



## ***Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

### ***Municipal District of Kells***

#### ***Ordinary Meeting***

***21<sup>st</sup> July 2014, Kells Civic Offices***

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

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

#### **Officials in Attendance:**

**Head of Finance:** Fiona Lawless  
**Meetings Administrator:** Claire King  
**Administrative Officer:** Fiona Skehan  
**Senior Resident Engineer:** Fiona Beers  
**Clerical Officer:** Fiona Casserly

**Apologies:** Kevin Stewart, Director of Service

Representatives from the North Meath Windfarm Information Group had requested that they be allowed to deliver a presentation to Councillors before the meeting commenced. The Cathaoirleach agreed to a ten minute presentation with no questions to follow. The Group joined the meeting, made their presentation and subsequently left the Chamber.

### **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

#### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Annual Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014.**

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Bryan Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor David Gilroy**.

### **2.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

### **3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Dearbháil Murray, Farrell Street, Kells, a former staff member of Kells Swimming Pool.



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### **4.0 Statutory Business**

#### **4.1 Corporate Services**

##### **4.1.1** To consider the Standing Orders for the meetings of Kells Municipal District.

No issues arose. It was agreed that the Standing Orders would be adopted at the September Municipal District meetings, incorporating feedback received.

### **5.0 Notice of Question**

There were no Notices of Question.

### **6.0 Notices of Motion**

#### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Johnny Guirke**

*“That Kells Municipal District calls on Meath County Council to allocate a minimum of 34% of all available roads funding to Kells Municipal District in future budgets.”*

The Motion was proposed by **Councillor Johnny Guirke** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

A written report had been provided by Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, Transportation.

A lengthy discussion took place around the percentage of roads within the Kells Municipal District and the percentage of funding allocated in previous years. It was agreed that progress had been made but more was needed in terms of planned and emergency funding. The efforts of former Kells Area Councillors was acknowledged in securing additional funding in recent years. Fiona Lawless highlighted how Municipal District Councillors will have the powers to generate local income and determine how budgets are spent. Councillors felt that Meath County Council needed additional funding from central government.

Councillor Eugene Cassidy proposed that Kells Municipal District seek a meeting with the Minister for Transport, the Chief Executive of Meath County Council and the Director of Services for Transportation in an effort to seek additional roads funding for the District. This was seconded by Councillor Michael Gallagher.



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The Motion was noted and is to be amended to reflect the actual percentage of road network within the Kells Municipal District, to be confirmed by Fiona Beers.

### **6.2 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly**

*“That Meath County Council ensures that the village of Moynalty is maintained by the presence of the path cleaning machine once a week, as was previously the case, to ensure adequate service and maximum achievement in the Tidy Towns Competition.”*

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

A written report had been provided by Fiona Beers, Senior Resident Engineer, Kells Municipal District.

Councillor Sarah Reilly emphasised the importance of the Tidy Towns Competition to the village and requested that the road sweeper be deployed to Moynalty weekly during the competition period. The Motion was noted.

### **6.3 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly**

*“That Kells Municipal District adopts the recommendations of the outgoing Kells Town Council by immediately providing an in town parking incentive scheme to encourage trade, support business and ensure maximum rate income.”*

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

A written report was provided by Fiona Skehan, Administrative Officer, Kells Municipal District.

It was agreed to take **Item 7.1 – Correspondence** together with this Notice of Motion in addition to further correspondence received from Kells Local Heroes.

A discussion followed on issues including the impact of parking charges on business in the town. Councillors requested figures on net income from parking charges. It was highlighted that the 2014 budget had been adopted based on income from parking charges and that staff overheads would still have to be covered. It was agreed that the options proposed in correspondence received needed further examination in terms of costs, trial periods and contingency plans for loss of



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income. It was suggested that current parking patterns be looked at in terms of targeting any incentivised scheme to periods that are currently quieter.

The Motion was noted and it was agreed that this matter would be revisited at the September meeting when a full report would be made available.

### **6.4 Submitted by Councillor Seán Drew**

*“That the members of the Municipal District of Kells call on The Minister of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources to issue a moratorium on the acceptance of new planning applications for the development of Windfarms, pending the publication of the revised Wind Energy Guidelines under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2013.”*

Following a discussion, and with Councillor Drew’s agreement, it was agreed that the Notice of Motion should be amended as follows:

*“That the members of the Municipal District of Kells call on the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government to publish the revised Wind Energy Guidelines under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2013 as soon as possible and to ensure that decisions relating to any relevant planning applications received before the publication of the guidelines should take the new guidelines into account.”*

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

### **7.0 Correspondence**

**7.1** Received from The Cathaoirleach and Members of Kells Town Council requesting *“That Kells Town Council calls upon the new Municipal District to examine all options for paid parking in Kells and to include the possibility of two hour free parking in the town”*.

**See Item 6.3.**

### **8.0 Any Other Business**

**8.1** Following a request submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly, Fiona Skehan agreed to ensure that the Kells Town Council "Chain of Office" was encased and put on display in Kells Town Hall.



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- 8.2** iPad Training: Staff from the IT Section of Meath County Council were in attendance to provide training on the use of the iPads provided. It was agreed to deal with any other business arising before the training commenced.
- 8.2** Councillor Michael Gallagher raised the following issues:
- The issuing of bills for large amounts relating to non-payment of the Non Principle Private Residence to those who were not aware of a liability and/or could not afford to settle the amount due. Fiona Lawless highlighted the extensive media campaign relating to the NPPR and confirmed that Meath County Council had a responsibility to issue the correspondence based on a database provided by the Revenue Commissioners, could not apply a waiver, there were certain exemptions and if there was no liability, then this was not an issue.
  - Whether the Local Property Tax applied to Council owned houses – Fiona Lawless confirmed that the LPT did apply and that Meath County Council had paid in full and had not passed the tax on to tenants but that the tax did apply to home owners who had purchased council houses.
- 8.3** Councillor Sean Drew raised the following issues:
- The provision of a housing report at future Municipal District meetings, e.g. vacant units, housing lists, etc. – Fiona Lawless confirmed that the Housing Department intended to visit each Municipal District to provide a comprehensive overview of housing issues within that District.
  - Overflows from wastewater treatment plants into the River Athboy at Crossakiel and also at Lough Ramor, Virginia which impacted on the Kells water supply as it feeds into the River Blackwater. Fiona Beers confirmed that she would request the Water Services Department to forward the information to Irish Water for investigation. It was confirmed that all issues and complaints must first be reported to Irish Water for inclusion on their work programme.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The iPad training followed the ordinary business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cllr. Eugene Cassidy**  
Cathaoirleach