



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Kells Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

4:00 p.m., 15th February 2016, Kells Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Bryan Reilly**, presided.

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

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Kevin Stewart

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Senior Executive Engineer: Fiona Beers

Executive Engineer: Aaron Smith

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 18th January, 2016.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 18th January 2016 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:



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- North Meath Windfarm Information Group on their efforts relating to the recent decision taken by An Bord Pleanála;
- Councillor Sarah Reilly on the birth of her son.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Planning

4.1.1 To consider taking in charge the following estate and the making of a declaration that the roads within the estate shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Act 2000-2014.

- Townparks Manor, Kells.

It was pointed out that residents remain unhappy at the works undertaken on the wall and it was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Johnny Guirke** to defer this matter to the March meeting. Councillor Gallagher agreed to contact the developer regarding this issue and request that it be resolved.

4.2 Corporate Services

4.2.1 To discuss the proposals for the display of the Kells Town Council Chains of Office.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services, attended the meeting and outlined the proposals for the display of the Kells Town Council Chains of Office. It was agreed that the chains of office would be updated to include the all Cathaoirleach names.

It was pointed out that a chain for the Municipal District Medal of Office would be more appropriate than a ribbon and it was agreed that, as the design had been agreed by the Protocol Committee, any proposal to change this would need to be considered by the Protocol Committee.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

4.3 Community

4.3.1 To consider the Draft Local Economic Community Plan (LECP).

Aine Bird, Administrative Officer, Community Department delivered a presentation to the meeting, including the background to and overview of the plan, an outline of the sections and objectives, and the next steps. The plan was endorsed on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

4.4 Transportation

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

The report, circulated in advance, was noted.

4.5 To consider and adopt the 2016 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

David Jones, Housing Department outlined the categories for housing maintenance and repair and explained the background to the allocations, including those managed centrally. It was pointed out that the 2016 budget for Housing had increased significantly on 2015.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The timeframe for the processing of adaptation grants – it was pointed out that the allocations had been made late in 2015 but that a different approach in 2016 would result in applications being processed earlier.
- The prioritisation of works on ‘voids’ – the progress made to date was highlighted and the distinction between ‘voids’ and pre-let repairs was outlined.
- The number of Category 1 applications received and allocated in 2015 – it was agreed to revert with this information.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The possibility of a second allocation later in the year – it was agreed that a second allocation can occur under the Disabled Persons Grant and that any related update would be included in the relevant monthly Chief Executive’s Report.
- The responsibility for water and sewerage maintenance – it was confirmed that some related work may be undertaken under planned Preventative Maintenance but only on Council owned properties and only if the Council had a legal basis for doing so.

John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Transportation Department provided an overview of the breakdown of funding relating to transportation, the sources of funding and how these can be spent, the rationale for the allocations to the Municipal District and the central budgets that are allocated over the six municipal districts. The three year road programme for the restoration improvement grant was also outlined.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Disappointment at the overall funding allocation for Meath and North Meath and the impact of the bad weather on road conditions – it was confirmed that Meath County Council had made a funding application for works arising from storm damage.
- The number of roads in North Meath in Category 1-6 as per the pavement condition survey – it was pointed out that road improvements in this category had been made between surveys.
- The continuation of the CIS – it was confirmed that this would continue in 2016 and that applications from 2015 would be given priority, with advertisements to invite new schemes to be considered. In response to issues raised, it was agreed that applicants would receive correspondence indicating whether or not their scheme would proceed. It was also agreed to inform Councillors of the 2015 schemes that would proceed to allow any relevant Municipal District Allocations to be made.
- The allocation for footpaths in estates and the need for footpath/lighting works at specific locations – it was confirmed that €20,000 would be allocated to drainage and the balance of €30,000 to a number of locations including the bad bend on the Headfort Road (to be revised if alternative funding received),



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

disability access at Ard na Greine, and small repair works at the Credit Union, Newmarket Street, Back Street and at the Railway Bar.

The adoption of the 2016 Kells Schedule of Municipal District Works was proposed by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**. A show of hands vote indicated six in favour and one against. The 2016 Kells Schedule of Municipal District Works was therefore adopted.

Councillors expressed their dissatisfaction at the overall funding allocation for roads and decided against agreeing the three year roadworks programme. It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Seán Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** that the Transportation Department be requested to correspond with the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport indicating that Kells Municipal District Councillors were unwilling to accept the three year roadworks programme unless additional funding for roads was allocated.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Johnny Guirke

“Can the executive provide a breakdown on the percentage of funding allocated to the Kells over the last five years in respect of Transportation, Community Services, Environment and Housing in comparison to the other areas?”

Response:

In view of the changed structures of the former Town Councils/ Electoral Areas – Municipal Districts and the very significant level of “centrally based” service delivery, the only information that can be provided in response to the NOQ is the Transportation analysis.

The response was noted.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Johnny Guirke



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

“That Meath County Council gives priority to footpaths from Ballinacree School to the hall as this road is a serious danger to teachers and children as it is used regularly by the children going to and from the school and the road is very busy with trucks and cars.”

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

Meath County Council regularly receives proposals for new works which are logged on a database. The cost of the proposed works on the database far exceeds the funding and resources available. Meath County Council proposes to draft a 3 year works programme in consultation with the members for each Municipal District, commencing in 2016, for works such as those outlined in this motion. This programme will be based on the prioritisation of schemes following an engineering screening/evaluation assessment.

The number of schemes on the programme will be determined by the funding available. The items raised in this motion will be added to the database and considered for the schedule having regard to available budgets.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Johnny Guirke** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

The motion was adopted.

7 Correspondence

- 7.1 Correspondence received from OPW in response to notice of item 9.2.1 - Any Other Business of January monthly meeting re Loughcrew Cairns.

The correspondence was noted.

8 Any Other Business

- 8.1 Councillor Eugene Cassidy raised the following issue:

- 8.1.1 The filling of outdoor staff vacancies in the Nobber/Moynalty area – the plans were outlined.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

8.2 Councillor Seán Drew raised the following issue:

8.2.1 The plans by the local 1916 Commemoration Committee for a formal opening of the 1916 commemorative garden on Saturday 23rd April with a number of events to create a family day out, the event management requirements including insurance, and the possibility of linking in with the Municipal District formal garden opening – it was agreed to refer this to Corporate Services.

8.2.2 The need to add information on the new Tenant Purchase Scheme on meath.ie, similar to other local authorities – it was agreed to refer this to Housing.

8.2.3 The possibility of installing public lighting on the footpath from the nursing home on the Oldcastle Road to the town centre – it was agreed to refer this to Transportation.

8.3 Councillor David Gilroy raised the following issue:

8.3.1 Queried the works being undertaken in Athboy where water was lying on footpaths – it was agreed to check if snagging was taking place.

8.4 Councillor Michael Gallagher raised the following issue:

8.4.1 The possibility of extending the footpath from Lloyd to Drumbaragh NS.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach