



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Kells Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

4.00pm, 18th February, 2019, Kells Civic Offices

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

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

Apologies: Councillor Bryan 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 21st January, 2019.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 21st January 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor David Gilroy** and seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

There were no expressions of sympathy or congratulations.

4 Statutory Business



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4.1 Transportation

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

The report, which had been circulated in advance, was noted.

4.2 Planning

- 4.2.1 To receive an update on the preparation of public realm plans for Athboy and Oldcastle.

Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner was in attendance and Mehron Kirk and David McGann, BDP Consultants delivered a presentation on their brief, first impressions including the opportunities and challenges, the contents of the plan and the next steps, including two stakeholder sessions to be held in March. These initial sessions will be limited with a wider public consultation to be undertaken in May/June.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The possibility of including a paint scheme which has maximum impact for minimum cost.
- The need to consider underground ducting/wiring when recommending tree planting or landscaping.
- The need to include off-street parking locations and address how available spaces are used, e.g. those working in retail units, etc.
- The need to address derelict properties, particularly those in key locations including approach roads.
- The height of footpaths and the need for pedestrian crossings in Oldcastle.
- The need to maintain the heritage of the towns.



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- The need to incorporate the playgrounds in both towns, including access and connectivity.
- The need to take account of funding already secured.
- The need to take account of traffic flow on the N51 through Athboy.
- The need to undertake a wide consultation process, including residents, business owners, visitors and service providers.
- The need to ensure safe pedestrian and cycling access to schools.

The Cathaoirleach and councillors welcomed the development of the plans for both Oldcastle and Athboy and look forward to engaging with the process.

4.3 Corporate Services

4.3.1 To discuss the 2019 Arts, Festivals, Festive Decoration & MD Renewal Budgets.

Audrey Norris, Senior Staff Officer, Corporate Services confirmed that a budget of €8,000 was available and referred to the allocations made in 2018. Councillors were reminded that the deadline for applications under the Community Grants Scheme is 8th March.

It was agreed to allocate the budget of €8,000 for festive decoration to the towns/villages as per the table below, i.e. the same as 2018 with the exception of the capital works allocation going to Kells.

Town/Village	Amount €
Kells	1,000 + 3,000 (capital works) = 4,000
Oldcastle	1,000
Athboy	1,000
Nobber	1,000
Drumconrath	1,000

4.3.2 To discuss proposals to be considered by the Protocol Committee in relation to the allocation of the 2019 Twinning budget.



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Reference was made to a major initiative being planned in Derry/Donegal to mark the anniversary of St. Colmcille in 2020/2021 and it was agreed that, if progress with Iona seemed unlikely, that this might be pursued as an alternative. It was agreed to discuss it again at the March meeting.

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

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted.

4.4 To consider and adopt the 2019 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

David Jones, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Section outlined the schedule of works as they relate to housing, including the service categories, funding allocations per municipal district, the centralised budgets and updates on the previous year.

Des Foley, Director of Service, Transportation referred to additional resources, including funding and staffing, allocated to transportation services in recent years. As funding for roads represents approximately one third of the overall council budget, the challenge is the delivery of the programme taking into account issues such as tender prices and securing the services of contractors. In addition to the works outlined in the schedule, works are ongoing on footpaths, public lighting and CIS/LIS. The SMDW refers to the revenue budget only, with the capital programme to be presented at the April full council meeting.

John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Transportation outlined the schedule of works in detail, under the various headings.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The need for additional central government funding to bring the condition of all roads up to an acceptable standard and to deal with all roads in Category 1-4 – the progress made over the last number of years was highlighted, as were issues relating to the impact of the weather, securing contractors, increase in costs, etc. The rationale for the allocations across the municipal districts was also outlined.



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- Welcomed the increased funding allocated, including for drainage works, parks & open spaces
- Requested further information on the planned works on the N51.
- The benefits to towns/villages throughout the municipal district from the street sweeping budget.
- The possibility of completing the sections of roads that were not completed in 2018.
- The allocation made to CIS/LIS – an allocation of €326,000 was made for 2018 and 2019.
- The risk mitigation works planned for footpaths in other centres, such as Carnaross.
- The possibility of including the R163 Kells to Kilberry road on the winter gritting programme – new fleet will be added, providing additional capacity, with over 80% of regional roads already on the winter gritting programme.
- The possibility of reallocating funding from the winter gritting programme if it is not fully required – it was pointed out that the programme runs to April and again from October to December.
- The need for works on the R147 Kells to Silver Tankard.

The Cathaoirleach requested that a roll call vote be taken with the following result:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
CASSIDY, Eugene	✓			
DREW, Sean	✓			
GALLAGHER, Michael		✓		
GILROY, David	✓			
GUIRKE, Johnny		✓		
REILLY, Bryan				✓
REILLY, Sarah	✓			



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The 2019 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Kells was therefore adopted.

5 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

6 Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

7 Strategic Policy Committee & Corporate Policy Group Reports – For Information Purposes

7.1 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development & Enterprise SPC meeting of 19th December, 2018.

The report was noted.

7.2 To note the report from the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC meeting of 1st February, 2019.

The report was noted.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Councillor Sarah Reilly raised the following issue:

9.1.1 Requested further information on the Rural Regeneration and Development funding allocation to Kells Municipal District.



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9.2 Councillor David Gilroy raised the following issues:

9.2.1 Requested an update on the illegal halting sites at Kilkeelan and Martinstown, Athboy.

9.2.2 Referred to illegal dumping and possible river pollution relating to the site at Kilkeelan.

9.3 Councillor Johnny Guirke raised the following issue:

9.3.1 Requested further information on the Town & Village Renewal funding for two projects in Athboy, including how this funding is to be managed.

9.4 Councillor Michael Gallagher raised the following issues:

9.4.1 Requested an update on council owned lands in Drumconrath.

9.4.2 The possible inclusion of the R163 Gibbstown on the winter gritting programme, in addition to roads into the county from other counties, e.g. Ballyhoe/Drumconrath.

9.4.3 The possibility of erecting a notice board indicating the location of the taxi rank in Kells.

9.5 Councillor Seán Drew raised the following issue:

9.5.1 The need to review the location of the taxi rank in Kells.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach