



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Kells Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

4:00 p.m., 18th April 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 21st March, 2016.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21st March 2016 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

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 Tommy Grimes, former Kells Town Councillor.



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- The family of the late Joe Ward, Meath County Council employee.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Kevin Stewart and the Economic and Enterprise Team in Meath County Council for the recent jobs announcement with the decision of Shire to construct a new plant in Meath.

4 To receive a presentation on Boyne Valley Living History Group.

Lucy O'Reilly, Boyne Valley Living History Group delivered a presentation to the meeting on the background to the group, planned festivals and events in Kells and their funding requirements.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Commended the group in their efforts to attract and retain tourists to Kells.
- The possible funding and other supports available, including Meath Tourism, the Community Grants Scheme, Leader Programme, Arts grants, Diaspora Fund, etc.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Lucy for her presentation and wished the group well.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

5.1.1 To receive an update on Speed Limit Review.

Paul Phelan, Executive Engineer, Transportation attended the meeting and outlined the report that had been circulated in advance, which dealt with both the countywide speed limit review and the proposed speed limit bye-laws for housing estates.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

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- The opportunity for Councillors to review the draft report – it was noted that the Transportation Section were hoping to bring the draft countywide speed limit review to each of the Municipal Districts in October 2016 to discuss any proposed changes, with each location having been subject to prior analysis, including accident data, speed surveys, etc. 54 locations had been identified in Kells Municipal District. The new Special Speed Limit Bye-Law for County Meath and associated signage is due to be in place by the end of April 2017.
 - The timeline for the erection of signage in estates – it was confirmed that it was intended to have the new Housing Estate bye-law adopted and signs erected in the pilot estates before the end of the year, following the formal process of public consultation, presentation to the Municipal Districts and adoption by the full Council. Additional estates would be dealt with on a phased basis. It was confirmed that there were 36 Council estates and 11 estates taken in charge in Kells Municipal District, giving a total of 47 estates. The new bye-laws cannot be applied to estates that are not Council estates or taken in charge.
 - The review of speed limits on national roads, e.g. N52 – it was pointed out that TII had appointed consultants to review the speed limits on national roads and would submit their recommendations to the Council. The intention is to achieve as much consistency as possible.
 - The review of speed limits that were formerly national roads, e.g. R147 and the possibility of increasing the limits on these routes – it was confirmed that these would be reviewed.
 - The enforcement of the new speed limits in Housing Estates – it was pointed out that the guidelines sets out the self-enforcement aspect of the new limits, with local authorities to introduce engineering solutions to reduce speed where appropriate.
- 5.1.2 To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Kells Municipal District.

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

- The need for works on the junction at the graveyard in Gibbstown.
- The planned measures to ensure safe access to the new school in Athboy – it was confirmed that the Sustainable Transport Unit had identified a number of proposals and were applying to the NTA for funding.
- The steps on the Cavan Road, where the new school was being built – it was pointed out that this was between the Department of Education and Skills and the contractor but that it would be checked once works were complete.
- It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Drew** to transfer the funding allocation of c. €58,000 from L68231 to L68232 in Ballintleve based on the road conditions.

The below list of locations was presented for consideration by the Councillors in relation to the additional allocation of €140,000 for footpath works:

Proposed Locations

Location	Required Works	Estimated Cost
Crossakiel	Upgrade approx. 250m of existing footpath at various locations in preparation for road restoration in village	€50,000
Headfort Road	Construct 130m of new footpath at bend on R163 on Kells side of Headfort Bridge	€34,000
Drumconrath	Upgrade 200m of existing footpath in village	€41,000
Castletown	Upgrade 60m section of existing footpath between junction and church	€15,000
Total		€140,000

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Options

Location	Required Works	Estimated Cost
Ballinacree	Construct footpath between school and community centre	€90,000
Moynalty	Upgrade 180m of existing footpath between church and graveyard	€36,000
Oldcastle / Cavan Road	Remove existing paving on footpath and replace with DBM	€30,000
Total		€156,000

Following a discussion, the list of proposed locations was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

The below list of locations was presented for consideration by the Councillors in relation to the allocation of €50,000 for estate works:

Location	Required Works	Estimated Cost
Blackwater Heights, Kells	Upgrade sections of existing footpaths	€8,000
Ardna Greine, Kells	Upgrade sections of existing footpaths	€8,000
Disability Accessibility - Kells	Drop kerbs at various locations	€6,000
Village Green, Carlanstown	Upgrade existing fence at N52 boundary	€2,000
Gardenrath, Kells	Upgrade sections of existing footpaths	€5,000
Gardenrath, Kells	Remove section of existing concrete roadway	€10,000
Various MCC estates	Drain cleaning with Jet Vac	€11,000
Total		€50,000

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Drew** to proceed with the locations as outlined.

5.2 Planning



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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 Act 2000-2014.

- Townparks Manor, Kells.

Michael Griffin, Senior Executive Officer, Planning Department, attended the meeting and outlined the background to this matter and the options available to Councillors and the executive in progressing same. After a lengthy discussion, where Councillors conveyed the views of residents, it was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Johnny Guirke** to defer this item to the May meeting and to check with residents in the meantime if recent works undertaken were adequate.

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.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Seán Drew

“Can the executive please update the Kells Municipal District Councillors on the current position in regard to the development of the Pedestrian and Cycle Link from Gardenrath to the school and swimming pool complex on the Navan Road in Kells and how the recent additional NTA funding allocation of €50,000 will be utilised in finally delivering this project?”

Response:

This project is at a standstill at present due to land acquisition issues. This year’s funding of €50,000 will be used to investigate alternative routes and design for same.



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The response was noted. Councillor Drew sought clarification on the alternative routes being investigated and it was agreed to refer this to Transportation Planning & Design.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Seán Drew

“In accordance with the Reserved Function provisions of the Local Government Reform Act 2014, this Municipal District Council requests that Meath County Council with immediate effect undertakes the necessary procedures to permit the preparation and presentation of an order declaring the short lane at Coolaliss, Staholmog, Carlanstown (located off the N52 directly across from the L74111) a public road.”

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

Under Section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993:

- *Where a road authority proposes to declare a road to be a public road it shall –*
- *Satisfy itself that the road is of general public utility,*
- *Consider the financial implications for the authority of the proposed declaration,*

Publish in one or more newspapers circulating in the area where the road which it is proposed to declare a public road is located a notice indicating the times at which, the period (which shall be not less than one month) during which and the place where a map showing such road may be inspected and stating that objections or representations may be made in writing to the road authority in relation to such declaration before a specified date (which shall be not less than two weeks after the end of the period for inspection),

Consider any objections or representations made to it under paragraph (iii) and not withdrawn.



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The lane at Coolaliss, Staholmog, is 170m long and has an average width of 3m. There are three dwellings along the lane; one halfway down the lane and two at the end of the lane. The lane surface is in poor condition, with no bituminous surfacing and extensive potholing on the existing stone surface. An estimated cost to bring the surface of the lane up to an acceptable standard is €12,750. Ongoing maintenance of the lane would incur further costs.

Considering the demands on available funding to maintain the current public road network, it is recommended that this lane is not declared a public road, having regard to the contribution of the lane as a general public utility and the cost associated to bring the road surface to an acceptable standard and to maintain the road into the future.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Seán Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

A discussion followed on the lane proposed to be taken in charge and the associated issues were this to proceed.

The motion was adopted.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 Correspondence received Dominic Mullaney, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport in response to Notice of Item 8.1 of March Ordinary Meeting re. 2016-2018 Multi-Annual Restoration Improvement Programme.

The correspondence was noted and discussed, particularly the suggestion that a strong submission for funding be made for 2017. It was highlighted that Councillors should have the opportunity to contribute to such a submission before it is made and it was agreed to refer this to the Director of Service for Transportation. It was also agreed that Councillors should talk to local TDs to highlight the need for additional funding allocations.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Kevin Stewart raised the following issues:



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- 9.1.1 Referred to the recent announcement by Shire on building a new plant in Meath and their invitation to all Councillors to attend a presentation next Monday at 11.00am in Dunboyne Castle Hotel.
- 9.1.2 Update on the sites in Kells Business Park.
- 9.2 Councillor David Gilroy raised the following issue:
 - 9.2.1 Congratulated Nigel Connell, Athboy on reaching next Sunday's final of the The Voice, Ireland and wished him well.
- 9.3 Councillor Johnny Guirke raised the following issues:
 - 9.3.1 Congratulated Noel Briody, Oldcastle on reaching the final of Glór Tíre on TG4 this Wednesday.
 - 9.3.2 The possibility of Meath County Council requesting that the HSE building beside the church be secured for the use of local sporting and voluntary organisations – it was agreed that a letter would issue to the HSE on behalf of Kells Municipal District Councillors requesting information on their intentions for the building and highlighting local needs.
- 9.4 Councillor Seán Drew raised the following issues:
 - 9.4.1 Queried as to whether a fence is to be erected around the playground in Kells and the possibility of having the surrounding stone wall cleaned – it was agreed to check this.
 - 9.4.2 The measures in place to ensure the safety of staff at reception in Kells Civic Offices – it was confirmed that a recent incident was being investigated.
- 9.5 Councillor Michael Gallagher raised the following issue:
 - 9.5.1 The occupation of a public road in Carlanstown/Fletcherstown by a group of Travellers and the role of the Council in dealing with this – it was confirmed that the process of dealing with such issues was complex and time consuming and that the role of the Gardaí was important in this regard.



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9.6 Councillor Bryan Reilly raised the following issue:

- 9.6.1 Reports that the stonework at the top of the Round Tower was loose – it was agreed that a letter be issued to the OPW on behalf of Kells Municipal District Councillors requesting that the stonework be checked urgently.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach