

Minutes of the Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Meeting held on Tuesday 26th November at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber, Aras Contae an Chláir

In attendance:

Cllr. Pat Hayes
Cllr. Joe Killeen
Denis Tuohy
Mary Coffey
Damon Matthew Wise
Ann Reynolds
Bernadette Haugh
Helen Walsh
Kathy Lordan

Organisation:

Chair
Elected Member
Agriculture/Farming, IFA
Community/Voluntary, PPN
Social Inclusion, PPN
A/Director of Rural Development
Senior Executive Officer
County Librarian
Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies:

Cllr. Gabriel Keating; Cllr. Dinny Gould; Cllr. Patrick O’Gorman.

At the outset, the Chair welcomed members to the first meeting of the newly formed Rural Development SPC and wished the new Tourism Development SPC best of luck.

1) Welcome and Introductions

All Members introduced themselves and advised of sector they represent.

2) Minutes of Meeting held on 23rd April 2024

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd April 2024 were proposed by Denis Tuohy, seconded by Cllr. Pat Hayes and agreed.

3) Matters arising

Denis Tuohy requested copy of motorhome/campervan review report be circulated to the Committee.

Cllr. Pat Hayes referred to the importance of Active Travel funding for towns and villages.

4) Draft SPC Standing Orders

Draft Standing Orders based on national guidelines were circulated and members advised feedback should be forwarded to corporate@clarecoco.ie by close of business on **18th December** to ensure the revised SPC Standing Orders are ready for adoption at the January Council meeting.

A discussion on frequency of and location of meetings took place and it was agreed that when deemed necessary meetings could be held around the county.

The Chair stressed the importance of attendance at meetings and of always having a quorum.

5) Proposed training for SPC members

Ann Reynolds advised that CCC is collaborating with the PPN to provide training for all SPC's. The Department also looking at training in March 2025.

6) Circulation of relevant Rural Directorate documents

The following documents were circulated to members:

- Renewed Clare Rural Development Strategy 2030
- Clare Age Friendly County Strategy 2024 – 2030
- Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029
- Clare Local Economic and Community Plan 2024 – 2030
- Library Development Plan
- Creative Ireland Plan
- Funding Schemes

7) Proposed Schedule of Meetings for 2025

Agreed that the frequency of meetings will depend on the Work Programme which will only contain policies that can be delivered on and can make meaningful change. Workshop to be held in person in February to agree Work Programme and further meetings will be held on:

- 11th March – 10.00 am
- 15th July – 10.00 am
- 11th November - 10.00 am

8) Any Other Business

The Chair congratulated Helen Walsh and her team on the opening of the new Library and it was agreed by all that the Library service in Clare is phenomenal. Denis Tuohy mentioned Scariff Library staff in particular as being exceptionally helpful accommodating farmers during an online course recently. Damon Matthew Wise Âû advised accessibility via Francis Street not safe because of the hoarding. Ann Reynolds to contact Ennis 2040 regarding same.

Cllr. Joe Killeen complimented the four Rural Community Development Officers on being really well informed and a huge help always. It was agreed to invite them to the Workshop in February.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed:

**Cllr. Pat Hayes,
Chair.**

**Ann Reynolds,
A/Director of Service.**

Date:
