

Castlegregory Community Council
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CASTLEGREGORY COMMUNITY COUNCIL AGM

HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2022 AT 8PM

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting of 3 November 2021 held at the West End Hall.
3. Minutes of the Extraordinary Public Meeting held on 4 November 2021.
4. Minutes of the A.G.M. of 8 February 2021.
5. Chairman' Report.
6. Treasurer's Report.
7. A.O.B.

OUTGOING COMMITTEE:- Fionnuala Fitzgerald (Chair), Martin Lynch (Secretary), Bernard Fitzgerald (Treasurer), Mike Kelly (PRO), Marcia Ganter (Vice Chair), Pat O'Shea, Tom Quirke, Sandra Fitzgibbon, Joan Cantillon, Bettina Pickering, Bernadette Crowe, Debbie Quirke, Eoghan Ó Loingsigh.

CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY'S REPORT

We would like to extend a warm welcome to what is the last A.G.M. of the current council. Due to the on-going COVID-19 restrictions, many of the committee's meetings throughout the year were held via Zoom. All meetings were well attended. During the year, Jeanne Spillane, Kevin Power and Clodagh Kenny resigned from the Committee while a number of others, Bettina Pickering, Bernadette Crowe, Eoghan Ó Loingsigh joined. Jessica McCannon joined during the year and later resigned. All resignations were for personal reasons.

The following is a brief account of the work of the council throughout the year. In January, following a request from the Church of Ireland, CCC set up a sub-committee to examine the feasibility of taking over and fund-raising to repair the church at Killiney. This was necessary to prevent it falling into a state of dereliction. The work is on-going.

Many of the normal events of the council such as the St. Patrick's Day parade were curtailed. Despite this, the church was illuminated in green on the 17 March with many shop windows decorated as part of a competition to celebrate the day. Hopefully the parade and the Summer Festival can resume in the coming year.

In April, plans for a Nature Park at the CCC field on the Caher Road were drawn up. The planting of trees by volunteers took place during the Spring. A planning application for a pedestrian access has been submitted to KCC. Once this is secured, it is hoped that further work may proceed during the year.

CCC also agreed to work with a group, Castlegregory 2040, convened by

Muireann Kelliher of the Dingle Hub to draw up a community-authored vision for the district.

Three quarterly newsletters were distributed during the year as part of CCC's commitment to informing the community of work being done.

Funding for a mural at the playground was secured by Maharees Conservation Association. KCC has committed to seek funding for a pedestrian crossing at the playground as a priority.

We received delivery of 5 picnic tables, a water fountain and bike racks, all part-funded by Clár (€7,015) via KCC. All are to be installed at the beach carpark in Castlegregory once it has been repaired. 2021 was a very successful year for the Tidy Towns group. The efforts of volunteers in weeding, sweeping, litter picking and painting the village and environs were repaid with an increase in 8 points and the securing of two national awards at the annual prize giving. We were winner in the Pollinator South and Mid-West Award (€1,000) and joint-winners in the R.I.A.I. Town Challenge award. The latter resulted in the provision of the services of an architect, to the value of €5,000 to examine a number of aspects of the village of Castlegregory such as derelict buildings, the public realm and improved traffic flow. We got an increased Garda presence in the village with one Garda on permanent duty throughout the year and an extra Garda during summer months.

An inaugural tree dedication ceremony to a person who is deemed to have made an immense contribution to the community was held. The award went to Noel Cummins, Main St., for his voluntary work in photographing life in the village over the past 50 years. An oak sapling was planted at the Nature Park in a ceremony attended by family and council members.

In November, members of the Dingle Hillwalking Club visited Maharees and collected a large amount of litter from the beach between Béal Geal and Scairt.

A request for more litter bins for the village was made to KCC.

The village was decorated for Christmas. Thanks to the Medical Centre for sponsoring a tree and Ryan Coote for making the decorations.

During the year, members of Comharcumann Forbatha an Leith-Triugh Teo gave a presentation on their plans for a Bun Campa at the Udarás site in Clochán.

In an effort to divert campervans from the beach carpark in Castlegregory, a number of initiatives were commenced. The Mean Scoil secured funding from KCC to install fencing which allowed the opening of its carpark to Campervans. The West End Hall carpark was also successfully opened to campervans during the summer. All proceeds to CCC. Concerns relating to overnight parking on Castlegregory beach carpark, led to a request for an overhead barrier to be installed by KCC. This has been agreed and is awaiting funding.

Members of CCC also maintained a table at the weekly Sunday Market in the village, selling Club 500 tickets, cards, books and calendars. In total, €4,490 was taken in by the venture. Members examined the holding of a bingo online but the chances of losing money proved excessive.

Nominations to the incoming Council took place during October. As four nominations were received, no elections were necessary. CCC would like to welcome the new members, Ciara Baker, Fahamore; Paul McCannon, Aughacaslá; Denis Cambridge and June Cambridge, Stradbally. The results of a Needs Survey conducted showed that the community's priorities for the future include a pedestrian crossing at the playground; Tidy Towns; better traffic management in the village and more car parking spaces at the beaches.

In September, it was discovered that the Club Rooms had been operating for some years without a compliant Fire Safety Cert. This unfortunately led to the immediate closure of The Club Rooms. The Tourist Office was later allowed to open. Micheál Lynch has offered an alternative fire escape route via the archway. CCC want to thank Micheál for doing so. This has allowed an application for a Fire Regularisation Cert to be submitted to KCC. A decision on the new cert is due within the next 2-3 weeks.

Planning permission to renovate the Club Rooms was secured during the year with work to commence imminently. The project will cost €200,000 approx. Funding of €149,000 has been secured from NEWKD with the remainder contributed by CCC. A term loan of €23,000 has been secured from Clan Credo. This will be repaid over five years. Two public meetings were organised during the year to inform the public on the renovations. Jimmy O'Sullivan was appointed by NEWKD as the builder.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those on CCC who have worked so hard for the village and wider community over the last three years. We also want to acknowledge the positive contribution of Kerry County Council especially Annemarie Lynch and Tara O'Carroll, our local political

representatives, and Seamus O'Hara and John Loughrey of NEWKD. We wish the new committee the very best in the coming months. With the lifting of restrictions we look forward to the re-opening of the Club rooms and to the day we can all sit around and have a cup of tea and be together as a community.

Fionnuala Fitzgerald, Chair.

Martin Lynch, Secretary

