Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday 16th November, 2009 at 3 p.m. in Council Chamber, County Hall,

**Cathaoirleach**: Cllr. Michael O’ Brien.

**Present:** Cllrs. M.H. Cavanagh, M. Fitzpatrick, C. Connery, P. Crowley,

M. Shortall, J. Brennan, F. Doherty, S. Treacy, A.McGuinness,

P. O’ Neill, P. Dunphy, T. Maher, C. Long, M .Doran, A.M. Irish,

J. Coonan, M. Brett, E. Aylward, P. Millea,

M. Noonan, T. Breathnach, P. Cuddihy, A. Phelan., B. Manning, Cllr. W. Ireland

**Also Present:** J. Crockett County Manager, P. O’ Neill, J. Mulholland, T. Walsh and J. McCormack Directors of Services, J. Dempsey Head of Finance. Cormican Chief Fire Officer, A.M. Walsh Senior Executive Officer,D.Malone, Senior Planner, S. Walton, Senior Engineer, C. Kelly, Executive Planner and A. Waldron Meetings Administrator.

Before commencement of the meeting a presentation was made by the Director of the Good Shepherd Centre, Bill Cuddihy and the manager of the Good Shepherd Centre Fergus Keane. The presentation gave an overview of the work being done by the Good Shepherd Centre. It emphasised the approach of the Good Shepherd Centre and its links with other forums and statutory bodies. It detailed the various programmes that it carries out and finally emphasised the challenges facing the centre.

At the conclusion of the presentation the Cathaoirleach on behalf of the members stated the Kilkenny County Council’s appreciation for the work being done by the Good Shepherd Centre and its’ positive impact across Kilkenny City and County.

Contributions: - Cllrs. M.Fitzpatrick, J Coonan, P. Crowley.

Before Commencement of the business of the meeting, the Cathaoirleach noted events that had taken place over the past month and events since the last meeting

* He was delighted to attend the Kilkenny People of the year awards ceremony

Congratulations were sent to all the deserving winners. Particular mention was made to Brian Cody, winner of the overall award. The Good Shepherd Centre who the Council had in with us today and Michael Power winner of the Hall of Fame Award to whom the Chairman was privileged to present the Award.

* Congratulations were sent to all who won awards at the recent Keep Kilkenny Beautiful Ceremony, particular mention was made to Patsy Hanrahan the former Overseer for the Kilkenny Area who won an Achievement Award and also the gardening crew for Kilkenny Borough Council whose work extends to the environs and who received an award.
* Best of luck was offered to those involved in the Eigse Slieverue festival which is happening this week.
* Congratulations were also sent to:
* Tommy Walsh Tullaroan, Texaco and GPA Hurler of the Year
* Denise Gaule Windgap, who won the national young camogie player of the year
* All winners in the Smithwicks Sports stars
* Dicksboro and the Fenians Johnstown who won the Minor A and B County finals respectively
* Shamrocks who reached the Leinster Final
* Congratulations were forwarded to Cartoon Saloon who continued to win International Awards.
* It was agreed that Kilkenny County Council would forward a note of congratulations to Orla Tinsley who has highlighted the plight of Cystic Fibrosis sufferers with great dedication.

The Cathaoirleach noted that this meeting was the final meeting to be attended by Tony Walsh, Director of Services. The forthcoming retirements of other Senior Officials were also noted namely; Frank O’ Dwyer, Senior Engineer in Roads, Frank Gray, Senior Executive Engineer for the Kilkenny Area and Joe Wall, Senior Executive Engineer in the Planning Department. The Cathaoirleach noted the contribution that these 4 officials had made to Kilkenny Local Authorities over their years of service. It was noted by the Cathaoirleach that between the 4 retiring officials that there is combined service of more than 100 years.

Particular tributes were paid to Tony Walsh, as this was his last Council Meeting. On behalf of the various groupings, Cllrs. M.H. Cavanagh and M. Doran joined with the sentiments thanking Tony Walsh and wishing him well for the future. On behalf of Management and staff of Kilkenny County Council the County Manager, Joe Crockett thanked Mr. Walsh noting his dedication to Public Service and the quality of his work during the years. He also noted the periods that Tony Walsh had been Acting Manager. The Cathaoirleach and Manager both noted to members that there would be a formal function for Mr. Walsh in the forthcoming future.

In reply to the best wishes offered, Tony Walsh, retiring Director of Services, expressed his thanks to the sentiments expressed. He informed the members that he had enjoyed his time working with Kilkenny County Council and confirmed his respect for the elected members that he had worked with over that time. He expressed his best wishes to his colleagues and the members of Kilkenny County Council for the forthcoming difficult years. However, he expressed confidence in all concerned that we would be able to overcome these difficulties for the benefit of the people of Kilkenny City and County.

Upon recommencement of the meeting a vote of sympathy was extended to the following:-

* The O’ Brien Family, Kilree, Kilkenny on the death of Joan O’ Brien.
* The Mulcahy Family, Maudlin Street, Kilkenny on the death of Mary Mulcahy,
* The White Family, 64 Newpark, Kilkenny on the death of Jim White.
* The Flynn Family, Jenkinstown, Kilkenny on the death of Mrs. Flynn.
* Mrs. Colette Mernagh, Jamestown, Glenmore on the death of her mother, Mrs. Butler.
* Kitty Hennessy & Family, Glensasaw, Tullogher, Glenmore on the death of her husband, Mr. Luke Hennessy.
* The Butler Family, Fiddown, Co. Kilkenny, on the death of their mother Nellie Butler.

**1.     Confirmation of Minutes - Dearbhú Miontuairiscí:**

**(a)**Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on 19th October

2009. (Copy of Minutes Attached)

The County Manager alerted members to the presentations which have been

made with respect of the Water Services Investment Programme at the

October Meeting. It was agreed that these presentations be included as part

of the formal minute of the meeting .Proposed by Cllr. C. Connery, seconded

by Cllr. A Phelan and resolved:-

“That the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Kilkenny County Council held on Monday the 19th October, 2009, copy of which have been circulated to each member with the Agenda be and hereby adopted including the contents of the presentation.

(b) Minutes of Forward Planning and SPC Committee Meeting held on 21st October, 2009.

Proposed by Cllr M. Shortall, seconded by Cllr. S. Treacy and resolved,

“That the Minutes of the Forward Planning and Development SPC Committee Meeting, held on the 21st October, 2009, copy of which has been circulated to each Member with the agenda be and are hereby adopted”

With regard to these minutes a debate took place regarding the Planning Bill 2009, currently before the Houses of the Oireachtas. Members expressing a view noted with concern the possible impact of this bill on the status of current Local Area Plans and the powers of Local Authorities to make future Local Area Plans. Members were urged to get in touch with the Oireachtas Members from their parties to voice their concerns regarding this Bill and to clarify whether the passing of this Bill into Law will render Local Area Plans obsolete or contribute towards an erosion of local democracy.

Following conclusion of the debate the Cathaoirleach thanked members for their contributions which had informed members in all party groupings. He asked that members who wished to find more about the details of the Bill would look up the on the Oireachtas website, [www.oireachtas.ie](http://www.oireachtas.ie).

It was proposed by Cllr. MH Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. T. Maher and resolved that Kilkenny County Council write to the Minister for the Environment expressing their concerns about the Planning Bill 2009 currently going through the Houses of the Oireachtas and seek clarification as to the impact of this Bill on current Local Area Plans in smaller towns and villages and seek further clarification as to the status of future Local Area Plans which fall within that category”

Contributions: Cllrs MH Cavanagh, T. Maher, M. Shortall, P. Cuddihy,

M.O’ Brien, M. Noonan, P. O’ Neill, M. Brett, C. Connery, A. Phelan, T. Breathnach, P. Crowley, P. Millea.

(c) Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee No. 2 Item Transportation, Water Services and other policy issues.

 Proposed by Cllr. M. Doran, seconded by Cllr. P.O’ Neill and resolved that “the Minutes of the strategic Policy committee No 2 meetings held on the 28th October, 2009, copy of which had been circulated to each member with the agenda be and hereby adopted”.

**2.      Business prescribed by Statute, Standing Orders or Resolutions of the Council.** -**Gnó forordaithe do réir Reachtaíochta, Orduithe Seasta, nó Rúin an Chomhairle.**

**Housing & Other Disposal - Tithíocht & Díuscairt Eile**

1. **Other Disposal - Díuscairt Eile**

1. Proposed by Cllr. F Doherty, Seconded by Cllr. T. Maher and resolved:- “That Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of the disposal of its interest in land at Graiguenakill, Glenmore, Co. Kilkenny to Pat Baron in accordance with the details contained in the Notice served under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001.

1. Proposed by Cllr. F. Doherty, Seconded by Cllr. T. Maher and resolved:- “That Kilkenny County Council hereby approves of the disposal of its interest in land at Ballysheelan, Cashel, Co. Tipperary to

John & Mary O’ Connor in accordance with the details contained in the Notice served under Section 183 of the Local Government Act 2001”.

1. **Finances – Airgeadas**

John Dempsey, Head of Finance, clarified to members the purpose of the request of the sanction of the Minister for provision of overdraft facilities. He confirmed the size of the overdraft was a safeguard in the event of a time lag in receipt of large payments from organisations such as the NRA. He confirmed to members that such an event was a rare occurrence and generally payments are made in advance of any subsequent payments by Kilkenny County Council to a third party.

In response to queries raised, he confirmed that Kilkenny County Council is engaged in the pursuit of outstanding development charges as part of its proactive approach to debt collection.

Following a discussion on this issue it was proposed by Cllr. T. Maher, seconded by Cllr. A. Phelan and resolved:-“That subject to the sanction of the Minister for the Environment and Local Government, Kilkenny County Council hereby approves overdraft borrowings to a maximum amount of €20,000,000 for the half year ending 30th June, 2010.”

It was proposed by Cllr. T. Maher, seconded by Cllr. A. Phelan and resolved:-“That subject to the sanction of the Minister for the Environment and Local Government, Kilkenny County Council hereby approves overdraft borrowings to a maximum amount of €20,000,000 for the half year ending 31st December, 2010”

Contributions: Cllr. M. Shortall, T. Maher, P. Cuddihy, T Breathnach, C. Connery.

1. **Environment - Comhshaol**

The South East River Basin Management Plan Presentation – deferred from October Council Meeting.

 This presentation was made by Simon Walton, Senior Engineer,

 Environment. The detailed presentation outlined;

* The requirements of river basin management plans.
* The legislative provisions to give effect to the water framework directive. The catchment area of the South East river basin district
* The key pressures on water in the South East river basin district
* The status of waters in Co. Kilkenny in 2009.
* The water management units and sub plans in Co. Kilkenny.
* The issues that arise in Co. Kilkenny
* A summary of conclusions arising from the above.

Following completion of the presentation there were a number of queries arising for Mr Walton. He confirmed that the final plans would be presented to Members for adoption with the likelihood of this item coming before the February 2010 meeting. He further confirmed to members that the achievability of targets for much of this programme is dependent on investment with up to 48 of the waste water treatment plans within the County being a potential pollution causes.

He informed the meeting that there had been a general improvement in water standards over the last few years and clarified some queries regarding septic tanks and pollution which can be attributed to the agricultural sector. It was proposed by Cllr. J Brennan seconded by Cllr. M. Shortall and resolved that Kilkenny County Council write to the Minister for the Environment requesting that;

“In light of the European Court of Justice ruling on septic tank, Kilkenny County Council requests the Minister for Environment Heritage and Local Government to introduce a grant scheme for septic tanks. The County Council also require and increase to the grant per house in relation to group sewerage scheme, taking into account that the grant for Group Water Sewerage Scheme is much higher.”

 **Historic Graveyard Grants**

Proposed by Cllr. M. O’Brien, seconded by Cllr A. Phelan and resolved “That Kilkenny County Council approve payment of Historic Graveyard grant

 in accordance with the list circulated to members with the agenda for this

 meeting.

 **(d.) Carrick –on-Suir by pass – section 85 agreement with South**

 **Tipperary**

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Crowley seconded by Councillor T. Maher and

 resolved “in accordance with section 85 of the Local Government act 2001

 and section 14 of the road act 1993 that Kilkenny County Council enter

 into agreement with South Tipperary County Council thus allowing South

 Tipperary Co. Co. to execute power and functions on behalf of Kilkenny

 Co. Co. In so far as they relate to, concern or arise from the construction

 of N24 Carrick-on-Suir by pass road project and that BRP and associated

 works and road works within the functional area of Kilkenny Co. Co.”

 **Noise Action Plan**

 John Mulholland informed the meeting that at the March meeting of

 Kilkenny County Council, members agreed that the draft noise action plan

 for Kilkenny will proceed to public consultation. He informed the meeting

 that the draft plan was on display from the 14th of August 2009 until

 September 25th 2009. Three submissions were received in response to the

 notice and having considered the submissions he would consider no

 changes are required to the plan. In response to queries from Cllr M.H.

 Cavanagh supported by Cllr. P.Millea, Mr Mulholland informed the meeting

 that he would ask the NRA to revert to the council regarding noise

 In relation to M8/N8 affecting some dwellings at Foulksrath Johnstown. It

 was proposed by MH Cavanagh, seconded by Cllr. C Connery and resolved

 that the draft Noise Action Plan presented to members at the meeting of

 November 16th 2009 and as circulated with report and recommendations in

 advance of this meeting is hereby approved.

**(e) Fire Services**

 **Report on major emergency exercises – presentation – deferred from October Council Meeting.**

 This presentation was made by Chief Fire Officer Ciaran Cormican. In the presentation which outlined the major emergency exercise which had taken place on the 8th October 2009, Mr Cormican outlined the following:

* The makeup of the exercise team
* The scenario as outlined as in the exercise
* The exercises aim and objectives
* Details of the various co-ordination centres

 He confirmed to the members that it had been a worthwhile exercise which

 should be of benefit should any major emergency take place. On behalf of

 the members, the Cathaoirleach thanked Mr Cormican for his presentation.

**(f) Corporate**

 **(i)Budget Briefing sessions**

The following dates were confirmed for budget sessions to take place. On Monday the 7th of December 2009 at 11am in the Council Chamber with the budget pack to be issued to members in the week before hand. If a further briefing session is required it will be held in that week and the date decided at that meeting. A date for the statutory budget meeting was agreed for Monday the 14th of December 2009 at 10.30 am. In response to queries from members the County Manager confirmed that it is expected that the various tables will be received by the Local Authority before the national budget of the 9th of December and therefore it should be possible to have this meeting within the usual time frame.

(ii)Fix date of Kilkenny County Council to meet with persons elected to the VEC by the Local Authority, parents and staff to finalise the appointment of 4 members to Kilkenny VEC as per section 7 of the VEC (amendment) ACT 2001. Adrian Waldron Meeting Administrator outlined to the meeting the requirement under the above act to have a consultative meeting with the above persons in advance of the appointment of the balance of nominees to the Kilkenny VEC by Kilkenny Co. Co. It was agreed that this meeting would take place on Monday the 7th of December at 10.30 am in advance of the first budget meeting session

**(g) Arts Act Grant 2009 - recommendations**

Some applications from the initial list of recommendations had been inadvertently left out of the list circulated to members. Tony Walsh director of services read out the missing names and recommended amounts to the members. Following a discussion on the methodology of granting these applications it was proposed by Cllr M. Noonan seconded by Cllr. T Maher and resolved that the Arts Act Grant recommendations including those listed and those detailed at this meeting are hereby approved.

 Contributions: Cllr. A. Phelan and AM. Irish It was agreed that the full list of applications would be forwarded to members.

**(h) Planning Proposed Amedment to Thomastown Local Area Plan**

Report attached

**3.    Urgent Correspondence - Comhfhreagras Práinneach**

None

**4.     Business adjourned from a previous Meeting - Gnó ar athló ó**

 **chruinniú   roimhe  seo:**

 None

**5.    Fix Dates and Times of Meetings - Dátaí agus Amanta do chruinnithe a shocrú:**

 Schedule of meetings for November to January – attached

 It was noted that a further SPC 1 meeting for December 3rd was not included

 in this initial schedule.

**6.     Consideration of Reports and Recommendations of Committees of the Council - Plé ar Thuairiscí agus Moltaí ó Choistí an Comhairle:**

**(a)** Report on Kilkenny Electoral Area Meeting held on 14th September, 2009 – Deferred from October meeting. Report presented by Area Committee Chair Cllr. John Coonan. The main issues addressed during the course of the meeting were as follows;

 **-** Closure of Dunmore landfill site – full report to be presented at the

OctoberCounty Council meeting

 - Report circulated at the meeting regarding the taking in charge of

 estates

 - Presentation made regarding the sharing of Local Authority services

 between Kilkenny County and Borough Councils

 - Various notices of motion

 - Various items arising under another business

 - Borough Boundary extension to be discusses

 - Remedial works requested to Johns Bridge

 - Accommodation in respect of tidy towns

 - Housing report circulated

 The content of the report was proposed by Cllr J.Coonan seconded by Cllr.

 M. Brett.

 **(b)** Report on Ballyragget Electoral Area Meeting:

This report was presented by the area chair Cllr. M.H. Cavanagh. Issues arising at this meeting

 - the update of road works scheme as presented by Area Engineer

 Philippe Beubry

 - it was noted that the allocation of €500,000 for works in Urlingford / Johnstown do not include for the reconstruction of footpaths and footpaths to be done at a later stage as funding comes available.

 The report was proposed by Cllr. M.H. Cavanagh and seconded by Cllr Shortall

**(c)** Report on Thomastown Electoral Area Meeting held on 21st September, 2009

This report was presented by the area chair Cllr. Pat O’Neill. Issues discussed

 - A deputation was received from Thomastown Community River Trust in relation to their proposals to reinstate the Weir in Thomastown. It was agreed that Kilkenny County Council would facilitate a meeting of the various state bodies with an interest in the Weir through the Thomastown area office.

 Contents of the report were approved by Cllr A. Phelan seconded by Cllr. S. Treacy and agreed. It was noted that Cllr. M. O’Brien was unable to attend this meeting as he had to attend a meeting with the Oireachtas members in his capacity as Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council

**(d)** Report on Callan Electoral Area Meeting held in the Work House Callan on 23rd September, 2009

 This report was presented by the area chair Cllr. T. Maher. Issues discussed:

* Derelict site at Windgap
* The road works programme 2009 was circulated and progress to date given
* Update on the extinguishment of the public right of way in respect of LT50151 at upper Tullaroan.
* Copy of the housing report circulated to members
* It was agreed that the parking bylaws for Callan be reviewed to improve the parking situation in and around the centre of the town.

 Contents of the report were approved by Cllr T. Maher seconded by Cllr. M.

 Doran and agreed.

 **(e)** Report on forward Planning and Development Strategic policy committee

 meeting held on the 21st of October 2009.

Copy of report attached. Presented by chair of the SPC Cllr. M.Shortall matters arising:

 - It was agreed that a meeting would be held to discuss the draft

 objectives of the Corporate plan 2009-2014 before submission to the

 CPG and then to the full Council

 - Update to the committee on the current status of planning

 - Details of the work programme for the committee were outlined

 - It was agreed that representatives from Eirgrid should be invited to

 attend the meeting of the SPC 1.

It was noted that the special meeting on Housing had not yet taken place. It was further noted that a number of meetings were in the process of taking place with members at area level. It was agreed after some discussion, completion of all these area meetings, that the special meeting should still take place to discuss the issues that are coming forward from these various meetings.

Contributions: Cllrs. M. Brett, A. Phelan, P. Millea, M. Fitzpatrick, J. Coonan, T. Maher, T. Breannacht, A.M. Irish.

Arising from these discussion it was proposed by Cllr T. Maher seconded by Cllr P. Millea and resolved that Kilkenny County Council write to the minister of Environment and Finance to put in place a fund to be administered by Local Authorities similar to the shared ownership scheme to help people who have gotten in to Mortgage arrears remain in their own homes.

The report was proposed by Cllr. M. Shortall and seconded and by Cllr. S. Treacy and agreed

(f) Report on SPC2 Infrastructure, Transportation, Water services and other policy

 issues, held in County hall on Wednesday the 28th October 2009.

 Presented by chair of the SPC Cllr P. Millea, main issues addressed were as

 follows:

* Work programme for 2009-2010 training for new members
* Bus shelters
* Public lighting
* Details of water services capital programme/needs assessment 2009

Following queries from members John Mulholland confirmed that Kilkenny County Council would do an evaluation of demand on bus shelters as an item for the next SPC2 meeting. The content of the report was proposed by Cllr. P Millea seconded by Cllr M. Doran and agreed.

7. **Other Business set forth in the Notice convening the Meeting -**

Gnó Eile romhainn i bhFógra reachtála an Chruinnithe

 None

**8.        Education & Training**

Proposed by Cllr. M. Shortall, Seconded by Cllr. M. Brett and resolved.

**9.       Matters Arising from Minutes - Gnótha ag éirí as Miontuairiscí**

 None

**10.     Any Other Business - Aon Ghnó Eile**

**At the request of Cllr. J. Brennan it was agreed the issue of recent flooding in** all parts of the county would be raised under this item. A number of members requested that emergency funding be provided for various parts throughout the county. Some members contributing recommended that shore need to be cleaned after flooding and gullies need to extended where there are pressure points. In response to comments and queries made by members.

 The Director of Services informed the meeting that results of flooding was

 now the biggest single road maintenance issue facing the county. Kilkenny

Co. Co. were awaiting details of possible OPW funding. However, some funding had been received by Sheafield and Fahee Kilmacow which had been most welcome. He noted to the meeting the question put by Cllr. Doran to the Minister of the Environment and reiterated the need for greater flexibility in how we spend our allocated funding. He confirmed that there were no local coffers for emergency repairs and following approaches made to central government he did not believe that such a fund was available at central funding level.

 With regard to a strategic approach to dealing with the flooding issues,

Kilkenny County Council had prepared a report which had been presented to members and had entered into a liaison with the OPW. However this strategic approach had resulted in very little concrete results as yet.

Contributions Cllr. M. Shortall, T. Maher, C. Connery, S. Treacey, A. Phelan,

T. Breannacht, M. Doran, F. Doherty and P. Millea.

1. **Notices of Motion - Fógraí Rúin:**

**23(09) Cllr. Tomas Breathnach – 24th October, 2009**

Proposed by Cllr. Tomas Breathnach seconded by Cllr. J. Coonan and

resolved “That Kilkenny County Council write to the Health Service Executive to urge the implementation of the Comhairle na nOspideal’s (2003) recommendation on the appointment of four dermatologists for the South East Region together with ancillary staff and facilities”.

Contributions by Cllrs. J. Coonan. M. O’Brien and P. Crowley.

 The Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that his capacity on HSE south, the

 members would be bringing the resolution for the attention of that forum.

**24(09) Cllrs. T. Breathnach & J. Coonan 9th November, 2009**

Proposed by Cllr. T. Breathnach, seconded by Cllr. J. Coonan and resolved.

“That Kilkenny County Council call on the Taoiseach and the Minister for Social and Family Affairs to publish the National Carers Strategy as outlined in the Social Partnership Agreement Toward 2016”.

**12. Notices of Motion from other local authorities seeking support of Kilkenny County Council County   Council - Fógraí i dtaobh Rúin ó Údaráis Áitiúla eile ag lorg tacaíochta ó Chomhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh:**

**31(09) South Tipperary County Council -15th October, 2009**

“That this Council would appeal to the Government to waive VAT on specialised items of medical equipment where the purchase is being funded through voluntary fundraising”.

Noted.

**32(09)**  **Shannon Town Council – 15th October, 2009**

“That Shannon Town Council calls on the government to set up a separate redress scheme for women detained in Magdalene laundries as demanded by the survivors and that this demand be circulated to all Local Authorities”

Noted. It was agreed that Kilkenny County Council revert to Shannon Town Council confirming that their notice of motion had received frull support at this meeting.

**33(09) Kildare County Council – 16th October, 2009**

Noted.

“That this Council notes with concern the proposed transfer of control over the allocation of all roads funding for local authorities away from the Minister for Transport, thus diminishing the Minister’s role and lessening the public accountability which should be inherent in any system which involves the disbursement of such significant sums of money”.

Noted.

**34(09) Listowel Town Council – 20th October, 2009**

“Listowel Town Council calls on the Government to support the Family Resource Centre Programme and, in particular the thirteen Family Resource Centre based in County Kerry. We support the three campaign principles of the Family Resource Centre National Forum which are:

1. The Family Resource Centre Programme delivers a value for money support for families across Ireland. At times of financial hardship, the services of Family Resource Centre will be needed more than ever. Rather than considering closing or reducing the FRC Programme, it should be developed and expanded.
2. The Family Support Agency is the best vehicle to deliver the Family Resource Centre Programme, and the Agency should be maintained.
3. If any changes are to be made in the FRC programme or Family Support Agency, the Family Resource Centre National Forum must be consulted on the way forward”.

Noted.

**35(09) Monaghan Town Council – 21st October, 2009**

1. “That this Council call on the ESB to resume the previous practice of Meter Readers leaving cards for absent householders to enter their meter reading and post same to the ESB”.
2. “That this Council emphatically opposes the threat to the existence of Town Council’s as proposed by An Bord Snip Nua (McCarthy Report) and the sentiments of Minister John Gormley on the same subject. Any such proposals are an attack on the most basic democracy available in this State”.

Noted.

**36(09) Waterford City Council – 22nd October, 2009**

“That this Council requests the American Government to stop the extradition proceedings against Sean Garland”.

Noted.

This concluded the business of the meeting.