enforced immediately as the season for hedge cutting has commenced.

#### **The following reply issued:**

Following the increase in the Local Property Tax base rate, Kerry County Council has recently advertised for the position of Municipal District Enforcement Officers, which is being funded for a 12 month period. These posts will include responsibility for hedge cutting enforcement.

Pending these appointments, interim arrangements have been put in place for each Municipal District and the members have been advised of these arrangements. Since the hedge cutting season commenced on 1st September 2019, a total of 64 legal notices have been issued by Kerry County Council to landowners requiring them to cut roadside hedges.

Cllr. Dan McCarthy said he voted for the increase in the LPT and welcomes the introduction of an Enforcement Officer, who must be given an opportunity over the next year or two to address hedgecutting and other enforcement issues.

Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae SECONDED this motion and said in many areas hedges and trees that have not been cut on an annual basis have closed over roads and become a hazard. He said in 2015 he had proposed that a grant system be put in place for hedgecutting. Kerry County Council must take control of hedgecutting. He said he

does not believe that the Enforcement Officer will be able to follow through on the issues arising with hedgecutting.

Cllr. Jimmy Moloney said the Enforcement Officer role must be given a chance for a year or two.

Cllr. Charlie Farrelly said the 5 no. Enforcement Officers will be internal appointments and he asked for assurances that the positions would be refilled.

The Chief Executive said the Senior Engineer in the Roads Department wrote to each Elected Member advising that an internal filling was underway for these posts and that any vacancy would be backfilled. That was the commitment given at the LPT Budget meeting. The role of the Enforcement Officers will include enforcement regarding hedgecutting, beaches, burial grounds and an array of enforcement issues. In relation to the budget, there is a gap and there will be no available funding for Kerry County Council to undertake hedgecutting.

### **37. Guidelines on Renewable Energy Schemes**

#### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Fionnán Fitzgerald PROPOSED:**

That Kerry County Council write to the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government seeking an update of the development of guidelines for Windfarm Development and Renewable Energy Schemes and to call for their immediate publication.

#### **Ms. J. McCarthy stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.**

Cllr. Fionnán Fitzgerald said many groups are fundraising to take a judicial review against An Bord Pleanála regarding wind farm developments. The guidelines Kerry County Council are using are out of date and the new guidelines must be released by the Department. At the July 2019 Council Meeting the Director of Service advised that mapping was being finalised and no changes can be made to the County Development Plan until the Departmental Guidelines issue. He asked that Kerry County Council seek a update from the Minister on the publication of the Guidelines.

Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae **SECONDED** this motion and said while accepting that the Planning Department can only work from the Guidelines that are in place, it is ridiculous that planning decisions are being made based on 2006 Guidelines. He asked that battery stations and solar farms also be included in the letter to the Department.

The Chief Executive, in response to a query from Cllr. Charlie Farrelly, said there has been no update on the publication of the Guidelines since the July Council meeting.

### **38. Dates for Slurry Spreading**

#### **Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Norma Moriarty PROPOSED:**

That we again look to get our Minister for Agriculture to take a more sensible approach to the dates around slurry spreading. The idea that weather conditions are secondary to a fixed date on a calendar are counter productive to good farming and environmentally sustainable practices.

#### **Ms. J. McCarthy stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.**

Cllr. Norma Moriarty said this becomes an issue when there is particularly heavy rainfall. The closing date has passed for 2019, however, common sense must prevail in relation to this matter.

Cllr. Brendan Cronin **SECONDED** this motion and said it is an issue every year and the calendar has no link to what is happening on the ground. The closing date should always be subject to ground conditions.

**39. Single Residential Planning Permission**

**Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Brendan Cronin PROPOSED:**

In the last two years, to ask how many single planning permissions were granted/refused in the last 24 months.

**The following reply issued:**

Decisions issued in respect of single residential development by Kerry County Council Planning Authority 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019

<b>Year</b>	<b>No. decisions issued</b>	<b>Grant</b>	<b>Refused</b>	
<b>2017</b>	276	244	32	
<b>2018</b>	277	239	38	
<b>31/08/2019</b>	216	185	31	
	<b>769</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>87% Granted</b>

Cllr. Brendan Cronin thanked the executive for the reply.

Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher **SECONDED** this motion and asked if the application form to request a pre-planning consultation will delay the scheduling of these meetings.

Mr. M. Scannell, Director of Service, said pre-planning is not obligatory and it is expected that the application form will speed up the process.

**41. National Primary N22 and National Secondary N72**

**Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Niall Kelleher PROPOSED:**

That Kerry Country Council write to Cork County Council and the Transport Infrastructure Ireland regarding the state of the National Primary route N22 at Ballyvourney and the National Secondary route N72 coming into Rathmore.

**Ms. J. McCarthy stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.**

Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher said there is a lag on the road near Ballyvourney and the N72 is a national route into the county need to be dealt with.

Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae **SECONDED** this motion and said these are access roads to the county. He added that there is a lag on the road near Brennan’s Glen, Killarney, that also needs to be dealt with.

## 42. Discharges to Community Hospitals

### Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. Mikey Sheehy PROPOSED:

To call on the Minister for Health to address the issue of delayed discharges to community hospitals and to amend the current processes that are leading to severe pressure on acute hospital beds.

**Ms. J. McCarthy stated this is a matter for consideration by the members.**

Cllr. Mikey Sheehy said acute hospital beds at UHK must be available as we enter the flu season and to avoid the need for people to be on trollies, given the severe staffing issues and difficulties recruiting nurses and consultants. People accessing beds in community hospitals are thriving in that environment.

Cllr. Jimmy Moloney SECONDED this motion.

### 21.10.19.16 Correspondence – Conferences and Seminars

- a) No members expressed interest in attending the “Creating Economic and Business Opportunities from Climate Change 2019 - Climate Change Conference 2019” to be held in Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Offaly on 9 October 2019.
- b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Michael Gleeson, SECONDED by Cllr. Fionnán Fitzgerald, it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cathaoirleach Cllr. Niall Kelleher, Cllr. Bobby O’Connell and Cllr. Jimmy Moloney at the Celtic Conferences ‘A Practical Guide to Budget 2020’ conference to be held in The Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford, Louth from 11-13 October 2019.
- c) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Michael Gleeson, SECONDED by Cllr. Fionnán Fitzgerald, it was agreed to approve the attendance of Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher at the induction of John McShain of Killarney House into the Irish America Hall of Fame in New Ross, Co. Wexford, on 4 September 2019.
- d) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Michael Gleeson, SECONDED by Cllr. Fionnán Fitzgerald, it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cathaoirleach Niall Kelleher at “The Local Authority – Champion for Disability Inclusion” event in Leinster House, Dublin on 24 September 2019.
- e) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. Michael Gleeson, SECONDED by Cllr. Fionnán Fitzgerald, it was agreed to authorise the attendance of Cllr. Jimmy Moloney Cathaoirleach, Listowel Municipal District at the Entente Florale Prize-giving Ceremony in Haus, Austria from 26-29 September 2019.

### 21.10.19.17 Correspondence General

It was agreed to note the following items of correspondence which were circulated:

Date	From	Description
15/07/2019	Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to pension provision for Community Employment (CE) Supervisors and Assistant Supervisors.
17/07/2019	Minister for Health	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to carer’s wages.
19/07/2019	Minister with responsibility for Defence	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding the Defence Forces pay and conditions

<b>Date</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Description</b>
1/08/2019	Minister for Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding the purchase of lands in Tomies, Beaufort by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.
6/08/2019	Minister for Health	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding the flu injection
6/08/2019	Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding the Shared Ownership Scheme.
6/08/2019	Minister for Education & Skills	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding having CPR training as part of the school curriculum.
7/08/2019	Cork Kerry Community Healthcare, HSE	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding hospital beds in Dingle and Kenmare Community Hospitals.
7/08/2019	Tánaiste & Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council in relation to the persecution of Christians around the globe.
14/08/2019	Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding the establishment of an international PSO service from Kerry Airport to Amsterdam.
19/08/2019	Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding the EU Mercosur Political Agreement.
9/09/2019	Minister for Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding staffing levels in Killarney National Park.
9/09/2019	Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government	Response to a resolution from Kerry County Council regarding an exemption from water and wastewater charges for local Voluntary Groups such as Sports Clubs who are not charitable organisations.

### **21.10.19.18 Any Other Business**

#### **Kerry Amsterdam Flights**

Cllr. Jim Finucane said given the situation with Brexit a link should be established between Kerry and Amsterdam Airport Schiphol. He asked that a letter issue to KLM Airlines regarding same.

Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae supported this request and said the reply received from the Minister for Transport gave no commitment to open up that route.

#### **Public Consultation Process**

Cllr. Jackie Healy-Rae said public consultation requires a different approach to ensure the public have an opportunity to make submissions.

The Chief Executive said Kerry County Council's statutory obligations in relation to public consultation are being met and every avenue is being used to engage with the public. The Council's website has been updated and gets a lot of engagement and our Communications Officer uses social media. The PPN, with 660 community organisations registered, is used for the dissemination of information.

The meeting concluded at 5.05 p.m.

**Joan McCarthy**  
Meetings Administrator

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Cathaoirleach of Kerry County Council