



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Kells Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

4.00pm, 20th February, 2017, Kells Civic Offices

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

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

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Kevin Stewart

Executive Engineer: Aaron Smith

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Clerical Officer: Edita Zolotuchina

Apologies: Fiona Beers, Senior Executive Engineer, Claire King, Meetings Administrator.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 16th January, 2016.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 16th January were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Bryan Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Johnny Guirke**

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Donal Devine, Delvin, Colinstown, Co. Westmeath.



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4 To receive a presentation on The Alzheimer Society of Ireland.

Donal Murphy, Operations Manager delivered a presentation on the Alzheimer Society of Ireland, outlining who they are, what dementia is, services they provide, National Dementia Strategy and Dementia in County Meath. Particular reference was made to the Day Care Centre in Oldcastle, which is a nurse led unit, and the three volunteers Pauline Rudden, Chairperson Mary Flanagan, PRO and Samantha Hennessy, Secretary who run this centre. The Oldcastle Centre is 60% funded by the HSE and the volunteers are required to fundraise the remainder.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- What are the first steps to dementia friendly town – it was pointed out that the town would first need to find out what makes it easier for people with dementia. There is a substantial amount of work involved in this which would include the setting up of a sub group.
- The role of the Council in terms of creating awareness and applying political pressure - it was agreed that a letter would issue to the HSE on behalf of Kells Municipal District Councillors seeking additional funding for the Alzheimer's Unit in Oldcastle.
- It was agreed that Councillors would put forward a Notice of Motion to the Full Council Meeting asking all Local Authorities to invite the Alzheimer Society of Ireland to make a presentation in order to create awareness.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Donal for his presentation and Pauline, Mary and Samantha from the Oldcastle Group for their time and hard work.

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 was noted by Councillors.



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5.2 Planning

5.2.1 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 Acts 2000-2015.

- Cluain Beag, Nobber

The report had been circulated in advance. A query arose in relation to a pumphouse at the green and the condition of the O'Carolan Estate entrance. It was agreed that this be deferred to the March monthly meeting and that a representative from Planning should be in attendance to answer queries raised. Councillors were also asked to submit any specific issues and queries in advance to facilitate the discussion.

5.3 Corporate Services

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

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

5.4 To consider and adopt the 2017 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. An update on housing activity in Kells Municipal District was also circulated. It was pointed out that the proposed programme of works was based on the 2016 funding allocations, as the 2017 allocations had not yet been confirmed but should be similar to that in 2016, if not slightly increased. Councillors were reminded that ongoing updates would be included in the monthly Chief Executive's Report presented at the full Council meetings.

Matters raised by Councillors included:



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- An update for phase 2 development for Athboy – it was pointed out that the priority is to complete Phase 1 and allow for a settling in period before proceeding to the second phase.
- Approved Housing Bodies – it was confirmed that North & East have a social housing development in Kells (Blackthorn Grove).
- Access route for Kells development – noted that details regarding the Kells social housing project will be displayed as part of the Part 8 planning process in due course.
- Rapid housing delivery – it was advised that this mechanism is being put forward as an option for fast tracking delivery on site. Kells and Athboy will not lend themselves to this as these developments are at an advanced stage.
- Inspection of HAP housing before taking them over – it was advised that it is not a requirement to inspect HAP houses prior to HAP supported tenancies commencing.
- The turnaround in casual vacancies – the average turnaround for stock in 2015 was 16 weeks. The figure for 2016 is not yet available, but will be provided in due course under the 2016 Annual Performance Indicators report.
- Part V housing – there are no Part V houses coming up in Kells Municipal District at present.
- The need for additional land banks in villages and rural areas within Kells Municipal District.
- Under the allocation scheme anybody in Meath can apply for housing in Kells Municipal District, having no connection to the area. It was requested that strong consideration be given to local applicants on the list – priority is given to applicants based on their time on the list. As Meath County Council is now the housing authority for the entire county, people are entitled to put any area within the county as their preference.



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- The Repair to Lease Scheme – this was piloted in Carlow and Waterford and is expected to be rolled out in Quarter 2 of 2017. Councillors' assistance will be required in respect of this scheme in terms of local knowledge.
- Specific issue in Carlanstown whereby there are 17 units rented privately out of which 12 tenants are on the housing list. These houses are now up for sale by the banks – policy is that the Council requires vacant possession if acquiring a property.
- Plans to offer incentives for derelict properties – derelict units have been pursued successfully by CPO under Housing Legislation in Louth. Meath hasn't pursued it as yet.
- The Mortgage to Rent Scheme – reference was made to the changes to the scheme. The uptake in the county on this scheme is low.
- Vacant Sites – A National Vacant Unit Strategy is to be released shortly.

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 increase in funding to Kells Municipal District was highlighted.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Disappointment was expressed with some CIS schemes in Kells Municipal District which were not approved for 2017 – it was pointed out that it is expected that CIS applications will be completed over the next 2½ years. It was also pointed out that applications would be sought for works under the LIS, for roads not in charge, and the amount allocated would depend on the number of applications received.
- The need for public lighting investment throughout the municipal district – it was confirmed that a review of the public lighting programme was to take place and would form part of the capital programme review.



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- Welcomed the increase in the allocation for Improvement Grants.
- No allocation for footpath repair outside of housing estates – it was pointed out that repairs to footpaths could be taken from Discretionary or Ordinary Maintenance Grant. Also additional funds were received last year for Town and Village Renewal Scheme from which some footpath works were carried out and it is hoped a similar allocation will be received this year.
- Welcomes the Headfort Bridge Project progressing.

The 2017 Kells Schedule of Municipal District Works was unanimously adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor David Gilroy**.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Sean Drew

“Reference is made to the concerns expressed by the residents, parents and road users of the impact of the HGV Bylaws Kells 2016 on road safety at Oristown/Bloomsbury, particularly at the junction outside Oristown National School and the narrow bridge on the bend of the L6832. Have the locations been monitored by Meath County Council and will a traffic analysis be undertaken to ascertain the presence of the safety concerns raised?”

Response:

The Transport Section of Meath County Council carried out a speed survey on the L-6832 in the townland of Oristown/Bloomsberry late last year, following on from complaints received in relation to traffic concerns. The survey was carried out over a 45 hour period starting at 13:30 on Tuesday 29th November last.

The results of the survey indicate an average speed at this location of 54 km/h.

An average of 1494 vehicles per day were recorded but there was no notable HGV activity recorded during the survey.



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The response was noted.

Des Foley agreed to undertake a review of the concerns of the residents at this location.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

“That Meath County Council investigate a possible design template (to include an approximate price) for the construction of a path connecting the footpath on the N52 Mullingar Road, Kells to the end of the 60kmph speed zone.”

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

The provision of a footpath at this location was previously added to the Requests for New Works database, from which a programme of works will be drawn up based on the prioritisation of schemes following an engineering screening/evaluation assessment. The length of the footpath would be 1.2km and the cost would be in the region of €120,000. In the meantime, signage to warn of the presence of pedestrians will be erected.

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

The motion was noted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Sean Drew

“It is noted that the objectives of the NTA Sustainable Transport grant scheme are to increase the number of people using public transport and to increase walking and cycling, in particular for local trips to work, school, retail and leisure activities within the Greater Dublin Area. On that basis I am proposing the inclusion in future applications to the NTA Sustainable Transport Measures Programme of all suitable projects in the Kells Municipal District, proposed and agreed by the Kells MD Councillors at its June meeting annually.”



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

The National Transport Authority (NTA) has broadly indicated the priority areas they want to fund in the County to maximise the return on the money it allocates to the Local Authority. Capital expenditure is likely to continue to be constrained in the immediate future. The Transportation Department recommend that schemes agreed by the Municipal District members should be discussed with the Transportation Department before any formal applications are made to the NTA.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sean Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

A discussion followed with reference various schemes in the Kells area which would fall under this scheme. It was pointed out that if Councillors had specific projects they should forward them to Transportation Department who would review these in terms of priorities. It was also confirmed that a new Public Lighting review is underway and Transportation Department would be coming to a meeting in the coming months with an update on the review.

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 January 2017.

The report was noted.

9 Correspondence

- 9.1 Correspondence received from Denis Naughten T.D., Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment in response to the Notice of Item 6.2 – Notice of Motion as adopted at July meeting re an update on the roll out of the National Broadband Plan.

The correspondence was noted.



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- 9.2 Correspondence received from Save Our Cross Committee re vandalised Market Cross Plaque.

The correspondence was noted. Aaron Smyth confirmed that the plaque would be replaced.

10 Any Other Business

- 10.1 Councillor Sarah Reilly raised the following issue:

- Girley Bog is proposed for designation for an SAC and is currently under review. The road leading into it from the N52 Mullingar Road is in disrepair. Cllr Sarah Reilly proposed to write to Coillte for feedback in relation to the Council taking it in charge. This was seconded by Cllr. Bryan Reilly.

- 10.2 Councillor Bryan Reilly raised the following issue:

- New footpath on the Headfort Road has an area of muck along the footpath where there is no kerb. – it was agreed to put a reflective bollard along this area of the footpath.
- Requested an update on the town centre car park – it was confirmed that officials have been trying unsuccessfully to get answers in relation to title. To date no information has been received. Most recent correspondence from the landowner was that they now have changed Solicitors. The issue is title and right of way.

- 10.3 Councillor Michael Gallagher raised the following issue:

- Requested an update on the safety issue at Gibstown - it was advised that there was no further update other than the quotes provided for last year. There is no funding available at present.

- 10.4 Councillor Sean Drew raised the following issue:

- Asked if the cover on the cross could be cleaned – it was agreed that this would be done in the coming weeks.



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- Setting of lands at Lloyd. It was asked if this could be given to a local Auctioneer – it was advised that tenders are being prepared for each Municipal District.

10.5 Councillor Johnny Guirke raised the following issue:-

- Asked if Clár funding is available this year – it was confirmed that there has been no call for funding to date.
- Requested an update on Brian O’Higgins memorial – it was confirmed that the memorial is taking place on Friday, 10th March at 3.00p.m. at the bridge followed by a reception in Kells Civic Office at 4.00p.m.

It was also confirmed that a memorial is in hand for Tommy Grimes, ex-Kells Town Councillor.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach