

Minutes of Meeting of SPC 3 – Housing

Held on 20th March 2025 – In Person

Present: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness (Chairperson), Cllr Fidelis Doherty, Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, Cllr. Stephanie Doheny, Michael Raggett, Madeline Carroll, Lisa Morris, Ian Gardner, Mary Cashin, Sean Tyrrell,

Apologies: Cllr Joe Malone, Cllr Michael Delaney, John Bourke, Yvonne Moriarty

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness (Chair) welcomed all committee members.

Item 1 - Minutes of Previous Meeting 12/12/2024

Minutes were agreed.

Proposed: Cllr. Stephanie Doheny.

Seconded: Lisa Morris

Item 2 – Matters Arising

GDPR Consent Forms

- Cllr McGuinness queried if a written instruction from a constituent will suffice in lieu of Kilkenny County Council's consent form.
- Discussion around Kilkenny County Council's consent form and if the wording can be simplified.

Action Items:

- Ian/Mary:
 - Queries to be referred to Data Protection Officer for comment.

Press Release

- Cllr McGuinness advised that the release of a positive press release regarding housing was discussed at the last SPC meeting and sought update.
- Ian advised that statistics from 2024 will be included in the annual report. Also advised that there will be press releases regarding upcoming housing developments such as Croker's Hill.

Advising Cllrs Regarding Allocations

- Cllr McGuinness asked if it would be possible for Cllrs who have made reps and have provided consent under GDPR to be notified when an applicant receives an allocation. Cllrs Doherty and Fitzpatrick agreed with this.
- Ian advised that we would need to look into the logistics of this and any potential GDPR implications.

CBL

- Cllr Doheny asked if it would be possible for Cllrs to be given access to CBL.
- Mary asked if she had received training from the housing section on CBL.

Action Items

- Mary to ask David Shortall to review CBL training list and advise on CBL training for Cllrs.

Vacant Homes

- Cllr Doherty raised the issue of long-term vacant Council properties and asked if it would be possible to maintain these properties as some may be falling into disrepair.
- Ian advised that there are periodic checks done on these properties. He also advised that the Council are currently looking at long term vacant properties and how best to deal with these.

Update on Grants re Boilers

- Cllr Fitzpatrick asked if there was any update on the situation regarding boilers which are not covered under the adaptation grant.
- Ian advised that staff are attending a workshop in Dublin regarding this and issues may be clarified following this.
- Cllr McGuinness raised the issue of SEAI grants for insulation and asked if it would be possible for SEAI to come to a future SPC and give presentation regarding grants.

Action Items

- SPC secretary to contact SEAI to enquire about a presentation at a future SPC meeting – this may result in an extra SPC meeting being held.

Future SPC Dates and Issues

- SPC dates for 2025 and the issues to be discussed at meetings. The following was agreed: –
 - 12th June 2025 from 11am to 1pm
 - 4th September from 11am to 1pm – Lisa Morris requested that a presentation is made to SPC on the 4th September regarding recommendations on the improvements in the provision of housing for people with a disability.
 - 4th December from 11am to 1pm
 - Additional meeting to be held and presentations to be given by KCC Grants Section and SEAI – date to be confirmed.

Action Items

- SPC Secretary
 - 3 weeks in advance of above meetings to send e-mail to the Chair advising that we are preparing the agenda and if he has received any agenda items from members and advise him that you need the items on or before specific date
 - To contact SEAI and confirm date re presentation to SPC.
 - To contact Lisa to get contact details for person to give presentation on 4th of September and to extend invitation to same.

Date of Next Meeting

12th June 2025

Item 3 – AOB

- Discussion around the Abbey Quarter and Mart sites and the possibility that there will be a provision for housing at these two sites.
- Cllr McGuinness requested that agenda items are emailed to himself and to the SPC secretary in advance.

This concluded the meeting.