

**These Minutes are edited for Data Protection purposes because in effect putting them on the Internet is publishing them. An unedited paper copy is available on request.**

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF KILLARNEY HELD IN THE LIBRARY MEETING ROOM, KILLARNEY ON WEDNESDAY, 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2016.**

**MIONTUAIRISCÍ NA CRUINNITHE SPEISIALTA DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH CHILL ÁIRNE A THIONÓLADH I LEABHARLANN CHILL ÁIRNE AR AN CHÉADAIOIN, 15<sup>ú</sup> Eanáir 2016.**

**PRESENT/I LÁTHAIR**

**Councillors/Comhairleoirí**

**Cllr. B. Cronin  
Cllr. J.J. Culloty  
Cllr. M. Gleeson  
Cllr. D. Grady**

**Cllr. D. Healy-Rae  
Cllr. N. Kelleher  
Cllr. B. O'Connell  
Cllr. J. Sheahan**

**In attendance/i láthair**

<b>Ms. A. McAllen</b>	<b>Delegated Executive for the MD of Killarney</b>
<b>Mr. D. Doyle</b>	<b>Senior Engineer</b>
<b>Mr. P. Neary</b>	<b>Senior Executive Engineer</b>
<b>Mr. G. O'Brien</b>	<b>Meetings Administrator</b>
<b>Mr. D. Ginty</b>	<b>Executive Planner</b>
<b>Mr. B. Mulhern</b>	<b>AE Killarney</b>
<b>Mr. K. O'Halloran</b>	<b>AE Killarney</b>
<b>Ms. M. Galvin</b>	<b>CO Corporate Support</b>

The meeting commenced at 10.05am.

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. B O'Connell took the Chair.

Ms. A. McAllen stated that further to a request from the Members it was agreed to hold this special meeting to discuss the three major weather events that occurred in December. The first storm was the first ever Code Red rainfall warning issued in this country. These were exceptional weather events for which we were prepared and had planned our response in advance. All our Management and Operational Teams were in place ready to respond efficiently. Without this preparedness and planning there would have been an even greater impact and damage from the severe weather events. Ms. McAllen acknowledged the co-ordination by Mr. Charlie O'Sullivan, Director of Operations, Health & Safety, the work of our Municipal District Engineers on the ground, the MD general service supervisors, the Operational staff who worked long hours in difficult conditions, the Civil Defence and its volunteers, Fire Service personnel and the HSE as part of the Flood Emergency Management Team. Ms. McAllen acknowledged the assistance

of Chief Superintendent Pat Sullivan who retired in the last week and thanked him for his help at other such events during his time as Chief Superintendent and also the work of An Garda Síochána. Many staff were on call over the Christmas period and New Year to deal with the events. Our media messaging was very strong and we got messages out to the media in a very timely manner and Ms. McAllen thanked our media partners for their assistance. There were 615,000 impressions on Twitter for the month of December which had increased from 16,500 during November. Kerry County Council did what needed to be done in the face of exceptional weather events, particularly the Code Red rainfall event. An initial assessment of damage has been carried out and initial request for funding has been submitted. This is just an initial assessment and we will be assessing bridges and potential damage as flood and river waters subside. Ms. McAllen stated that if Councillors are aware of any damage or ongoing issues, to let Mr. D. Doyle and his team know.

Mr. D. Doyle read the following report into the Minutes of the Meeting:

#### **“Report on December 2015 Flooding**

Kerry has experienced a number of severe weather events since the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015.

- The first event, Code Level RED Rainfall Alert, occurred on the weekend of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December 2015.
- The second event, Code Level ORANGE Rainfall Alert, occurred on the weekend of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December 2015.
- The third event, Code Level ORANGE Rainfall and Wind Alert, occurred on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

#### **The first event, Code Level RED, occurred on the weekend of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

The event of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> was a code level RED Severe Weather Rainfall Alert. The alert projected very heavy rainfall, with accumulations in excess of 70mm, and strong gale force winds. There were also flood alerts from the OPW in respect of the River Shannon but these primarily related to the water levels upstream of Limerick. However we were mindful of any impacts that this could potentially have with the high rainfall predicted in the county.

The Council activated its Severe Weather Response Plan immediately and put in place procedures to deal with the most likely outcome, based on the forecast. Road crews were deployed to fill sandbags; re-check drainage outlets and culverts in known areas of high risk; notify property owners in areas that have flooded in similar circumstances in recent years and to be prepared to respond to flooding as it may occur.

The Civil Defence was activated at 3pm on the Friday to assist in the filling and distribution of sandbags. Approximately 100 Civil Defence volunteers assisted in the response over the weekend and almost 10,000 sandbags were

filled and distributed throughout the county. 6 units of the Fire Service were deployed to respond to flooding of properties

The Council's Flood Emergency Management Team convened 8 times over the period of the storm and there were 7 conference calls with management in An Garda Síochána and the HSE, who are members of the Kerry Emergency Flooding Steering Committee. There was also a conference call with the Cork . Kerry Major Emergency Regional Steering Committee, in case of a need for any specialized equipment or additional resources to be put on standby. A flooding support helpline was established and a communications team issued information and advice on the situation to the general public through our PPN, Radio Kerry, social networks, and the Council website.

The worst affected areas were in Tralee (River Lee Catchment, including Ballyseedy, Ballymullen, Killerisk, Manor West, Caherwisheen, Camp, Skahanagh and Ballyard); Kenmare (Market Square & Finnihy Court in the River Finnihy catchment); Glenflesk and Killarney (Ballycasheen and Ross Road), both in the River Flesk catchment, where properties were flooded. Almost 500 properties in these areas were at risk of flooding and 7 families had to be rescued from their homes on the Saturday night by the Council. Volunteers from the Red Cross, Kerry Mountain Rescue, and Killarney Inland Shore rescue were called in, to assist in the evacuation of residents in a house at Foilduane, Glenflesk. The HSE arranged for 2 high wheeled army carriers, to be deployed on Saturday evening from Cork to Tralee General hospital and to Kenmare Community Hospital, to assist in recovering any casualties / patients from high floods.

Sections of key access routes in the county, including the N22 Killarney . Cork Road, the R569 to Kenmare, the N71 Killarney to Kenmare Road over Molls Gap, the N70 Castlemaine Road in Tralee, the Tralee By-Pass were closed as well as a significant number of local and urban roads. The high winds on the Friday evening also resulted in fallen trees which were addressed promptly.

The rainfall recorded varied significantly throughout the county, with less than 50mm recorded in Valentia and Ardfert but gauges around Tralee indicating between 77mm and 114mm, over a 36 hour period. The water level recorded on the gauge on the River Lee at Ballymullen was the highest since its installation in 1975, exceeding the previous high in 1986, when significant areas in Tralee Town centre were flooded. The levels recorded on the River Flesk, and the flooding witnessed in Glenflesk, equated to a 1 in 1000 flooding event, based on modelling done by the OPW under the CFRAMS study. The flooding in Kenmare was consistent with flooding events previously recorded, though not to the same extent as in 2008.

The emergency response to the severe weather over the weekend of the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> December was stood down at 7 am on the Sunday when flood waters had abated, but some staff assisted in the cleanup operations on the Sunday and following Monday.

**The second event, Code Level ORANGE, occurred on the weekend of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

The Council received a code level ORANGE rainfall alert at 8:30 on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015, with prolonged heavy rain totalling up to 50 mm projected on the Saturday. The Council's Severe Weather Response Plan was again activated as there was a risk of further flooding to properties, particularly in high risk areas, with saturated ground and predicted high tides. Given the increased risk, a further 10,000 sandbags were made available, particularly targeting properties flooded the previous week. All of these homes and businesses were contacted directly by staff in the areas, with crews on standby in advance of the high tides on the Saturday morning. Civil Defence crews also on standby and called to a number of properties on the Cashen, in advance of the high tides on the Saturday evening.

Approximately 38mm of rainfall was recorded in Valentia and whilst river levels in Castleisland, Kenmare and Sneem, were very high, no properties were flooded and a limited number of local roads and the N70 Castlemaine Road in Tralee, were closed for a few hours on the Saturday.

Again the Council's Flood Emergency Management Team convened 7 times over the weekend and there were 3 conference calls with management in An Garda Síochána and the HSE. A dedicated flooding helpline was established in County Buildings with a Communications team established to inform the public and elected members.

Weather conditions improved on the Saturday afternoon and river levels receded before the high tides. The Flooding Response Teams were stood down at 6:30pm on the Saturday, in consultation with An Garda Síochána, HSE and the Civil Defence.

An assessment of the damage to public infrastructure as a direct result of the flooding was estimated at " 860,000. An application to the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government was made and we are awaiting the announcement of this funding. However, the costs of responding to the event (staffing, pumps, filling and distributing sandbags; fire service response, emergency accommodation) was " 244,447. The Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government has provided this amount of funding to Kerry County Council.

**The third event, Code Level ORANGE Rainfall and Wind Alert, occurred on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

The Council received a Code Level ORANGE alert on the 28<sup>th</sup> December, valid from 12.01 Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> December until 23.59 Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> December.

The Council activated its Severe Weather Response Plan again and put in place procedures to deal with the most likely outcome, based on the forecast. Operational staff were recalled from leave and together with the Civil Defence were deployed to fill sandbags; re-check drainage outlets and culverts in known areas of high risk; notify property owners in areas that have flooded in

similar circumstances in recent years and to be prepared to respond to flooding as it may occur. Emergency Telephone number re-established along with contingency backup call centre.

Met Éireann confirmed that 130m of rainfall was recorded at Cloon Lake, Glencar over this period.

This worst affected areas were Killorglin, Beaufort, Fossa, Killarney, Glenflesk, Ballyheigue and Ardfert. The N22 at Glenflesk, the N72 between Beaufort and Killorglin, the N71 at Dinish and the R569 at Loo Bridge were both closed for a number of hours on the 30<sup>th</sup> December. A number of local roads at Foiladown, Beaufort, Caragh Lake, Ballyheigue, Banna and mid-Kerry were closed on the 30<sup>th</sup> December. 4 properties were damaged in the Killorglin due to flooding. A number of other properties were under threat of flooding. A minor land slippage occurred on a local road in Currow.

Again the Council's Flood Emergency Management Team held 7 conference calls with management of An Garda Síochána and the HSE. A dedicated flooding helpline was put in place with a Communications team established to inform the public and elected members.

An assessment of the damage to public infrastructure, from the 19<sup>th</sup> December to the year end, as a direct result of the weather event was estimated at " 607,000. An application to the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government was made. The costs of responding to the event was " 162,535. We are awaiting the announcement of this funding.

### **Damage to Piers and Harbours**

Following the weather events in December the following piers and harbours were damaged. An application for funding was submitted to the LGMA/DAFM for the following locations:-

- Tralee / Fenit Regional Road: coastal protection works - " 250,000.
- Cliff Road, Rossbeigh: further damage to coastal embankment - " 500,000.
- Provision of a new road to replace existing road, Lower Road, Rossbeigh, which is extensively damaged due to recent storm damage - " 1.1m. Ballinskelligs Pier: further structural damage/undermining of pier - " 160,000
- Scraggane Pier - further damage/undermining of pier - " 80,000
- Cliff Road, Ballyheigue /adjacent to the fishery slipway - Coastal Protection Works required due to storm damage, approx. 280m of rock armour revetement - " 500,000.

### **Resources Deployed**

- 250 staff in total involved/ mobilised throughout storm events in December
- 100 outdoor operational staff, including supervisory and technical professional staff
- 30 Retained Fire Services staff

- 100 Civil Defence Volunteers assisted in structured rosters
- Up to 20 senior staff involved in Emergency Management Team and support throughout the events.
- Council staff and Civil Defence mobilised in advance of all weather events. All high risk areas were visited - properties and businesses called to or contacted to make them aware of storm and forecast. High risk areas provided with supplies of sandbags for removal and deployment by public. Road closure signs and numerous road diversions were put in place. Pumps to prevent properties from flooding were also deployed at various locations throughout the county. Staff alleviated drainage issues along the public road network. A presence was maintained in high risk areas throughout the weather events.
- Council staff and Civil Defence worked long hours in difficult conditions through these three weather events.
- Approximately 18,000 sand bags were filled and deployed as necessary during the weather events in December

### **Media**

Kerry County Council kept the public informed at all times throughout these weather events, with daily weather updates on local Radio, Twitter, website, etc.

### **Properties affected**

The details outlined are based on information provided to Council staff and from property owners who contacted the Council:-

- The total number of evacuated residential dwellings since 3 December is 17
- The number of residential dwellings evacuated where residents have now returned is 15
- The number of residential dwellings damaged by flooding but habitable is 48
- The number of residential dwellings not flooded but inaccessible due to road flooding is 506
- The number of residential dwellings currently under threat of flooding is 27
- The number of business premises affected by flooding is 24

### **Issues arising**

- Details of the extent of the recent flooding are being recorded and will be submitted to the OPW, who are the lead agency for flood risk management and have been tasked by the Government to identify options to mitigate for the future risk of flooding. All of the areas severely impacted by the floods in Tralee, Kenmare, Killarney and Glenflesk are included in these CFRAM studies. These studies involve very complex modelling of flood predictions, taking into consideration the changing environment, and various assessments on the impact of climate change.

- The National Primary Road N22 at Glenflesk, sections of the N72 at Beaufort and the N71 at Muckcross had to be closed during these events. Sections of the National Road network, critical for access, will be reassessed with TII.
- Both access routes to Kenmare within the County again severely flooded and closed . Kenmare was essentially cut off from access within Kerry (alternative access from Cork route available but with significant additional journey distance).
- Many local roads throughout the county were flooded at various times during these weather events
- Following these weather events the entire road network has suffered significant damage. Pothole and drainage issues will continue to exist over the coming month. Council crews will focus on drainage and road surface repairs to address these issues.
- Scouring may have occurred at a number of our bridges but this is difficult to assess due to the high river levels at present. Surveys of these bridges will take place over the coming months.

The Council is also assisting the Red Cross in processing any claims from small businesses for emergency funding.”

Mr. D. Ginty addressed the Members and stated that the CFRAM study is currently under the remit of the OPW who are the lead agency responsible for flood risk management. The OPW works in close partnership with Local Authorities in delivering the objectives of the CFRAM Programme.

The CFRAM study has 4 stages:

1. Identification of areas at risk of flooding. (complete, 14 areas in Co. Kerry)

The following areas in the Killarney MD have been identified and included in the CFRAM study:

- Killarney
- Glenflesk
- Castleisland

2. Preparation of predictive flood maps showing the extent and depth of anticipated flooding. Completed Oct 2014.
3. Consideration of all options to mitigate flood risk and the selection of a preferred option. Completed Sep 2015.
4. Preparation of a flood management plan. June 2016.

The flood management plans will include specific measures including new infrastructure to mitigate the flood risk in each area identified in the CFRAM study. These plans (for each area) will be published in June of this year and will be placed before the full Council in July / August for adoption.

There is, at present, a statutory phase of public consultation ongoing at present. Kerry County Council may make a submission / observation on the draft flood maps. If any of the members have any comments or views in relation to same we will collate and submit these as part of the Council's submission. In addition if any of the members wish to view the maps I am available after the meeting.

Mr. G. O'Brien informed the Members that an Agenda Item on making submissions on the CFRAM Flood Extent Maps will come before the Councillors at the Full Council Meeting on Monday, 18th January. Members are invited to make submissions on the Draft Flood Extent Maps which, in turn, will be forwarded to the OPW.

Cllr. B. Cronin thanked Management for acceding to the request for a special meeting to discuss the flood damage. Cllr. Cronin stated that he was grateful to the Council Engineers, the staff, Civil Defence and volunteers, the Fire Service, Gardaí and the Emergency Services for the tremendous work undertaken in December during constant floodwaters. The events of December were never before witnessed and occurred in areas that had never previously been flooded. A lot of properties would have been destroyed without the assistance of the staff. A huge amount of work involving long hours was undertaken. Cllr. Cronin referred to Mr. D. Ginty's discussion on the CFRAM and stated that there was one glaring omission from that study, that being the omission of the Gweestin River. This river crosses at Flynn's Forge, Rockfield, Faha and Beaufort. This river and its catchment must be included in the CFRAM study. People in this area were cut off from their homes during the floods. Cllr. B. Cronin Proposed and requested that this area be included.

The following areas were highlighted by Cllr. Cronin as being in need of attention:

Aglish Junction / Flynn's Forge  
Ballycasheen - Flemings  
Rockfield - The Mall  
Ballinane Railway Crossing  
Ballinane - Cooper's Bridge  
Nunstown  
Aghadoe - 4 houses severely affected  
Fossa - past school on right hand side. Fire brigade attended for 3 - 4 hours.  
Drainage works required in these areas.  
North of German Flats - blocked pipe in lands caused severe damage  
Top of Barleymount - gulleys  
Ardagh - piping required and drainage works  
Knocklebede - Coolick School - road in bad repair



Rockfield to Flynn's Forge - open water tables  
Ballydunlea to Ballyhar Church - open water tables  
Listry to Ballymallis - skirting at bad bends  
Ballymalis Castle Road - water lodging  
Rathanane - Kilcummin - open water tables  
Access bridge on Gap Road  
Access bridge at Listry

Cllr. Cronin stated that water tables are required along the rural roads. The verges of the roads are wearing away and should be upgraded. When the water subsides, an assessment of these following three bridges needs to be undertaken:

1. The Mall - under serious pressure on way down from Rockfield to Faha National School
2. Listry Bridge
3. Gap Road - Ferry Bridge crossing

Cllr. Cronin stated that a number of rivers had not been dredged in years. He said that a landowner encountered difficulties when trying to protect his property from the river. There were so many obstacles and legal and EU threats preventing him from carrying out works to the river. Cllr. Cronin stated that people were willing to carry out this work but are being prevented. Dredging of rivers will save a lot of properties from flooding.

Cllr. Cronin also referred to planning permission being granted where people were ~~forced~~ into hollows. These people should be allowed to build their houses one or two blocks higher to afford some protection in the event of their land becoming flooded. Cllr. Cronin stated there should be no zoning of development land in floodplains and it should not be tolerated. He stated that if a house becomes flooded as a result of a decision by the Planning Department, then the Council should be responsible for the costs involved. Cllr. Cronin concluded by sincerely thanking everyone who assisted and volunteered in desperate conditions.

Cllr. M. Gleeson welcomed  
*(Name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of unedited Minutes available on request)* from Foiladuan to the Meeting. Cllr. Gleeson stated that magnificent and heroic work was carried out by Council staff, Fire Services and Red Cross in the most difficult conditions during the floods. Cllr. Gleeson referred to a Notice of Motion he moved at the December 2015 Full Council Meeting regarding Japanese Knotweed and the reply stated that Kerry County Council now attach a condition to planning permissions in relation to the control and eradication of such species. Such consideration should also be given in relation to planning applicants seeking to build on floodplains and failure to do so will make the Council liable. Cllr. Gleeson stated that the Council should be held liable for houses granted planning permission in floodplains. He stated that his parents owned 8 fields of which 7 were part of the floodplain of the River Flesk. They built their house in the one place they could build because they asked somebody back three

generations if flooding had ever occurred in their lifetime. On 1<sup>st</sup> November 1980 a big flood occurred in the area and subsequently a huge flood occurred on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1986 but it never came near his parents' home because it was built ~~wisely~~. This should be central to the Planning Department's decision to grant planning. Houses should be raised by 3 blocks if built in a floodplain.<sup>1</sup> Anything built in a floodplain displaces water and sends it off elsewhere with serious implications. Cllr. Gleeson stated that he discussed this previously at Killarney Town Council Meetings and also discussed with the CFRAM staff. Cllr. Gleeson stated that he recently drove from Cavan to Kerry and saw the River Shannon at its magnificent and frightening best. Anytime you interfere with a river the length of the River Flesk (12 miles) it will impact adversely on it. Cllr. Gleeson stated that during winter, his father used to trim the trees on the banks of the river. Standing at Curreal on Gortahoosh Bridge, trees are visibly impeding the river flow. The eyes of these bridges should be kept clear. Land has been reclaimed from the River Flesk and houses built thereon. Water has become displaced and impeded which leads to problems. Cllr. Gleeson referred to the term ~~in 1000~~ which has been used to refer to the recent floods. He stated that it should be called something else now in light of recent weather events. People were referring to the mild weather before Christmas. For every 1 degree increase in temperature, it will result in a 7% increase in rainfall and we have to plan for that.

Cllr. Gleeson referred to houses being built on an elevation and said that these houses should have a water catchment from the edge of their driveways. Water from these properties is gushing onto the road and tearing the verges. We have taken water for granted in this country. It is a powerful force. Cllr. Gleeson reiterated the need to cut the trees and clean out the eyes on bridges. The island between Flesk Bridge and the lake needs to be looked at. Cllr. Gleeson said that we must plan for the long term with a vision of community and not to build 100m from a river.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty thanked the volunteers, Kerry County Council, neighbours and friends for the work carried out by them during the recent floods. He also thanked Radio Kerry who provide invaluable information to the public on road closures. Lives were probably saved by all these people. Cllr. Culloty enquired that when funding is being sought will anything be put aside for works that are not obvious yet. He asked that a member of staff be assigned to look at roadside drainage and to take local knowledge into account. Cllr. Culloty stated that water came down from Lawlor's Cross from the Kilcummin side and there may be water that should be taken off that road.

Cllr. Culloty referred to the CFRAM study where it states that Castleisland is a flood risk. In Glounsharoon, flooding has been eliminated since the wall has been raised and this area should be removed from the CFRAM study. The residents of this area are still being refused house insurance and this should be investigated by CFRAM as no flooding occurred in this area during the recent floods.

---

<sup>1</sup> Please refer to the Minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016 for amendment.

Cllr. Culloty stated that there was a problem at Ballinahulla Bridge. Cllr. Culloty was aware that a Member of Kerry County Council wanted to carry out work and divert water but the Fisheries said they would have to dye the water as part of this work. If the bridge gets washed away it will cause a lot more problems. Cllr. Culloty was aware of the environmental implications but stated that an even keel must be maintained and people must come first. The trees and bushes in Glenflesk must be cut back which would make a difference to the water flow. The issue of raising the road at Glenflesk has been discussed. In Foiladuane if the road is raised, then pipes should be put under the road to move the water along. People are distressed by recent events. Cllr. Culloty hoped that the CFRAM study will take a radical approach and help the people of this area. Cllr. Culloty agreed with Cllr. B. Cronin's comments in relation to Planning and that common sense should prevail. Cllr. Culloty said that he knew of one application that went for planning permission and the house needed to be raised as there was a fall of 4ft from the driveway to the house which could cause flooding. Cllr. Culloty approached the Engineer and said that if the house was built in the location as outlined, there would be nowhere for the water to go and the Engineer said that that these were the plans that were submitted for planning permission. Cllr. Culloty said that he told the lady who was building the house to raise it up by a block which she did. Where the house is located this did not make a difference. Cllr. Culloty also referred to the landslide in Currow and asked had it been incorporated into the funding request.

Cllr. J. Sheahan thanked Kerry County Council and especially the outdoor staff who carried out Trojan work through Christmas. He also complimented Radio Kerry for their comprehensive coverage during the floods. Cllr. Sheahan referred to Foiladuane and Glenflesk and welcomed *(Name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of unedited Minutes available on request)* to the meeting. Something needs to be done for these people who have endured this a number of times. We need to plan better going forward. Cllr. Sheahan referred to Fleming's Caravan Park in Whitebridge, *(Name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of unedited Minutes available on request)* and the Gweestin River and said all these areas required attention. Cllr. Sheahan referred to Cllr. J.J. Culloty's comments in relation to planning and said that houses needed to be moved to higher locations but are met with severe resistance. People should be able to raise their homes by 2 blocks. He said that he had great sympathy for people whose homes were flooded and it was a challenge and a great expense to restore their homes back to a habitable condition. He said that we need to plan for the future and invest in the best way forward.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae thanked the Engineers, staff, Civil Defence, Fire Service and others who assisted. These people were out in all types of weather and had to endure a lot. Cllr. Healy-Rae stated that he had a Notice of Motion at a Council Meeting that we put in place a proper maintenance and drainage programme. This has been neglected in the past 4 - 5 years due to the lack of staff. He stated he was very disappointed with the reply he received from Mr. Charlie O'Sullivan, Director of Operations which said that the landowners

would have to keep the water in their own lands and not let it out. There was nowhere for the water to go but outside drains. The water is going out onto the roads as many places are not drained. People must be protected from water flooding their homes. He agreed with Councillors in relation to the practice of building houses below the level of the road. Regulations from the Government and the EU are interpreted too severely. When houses are built low, roads are raised and proper recognition is not given to where water is going. We must ensure proper piping and drainage works are carried out.

Cllr. Healy-Rae stated that he would be bringing in a deputation from Foiladuane, Glenflesk, Curreal and Kilbaha on 10<sup>th</sup> February to the Killarney Municipal District Meeting. He welcomed *(Name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of unedited Minutes available on request)* to the meeting and said that his house had been flooded on numerous occasions. In 2013 the people of Foiladuane were flooded six times. The last time the late *(Name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of unedited Minutes available on request)* saw his house it was flooded. This man was taken out of his home on a stretcher and sadly has since passed away. It was unfortunate that he had to endure this in his final hours. Cllr. Healy-Rae asked when was the emergency funding due. The road in Ranaleen is still blocked. We need to clear the banks of the river and remove the gravel. He stated that the Fisheries get involved straight away when any attempts are made to carry out works to the river. People have been doing this work for many years and no harm was carried out to the fish. It is common sense to clear the river of bushes.

Cllr. Healy-Rae referred to the suggestion that the National Primary Road be raised. He stated that the people of Foiladuane would be vehemently opposed to this course of action. When the road was raised before; this is where the real problem started in Foiladuane. 3 houses are constantly being flooded, 12 more were flooded this time and 10 - 12 houses were inches away from being flooded. This cannot be allowed to continue. In 1984/1985, funding was received from the Department of Finance to clear the river at that time. This needs to take place again. People are very disappointed that their area has not been included in the CFRAM study. No recognition has been given to their problems. The Beaufort Road was not included in the study and the Gardaí had to close off the road at the back of Ballymalis as it was not safe. Whitebridge caused problems to businesses and needs to be highlighted. He supported Cllr. M. Gleeson's comments in relation to clearing the bushes and clearing out the eyes from Glenflesk Bridge and the island also needed to be looked at. Every time it rains the road is blocked at Toornonagh Bridge. Cllr. Healy-Rae stated that raising the wall at Crag has made a huge difference to Castleisland and this has saved money in the long-term. More work like this should be carried out. Local people should be listened to.

Cllr. Healy-Rae referred to the Gweestin River. Listry was totally blocked from trees and bushes. Houses were flooded that were never previously flooded. In 1986 a much larger flood occurred but it did not have the same affect. This

river needs to be cleared. In Knockeenduve two families had to be evacuated from their homes as the culvert under their road was blocked. We must ensure that these houses are not threatened again. In Curreal a number of houses were flooded and more were under a severe threat. We are waiting over 2 weeks for funding for Ranaleen. This work would only take 2 - 3 days to complete. Can work be carried out and before the funding comes. Cllr. Healy-Rae asked Mr. D. Ginty to request CFRAM to include Foiladuane in the study. More staff are needed in the Killarney Municipal District area. People have not been replaced. We had 6 crews before Castleisland joined the Municipal area and we now have less than 3 crews. This is not fair and the Chief Executive has the right to lift the current embargo if a new member of staff is required. This must be looked at.

Cllr. D. Grady stated that the floods caused problems all over the County. He complimented the Council, Civil Defence, Mountain Rescue and Fire Crews for the wonderful work carried out during the recent floods. Cllr. Grady agreed with Cllr. D. Healy-Rae's comments in relation to the lack of staff due to the embargo on recruitment. Drains and dykes need to be opened. A lot of culverts are blocked. Full time staff were needed and should be offered good quality jobs and we should not employ people under the JobBridge Scheme where people are only paid " 50 per week in addition to their Social Welfare payments. Cllr. Grady stated that he was employed with the Fire Service during 1980 - 2006 and has seen at first hand the flooding in Glenflesk over the years. Work was carried out here but the problem is ongoing. People are living in fear in Foiladuane and Glenflesk. Cllr. Grady circulated photographs that he took during the December floods to the Members and staff. He said it was very sad to see the late

*(Name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of unedited Minutes available on request)* being taken out of his house on a stretcher. His bedroom had 2ft of water in it. He said that every time there is rain, the residents are in fear. Cllr. Grady said that he has seen trees growing inside the river and there is 3ft - 4ft of silt present. The river needs to be dredged from Foiladuane into the town. The Engineers need to look at these places and open the drains and put in pipes. People are putting fish and spawning before the people. 10 houses out of 14 were flooded in the small area of Foiladuane. Water coming off the public road is being driven into private properties. This road was probably built too high. Cllr. Grady enquired if funding was going to come from Europe.

Cllr. N. Kelleher thanked the staff for organising the meeting as it was very important to deal with these matters. This is not something that occurs every day of the week but it is certainly not something that occurs % in 1,000+times. Cllr. Kelleher stated that he would like to know where this measurement originated from. What occurred in Glenflesk is a nightmare for the residents. He welcomed

*(Name withheld for data protection purposes. A paper copy of unedited Minutes available on request)* who was present at the meeting. He referred to the resistance by some authorities in relation to clearing the river. Cllr. Kelleher stated that at the last meeting he received a reply that the CFRAM study did not cover this area as there were not enough houses. Cllr. Kelleher

asked that the area be included. Cllr. Kelleher referred to the communication between the Local Authority, Members, public and Radio Kerry and other forms of media which proved very useful in getting the message out to people over Christmas. He stated that people's homes were still under water up the country. He requested confirmation of how much funding the Local Authority had applied for. He stated that nationally, only 60% of funding that was applied for was processed and paid and enquired what did Kerry County Council apply for and what are we likely to receive. Cllr. Kelleher noted that the roads are now severely damaged following the flooding and getting worse due to the current cold weather. He said that we needed to put something into our Roads Programme and it should be front-loaded into the first half of the year. Cllr. Kelleher stated that the road in Shronedarragh was in a terrible state and noted that we were awaiting for funding for this and also Kilcummin from Irish Water. Cllr. Kelleher stated that there are people that do not have home insurance. People in Barraduff Village have been refused an insurance quote because they are in a floodplain. This area has never been flooded and people in Dublin offices are looking at maps that say these lands are flooded. This is a problem which is adversely affecting people. Cllr. Kelleher referred to people whose houses were built below the road level. Roads are raised but where does the water go? This is creating problems. We cannot do anything about the houses already built but we need to be more cognisant of potential issues that such works can have on people.

Cllr. B. O'Connell stated that future CFRAM studies will be based on photographs and satellites. Any area missed will be highlighted when it is evident where the water is lodging. If errors were made they must be acknowledged by CFRAM. Cllr. O'Connell Proposed that an artificial flood plain planned in Tullig was not required and said there is no need for it. A big flood occurred in January 2 years ago. Cllr. O'Connell stated that he went to the Minister and received " 144,000 for works to be completed and the wall was put up there. Cllr. O'Connell enquired when was the pipe and culvert in Tullig going to be completed. He was disappointed it had not yet been finished. Cllr. O'Connell also pointed out that the graveyard at Kilbannivane was under water.

Ms. A. McAllen advised that the Director of Planning was not present at the meeting but stated that any previous planning permissions were granted in accordance with best guidance in place at the time of the application. CFRAM maps will guide the Planners going forward. In relation to staffing levels, Ms. McAllen stated that this issue had been raised at all the previous Municipal Districts and was discussed by the Corporate Policy Group. There are limitations on grant funding and this impacts on staffing levels. It was essential that the percentage of pay to non-pay expenditure be maintained to deliver the Roads Programme more efficiently. We have an ageing workforce and need to put a plan in place and this is under review.

Referring to Cllr. N. Kelleher's query relating to claims for funding, Ms. McAllen confirmed that the first claim of " 244,000 was paid very quickly and was the total amount that was applied for. Another request for funding has since been forwarded to the Department.

Mr. D. Doyle referred to the recent flooding. An application of " 860,000 for damage to road infrastructure was made to the Department of Environment but this has not been paid to date. " 244,000 was received. Following the flood of 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> December, " 607,000 in relation to structural repairs to roads and bridges was submitted but not paid to date. An application was made to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in the amount of " 2,590,000 for damage to piers and harbours and coastal protection works. Engineering staff were unable to survey the damage to some bridges and piers due to the high level of water in these areas but an opportunity exists now to complete the survey. Kerry County Council will make a further submission for funding early next week.

Kerry County Council's road grants have been reduced by 54% since 2008. This reduction has a direct impact on number of people we can employ and affects our ability to have a drainage crew in each area. In December this year all our staff were involved in the floods. We are behind in our drainage works as a result. In relation to cleaning the rivers, we will meet with Inland Fisheries and the NPWS to see how we can deal with this issue. The OPW are the lead authority for dealing with flood management. It is the responsibility of the riparian landowners to clear the rivers.

Mr. Doyle stated that in relation to water coming from driveways, it is a condition of Planning and a requirement of the Roads Act that the duty is on landowners to keep water off the roads. This has been the wettest December on record and lands are now saturated. The run-off from people's properties is difficult to deal with as this was an extreme event.

In relation to Foiladuan, Mr. Doyle agreed to carry out a detailed study of the area and revert with a proposal.

Cllr. D. Grady referred to the issue of water coming from private landowners properties onto the public road and asked what was the situation when water comes off the roadway into people's properties.

Mr. D. Doyle stated that this will be reviewed and agreed that the public road network would have to be drained.

Mr. D. Ginty stated that the criteria for inclusion in the CFRAM study was where a group of residential and commercial properties are at risk of flooding. Mr. Ginty confirmed that he would write to the OPW and ask that Foiladuan be included and having regard to recent flood events, there may be additional groups of dwellings. Mr. Ginty asked that the Members advise him of these areas and that the Council would liaise with the OPW to ascertain if these areas could be included in the study. The CFRAM Study models all rivers from their source to their discharge point, for example, The Flesk is modelled from its source to Lough Lein through to the River Laune and discharged at Castlemaine Harbour. Any flood mitigation works proposed such as defence embankments are fully analysed with respect to upstream and downstream impacts. With respect to the River Flesk, the removal of vegetation along the

entire length of this river has been modelled under the CFRAM study and these works will result in only a 10mm drop in water levels. The CFRAM maps have now given us a resource to aid in future land use decisions. Only now have areas at risk of flooding accurately mapped. This resource is available to all stakeholders, not just the Local Authority, but the rural and farming community to enable them to make the best decisions with respect to the development of their landholding.

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae asked Mr. Ginty if he would be willing to meet with the people of Foiladuane, whose houses were flooded, before the next Municipal District Meeting.

Mr. Ginty agreed to meet with the residents.

Cllr. Healy-Rae stated that a lot of money was outstanding - Ranaleen was a typical example of this.

Cllr. B. Cronin stated that it should be emphasised that the CFRAM study will assist Kerry County Council in making their assessment. It was Proposed by Cllr. B. Cronin and Seconded by Cllr. D. Grady that the Gweestin River and Foiladuane be included in the CFRAM study. Cllr. Cronin stated that the study is flawed as a result by omitting areas that have been damaged. Cllr. Cronin asked Mr. D. Doyle if all the areas that had been referred to had been included for funding from the Department.

Mr. Doyle stated that not all areas were included as the deadlines for claiming were very tight. A further application needs to be made. It was impossible to go into the rivers in the last few weeks.

Cllr. Cronin stated that the water levels had now subsided and these areas need to be taken into account.

Cllr. J.J. Culloty acknowledged the Council were under pressure to meet the funding guidelines and that water is still running in places making it difficult to inspect. The funding will come through at some stage but the work needs to be carried out straight away. Cllr. Culloty referred to Tullig and asked Mr. Ginty if this area could be removed from the study as a floodplain. This is increasing insurance prices.

Mr. Ginty stated that the Members could make a submission to OPW in relation to this matter, however, the removal of Tullig is a matter for the OPW alone. The issue relating to insurance premiums is a matter for the insurance industry alone.

In relation to the works at Tullig, Cllr. Culloty stated that the culvert works needed to be completed first. The residents are adamant about this.

Cllr. M. Gleeson stated that areas such as Foiladuane and Glenflesk are excluded from the CFRAM study on the basis that it is not cost effective to defend these areas and this is not acceptable. With regard to Mr. Ginty's



comments on the removal of vegetation along the banks of the Flesk and the minimal impact this will have on the Flesk levels, Cllr. Gleeson said that branches and twigs falling off trees into rivers can block the river at bridges. Trees must be kept cut back so as not to impede the progress of the river.

Mr. P. Neary confirmed that a Section 50 application has been made to the OPW in respect of the revised culvert at Tullig.

Cllr. B. O'Connell said this was going on for a long time.

Mr. D. Doyle confirmed this was due to an issue with Fisheries as the Council are precluded from carrying out works that involve disturbance of the river during certain months of the year.

### **Any Other Business**

Cllr. D. Healy-Rae referred to the road from Barraduff to Glenflesk Church. It has not been gritted or salted at night. This is a regional road. All other roads in the vicinity are being gritted.

Mr. D. Doyle confirmed that all National roads were being gritted but that generally the Regional Roads were not. This was as a result of resources. The NRA contributed to gritting on National Roads. Mr. Doyle confirmed the matter would be reviewed.

Cllr. Healy-Rae said the road was quite dangerous during cold weather. This stretch of road is only 4 miles long and the gritting truck passes nearby. Cllr. Healy-Rae stated that Cork County Council were not doing a good job on the roads on the other side of the County Bounds and asked that a message be sent to them. They are not gritting the roads early enough. People are going to work or travelling by ambulance and this road should be maintained.

The meeting concluded at 12.15pm.

**G. O'Brien**

**G. O'Brien**

**Meetings Administrator**

**Cllr. B. O'Connell**

**Cathaoirleach of Killarney MD**