

**Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Kildare County Council
held at 2.00p.m on Monday, 21 March 2016
at Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare**

Members Present: Councillor B Weld (Mayor), Councillors M Aspell, A Breslin, A Breen, F Brett, K Byrne, B Caldwell, D Callaghan, M Coleman, R Cronin, I Cussen, M Dalton, S Doyle, T Durkan, D Fitzpatrick, B Hillis, I Keatley, C Kelly, P Kennedy, A Larkin, P McEvoy, M McCabe, J McGinley, F McLoughlin-Healy, M Miley Jnr, S Moore, T Murray, J Neville, N O’Cearúil, S O’Neill, J Pender, R Power, S Power, T Redmond, D Scully, M Stafford, M Wall, P Ward and B Young

Apologies: Councillor M Lynch

Also Present: Mr P Carey, Chief Executive, Messrs T McDonnell, P Minnock, N Morrissey, J Boland (Directors of Services), Ms E Hanlon (Head of Finance), Ms S Kavanagh, A/Director of Services Ms M McIvor (Meetings Administrator) and other officials.

01/0316

Welcome

The Mayor welcomed everybody to the meeting and called for a few moments reflection. The Mayor welcomed the three new members, Councillors Aspell, Coleman and Kelly on their recent co-option and he thanked the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Keatley for chairing the meeting on Monday 14 March in his absence.

02/0316

Adoption of minutes

The council considered the minutes of the monthly meeting of 29 February 2016 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Hillis, seconded by Councillor Caldwell, that the minutes of the monthly meeting of 29 Feb 2016 be adopted and the progress report noted.

Matters Arising

Councillor Pender referred to the motion regarding the Housing Assistance Payment and said that she would like to make sure that those who availed of the scheme did not lose their entitlements and that they should retain their place on the housing list.

Mr McDonnell, Director of Services confirmed that every person who has availed of the Housing Assistance Payment scheme has transferred onto the list. He stated that there is nothing in the legislation to preclude an internal procedure and that he has put that in place in Kildare.

Councillor McLoughlin-Healy asked if the County Parking Policy would be brought back to full council and the Mayor confirmed that following consultation at Municipal District level, the County Parking Policy will be brought back to the full council.

03/0316

Disposal of Land

To approve the disposal of the following land:

20 Yellowlough Park, Rathangan, Co. Kildare (Shared Ownership Loan)

In consideration of the current value of the rented equity (up to and in line with inflation) at the date of the redemption of the shared ownership loan, the council's equity to be transferred to Ms Yvonne Conlan.

In accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, statutory notice dated 8 March 2016 was circulated to the members.

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Hillis, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the Council consent to the disposal of the land in accordance with the statutory notice dated 8 March 2016.

20 Block B, Louisa Park, Station Road, Leixlip, Co. Kildare (Shared Ownership Loan)

In consideration of the current value of the rented equity (up to and in line with inflation) at the date of the redemption of the shared ownership loan, the council's equity to be transferred to Ms Joan Murphy.

In accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, statutory notice dated 8 March 2016 was circulated to the members

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Hillis pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the Council consent to the disposal of the land in accordance with the statutory notice dated 8 March 2016.

3 Andrew Court, Dun Brinn, Athy (conversion from shared ownership loan to annuity loan)

In accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, statutory notice dated 8 March 2016 was circulated to the members

In consideration of the current value of the rented equity (up to and in line with inflation) at the date of the conversion of the shared ownership loan to an annuity loan, the council's equity to be transferred to an annuity loan in the name of Ms Fionnuala Nolan

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Hillis, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the Council consent to the disposal of the land in accordance with the statutory notice dated 8 March 2016.

122 Oughteranny Village, Kilcock (conversion from shared ownership loan to annuity loan)

In accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, statutory notice dated 8 March 2016 was circulated to the members

In consideration of the current value of the rented equity (up to and in line with inflation) at the date of the conversion of the shared ownership loan to an annuity loan, the council's equity to be transferred to an annuity loan in the name of Michael Gulin and Karina Kozaka

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Hillis pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the Council consent to the disposal of the land as set out in the statutory notice dated 8 March 2016.

149 Branswood, Kilkenny Rd, Athy (conversion from shared ownership loan to annuity loan)

In accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, statutory notice dated 8 March 2016 was circulated to the members

In consideration of the current value of the rented equity (up to and in line with inflation) at the date of the conversion of the shared ownership loan to an annuity loan, the council's equity to be transferred to an annuity loan in the name of Sean Foley and Sinead Keating

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Hillis, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the Council consent to the disposal of the land as set out in the statutory notice dated 8 March 2016.

47, Moanbane Park, Kilcullen (conversion from shared ownership loan to annuity loan)

In accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, statutory notice dated 8 March 2016 was circulated to the members

In consideration of the current value of the rented equity (up to and in line with inflation) at the date of the conversion of the shared ownership loan to an annuity loan, the council's equity to be transferred to an annuity loan in the name of Ms Petra Conroy

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Hillis, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the Council consent to the disposal of the land as set out in the statutory notice dated 8 March 2016.

5, The green, Hazelhatch Park, Celbridge (conversion from shared ownership loan to annuity loan)

In consideration of the current value of the rented equity (up to and in line with inflation) at the date of the conversion of the shared ownership loan to an annuity loan, the council's equity to be transferred to an annuity loan in the name of Ms Orla O'Neill.

In accordance with Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, statutory notice dated 8 March 2016 was circulated to the members

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor Caldwell, seconded by Councillor Hillis, pursuant to Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001, the Council consent to the disposal of the land as set out in the statutory notice dated 8 March 2016.

04/0316

Committee Vacancies and Representations to External Bodies

Arising from the appointment to Dáil Éireann of former Councillors Lawless, O'Rourke and O'Loughlin, there are vacancies on the following committees:

Environmental Services and Water Strategic Policy Committee - 2 vacancies

Local Community and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee - 1 vacancy

Protocol and Procedures Committee - 1 vacancy

County Joint Policing Committee - 2 vacancies

Nominee to witness affixing of the Council's seal - 1 vacancy

Kildare Heritage Forum - 1 vacancy

Regional Assembly Interim Board (now the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly) - 1 vacancy

Eastern River Basin District Advisory Council - 1 vacancy

The Mayor asked the members to formally propose the replacement members on these committees and external bodies.

Councillor Miley noted that the Decade of Commemoration Committee was not on the list. The Mayor confirmed that this committee was not a statutory one and that this appointment would be referred back to the Protocol Committee.

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor R Power, seconded by Councillor O’Cearuil, with all the members in agreement

Councillors Coleman and Aspell were appointed to the Environmental Services and Water Strategic Policy Committee

Councillor Kelly to the Local Community and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee

Councillor Aspell to the Protocol and Procedures Committee

Councillors Coleman and Kelly to the County Joint Policing Committee

Councillor Kelly was appointed as nominee to witness affixing of the Council’s seal

Councillor Kelly to the Kildare Heritage Forum

Councillor Miley to the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly and

Councillor Aspell to the Eastern River Basin District Advisory Council

05/0316

Management Report

The monthly Management Report was noted by the members.

06/0316

Fáilte Ireland

Justine Carey from Fáilte Ireland made a presentation to the members on the development of Ireland's Ancient East. The objective is to move Ireland's Ancient East from a transit zone to a touring zone, to grow international visitors and revenue and to disperse visitor traffic by encouraging exploration of signature and lesser known sites and stories. The key is for industry to deliver 5,000 years of history in a lush green landscape through an €18m investment in 2016.

Ms Carey outlined the detail of the capital investment and described plans for the upgrade of the county boundary signs, the branded orientation signs, the historic town trails and the grants that will be administered. Ms Carey stated that there was huge potential for Kildare through this initiative and said that Fáilte Ireland had used the experience gained through the development of

the successful Wild Atlantic Way . She asked the members for their support and welcomed their feedback and questions.

The Mayor thanked Ms Carey for an excellent presentation.

The members contributed to a discussion which welcomed the initiative and explored the opportunities to engage with promoting particular heritage sites in Kildare, for example Maynooth Heritage trail, the tourism trail in the Curragh Plains, the Guinness trail in Leixlip. The engagement with Kildare Fáilte was welcomed. The members agreed that it was important to welcome visitors from Dublin and encourage them to extend their stay in Kildare. The issue of accommodation, to include hostel accommodation was raised and service providers should be encouraged not to increase prices but to provide good value. It was agreed that where possible the signs should include the Irish language in the same size as English and that perhaps the inclusion of other languages could also be considered.

Ms Carey thanked the members for their comments and looked forward to further engagement with the members on this initiative.

07/0316

Section 85 Agreement

The members considered draft agreement between Kildare County Council and Carlow County Council in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001, for the purpose of allowing Carlow Fire Services to be first responder to emergencies in the areas named in the agreement and outlined on the map accompanying the draft agreement.

The Mayor asked the members to consider this agreement. Councillor Moore proposed that the Section 85 agreement be signed and this was seconded by Councillor Caldwell.

Councillor Redmond queried why Maganey and Maganey East were being transferred to Carlow. He also stated that he wanted an explanation of the fees and he commended the work of the crew in the Athy Fire Service. Councillors Wall and Miley complimented all fire and emergency staff and asked had there been a change since 2012.

The Chief Fire Officer stated that a very thorough analysis had taken place and that there are no changes since 2012. An agreement has been in place with Carlow County Council since 2009 and this Section 85 will update that agreement.

Following a query regarding referring this for a recommendation to the Strategic Policy Committee, it was confirmed that this was an operational issue and therefore not an issue for the SPC.

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Councillor Caldwell, and agreed by all members that, in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001, approval be given to agreement with Carlow County Council allowing Carlow Fire Services to be first responder to emergencies occurring in the area outlined in the schedule attached to the notice.

08/0316

Report from the Economic Development, Enterprise and Corporate Services Strategic Policy Committee

Councillor Doyle gave a presentation on the work of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee. The background to the formation of this committee is contained in Section 41 (1A) of the Local Government Act 2014 which introduced a new focus on the economic development and the enterprise support functions of the council. There were four meetings held in 2015 and the committee had an input into the Local Economic and Community Plan, the County Development Plan and the creation of an Enterprise fund specifically for shop front/town centre improvements through a grant scheme.

The work programme for 2016 will see the completion of the County Development Plan process; the Committee will have oversight of the implementation of the economic actions under the Local Economic and Community Plan; an Economic and Marketing strategy for the county will be developed and it is planned to conduct a research project in conjunction with Maynooth University. The Mayor thanked Councillor Doyle for her presentation.

09/0316

Mayor's Business

The Mayor informed the members that together with Joe Boland, Director of Services, he attended the St Patrick's Day parade in New York at the invitation of the Kildareman's Association. He asked members to encourage Kildare people living in New York to join the association.

The Mayor said that the schedule for him, the Deputy Mayor and the Chairs of the Municipal Districts will be very busy with the commemoration events for 1916.

10/0316

Correspondence

The Meetings Administrator informed the members that she had circulated correspondence dated 23 February 2016 from Fonduireacht an Phiarsaigh which invited the nomination of a person

worthy of the Padraig Pearse Award 2016. Final date for submission of nominations is Friday 1 April 2016.

11/0316

Conferences and Training

The Meetings Administrator referred to report dated 14 March 2016 circulated to the members in accordance with Section 142(5) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by Section 53(2) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and sought approval for members' attendance at conferences and training.

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Murray, with all the members in agreement, attendance at the following was approved

Councillors Weld, Scully, Brett, Aspell, Keatley, Dalton, Kennedy and S Power at the LAMA Spring Training Seminar in the Sligo Park Hotel, Pearse Road, Sligo on 1 and 2 April 2016.

Councillor Redmond at the National Planning Conference in the Sheraton Hotel, Athlone on 14 and 15 April 2016.

120316

Access to Services

The following motion in the name of Councillor Doyle was considered

In the public interest that the council examine potential mechanisms, possibly through planning or road opening license, that will achieve access, for other complimentary service users to privately delivered ducting in public space. Such access should be under license from the council, and that furthermore an inventory and mapping of all such ducting be kept on record with the council.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Doyle and seconded by Councillor O'Cearúil.

A report from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department outlined the liabilities that would fall to Kildare County Council should spare ducts be placed in the ground and sold off.

Given that there are insufficient resources to complete and supervise existing Kildare County Council work, the report stated that it is not possible to take on this additional duty which would lead to additional financial and contractual risk to the Council.

Councillor Doyle noted the report and stated that she was disappointed with its' negative slant. She said that her motion merits further consideration and suggested that it be referred to the Transportation Safety and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee.

There was general support for this motion from the members.

Mr Morrissey said that he agreed with the logic of the motion and that he had contacted Dublin City Council to establish how they are approaching best practice in this area. He agreed that the motion be referred to the Transportation Safety and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee for further consideration

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor Doyle seconded by Councillor O’Cearúil, this motion to be referred to the Transportation Safety and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee.

13/0316

Signals for Work

The following motion in the name of Councillor Miley was considered:

That Kildare County Council arrange with relevant departments to put in place a new coloured flashing light that indicates council work ahead similar to the recognition that the blue light has for emergency services.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Miley and seconded by Councillor O’Cearúil

A report for the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Department stated that Road Traffic Legislation outlines the specific Emergency Services Vehicles that are permitted to fit blue emergency lights and sirens and specifies their use where necessary in the circumstances.

Amber flashing lights are used by breakdown vehicles and road clearance vehicles. They are used at the scene of an emergency, to let road users know that they are there, when attending a broken-down vehicle and when towing a broken-down vehicle.

It is acknowledged that the use of Amber Flashing Lights has increased. At present the Kildare County Council out of hour’s response service is only permitted to carry out works under the protection of the "blue light".

The Mayor pointed out that this matter is covered by legislation and the members have no power to change this

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor Miley, seconded by Councillor O’Cearúil that a letter is issued to the Department of the Environment Community and Local Government informing them of the motion.

14/0316

Communication Strategy

The following motion in the name of Councillor McLoughlin-Healy was considered:

That the Council clarify when its' communication strategy was last reviewed and that it develop or review its communication strategy in the following areas.

(i) A media communication strategy. Communication strategies are two-way they are more than one way dissemination of information like press advertisements. A media communication strategy should seek to develop a positive, proactive communication with the media which includes answering media queries as and when they arise.

Currently there is little or no response to requests from local radio to participate in debate or answer queries. At the very least, queries of significant public interest should be answered and a strategy for a public relations officer to perform the function of communicate with the media.

(ii) Public consultation

Time and again constituents are unaware of jobs, rezoning and other statutory public consultations because a one size fits all approach is taken to public consultation. The goal of this type of approach is to tick boxes. It's goal is not to consult with as many of a sector of the community to whom an issue has most relevance.

(iii) Communication with Councillors - in particular but not limited to the scheduling of works in their districts.

The motion was proposed by Councillor McLoughlin-Healy and seconded by Councillor Redmond. A report from the Economic Development Enterprise and Corporate Services Directorate stated that the council is currently in the process of drafting an internal communications policy. Once approved, Departments/Sections will be able to use the policy for advice and guidance on how to maximise the use of the various communications channels available to them to fulfil the council's goals of improving access to information on the services provided as well as improving service delivery through the use of new IT and communications technology.

In 2015 the council issued 25 press releases, responded to 278 press queries, placed over 140 advertisements with local and national media outlets, created and produced it's own videos and utilised video more as a communications tool, shared 1500 posts on it's social media pages in addition to the 1.4 million pages viewed by over 533,000 people via the council's website. These statistics are just an example of the methods used by the council to communicate and share information with the residents and communities in Kildare.

The council has developed good working relationships with local print and broadcast media and requests for interviews are facilitated where time and staff resources permit.

As per previous motions in relation to the public consultation process/model, the council is fully compliant with it's legislative requirements in terms of making members of the public aware of statutory and non statutory public consultations. Depending on the subject matter and the

purpose, public consultations can take differing formats i.e. written submissions, public meetings, workshops etc. The council welcomes and encourages public engagement at every opportunity. Reminders of public consultations are also placed on the council's social media pages. In addition to this, local radio, broadcast media, community websites, forums and social media pages pick up on our public consultations, further broadening the reach of our request for public engagement. Furthermore members of the public have the option of registering to receive notifications of press releases/advertisements/latest news items via the council's website to ensure they are kept abreast of council news.

Kildare County Council communicates with the elected members on a daily basis. On a formal/statutory level there are monthly Municipal District Meetings and Full Council Meetings that facilitate two-way communication between the Council and the members. The Monthly Management Report furnished to Councillors is a source of information on issues/matters pertinent to the members. Furthermore the Members Services facilitates a regular stream of communication between the Council and the members. Informally there are open, busy channels of communication between the members and the relevant officials.

Councillors are kept informed of the council's press releases and adverts via MembersNet. For those who are on social media, the council would encourage them to 'like'/'follow' our Facebook/Twitter feeds and share the news posted there.

Councillor McLoughlin-Healy stated that there is no proactive media response. An advertisement in the local paper might tick the box for the legal requirements but it does not inform the relevant people. Councillor McLoughlin-Healy cited the decision to close the road at Athgarvan. This decision will cause disruption and perhaps a more joined –up approach to the timing and scheduling of such works would be beneficial. She thanked Ms Kavanagh for the report and asked when the strategy was likely to be completed.

The members contributed to a discussion on the motion with differing views on how the council is communicating. There was general consensus that there was compliance with the legislative requirements.

Ms Kavanagh acknowledged the comments of the members and said that there is always room for improvement and this will be examined through the review of the policy which is expected to be completed in the next few months. She invited the members to submit their recommendations so that they could be considered in the context of the review.

Resolved That the report be noted.

15/0316

Local Enterprise Awards

Mary Foley, A/Head of the Local Enterprise Office thanked the Mayor and members for the opportunity to showcase the Kildare finalists of the Local Enterprise Awards, the winner of which will go through to the regional finals. Ms Foley stated that the finalists were all clients of the Local Enterprise Office and were in business in Kildare.

The Chief Executive welcomed the finalists to the chamber and he thanked the judges, Paul Murtagh and Shelley O'Brien for their work in the evaluation of the applications.

The members commended the work of Ms Foley and her team and welcomed the participants to the meeting.

The Mayor awarded certificates to the following:

Dunleavy Bespoke, Caragh. Promoters: Tim and Sean Dunleavy

Sweet Sport Sourcing Ltd., Naas. Promoters Fiona Craul and Susan Dempsey

Terra Liquid Minerals, Moone. Promoters: Padraig and Tom Hennessy

Party Mad, Celbridge. Promoters: Wendy Slattery, Tracy Leavy and Emma Murphy

Tan Organic, The Curragh. Promoter: Noelle O'Connor (represented by Cian Dowdall and Tommy Ahearne)

The overall winner to go through to the regional finals was

CarveOn, Kill. Promoters: Gary and Alan McCormack

and the Mayor congratulated Gary and Alan and wished them well in the regional finals.

16/0316

Housing Land

The following motion in the name of Councillor Redmond was considered:

That this council identify in each municipal district where they bought lands for housing and where these lands were not built on, i.e. the current status of these sites. This motion also asks that the council identify lands for housing zoned but not built upon.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Redmond and seconded by Councillor O'Neill.

A report from the Housing Directorate stated that there is a substantial amount of work involved in identifying and appraising housing lands bought in each municipal district. This will take some time to compile and will involve taking staff off work/projects they are currently assigned to for the time required to compile the information.

Details of all housing lands in the ownership of Kildare County Council are recorded in the Property Interest Register. In 2015 the Housing Section conducted a preliminary appraisal of land holdings and identified sites which were most suitable for immediate development. This has resulted in the following short term building programme:

Beechgrove, Rathangan, 18 houses

Ann St, Prosperous, 10 houses

Dunmurray Rise, Kildare 28/29 houses

Rathasker Road, Naas, 50 houses

Athgarvan, 30 houses

PPP at Craddockstown, Naas, 75-100 houses

A further PPP site at Butterstream in Clane has also been identified for development in the medium term.

A number of smaller infill sites on housing lands have also been identified.

Kildare County Council land at Flinters Field in Athy is being developed with Respond Housing.

The appraisal of further sites for development in the medium term is ongoing and suitability for development will be based on location, need, zoning and the availability of services. It is hoped to have a more detailed response for the April council meeting.

In response to the second part of the motion Kildare County Council Planning Section has confirmed that Table 3.4 in Chapter 3 of the recently circulated Proposed Draft County Development Plan 2017-2023 sets out the quantum of undeveloped zoned lands in towns, villages and settlements.

Councillor Redmond stated that the response above does not answer the motion. He cited the lands in Kildangan purchased in 2007 for a considerable sum of money and he asked how many other pieces of land were sitting idle. He said that he was aware that there were two pieces of land in Kildangan and a site in Ardclough. Councillor Redmond said that he should not have to search through the Property Interest Register to extract the answer to the question that he was asking. Mr McDonnell stated that the perception that this information is not available is incorrect. The priority given the housing crises is to deliver the social housing programme and that is where he has concentrated the resources. A heated debate followed where members were extremely critical of the length of time it was taking to deliver the housing programme.

The Chief Executive intervened and said that local authorities across the country were required to buy land over the years. As a result they were left with land that had been acquired at a high cost. The aggregation scheme recognised that. He said that we are working towards the targets set down by the Department. The provision of social housing is a difficult challenge which will take time to deliver but there is a plan and there is progress. Kildare County Council is working closely with the Department as agents for the provision of housing.

Resolved That the report be noted

17/0316

Injury claims

The following motion in the name of Councillor Cussen was considered:

That Kildare County Council provide the members with a report outlining the number of claims and amounts paid out in respect of injuries sustained from falls/trips on footpaths to pedestrians in Kildare for the years 2014 and 2015.

A report from the Roads Transport and Public Safety Department stated that public liability claims for personal injuries arising from trips/falls on public footpaths are dealt with by the Council's Insurance Co. IPB Insurance.

Kildare County Council has an excess on its Public Liability Policy so the direct cost to the Council for any personal injury claim is a maximum of €6,300 per claim.

2014 31 personal injury claims relating to falls on footpaths were received in 2014 - to date 14 have been settled at a total cost to the Council of €75,600 - 17 remain outstanding

2015 35 personal injury claims relating to falls on footpaths were received in 2015 - to date 4 have been settled at a total cost to the Council of €18,702 - 31 remain outstanding

Councillor Cussen noted that only 18 out of 66 claims were processed. She asked do the Council have pavements surveyed and repaired following claims and why there is such a delay in settling claims.

Councillor O'Cearuil said that he is the representative on IPB and a claims culture should be discouraged.

The members contributed to a discussion regarding the response time to improving footpaths and the funding of same.

Mr Morrissey said that the Municipal District engineers monitor the areas where there have been claims.

Resolved That the report be noted.

18/0316

Public Ownership of Water Supply

The following motion in the name of Councillor Pender was considered:

That Kildare County Council call for a referendum to enshrine public ownership of our water supply in the Constitution and call for water services to be paid for through general taxation.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Pender and seconded by Councillor Young. Councillor Pender said that this motion is very much the responsibility of Kildare County Council. She stated that this was a very important issue for the people of Kildare who had quite clearly voted to abolish water charges. Councillor Pender said that a referendum is the only way to guarantee that Irish Water would always be a public body and that people are now more aware than ever of the impact of privatisation.

There was a heated debate regarding the motion.

An amendment to the motion was proposed by Councillor McLoughlin-Healy and seconded by Councillor McEvoy.

That Kildare County Council calls for a referendum to enshrine public ownership of our water supply in the Constitution.

As required under Standing Orders, six members called for a roll call vote.

Resolved On the proposal of Councillor McLoughlin-Healy, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, with the following members voting in favour of the motion:

Councillors Breen, Breslin, Brett, Byrne, Callaghan, Coleman, Dalton, Durkan, Fitzpatrick, Hillis, Keatley, Kelly, Kennedy, Larkin, McCabe, McEvoy, McGinley, McLoughlin-Healy, Miley, Moore, Murray, O’Cearúil, Wall, Ward and Weld (25)

No member voted against the motion and 7 members abstained

The amended motion was carried.

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Paddy Kennedy back to the meeting following his recent illness.

The meeting concluded.
