

Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 4
Environmental Protection, Climate Action & Energy
Held on 6th April 2023 at 11.00 am
Remotely by MS Teams

In the Chair: Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh

In Attendance: Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cllr. Joe Lyons, Cllr. Maria Dollard, Mr. Aidan Fitzpatrick, Mr. Noel O'Donoghue,

Also Present: Mr. Denis Malone, A/Director of Service; Mr. Michael Arthurs, Senior Executive Officer; Ms Dearbhala Ledwidge, Climate Action Officer, Mr. Francis Brophy, Acting Executive Engineer, Ms. Deirdre Trait, Assistant Staff Officer.

Apologies: Cllr. David Fitzgerald, Mr. James Murphy

Item 1 Declaration of interests

None reported.

Item 2 Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by Cllr. Maria Dollard, seconded by Cllr. Joe Lyons and agreed: *"the minutes of SPC4 meeting held on the 8th December, 2022, are hereby adopted,"*

Item 3 Matters Arising

Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh expressed her gratitude and thanks to Pat Tallis & Co. Ltd for the excellent work they carried out at Clomantagh Church. Gratitude was also extended to Thomas Dillon and Environment Staff involved in this project.

Francis Brophy & Denis Malone announced that €120,000 capital funding has been awarded to KCC under the Community Monuments Fund for conservation works to be carried out at Grangefertagh, Thomple, Tubrid and Rathpatrick Historic churches and graveyards. The tendering process for awarding the contract to carry out these works will commence in the coming months. David Kelly Partnership will complete conservation reports and architectural surveys.

Item 4 Climate Action Plan

Dearbhala Ledwidge gave a detailed, in depth presentation to the committee on Kilkenny County Council's Climate Action Plan.

Dearbhala reiterated that support from this SPC is imperative and greatly appreciated in terms of policy decisions and leadership in relation to Kilkenny County Council's Climate Plan and delivering targets.

Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh thanked Dearbhala and acknowledged her role as a very challenging one. Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh re-assured Dearbhala that the Climate Action Team would have the support of SPC 4 and the farming community and acknowledged the hard decisions that will have to be made.

Contributions and queries were received from Cllr. Joe Lyons and Cllr. Maria Dollard.

Dearbhala Ledwidge and Denis Malone addressed all queries raised. Denis Malone also acknowledged and thanked Dearbhala for her presentation to the committee and the depth of the challenge ahead of her team and for everyone.

Item 5 Environmental Awareness – Team Up to Clean Up

Michael Arthurs thanked and acknowledged the hard work in preparing for this event by Bernadette Maloney, Environment Awareness Officer and the Environment Staff who were involved, along with our sponsors. Michael updated the committee on the Team Up to Clean Up event and stated that it was very successful with great feedback from businesses and community groups alike.

Contributions and queries were received from Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Cllr. Maria Dollard and Aidan Fitzpatrick.

Denis Malone and Michael Arthurs addressed all queries raised.

Item 6 Progress Report by Director of Services.

It was noted that the Director of Services progress report was circulated to all members prior to the meeting. Denis Malone gave a summary of the report.

Contributions were received from Cllr. Maria Dollard and Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh.

Item 8 Any other business

None.

Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh concluded the meeting, wishing the committee, fellow Members and the Environment Team a Happy Easter.

It was noted the next meeting is scheduled to take place on 8th June, 2023.