



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Kells Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

4.00pm, 17th September, 2018, Kells Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**, presided.

Councillors Present: Seán Drew, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Johnny Guirke, Bryan Reilly, Sarah Reilly.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Kevin Stewart

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Aaron Smith

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 16th July, 2018.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 18th June, 2018 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor David Gilroy**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- All involved in Kells being nominated for a Bank of Ireland Enterprise Award.



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4 To receive a presentation from Prosper Meath on “An Inclusive Kells” project.

Laura Corrigan and Shane Carolan, Prosper Meath delivered a presentation, which outlined the background to Prosper Meath and highlighted accessibility issues around the town, which affect both service users and other citizens, with possible solutions identified. Ten locations were identified, in order of priority. Reference was made to other planned initiatives and projects, including a video around accessibility.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- An audit of accessibility of local business premises – it was confirmed that this had not yet been undertaken but was planned, with efforts underway to change mindsets. Opportunities for employment/work experience were also being sought.
- The issues affecting footpath width and junctions with reference also to kerbing, street furniture and the benefits of pedestrian crossings in slowing traffic at key points.
- Update on the request made for a survey of the junctions in the town.
- The need to assist business premises that want to improve accessibility but are prevented from doing so due to being located in listed buildings/special areas of conservation.
- The possibility of undertaking accessibility audits in Oldcastle and Athboy – it was confirmed that many service users live in the surrounding areas and that the location of the service had been the initial priority.
- Illegal parking in disable parking bays – it was pointed out that this occurs everywhere but initiatives, including Make Way Day, involving the placement of stickers on anything in the way, were helpful. The ‘Back in 5’ initiative was also outlined.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors commended the group on their work and on the presentation and committed to progressing the proposals made. The group was invited to return next year to provide an update on the implementation of their proposals.



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5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

- 5.1.1 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Kells Municipal District.

The report had been circulated in advance and matters raised by Councillors included:

- Complimented the council outdoor staff for the works undertaken to assist the Pride of Place/Tidy Towns judging.
- The possibility of having the roadsweeper visit locations throughout the municipal district all year round – it was confirmed that the roadsweeper was in need of repair and the case for replacing it was being examined. If a budgetary provision was made for a replacement, this could visit other locations. It was agreed to raise this with the Transportation SPC.

- 5.1.2 To receive an update on the Traffic Management Proposals on the R162.

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, Transportation provided an update on the traffic management proposals on the R162, arising from a safety appraisal funded by the Department of Transport, and at the following locations: Kilberry, Wilkinstown, at the racecourse and at the Gypsum factory. The proposals were outlined for each location and it was confirmed that discussions would take place with those affected at the different locations. Applications for grant funding would also be made.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Speeding at the school in Wilkinstown and the provision of a footpath and a raised pedestrian table to facilitate access from the school and community centre to the proposed amenity park.

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- The possibility of providing a ducting channel to facilitate the future provision of street lighting to the community centre in Wilkinstown.
- The possible modification of the speed limit signs at the school in Wilkinstown in response to requests by the principal and parents association – the national guidelines relating to these signs were outlined, which all local authorities are expected to follow.
- Poor visibility from the Nobber end of Kilberry to junction.
- A possible contribution from businesses, such as Tara Mines, using these routes with heavy goods vehicles – it was confirmed that the planning permission granted in respect of the extension of the tailings pond included a condition relating to ongoing road monitoring and discussions were ongoing in relation to repairs to be undertaken to defects uncovered. A group was also to be set up between Tara Mines, the Council and local residents. It was agreed to discuss the proposals with Tara Mines,
- Requested that one lane of the road near Gypsum be kept open during works to avoid use of alternative minor roads.

5.1.3 To discuss the Taxi Rank in Kells.

It was suggested that, to date, the taxi rank was not being used but it was agreed to undertake a further review after Christmas.

5.1.4 To receive an update on the County Meath Special Speed Limit review following on from the Statutory Public Display of the Draft Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) County of Meath Bye-Laws (No.2) 2017.

Paul Phelan, Executive Engineer, Transportation outlined the update provided, the submissions received and the proposed amendments and next steps. He also provided responses to specific queries raised in relation to locations such as Gibbstown, Oristown, Grangegodden and Balrath Road.

Matters raised by Councillors included:



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- The standardisation of speed limits on roads in different counties with 80km/h and 100km/h limits – it was pointed out that the default limit on national roads was 100km/h and MCC applied an 80km/h speed limit on the national secondary roads in Meath in 2008. New national mandatory guidelines focused on the character of the road, not county boundaries, and revised speed limits have been proposed.
- The reduced speed limit on the R147, previously the N3 – it was confirmed that this road had become a regional road by default following the opening of the M3 and, as there was an alternative safer route, no change to the limit on this road was being proposed.
- The need to review signage and review unnecessary signs as appropriate.
- The approach to providing raised tables in local authority and private estates.
- The process for seeking an amendment(s) to the proposed byelaws – it was pointed out that the municipal district would have to propose an amendment for adoption by the full council. This would then have to be submitted to TII for approval if it related to a national road.

It was agreed to circulate a copy of the speed limit review and draft byelaws to Councillors.

5.2 Corporate Services

5.2.1 To receive a report on Council owned lands.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Assets & Facilities Management circulated maps indicating the council owned lands in Kells town and the purposes for which each parcel of land is intended. Councillors suggested that the land at Cherryhill would be most appropriate for a community facility although a town centre location would be preferable. The limited land available was also acknowledged.



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A request was made for an update on the Community House, Carrick Street as there is interest in opening a youth café.

5.2.2 To discuss the 2018 Arts, Festivals, Festive Decoration & MD Renewal budget.

Following a short discussion, it was agreed, on the proposal of **Councillor David Gilroy** and seconded by **Councillor Johnny Guirke**, to allocate the budget of €8,000 for festive decoration as follows:

- €1,000 each to Kells, Athboy, Oldcastle, Nobber and Drumconrath.
- €3,000 for capital works to Athboy.

5.2.3 To discuss the proposed trip to Iona.

Dara McGowan provided an update on correspondence with Argyll and Bute Council in relation to the proposed visit to Iona. It was agreed that the visit would be arranged for Spring 2019, as proposed.

5.2.4 To note Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Kells Municipal District.

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted. Councillors were reminded of the deadlines for the receipt of applications and of the amount outstanding for allocation within the municipal district.

6 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

"That Kells Municipal District hold a civic reception to acknowledge the sporting achievements of Kells Handball Club at the World Championships, the Kells Area Special



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Olympians who competed in the European Special Olympics and also to acknowledge the musical achievement of Kevin McCarthy at Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann."

Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered:

If this motion is adopted a civic reception will be organised for a date and time to be decided in consultation with the Chair of the Kells Municipal District.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Drew**.

It was suggested that , similar to other municipal districts, a civic event be arranged in April/May to acknowledge the sporting or other achievements of all relevant groups and individuals. This was agreed.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

"That Meath County Council engages with the owners of the land to the rear of the new Eureka building to pursue the possibility of a path to connect the school on the Cavan Road to the Oldcastle Road, thereby providing students who reside on the Oldcastle Road with easier access."

Supporting information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered:

Before the Council engages with any landowners, it would be necessary to discuss and obtain the agreement of the Department of Education.

A new entrance might entail an amendment to both the site layout and management of the site.

The Transportation Department has initiated contact with the Department of Education to discuss the matter.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.



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The motion was adopted.

8 Strategic Policy Committee Reports – For Information Purposes

8.1 To note the report from the Transportation SPC meeting of 26th July, 2018.

The report was noted.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 To agree the date for November Kells Municipal District Meeting – it was agreed to rearrange the meeting for Monday 12th November.

10.2 Councillor Johnny Guirke raised the following issues:

10.2.1 Requested an update on funding available for the provision of a footpath to facilitate residents in Balrath/Cloncat – it was confirmed that an application had been made in 2016, that the estimated cost for 1.2kms of footpath was approximately €200,000 but that no funding had been allocated to date. An application would have to be made to TII as this was on a national route and that additional signage could be erected. It was agreed to check this with Transportation.

10.2.2 Request by parents for additional signage at Rathmore N.S. to assist with traffic calming – the measures already provided at this location were outlined and it was suggested that speeding enforcement may be the only suitable solution. As this is on a national route, an application would have to be made to TII for funding for any additional measures.

10.3 Councillor Sarah Reilly raised the following issue:

10.3.1 Requested that a letter issue to the Heritage Council enquiring as to why a



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funding was refused for works on the Norman Turret wall.

10.4 Councillor Michael Gallagher raised the following issues:

10.4.1 Requested that a meeting be arranged with the OPW to discuss issues specific to Kells, including St. Colmcille's House.

10.4.2 The bend at the graveyard at Oristown – it was confirmed that an application had been made under the Low Cost Safety Scheme for 2019 Priority I funding.

10.4.3 Queried the suitability of the land designated in Drumconrath for social housing.

10.5 Councillor Bryan Reilly raised the following issues:

10.5.1 The possibility of providing traffic calming measures from the junction of the GAA grounds/tennis court to the machinery yard on Gardenrath Road – it was pointed out that a junction redesign and pedestrian crossing was needed and it was agreed to refer this to Transportation.

10.5.2 Update on the footpath from the top of the Gardenrath Road to Beechlawn – it was confirmed that this was on the list of works.

10.6 Councillor Seán Drew raised the following issue:

10.6.1 Requested an update on the additional funding due from the Department of Transport for road restoration and repair following the snow and storm damage – it was confirmed that neither payment had yet been received and that, whilst the smaller amount was due to be issued before the end of the year, the larger amount may form part of the 2019 road allocation.

10.7 Councillor David Gilroy raised the following issue:

10.7.1 Requested an update on the illegal halting site at Kileelan, Athboy.

This concluded the business of the meeting.



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Signed:

Cathaoirleach