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**MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA CRUINNITHE MHIOSIÚIL DE COMHAIRLE CONTAE
CHIARRAÍ A THIONÓLADH I LEABHARLANN AN CHONTAE, TOBAR
MHAIGH DOR, TRÁ LÍ AR AN LUAN , 12 BEALTAINE, 2014**

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNTY LIBRARY, MOYDERWELL, TRALEE ON MONDAY,
12TH MAY 2014**

PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR

Cllrs/Comhairleoirí

R. Beasley	J. Brassil	T. Buckley
M. Cahill	S. Counihan	B Cronin
J. J. Culloty	P.J. Donovan	T. Ferris
J. Finucane	S. Fitzgerald	N. Foley
M. Gleeson	M. Griffin	D. Healy-Rae
J. Healy-Rae	P. McCarthy	A. McEllistrim
T. O'Brien	B O'Connell	P. O'Donoghue
M. O'Shea	L. Purtill	J. Sheahan
G. Wharton Slattery		

IN ATTENDANCE/I LÁTHAIR

Mr. T. Curran, County Manager	Mr. M. McMahon, Dir. of Planning
Mr. J.D. Flynn, Dir. of Corp. Serv.	Mr. J. Breen, Dir. Hsg. & C&E
Mr. G. MacNamara, A/Dir. of Roads	Mr. C. O'Sullivan, DoS L.A. Procur. Off.
Ms. A. McAllen, A/Head of Finance	Mr. O. Ring, Dir. Env. & Water Services
Ms. J. McCarthy, SEO Planning	Mr. T. O'Connor, County Librarian
Mr. G. O'Brien, Meetings Admin.	Mr. P. Corkery, Press & Comm. Off.
Ms. B. Reidy, SSO Corporate Affairs	Ms. O. O'Shea CO Corporate Affairs
Ms. M. Galvin, CO Corporate Affairs	

The meeting commenced at 10.45am.

The Mayor Cllr. S. Fitzgerald took the Chair.

The Mayor informed the meeting that Minister Jan O'Sullivan T.D. would formally open the Integrated Services Building in Tralee at 2pm that day and he asked members for their co-operation to ensure the meeting is concluded by lunch time.

The Mayor said Cllrs. Finucane and O'Brien were doing interviews on Radio Kerry and they sent their apologies as they would be 15 minutes late for the meeting.

14.05.12. 01 Mayor's Report on the CPG Meeting held on the 6TH May 2014

The Mayor read the following report into the record of the meeting.

"Item 1 Agenda for the May Council Meeting

Mr. G. O'Brien, Meetings Administrator, briefed members on the Agenda for the May Council Meeting.

Mr. J.D. Flynn said Minister Jan O'Sullivan T.D. will officially open the Integrated Services Building in Tralee at 2pm on the 12th May. The co-operation of members will be required to ensure the meeting is concluded prior to this.

Item 2 Update on the LCDC

The Manager briefed the CPG on his report on the nominees to the LCDC.

Following a discussion the CPG recommended that the Manager's Report would be amended to include an additional elected member to allow for one member from each Municipal District. The CPG recommended that the amended Manager's Report would be adopted by Council.

Item 3 Financial Update

Ms. A. McAllen, A/Head of Finance informed the meeting that expenditure and income figures are performing to target. Rates income is ahead of this time last year while 50% of the budgeted income from NPPR has been collected.

Item 4 County Development Board

Mr. J. Breen briefed the meeting on this item as follows:

LCDC Update

This matter has been extensively dealt with already on the agenda with regard to membership and establishment.

Preparation of Local Community and Economic Plan

The Department have requested that work on this plan would begin this month as the production and preparation of this plan will be a vital component in the tendering processes for the work involved in delivering Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme as envisaged for the future.

This plan aims to look at the present and future demographic trends in our County and to set out a plan to develop communities with a particular focus on rural isolation and hard to reach groups. The economic elements of the plan to be prepared in conjunction with the new Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee will focus on what we can do locally to develop an enterprise culture and environment that creates and sustains employment.

Local Community Development Programmes

It is envisaged, under the present timelines set out by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, that the LCDC will take over the financial oversight of Community Development Programmes in July next. There will be extensive work involved in this process of file compilation, financial checking, evaluation of applications and audit procedures with a consequential need for resources to be allocated.

Tendering Process

It is envisaged that a two stage tendering process for the provision of community services will be implemented. POBAL have already published a Prior Information Notice for the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme. The Department have advised that there will be one tender per LCDC geographic area.

The prequalification stage of the SICAP procurement process will take place in May with tenders requested by mid-June. POBAL will then provide the first stage tender results to Local Authorities in late August, after which a local Stage 2 Procurement Process will commence closing in early October next. Contracts for the local implementation of the SICAP will be awarded by LCDC's in November/early December next.

LEADER Programme

Expressions of Interest for the development of LEADER Local Development Strategies will be sought nationally in August next with a deadline of June 2015 for receipt, with LEADER contracts to be awarded in July 2015.

Establishment of Public Participation Networks

As outlined above, there is a lot of activity and policy formulation and change occurring in the community sector presently. We also have a requirement to establish a Public Participation Network which will be consulted on Council Plans and will be utilised to provide nominees to Council Committees, SPC's etc. Given that we have over 840 registered Community Groups operating in a very successful Community and Voluntary Forum, we intend to adjust the forum to comply with PPN requirements rather than establishing a completely new entity. This work is also ongoing presently.

Item 5 Update from the Chairs of the SPC's

Cllr. M. Gleeson briefed the meeting on the issues discussed at the last Environment and Water Services SPC meeting held on the 16th April 2014.

Item 6 Any other business

Mr. G. O'Brien said at the April meeting it was agreed that a representative from IBEC's Telecoms and Internet Federation would be requested to attend a Council meeting to discuss the poor broadband in Kerry. IBEC have now replied indicating their agreement to attend a Council meeting but they are not available on Monday 12th May. The CPG recommended that they would be invited to the October Council Meeting.

Mr. O'Brien also informed the meeting that following a request from Council the Irish Postmaster's Union were invited to meet with members on the future of rural Post Offices. They have now replied and agreed to meet with Council.

The CPG recommended that this issue would be referred to the new Council for consideration.

Mr. O'Brien said it could be brought to the first CPG meeting of the new Council.

Mr. Curran, County Manager thanked the members for their support and co-operation over the past five years and wished them well in the forthcoming Local Election."

Cllr. B. Cronin expressed his disappointment that IBEC would not attend a Council meeting until October and he asked that they would be invited to attend the September Council Meeting if possible. He accepted, however, that this is a matter for the new local authority. The lack of a proper broadband service in the county is a critical issue and it is hindering business and employment.

Cllr. T. Ferris referred to proposals to move Motor Tax to the Town Council Offices in Tralee and asked why it was being moved from a purpose built premises. There will not be adequate parking near the Town Council Offices and it would make more sense to leave it in its present location as there is adequate parking. She asked that members would be provided with an out of hours contact number for those in need of urgent accommodation. The previous Saturday night two men slept on the Courthouse steps in Tralee. She phoned the Gardaí and asked them to make contact with the men. She subsequently contacted Arlington House to find out if the two men stayed there over the weekend but they did not.

Cllr. B. O'Connell complimented management on the prudent decision to transfer some jobs to the Castleisland Area Services Centre and said this is very welcome.

Cllr. J. Brassil said moving the Motor Tax Office to Tralee town centre in the hope of bringing people into the town is significant. He hoped they would do some shopping or use the restaurants and this would benefit business in the town centre. He believed having the Motor Tax office in the town centre is a good decision.

Cllr. P. McCarthy asked if the car park at the Town Council offices can be extended to facilitate Motor Tax customers.

Cllr. M. Cahill said the biggest problem in the county at present is the lack of a proper broadband service. It is important that every part of the county has high speed broadband to enable people to work from home and to allow small businesses to employ more people.

Cllr. N. Foley referred to the movement of staff and asked will there be a mechanism to facilitate staff that have a difficulty with a move.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae supported the call for an adequate broadband service and added that mobile phone coverage also needs to be improved as this service has deteriorated rapidly in recent months. He asked that this issue would also be addressed at the meeting with IBEC. There is a need for a landline service from Ballydunlea to Ballyhar. Cllr. Healy-Rae asked that rates collected in Killarney town would be retained to provide services there. If the rates in Killarney are increased in line with the County Council many businesses will close. There are a number of premises vacant in Killarney at present and a rate increase would make the situation worse. People are outraged at the Property Tax as very little services were provided from the proceeds. Funding is no longer provided for Local Improvement Schemes and the Minister is not sympathetic to restoring this funding. Cllr. Healy-Rae asked that the Town Hall would be retained to allow people to continue to pay rents, rates, water charges etc. in Killarney. Customers are familiar with the Motor Tax Office in Rathass and they bring vans and heavy goods vehicles there to be vetted. He believed the location of the Town Council Offices will not accommodate this type of vehicle. Cllr. Healy-Rae expressed concern that people from around the county will find it difficult to locate the Motor Tax office in the new location.

Cllr. G. Wharton Slattery said there are arguments for and against relocating the Motor Tax Office to the Town Council Offices but she hoped that the town would benefit from the additional traffic. However, her biggest concern was that there may not be a Housing Office in the town centre and it is a long walk to Rathass if you do not have a car. She pointed out that traditionally there was a Housing Office in the town for the people of Tralee.

Cllr. S. Counihan said the centralising of services has not worked and he wanted to ensure that the existing services in the Town Hall in Killarney would be retained. Cllr. Counihan also asked that the building adjacent to the Town Hall would be retained. The previous Friday a reception was held for 35 French visitors in the Council Chamber in Killarney. Killarney is an international tourist centre and this tourism centre must be maintained. He called on the Manager to reconsider the base for the tourism unit going forward.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty concurred with the views expressed by Cllr. Cronin in relation to access to high speed broadband for the county and said this is a very important issue which must be pursued. The Town Hall in Killarney should be retained in so far as possible. The loss of the title of Mayor will be a huge loss for Killarney.

Mr. G. O'Brien informed members that IBEC have confirmed their willingness to attend a Council meeting but they were unavailable to attend the May meeting. He pointed out that July will be the first Ordinary meeting of the new Council and in September there will be Budget Meetings.

Cllr. A. McEllistrim said it appears services are being centralised. People want to pay their motor tax in Killarney and Castleisland and these services should be retained. Area Offices should continue to have planning and tourism officers available to the public.

In response the Manager said he understood members wanted the Housing and Planning Departments to be based in County Buildings. It is not possible to accommodate all services on the County Buildings campus and that is why it was decided to move Motor Tax to the Town Council Offices. He was satisfied that by relocating the Motor Tax office to the town centre it would help to bring life back to the town and he was confident this was the correct decision. It is very easy to locate the Town Council offices and there is a large car park adjacent to the offices. He pointed out that there will be no free parking and customers can post their applications or they can renew their tax online. He referred to the comments on the level of rates in Killarney and said this will be a matter for the new Council. There will be an equalisation of rates over a number of years and rates in Killarney will increase but not until 2015. It is not possible to reduce the County rate to the level of rates in Killarney town as it would result in a loss of €5m or €6m. It is important to ensure efficiencies while staff quotas are maintained. While Housing and Planning will remain in County Buildings planners will continue to be available in Area Offices as they were in the past. There will also be a cash office in Killarney and while there will be staff changes staff will be accommodated where possible. There was never a tourism centre in Killarney but a Tourism Section is now being established within Kerry County Council. He recognised the importance of tourism for the entire county and he wanted the Tourism Section based in Tralee. It would not be logical or economical to base them in Killarney. In the Town Halls in both Tralee and Killarney there will be an operations section. If a person is making an application

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for housing they must come to County Buildings. There are two buildings rented in Killarney but he did not envisage that we would continue to rent the Bank building. There was a Council Chamber in the old Town Hall and a new meeting room can be provided for the Killarney Municipal District.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae again stated that vans and heavy goods vehicles must go to the Motor Tax office daily to be checked and he asked if they will have to pay parking charges.

The Manager said there are barriers in the Brandon car park at present and consideration will have to be given to how these vehicles will be dealt with.

Cllr. T. Ferris asked that consideration would be given to providing free parking for Motor Tax customers. While she hoped this would help to revitalise the town centre she did not believe it would make a huge difference. Cllr. Ferris again requested an out of hours contact number for the homeless service.

Mr. J. Breen said a member of the Housing staff dealt with the two men mentioned by Cllr. Ferris on Saturday and Sunday and there were in County Buildings that morning. He pointed out that people sometimes choose not to engage with the services and said we have an extensive homeless service in Kerry.

Cllr. Ferris said recently a couple presented as homeless and they walked the streets all night as they were refused service.

Mr. Breen stated that no one is refused service.

Cllr. B. Cronin asked if IBEC could be brought to the September meeting as this is such a serious issue.

Ms. A. McAllen said there maybe two Budget Meetings in September.

Cllr. Foley asked if Motor Tax will take up the entire Town Hall in Tralee or will there be other services upstairs.

The Manager said Motor Tax will be downstairs while operations will be located upstairs.

Cllr. J. Brassil said by including the 1km rule in the County Development Plan councillors are giving a message to service providers that they are not pro broadband. He asked that this issue would be discussed with IBEC to establish if it is relevant or not.

Cllr. S. Counihan said the old Council Chamber in the Town Hall in Killarney is not suitable for the Municipal District as the room is not big enough for deputations. It is not suitable for visiting dignitaries also. He asked that a room would be reconfigured to create a new Chamber to give the Municipal District some standing.

Cllr. J. Sheahan said it is crucial that litter control and landscaping continue to be a priority. He also asked that dry accommodation would be provided for those recovering from addiction.

Cllr. Foley again asked if staff will be accommodated in the re-organisation of services.

The Manager said, where possible, they will be accommodated.

14.05.12.02 Confirmation of Minutes

On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. B. O'Connell, SECONDED by Cllr. J. Finucane it was agreed that the Minutes of the April Ordinary Meeting of Kerry County Council held on the 14th April, 2014 be confirmed.

14.05.12.03 Approval of nominees for the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The Manager referred members to his report dated 6th May, 2014 on this item which was circulated. He read his report into the record of the meeting.

"I refer to my report to you of 14th April, 2014 in which I outlined the structure of the new LCDC and those organisations who will be asked to nominate a representative. While, I noted the decision of the Council to reject the LCDC, I was obliged, as Manager by Statute, to proceed with the seeking of nominees. I wrote to all the groups named in my report of 14th April, 2014 seeking 2 no. nominees, one male and one female, to give me some flexibility in ensuring an equitable gender balance on the LCDC. Having received the nominees, I presented a report to the CPG on the proposed membership of the LCDC, for their consideration.

It should be noted that since 14th April, 2014 revised guidelines have been issued by the Department on the LCDC Structure. The main change is that the maximum number on the LCDC can be increased from 15 to 17.

On this account it is proposed to increase the Public Sector nominees from 7 to 8 and the Private Sector Nominees to 9 and following consultation with the CPG, it is further proposed that the additional public sector nominee be given to the Elected Council, thereby having a representative from each Municipal District. It is proposed to give the additional private sector nominee to the Community & Voluntary Forum, reflecting the wishes of the Council, as expressed at the meeting on 14th April, 2014.

Therefore, I recommend with the approval of the CPG the following nominees to be the members of the LCDC for your approval:-

(A) Public Sector

4 no. Councillors/one per Municipal District to be agreed at the AGM of the Council on 6th June, 2014;

County Manager, (Chief Executive) or his nominated representative;

Ms. Hilary Scanlan – HSE, Community Section;

Mr. Colm McEvoy – CEO, Kerry Education & Training Board;

Ms. Máire Ní Shé – Údarás na Gaeltachta;

(B) Private Sector

Mr. William Morrell, Chairperson, Community & Voluntary Forum;

Ms. Gemma O'Brien, Community & Voluntary, Social Inclusion;

Ms. Mary Grandfield, Community & Voluntary, Social Inclusion;

Ms. Maria O'Gorman, NEKD;

Ms. Sheila Casey, SKDP;

Mr. Peter McDermott, Tourism – Destination Kerry Forum;

Ms. Catherine McMullin, Environment, An Taisce;

Mr. James McCarthy, Agriculture/Fishing;

Mr. Kieran Rutledge, Business – Tralee Chamber Alliance;

Your approval is sought to the above. “

Cllr. J. Brassil said there was a protracted debate at the previous meeting on this issue. At that time he expressed his disapproval at the process but the Minister has not listened. He voted against the proposed structure at the April meeting but he accepted that the Manager has a job to do. As he had no issue with the individuals named in the Manager's Report he did not want to vote against them. However, as he still does not agree with the process he would abstain from voting on this item.

Cllr. J. Finucane welcomed the nominations set out in the Manger's Report and also the 2 nominations from the Partnerships. He PROPOSED that the nominations set out in the report would be accepted.

Cllr. P. McCarthy SECONDED this proposal.

Cllr. S. Counihan expressed his amazement at the protest by members at the previous meeting and how quickly it has capitulated. He pointed out that there is no trade union nominee on the list and said this is worrying. Things happen that affect employment and he was concerned there will be no trade union input in the LCDC.

Cllr. T. Ferris said it is not the case that those that opposed the LCDC in April are satisfied with the process but rather they are being pragmatic and decided to get on board. She had no difficulty with the nominees and she declared that one of the nominees is her boss. She would be consistent and oppose the Manager's proposal. There is a danger to the Partnerships if the work programme goes out to tender as there will be cherry picking and the Partnerships will loose out. This is in effect taking power from communities.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae said he must be consistent on behalf of the people who did so much for their communities. Power is being taken away from the partnerships by the Minister. He objected to one of the nominees but he was satisfied the others were very capable and do good work. He could not support the nomination of a member of An Taisce to sit on this Committee considering the pain they inflicted on young couples in rural areas who wanted to provide a home. He asked why was IRD Duhallow not included in the nominees as they do great work in the Rathmore area. This is a big part of his electoral area and this concerned him greatly as he believed they were entitled to be represented on the LCDC.

Cllr. P. McCarthy said he appreciated the concerns of councillors that the partnerships would loose out in the new structure. However, he said the new structure is being introduced for a good reason and he believed the new structure would enhance the work of the partnerships. All funding comes from the same source and this way less money will be spent on administration and as a result more funding will be available for communities. That is why he is in favour of the LCDC and he hoped in time the new structure will be a success. While everyone is afraid of change it is important to focus on the common good.

Cllr. T. O'Brien said at the last meeting he could not support the Manager's proposal. In the meantime he spoke to the Manager and the list of nominations presented in the Manager's Report is very inclusive and he has faith in them. For this reason he would support the list of nominees set out in the Manger's Report.

Cllr. B. O'Connell said members are always referring to the dilution of the powers of councillors. This new structure allows councillors to have a direct input into the spending of €30m which in the past was allocated through the partnerships. If he is re-elected he wanted to have a say in how this funding is spent. If members reject the Manager's list of nominees he has the authority to proceed anyway. It is important that people realise that the Council has a say in how this funding is spent.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty agreed with the views expressed by Cllr. Brassil. He pointed out there are members of the Council on the Boards of the Partnerships at present. At the April meeting it was said if the partnerships offer value for money they have nothing to fear. However that is not the case as they may be competing with the private sector whose main aim is profit.

Cllr. N. Foley expressed her amazement that genuine reservations expressed four weeks ago have now disappeared. The spirit of service is now being replaced by profit. She knew many of the nominees on the list presented by the Manager and they are excellent. She would abstain in the vote as she did not want to vote against them.

Cllr. G. Wharton Slattery said she voted against the proposed structure of the LCDC at the April meeting but even if members reject the list of nominees the Manager has the power to proceed anyway. As there will be one councillor per Municipal District she hoped this would allay Cllr. D. Healy-Rae's concerns. In conclusion Cllr. Wharton Slattery said she would like to see a representative from the ITT or the Technology Park on the LCDC.

Cllr. B. Cronin said members must be very careful as their communities have benefitted from funding from the partnerships. He was well aware of the need to be conscious of conflict of interest and he hoped other councillors were as conscious of it. He believed councillors gave the impression prior to the last meeting that they could reverse this process but that was misleading. He pointed out that the establishment of the LCDC is provided for in legislation and he worked with a number of the nominees and they are of the highest calibre. However he objected to the fact that councillors are being given an ultimatum and he would not be voting to protect that.

Cllr. A. McEllistrim said she knew many of the nominees listed in the Manager's Report and they are great community people. She said she would vote in favour of the Manager's list of nominees.

Cllr. T. Ferris said she did not accuse anyone of populist behaviour but said what a difference a crowd makes. The partnerships are not present at the meeting and all members are either abstaining or voting in favour of the Manager's Report. She said she was not taking this stance because of the upcoming local elections.

In response the Manager said his difficulty is that he is limited in the number of people that can be on the LCDC. He accepted that a number of groups would have a lot to offer but he had to select the best balance possible. He would like to see the ITT on the LCDC but he pointed out that the Kerry Education and Training Board will be represented. He also accepted it would be beneficial to have a trade union nominee but he had to make a call on it due to the restriction on the number of members permitted. He referred to Cllr. D. Healy-Rae's comments on the exclusion of IRD Duhallow and said while many counties have

one partnership we have three in Kerry. IRD Duhallow represents two parishes in Kerry but most of their work is in Cork. He made a call that NEKD and SKDP would be represented in an effort to get the balance right. He asked that his report would be put to a vote.

Mr. G. O'Brien said a vote would then be taken on Cllr. Finucane's proposal which was seconded by Cllr. P. McCarthy:

That we the members of Kerry County Council hereby resolve to approve the nominees to be appointed to the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) as set out in the County Manager's Report to Council in accordance with Section 36 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 which inserted Section 128(c) into the Local Government Act 2001 in respect of the membership of the LCDC's.

The vote resulted as follows:

For: Cllr. Buckley, Finucane, Griffin, McCarthy, McEllistram, O'Brien, O'Connell, Purtill, Sheahan, Wharton-Slattery, Fitzgerald **(11)**

Against: Cllrs. Beasley, Cahill, Counihan, Ferris, D. Healy-Rae **(5)**

Not Voting: Cllrs. Brassil, Cronin, Culloty, Donovan, Foley, O'Donoghue **(6)**

The Mayor declared the proposal CARRIED.

14.05.12.04 Report on the Environment and Water Services SPC

It was unanimously agreed to note Cllr. M. Gleeson's written report on the most recent meeting of the Environment and Water Services SPC held on the 16th April, 2014.

14.05.12.05 Report on Conferences

- (a) It was unanimously agreed to note Cllr. J.J. Culloty's written report on the Conference on the theme "SIPO and the Councillor's Obligations" held from 29th November to 1st December, 2013.
- (b) It was unanimously agreed to note Cllr. G. Wharton Slattery's written report on the Conference on the theme "Contemporary Overview of Immigration into Ireland".

Opening of Tenders

Mr. G. O'Brien informed the meeting that approval was needed for the opening of a number of tenders.

- (a) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Finucane, SECONDED by Cllr. G. Wharton Slattery it was agreed to approve the opening of the following tenders:
 - (i) Collection and processing of Glass Bottles, Steel and Aluminium Cans from Kerry County Council Bring Banks Network – Closing date: 1 July, 2014 at 4pm.
 - (ii) Collection and Processing of Newspaper, paper, plastic bottles and plastic packaging from Kerry County Council Waste Facilities – Closing date: 1 July, 2014 at 4pm.
 - (iii) Collection and Transportation of Leachate from North Kerry Landfill on behalf of Kerry County Council – Closing date: 1 July, 2014 at 4pm.
- (b) On the PROPOSAL of Cllr. J. Finucane, SECONDED by Cllr. G. Wharton Slattery it was agreed to approve the opening of any tenders that may arise up to the next Council Meeting.

14.05.12.06 Notices of Motion

1. Clear directives regarding road use when a weather Red Alert pertains

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. M. Gleeson PROPOSED:

That the Department of the Environment would issue clear directives regarding road use and by whom on occasions when a weather Red Alert pertains.

Mr. G. O'Brien said this is a matter for consideration by members.

Cllr. M. Gleeson said on the 12th February a Red Alert issued and this helped to ensure there were no fatalities or serious injuries in the county when people were advised to remain indoors for the duration of the storm. However it was disturbing to hear that articulated lorries were on the road during the storm and one turned over and could have caused injury to other road users. Schools were unsure whether to close and did not have direction from the Department of Education. Local authorities should have authority in relation to roads, schools etc in this type of situation. Cllr. Gleeson called on the Departments of Environment and Education to come up with directives to ensure people behave properly at such events.

Cllr. G. Wharton Slattery **SECONDED** the motion.

2. Research by the EPA and IT Athlone regarding the use of disinfectant products

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. J. Finucane PROPOSED:

That this Council contact the Environment Protection Agency and the Institute of Technology, Athlone (who've carried out research in this area) regarding the use of disinfectant products and the potential damage done to our water courses.

Mr. G. O'Brien said this is a matter for consideration by members.

Cllr. J. Finucane said a recent document on a research project in Lough Inneal following the installation of a new sewerage treatment plant which cost €50m showed that the quality of water improved. This research also found that the fish in the river were asexual due to the chemicals in the water. The research found that chemicals used in cleaning go through the treatment process unimpacted but they have an impact on fish life. Stronger antibiotics are required each year to successfully treat infection as bacteria become more resistant. There is no control over the use of cleaning products and they could be damaging the environment. A study is required to establish their impact on fish life and human health.

Cllr. P. McCarthy **SECONDED** the motion.

3. Support for the McGillicuddy Reeks Mountain Access Plan

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. M Cahill PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council support the McGillicuddy Reeks Mountain Access Plan and ensure that the landowners/farmers are (a) safeguarded in respect of public liability (b) benefit from the proposal and (c) examine the possibility of an initiative similar to the Burren.

The following report issued:

This motion was discussed at the February 2014 South and West Electoral Area Meeting where the following reply was given:

Kerry County Council fully supports schemes which allow access to mountain, rivers and lakes for recreation purposes for both locals and tourists alike. Kerry County Council is fully committed to co-operation with representative bodies to support the development and enhancement of walking routes in an environmentally sustainable way. We are aware that a firm of consultants were commissioned in 2013 by SKDP in association with other 'partners' to carry out the 'MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Development Assessment'. This Mountain Access Project is an initiative of Comhairle na Tuaithe to develop a sustainable model for the management of selected Irish Uplands and funding for this project has been provided through the Rural Alliances Programme and administered through SKDP. Kerry County Council are led to believe that the upland areas of the MacGillycuddy Reeks are 100% privately owned and the issues raised in relation to liability and benefits for landowners are a matter for Comhairle na Tuaithe and their lead agency".

A "Reeks Forum" has been set up by SKDP to establish a working partnership of 20 members, to address issues of unambiguous permissive access to the upland areas of the Reeks. The forum will also work to identify new opportunities for recreational/adventure tourism.

Kerry County Council has been asked to nominate 2 people on to this forum, one official and one elected representative and we will be proceeding with these nominees shortly.

Cllr. M. Cahill said this is an important initiative. He attended a meeting in Beaufort with the farmers involved and there was a further meeting of all the stake holders. €80,000 has been allocated to commence this process. It is important to get it right and to ensure that it is environmentally friendly. It is important to develop walks not only on the MacGillycuddy Reeks but around the county. The proposed greenway from Glenbeigh to Caherciveen will transform South Kerry and create employment. Cllr. Cahill called on the Council to support this initiative and to help progress it.

Mayor S. Fitzgerald SECONDED the motion.

4. Raising of flood and high tide defences in Ballylongford, the Cashen and Ragoonagh

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. R. Beasley PROPOSED:

What is the update in relation to the many homes that were flooded and damaged during the January/February high tides and storms. I am calling on the Government to raise the defences in Ballylongford, the Cashen and Ragoonagh and to dredge the river from Ballyhorgan down to the mouth of the Cashen and to remove or dismantle the large rock at the narrow neck of the Cashen where it flows out into the mouth of the Shannon, which would allow the Cashen River to empty much quicker.

The following report issued:

A similar motion was discussed at the Listowel Electoral Area Meeting in April where the following reply was given:

"The River Feale forms part of the Shannon Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) project which is currently being undertaken. Kerry County Council has been advised that this project is expected to produce draft maps for the Feale and Cashen by July. At that stage a Public Consultation process will begin and this will include the publication of the draft maps and reports, including Public Information days where the maps will be explained and comments sought".

Cllr. R. Beasley asked what plans have Kerry County Council to protect homes against future flooding in these areas. Numerous homes in the Cashen and Ballyhorgan were flooded and as a result they no longer have insurance against flooding. Minister Hayes visited the area but did not make any promises and the Council did not come up with a solution either. He believed the sluice gates were never oiled or replaced and he said this is a sad reflection on the Council and the Minister. The people of this area want the wall raised by 4 feet as this is what is required to prevent flooding. Similar work is required in Ballylongford where dozens of homes were flooded. Sandbags were provided by the Council but that is not a solution if the flooding re-occurs. He called on all Oireachtas members to resolve this problem immediately.

Cllr. L. Purtill said the sluice gates were oiled and are generally working. He was instrumental in bringing Minister Brian Hayes to Ballylongford to highlight the extent of the flooding and the serious damage done to a large number of homes in the village. He made representations to the Minister and the O.P.W. regarding flood defences for Ballylongford and the other areas of North Kerry that were affected by those floods. He said he will continue to seek funding for adequate flood defences. Cllr. Putill said he has already allocated €10,000 from his councillor's allocation for flood relief in Ballylongford. Works are being carried out at Rahoona, Rahela and Murenagh. There is a report coming out in the next two weeks from the O.P.W. regarding the Cashen drainage. Ballylongford is one of the areas to be included in the study of flood risk management.

5. Funding for the replacement of old water pipe network that services the Fossa/Aghadoe, Firies/Ballyar and Listry/Faha areas

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. B. Cronin PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council write to Minister Phil Hogan and Mr. John Tierney, Head of Irish Water, supporting my recent calls for urgent funding for the replacement of the 40 year old water pipe network that services the greater Fossa/Aghadoe, Firies/Ballyar and Listry/Faha areas.

Mr. G. O'Brien said this is a matter for consideration by the members.

Cllr. B. Cronin said this issue must continue to be prioritised. He brought in a number of deputations from Rockfield, Bushmount and Ballymalis to Killarney Area Meetings because of the problems with the water supply in this area. This water network is deplorable and he PROPOSED that a letter would issue to the CEO of Irish Water, Mr. John Tierney and to Minister Hogan again highlighting the need for funding to replace the pipe network in this area. Cllr. Cronin recorded his gratitude to Mr. Freddie Bartlett of the Water Services Department for his tireless work in this area. The area that causes the most problems is the 9" water main from Barleymount which feeds the reservoir at Laharn and then supplies Milltown as it keeps breaking in 30ft. lengths. With each break water is drained from the reservoir. In conclusion Cllr. Cronin requested that a letter would issue to the Minister for Environment and Irish Water requesting funding to replace the pipe network in this area.

Cllr. M. Cahill SECONDED the motion and said he raised it on a number of occasions. The constant interruptions to the water supply in the Mid Kerry area are having a dreadful impact on customers in the area. There were up to 20 breaks since Christmas and this is a disgrace. People in Beaufort, Killorglin, Milltown and the entire Mid Kerry area are very angry. At the last meeting it was agreed to write to Irish Water asking them to defer the introduction of water charges until the network is replaced. In 2013 €1.2m was allocated for the replacement of water mains in this area but we must now apply to Irish Water for this funding. A new restaurant opened in the Gap of Dunloe recently and they had to close on their first day as there was no water. The asbestos pipes are very brittle and it is costing a fortune to repair leaks. In conclusion Cllr. Cahill said the entire pipe network needs to be replaced.

7. Repair of the stone work on the Bridge at Cahersivane, Dromid, Waterville

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. P.J. Donovan PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council repair the stone work on the Bridge at Cahersivane, Dromid, Waterville.

The following report issued:

This narrow bridge was damaged about 2 years ago and the Roads Department arranged for the repair and strengthening of the bridge structure. Unfortunately there has again been another bridge strike at this location where some of the capping stones have been dislodged. Repairs will be carried out when the Roads Programme has been completed and if funding allows. However, if the parapet walls of this structure continue to be damaged, the Council will have to consider width restrictions.

Cllr. P.J. Donovan said the capping stones are dislodged and with the volume of traffic on the bridge he was concerned the stones would fall into the river. It would only require ½ a bag of cement to secure these stones.

Mayor S. Fitzgerald SECONDED the motion.

8. New Community/District Hospital and A&E Unit for Killarney

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. D. Healy Rae PROPOSED:

That we the members of Kerry County Council ask the Government and the Minister for Health for a new Community/District Hospital for the people of Killarney and all its environs and to also ask the HSE to prioritise an Accident and Emergency Unit in Killarney.

Mr. G. O'Brien said this is a matter for consideration by the members.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae said thankfully a new Community Hospital opened in Kenmare recently. If Killarney District Hospital is not upgraded it will be closed. Killarney is a busy town off season but it is extremely busy during the tourism season. An A&E unit is also urgently needed in Killarney. Priority must be given to providing a new Community Hospital in Killarney to ensure the vulnerable, sick and elderly are provided for. All winter there was a scarcity of beds. Work is ongoing on upgrading 13 beds in the District Hospital but this should be replaced with a new hospital. He asked that the resolution would be referred to the Minister for Health and the HSE for consideration.

Cllr. M. Gleeson SECONDED the motion and said for the past 25 years people are calling for an A&E unit in Killarney especially in the height of the summer when there is up to 50,000 people in Killarney. The District Hospital was built in 1959 and it is time a new structure was provided as HIQUA may decree it is no longer fit for purpose.

9. Re-surfacing of the road which leads to Mangerton Mountain

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. J.J. Culloty PROPOSED:

To again call on this Council to re-surface the short section of road which leads to Mangerton Mountain in Killarney. It is most unfair on the residents of this area who have to endure driving on this extremely poor surface despite the fact that the vast majority of traffic on this road is created by people accessing the Mountain. An initiative to improve parking facilities at the foot of the mountain should also be carried out in unison. As it stands, it may not always be possible for emergency vehicles to reach local residents.

The following report issued:

This motion was discussed at the May 2013 Ordinary Meeting where the following reply was given:

"This road has not been included in the Council's adopted Restoration Improvement Programme for 2013 to 2016 and there is no other funding stream available at present to strengthen and re-surface this Local Tertiary Road at Mangerton, Killarney. General maintenance works will be carried out on this road to the extent that Local Roads upkeep funding will allow".

Cllr. J.J. Culloty expressed his disappointment with the reply as huge volumes of traffic use this road. The surface in just a short section of this road requires attention and he also asked that land would be acquired for parking. The cost of these works would be small but the advantage huge.

Cllr. B. Cronin **SECONDED** the motion and said a section of this road is in a poor condition. He asked if a tourism grant would be available to repair it. He also asked that parking would be provided. Cllr. Cronin requested that signs would be erected where cars and buses park asking dog owners to keep their dogs on leads.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae moved Notice of Motion No. 11 on behalf of Cllr. J. Healy-Rae.

11. Remaining spaces in graveyards throughout the county

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. J. Healy Rae PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council would provide a list of how many spaces are left in each graveyard in Kerry and what action is being taken to provide additional spaces in each one where needed.

The following report issued:

	Burial Ground	Estimated New Plots remaining on 01/05/14	Comment
1	Abbey Island Derrynane	0	New cemetery 2014
2	Abbeydorney	63	
3	Aghadoe	0	
4	Aglish Ballyhar	377	
5	Ahavoher Moyvane	760	
6	An Clochán New	91	
7	An Clochán Old	0	
8	An Dromaid Waterville	183	
9	An Ghairfeanaigh	0	

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10	Annagh New	672	
11	Annagh Old	0	
12	Arabella Ballymac	0	
13	Ardcrone New Currans	385	
14	Ardcrone Old Currans	0	
15	Ardfert Cathedral	0	
16	Ardfert Sackville	388	
17	Aughavallin Ballylongford	0	New cemetery nearby
18	Baile An Sceilg New	93	
19	Baile An Sceilg Old	0	
20	Baile Uí Bhaoithín New	355	Opened in 2012
21	Baile Uí Bhaoithín Old	0	
22	Ballinclare Annascaul	282	
23	Ballybunnion	486	
24	Ballyduff Castlegregory	246	
25	Ballyheigue Holy Family	0	
26	Ballyheigue New	1075	
27	Ballyheigue Old St. James's	0	
28	Ballylongford St Michaels	1000	Opened in 2014
29	Ballynacourty Annascaul	0	
30	Ballynahaglish Sneem	0	
31	Ballynakilly Glenbeigh	220	
32	Ballyseedy	0	
33	Beheenagh Baraduff	0	
34	Brosna new	411	
35	Brosna old	0	
36	Caherciveen Holy Cross	55	
37	Cahersiveen Cill Fhaoláin	1018	
38	Cahersiveen Killavarnogue	0	
39	Camp	293	
40	Castleisland Kilbannivane No.2	0	
41	Castleisland Kilbannivane Old (Churchtown)	0	
42	Causeway	9	Planning Part 8 underway
43	Ceann Trá	52	Extension planned
44	Churchill New Réalt Na Mara	660	
45	Churchill Old	0	
46	Churchisland Waterville Lake	0	
47	Churchtown Beaufort	62	
48	Cill Breac Dingle	680	
49	Cill Chuáin New	322	Opened in 2010

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50	Cill Chuáin Old	0	
51	Cill Dromann	0	
52	Cill Maoil Chéadair New	327	Opened 2005
53	Cill Maoil Chéadair Old	0	
54	Cinn Aird	339	
55	Clogher Ballymac	766	
56	Clogherbrien Tralee	0	
57	Coad New Castlecove	179	
58	Coad Old Castlecove	0	
59	Cordal	1143	
60	Cromane	1000	Opened in 2014
61	Cummer Glencar	0	
62	Curra Glenbeigh	0	
63	Derryco Ballyduff	0	
64	Duagh New	160	
65	Duagh Old	0	
66	Dún Chaoin New	133	
67	Dun Chaoin Old	0	
68	Dún Urlainne	466	
69	Dysert Castleisland	0	
70	Dysert Lixnaw	0	Provisional Agreement on a possibly suitable site
71	Feaghna Bonane	0	
72	Finuge New Extension	267	
73	Finuge Old	0	
74	Freemount Rathmore	0	
75	Inch	11	Extension in 2014
76	Keel	0	
77	Kenmare Gortagass	962	
78	Kenmare Old	0	
79	Kilbonane Beaufort	0	
80	Kilcolman Abbey Milltown	0	
81	Kilconly Ballybunion	27	
82	Kilcummin New (Holy Cross)	582	
83	Kilcummin Old	0	
84	Kilehenny Ballybunion	0	
85	Kilfeighney Kilflynn	748	
86	Kilflynn	119	
87	Kilgarvan New	175	Rock pervasive
88	Kilgarvan Old	0	
89	Kilgobbin Camp old	0	

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90	Killaha Glenflesk	215	
91	Killahan Abbeydorney	0	
92	Killeentierna Currow	0	
93	Killiney Castlegregory	60	
94	Killorglin Ardmoneel	884	
95	Killorglin Dromavally	0	
96	Killowen Kenmare	0	
97	Killury Causeway	0	
98	Kilmakilloge	126	
99	Kilmore Ballyduff	0	
100	Kilmoyley New	1956	
101	Kilmoyley Togherbawn	0	
102	Kilmurry Cordal	0	
103	Kilnanare New Firies	388	
104	Kilnanare Old Firies	0	
105	Kilnanimma Cordal	0	
106	Kilnaughtin Tarbert	134	
107	Kilquane Headford	0	
108	Kilsarkan Scartaglin	0	
109	Kilshannig Maharees	0	
110	Kilshenane Kilflynn	132	
111	Kiltomy Lixnaw	0	
112	Knockane Knocknagoshel	0	
113	Knocknagoshel	802	
114	Lios Póil	379	
115	Lislaughtin Abbey Ballylongford	0	
116	Lisselton Galey	858	
117	Lisselton Old	0	
118	Listry	221	
119	Lyreacrompane	650	
120	Molahiffe Firies	0	
121	Moyvane Knockanure	0	
122	Murhur Moyvane	0	
123	New Cemetery Coolcorcoran	22	New Plots (81No.) developed in 2011
124	Nohoval Castleisland	0	
125	O'Braonainn Ballymac	0	
126	Portmagee	588	
127	Rahealy Ballyduff	1427	
128	Raithín Uí Thuaidh	0	
129	Rathduff Annascaul	0	

130	Rathmore	1237	
131	Rattoo Ballyduff	0	
132	Scartaglin	276	Extension opened 2013
133	Shroneahiree	187	
134	Sneem Maulagallane	242	
135	Srugreana Cahersiveen	0	
136	Stradbally	0	
137	Templenoe New	163	
138	Templenoe Old	0	
139	The Glen New	369	
140	The Glen Old	0	
141	Valentia Kylemore	107	
142	Valentia Kylemore Old	0	

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae asked that the rock in Kilgarvan Burial Ground would be dealt with.

12. Grant aid for the installation of water harvesting by households

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. M. Gleeson PROPOSED:

That this Council calls on Government to introduce a grant aid scheme for the installation of water harvesting by households.

Mr. G. O'Brien said this is a matter for consideration by the members.

Cllr. M. Gleeson said the government recently announced the introduction of water charges but people are disappointed at the domestic allowances. The provision of water harvesting should be considered before the introduction of charges. The amount of water from a roof is enormous. In the past he asked that it would be a condition of planning for all major developments that they would be required to harvest rain water. Cllr. Gleeson said he uses harvested water in his garden and it saves water from the tap.

Cllr. B. Cronin SECONDED the motion and said everyone remembers water barrels under the down pipe. A grant scheme would be an incentive to encourage people to harvest rain water.

14. Reduction in tax on cars with a view to assisting job creation

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. M. Cahill PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council request the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government to reduce the tax on cars as a matter of urgency as this will assist in job creation, car sales, work in garages, tyre sales and filling stations etc.

Mr. G. O'Brien said this is a matter for consideration by the members.

Cllr. M. Cahill said while out canvassing he saw a number of cars parked up or abandoned because people cannot afford to tax them. If motor tax was reduced it would create work, garages would sell more cars and it would create jobs. He asked the government to consider this from a business prospective.

Cllr. P.J. Donovan SECONDED the motion.

15. Funding for appropriate safety measures at Coolcaslagh and Madams Hill Junctions on the N22

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. B. Cronin PROPOSED:

In light of a number of recent accidents at the Coolcaslagh Junction and the Madams Hill Junction, both on the N22, I am again calling on the NRA to provide funding for appropriate safety measures at both these very dangerous junctions and also to provide a left-hand Slip Lane at the Gortahoosh Junction from the N22. Can Kerry County Council outline how much money the NRA allocated for road safety measures on our National Primaries in 2014.

The following report issued:

Coolcaslagh and Madam's Hill junctions have not been identified in the latest analysis of sites for investigation for safety measures. This analysis is updated annually. If there has been recent collisions at these locations, this will be identified in the next analysis, which is due later this year. The NRA design standards discourage nearside diverging lanes at junctions in general, as these have been found to adversely affect visibility for drivers emerging from the minor road. Such lanes may be provided if left turning flows are high or if there are measurable safety benefits. At Gortahoosh there is no collision record to warrant this. Kerry County Council received an allocation of €200,000 for safety measures on the Muckcross Road so far in 2014. This is a similar allocation to last year. There may be some further money allocated later in the year.

Cllr. B. Cronin said the people of these areas would not believe this reply. Motorists exiting the Coolcashlagh road going to Killarney take their life in their hands crossing the road. There was a recent accident at this location and it took 50 minutes for an ambulance to arrive. There is a similar situation at Madams Hill and Gortahoosh. The basis of the reply is there is no evidence of major accidents at these locations. He asked if it means there must be a fatality before action will be taken. Cllr. Cronin asked that a safety analysis would take place immediately at Coolcashlagh and Madam's Hill junctions. He also asked that a left hand slip land would be provided at Gortahoosh.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty supported the motion and said there is a huge safety issue at these locations. The cost of providing a slip lane at Gortahoosh would not be huge. He asked where the NRA get their statistics. He asked the Gardaí recently for the statistics on the Lewis Road Junction and he was informed there were no fatalities there yet he was aware of three fatalities at this junction. He called on the Council to highlight to the NRA that the people of these areas are not willing to accept that these junctions cannot be made safer.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae said in the past he asked management to reduce the speed limit from Lissivigeen to Pike Hill but it was not done. If it was perhaps the accident would not have occurred a few weeks ago.

16. Condemnation of the centralisation of emergency services

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. D. Healy Rae PROPOSED:

That we the members of Kerry County Council condemn the centralisation of emergency services i.e. ambulance and fire brigade and all other services that have been removed from this County in recent times for example student grants, driving licensing etc.

The following report issued:

There is no known Government or Council plan to centralise services provided by Kerry Fire and Rescue Service.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae said it is ridiculous that the Ambulance Call Centre is in Dublin and this also applies to the Fire Brigade. There was an incident in Gneeveguilla recently and the ambulance could not find the location. While the Ambulance Control Centre was in Kerry it worked very well and it should not have been moved. As a result the sick and vulnerable are suffering. It appears the government wants to close rural Ireland.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty **SECONDED** the motion and agreed with the views expressed by Cllr. Healy-Rae in particular regarding the Ambulance Service. It appears the turn over of staff in the Call Centre is high and as a result staff do not become familiar with an area.

17. Establishment of a Destination Development Fund to increase inbound flights to Kerry Airport

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. J.J. Culloty PROPOSED:

That this Council contact Kerry Airport, with a view to setting up a Destination Development Fund, through Destination Kerry, which would seek to increase the number of inbound flights into Kerry Airport. Other stakeholders, such as the Kerry Branch of the Irish Hotels Federation and business organisations, should be contacted in relation to this fund. Northern England and Scotland with a population in excess of 25 million will have to be targeted with this fund, as currently, limited flights arrive from these areas.

Mr. G. O'Brien said this is a matter for consideration by the members.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty said Destination Kerry set up a fund to promote Kerry Airport. Kerry County Council contributed €50,000 to the Cork Swansea Ferry but it is gone out of business. Funding should be provided to promote Kerry Airport as it will directly benefit Kerry.

Cllr. N. Foley SECONDED the motion.

18. Return of all unused Fire Stations to local communities

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. M. O'Shea PROPOSED:

To ask Kerry County Council to agree to the return of all unused fire stations to local communities.

The following report issued:

The use of Tarbert Station has been handed over to the Tarbert Enterprise Group and is currently occupied by them

The use of Castlegregory Fire Station has been handed over to Kerry Civil Defence and the station currently houses the fire appliance of the Civil Defence Auxiliary Fire Service

Ballylongford Station was not in the ownership of Kerry County Council and has since been returned to the original owners.

Cllr. M. O'Shea asked that Castlegregory Fire Station would be returned to the local community as they want to set up a Men's Shed.

Cllr. M. Gleeson SECONDED the motion.

Mr. O. Ring said the local community were consulted when the Fire Station closed and at that time they did not have a use for it. Mr. Ring undertook to contact them again.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae moved Notice of Motion No. 19 on behalf of Cllr. J. Healy-Rae.

19. Funding for county roads in very bad condition and not included in the current programme

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllr. J. Healy Rae PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council would look at making a special case for a couple of County roads that are in a ridiculous state and are not on the current list.

Mr. G. O'Brien said this is a matter for consideration by the members.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae said there are two roads in Gneeveguilla that are in a bad condition.

20. Re-examination of the policy on employing students for the Summer

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllrs. M. Cahill & L. Purtill PROPOSED:

That Kerry County Council re-examine the policy on employing students for the Summer as this is essential to enable them to gain valuable experience.

The following report issued:

There are a number of factors which affect and influence Council Policy in relation to the engagement of 'students' on work placements – the Moratorium on Recruitment, Child Protection Provisions, other agreed Work Placement Schemes, Industrial Relations Agreement and the primary consideration – the availability of financial resources to fund such placements.

Current policy sees the traditional approach to placements for secondary school children and those less than 18 years of age having been suspended and discontinued having regard to the on-going changes in the statutory provisions relating to child protection. When the proposed legislation has been enacted this will be reviewed but at this point it is unlikely that this policy and approach will change.

In relation to other student placements the current approach is primarily determined by the availability of funding. The sharp decrease in funding for staffing generally has affected student placements just as it has affected overall staffing levels.

At this point we are only supporting a limited number of student placements and these are part of traditional agreements with some third level institutions. Each year we engage a limited number of students from UL through their Public Administration course (5 No) and a limited number of third year student Engineers (5 No). All the placements are arranged through the placement offices of the relevant institutions. It is noteworthy

that in the current year there was a limited level of interest in the student engineer placements.

There are no plans to revisit the current approach.

Cllr. M. Cahill said he was told for financial reasons the Council is not taking on students for the summer. However the summer work scheme was an opportunity to help students in their future careers. He asked that at least a few students would be taken on for the summer.

Mr. J.D. Flynn informed Cllr. Cahill that no students would be taken on by the Council.

Cllr. J. Brassil asked if any of the people to be employed on the Gateway Scheme had started.

Mr. J. D. Flynn said to-date 20 have been cleared.

Mr. G. MacNamara stated they would start work on the 9th June.

21. Reduction in vintage tax on vehicles from 30 years to 20 years

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllrs. J.J. Culloty & N Foley PROPOSED:

To call on Kerry County Council to reduce vintage tax on vehicles by 10 years, from 30 years down to 20, to correlate with vintage insurance. Currently these vehicles, in order to be insured, are restricted to an annual usage of three thousand miles, and have to be more than 20 years old.

Mr. G. O'Brien said this is a matter for consideration by the members.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty said vintage vehicles between 20 and 30 years do not qualify for the cheaper tax yet their insurance restricts the mileage they can do to 3,000 miles a year. He called on the Department to reduce the qualifying age for vintage tax from 30 to 20 years with a restriction on the mileage they are entitled to do in a year.

Cllr. N. Foley SECONDED the motion and said those who use environmentally friendly cars and heavy goods vehicles do not get a reduced rate of tax and this should be reviewed.

22. Commencement date for works on the N70 through Milltown Village

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllrs. P. O'Donoghue & M. O'Shea PROPOSED:

To ask Kerry County Council when will the restoration works commence on the N70 through Milltown Village and the commencement date for agreed works on the L4035 - Lyre Road.

The following report issued:

Tenders for the pavement improvement works through Milltown were received on the 9th May and they are currently being assessed. Discussions will have to be had with the NRA and the successful tenderer prior to works commencing. Initial dig out works have been carried out on the Lyre Road and the Area Engineer is awaiting the appointment of the pavement contractor prior to scheduling the surfacing of the Lyre Road, as it is linked with the overlay through the village.

Cllr. M. O'Shea said a number of years ago asphalt was laid on the streets in Milltown but subsequently they were dug up to repair the old cast iron water mains. Fourteen sections have been dug at different times. It is now intended to improve the road surface again yet there are no plans to replace the old cast iron main. He had asked that the cast iron mains would be replaced as part of the works programme to resurface the streets in Milltown but he was informed this would not happen. He called on the Manager to give a commitment that the out of date services would be replaced otherwise the crews will be out repairing further water leaks.

Cllr. P. O'Donoghue **SECONDED** the motion.

23. Commitment and funding for Killarney Tidy Towns Committee following amalgamation

Pursuant to notice duly given Cllrs. J. Healy Rae & D. Healy Rae PROPOSED:

To ask Management and the newly elected members of Kerry County Council to ensure that the same commitment and funding is given to Killarney Tidy Towns Committee to ensure the continuation of the massive work they do for our town.

The following report issued:

The funding for the Killarney Tidy Towns Committee in 2014 is a matter for Killarney Town Council. The Tidy Towns Committee in Killarney do trojan work and will continue to be supported by Kerry County Council.

The issue of funding in 2015 is a matter for the 2015 budgetary process.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae said in a few weeks Killarney Town Council will be abolished.

Mr. J.D. Flynn said the funding provision made for 2014 will be in place for the remainder of the year.

Cllr. Healy-Rae asked that a commitment would be given to Killarney Tidy Towns Committee.

The Manager said that is a matter for the Budget.

14.05.12.07 Correspondence – Conferences and Seminars

- (a) No member was authorised to attend the Training Seminar on the theme “Induction Course to New Councils for Councillors” to be held in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal from the 13th to 15th June, 2014.
- (b) No member was authorised to attend the Training Seminar on the theme “Tourism Technology and Competitive Strategies” to be held in Carlingford, Co. Louth from the 16th to 18th May, 2014.

14.05.12.08 Correspondence General

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

1.	Letter dated 11 th April, 2014 from the DoECLG in response to Kerry County Council's request that a Departmental Official would attend a meeting to brief them on the Local Community Development Committees.
2.	Letter dated 14 th April, 2014 from the Office of the Tánaiste in relation to engagement with the Diaspora.
3.	Letter dated 14 th April, 2014 from the Office of the Minister of State at the DoECLG in relation to the eviction of families from their homes.
4.	Letter dated 16 th April, 2014 from the Office of the Minister for Environment, Community & Local Government in relation to charging customers in the Mid-Kerry area.
5.	Letter dated 22 nd April, 2014 from the County Registrar in relation to the upcoming European and Local Elections.
6.	Letter dated 23 rd April, 2014 from the Irish Postmasters' Union in relation to a meeting with Kerry County Council.
7.	Letter dated 25 th April, 2014 from the HSE at Kerry General Hospital in relation to the provision of funding for a dedicated Stroke Unit at KGH.
8.	Letter dated 25 th April, 2014 from the HSE at Kerry General Hospital in relation to out of hours ENT services at KGH.
9.	E-mail dated 8 th April, 2014 from Drogheda Borough Council in relation to a resolution adopted by that authority in support of the Former Local Authority Members Éire.
10.	Email dated 8 th April 2014 from Drogheda Borough Council in relation to a resolution adopted by that authority in support of the Former Local Authority Members Éire.

Votes of Sympathy

The following Votes of Sympathy were noted from the Vote of Sympathy book.

- (a) Cllrs. D. Healy-Rae and J. Healy-Rae proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late Padraig O'Meara.
- (b) Cllrs. D. Healy-Rae, J. Healy-Rae, M. Gleeson and B. Cronin proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late John Nagle.
- (c) Cllrs. D. Healy-Rae and J. Healy-Rae proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late Teddy Brosnan.
- (d) Cllrs. D. Healy-Rae and J. Healy-Rae proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late Peg Murphy.
- (e) Cllrs. D. Healy-Rae and J. Healy-Rae proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late Paddy Howard.
- (f) Cllrs. D. Healy-Rae and J. Healy-Rae proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late Kathleen O'Sullivan.
- (g) Cllrs. D. Healy-Rae and J. Healy-Rae proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late Hugh O'Brien.
- (h) Cllrs. D. Healy-Rae and J. Healy-Rae proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late Bill McCarthy.
- (i) Cllrs. D. Healy-Rae and J. Healy-Rae proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late Liam Heffernan.
- (j) Cllrs. D. Healy-Rae and J. Healy-Rae proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late John Moriarty.
- (k) Cllrs. D. Healy-Rae and J. Healy-Rae proposed that a vote of sympathy be extended to the family of the late Donie Gaine.

Cllr. P. O'Donoghue said that was his last Council meeting and he thanked his colleagues for their friendship and management for their assistance and co-operation since he was co-opted to the Council in December 1991. There were good days and bad days in the Council Chamber and he had his ups and downs with management. He was annoyed when he saw the recent media article on payments to councillors as people do not understand what is involved in being a councillor. Cllr. O'Donoghue wished all councillors well in the forthcoming Local Election and said he hoped they would be returned. All parties and none have been depleting the powers of local authorities down through the years and this is not good for democracy. He hoped the next Council would work to ensure the local authority remains relevant into the future. It was an honour and a privilege to represent Cork and Kerry in the Committee of the Regions in Europe. He said it would be wise to amalgamate with counties that have similar requirements to Kerry and to make representation to Europe. In conclusion Cllr. O'Donoghue said he enjoyed his time on the Council and he wished everyone well for the future.

Cllr. P.J. Donovan said Paul will be missed and both he and his family have given tremendous service to the people of South Kerry. He worked with Paul on many projects and he wished him and his family well for the future.

Cllr. M. O'Shea said Paul shocked Fianna Fáil when he decided not to run in the Local Elections. He was one of the best debaters in the Chamber and he will be missed. He worked tirelessly for his constituents. He wished Paul and his family well for the future.

On behalf of Fianna Fáil and from a personal perspective Cllr. J. Brassil said Paul's decision to withdraw from politics affects all councillors. He was an outstanding councillor and he gained an amount of knowledge from him since he first came into the Council. He thanked Paul for his assistance and guidance down through the years. Cllr. Brassil said the Council cannot afford to lose someone of Paul's calibre and it will be hard to replace him. He was sorry to see him go but he wished Paul and his family health and happiness for the future.

Cllr. M. Cahill said it is a sad day for the Council as Paul is leaving. He had the best interests of Kerry and Iveragh at heart. Paul always showed leadership in the Council Chamber and he wished Paul and his family well for the future.

Cllr. A. McEllistrim said the O'Donoghue family have given tremendous service down through the years and everyone is sorry to see the end of this dynasty. It was great to work with Paul and he has a great legal mind.

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Cllr. D. Healy-Rae thanked Paul for his work for the people of South Kerry and said the O'Donoghue family have given tremendous service down through the years. On behalf of Jackie, Michael, Johnny Healy-Rae and himself he wished Paul every success in the future.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty wished Paul the best for the future.

Cllr. J. Finucane paid tribute to Paul and his family and said there is an ethos of public service in his family. Paul is very honourable and he brought a high standard to public life. He wished Paul and his family well for the future.

Cllr. G. Wharton Slattery thanked Paul for his courtesy and assistance when she was co-opted to the Council and also on the South West Regional Authority where she served with him. She wished him well for the future.

Cllr. T. Ferris said she wanted to be associated with the good wishes to Paul who has given tremendous service to the county. She wished him well for the future.

Cllr. N. Foley said she also wanted to be associated with the tributes to Paul. He is a gentleman inside and outside the Council Chamber and he was very gracious to new members. He brought great wisdom and good humour to the Chamber and he had the capacity to diffuse difficult situations. Cllr. Foley said the Council was well served by the O'Donoghue Family.

Mayor Fitzgerald said Paul was very pragmatic and had a great mind. The O'Donoghue family have given great service to the people of South Kerry. He wished Paul and his family well for the future.

The County Manager said it is a sad day as Paul leaves Kerry County Council. While they had many arguments in the Council Chamber they were always left there. Paul was a great ambassador for Kerry and he will be missed. He was fair and always did what was right. The O'Donoghue dynasty has served the people of South Kerry well. Paul had an excellent year as Mayor and he wished him well in his retirement from politics. He wished Paul and his family well for the future.

Cllr. J. Healy-Rae paid tribute to Paul and said he worked for the betterment of South Kerry. Paul always accommodated him at Area Meetings and he will be missed. He wished Paul and his family well for the future.

The Mayor said that was also the County Manager's last meeting and he worked closely with him in particular over the past year as Mayor.

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The Manager thanked the members for their support since he came to Kerry in 1997 as County Engineer. The Council in Kerry has always worked as a unit and he thanked members for their support over the years. He wished all members success in the forthcoming Local Election.

The meeting concluded at 1.15pm.

Gerard O'Brien
Meetings Administrator

Mayor of Kerry