



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Kells Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

4.00pm, 18th July, 2016, Kells Civic Offices

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

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

Apologies: Councillor Eugene Cassidy.

Officials in Attendance:

Senior Executive Officer: Larry Whelan

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Senior Executive Engineer: Fiona Beers

Executive Engineer: Aaron Smith

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Apologies: Kevin Stewart, Director of Services

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Annual Meeting held on 20th June, 2016.

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 20th June 2016 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Johnny Guirke**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 20th June, 2016.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 20th June 2016 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor David Gilroy** and seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.



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3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The victims of the tragedy in Nice and their families.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Planning

- 4.1.1 To receive an update on the preparation of Variation No. 1 of the Kells Development Plan 2013-2019. This variation will align the Kells Development Plan with the key tenets of the Meath Economic Strategy.

Fergal O’Bric, Executive Planner, delivered a presentation that included the context and reasons for and objectives of the amendment, the overview of the amendment and the next steps, including the detailed text and maps to be available in September/October.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- Confirmation of the amount of land proposed for industrial development – it was confirmed that 36 hectares at Lloyd in addition to a further 16 hectares on the Navan Road would ensure sufficient lands available.
- The consideration of the implications of Brexit in the economic strategy – it was pointed out that it was too early to know the precise implications and that the process for the exit would be two to four years.
- The linkages with the review of the County Development Plan – it was pointed out that this formed a separate process but would ensure consistency, following on from Variation No. 3.
- The economic development potential of areas within Kells Municipal District outside of Kells – it was pointed out that whilst a settlement hierarchy did exist, the Council remained committed to facilitating economic development in all areas and that the flexibility provided by Variation No. 3 would benefit



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all areas. Reference was also made to the economic strategy which highlighted supports for employment generation in smaller towns and rural areas.

4.2 Housing

- 4.2.1 To receive a Summary of Social Housing Assessments 2016.

The report was noted.

A query was raised in relation to the status of housing applicants who were renting in other counties to avail of cheaper rents and whether they were removed from the housing list as a result – it was agreed to refer this to Housing.

4.3 Transportation

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

The report had been circulated in advance and was noted.

4.4 Corporate Services

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

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

5 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly



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“That the Members, together with the Executive, devise a strategy to maintain and build on the twinning relationships established in Kells Municipal District.”

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

Meath County Council is currently developing a Protocol for Twinning Arrangements. As part of this Protocol, it is proposed that, following a discussion at the January Municipal District meetings, a schedule of twinning activities for the various twinning relationships can be submitted to Corporate Services for consideration. Some of the activities may require the attendance of the Cathaoirleach, Councillors and/or staff, which could be facilitated relatively easily, while other activities may require funding and these will be considered in relation to the available budget.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor David Gilroy**.

A short discussion followed on the need to be ready in advance of the Twinning Protocol being agreed and the greater efforts needed to review and maintain relationships already established.

The motion was adopted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

“That the Executive write to the Minister for Communications asking for an update on the roll out of the National Broadband Plan.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Drew**.

An amended motion, as follows, was proposed by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Drew**:

“That the Executive write to the Minister for Communications asking for an update on the roll out of the National Broadband Plan as it relates to County Meath.”



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A short discussion followed on the challenges facing businesses in certain parts of Meath due to the lack of any or adequate broadband and the need for central government to deliver on the promises made in relation to its provision.

The amended motion was adopted.

7 Correspondence

- 7.1 Correspondence received from Dervila Eyres, General Manager, Meath PCS, HSE in response to agenda item 9.1 from April meeting re appearance and maintenance of the HSE building in Oldcastle, Co. Meath.

The correspondence was noted.

8 Any Other Business

- 8.1 Councillor Seán Drew raised the following issues:

8.1.1 The problems with anti-social and criminal behaviour at the new playground in Kells during the night and the concerns of local residents. It was requested that security fencing be installed as a matter of urgency with clear opening and closing times to address the concerns of residents and protect the investment made. A discussion followed on the need for improved signage, the role of the Gardaí, the consideration of CCTV and the possibility of having Gateway staff in place for a number of weeks. It was pointed out that there were bye-laws in place for playgrounds but that these needed to be enforced and it was the role of the Gardaí to deal with any criminal or anti-social behaviour. The operational costs involved in opening and closing the playground were also highlighted. It was confirmed that the committee would work with the Council in terms of the operational considerations. It was agreed that a costing for the fence should be obtained.

8.1.2 The commencement of the HGV ban – it was confirmed that the bye-laws were in place and that the signage should be in place for 3rd August, when the ban would commence.



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8.2 Councillor Michael Gallagher raised the following issue:

8.2.1 The large Traveller encampment in Fletcherstown/Carlanstown – it was confirmed that no complaints had been received and that it was difficult to prevent this road section being accessed. It was agreed to assess the situation and talk to the Gardaí in terms of serving notices if required.

8.3 Councillor Bryan Reilly raised the following issue:

8.3.1 The need for signage indicating directions to Fordstown on the Navan to Athboy Road – it was agreed to check this.

8.3.2 The inclusion of Fordstown in the speed limit review – it was agreed to refer this to Transportation.

8.4 Councillor Sarah Reilly raised the following issues:

8.4.1 The damaged rope on the drawbridge in the playground at Lloyd – it was confirmed that a price was being sought for its repair/replacement.

8.4.2 The confusion arising from the mile markers on approach roads and the need to highlight the reasons for their design and purpose – it was confirmed that these were not intended as directional signage and old sign writing styles had been used, as developed by the Typetrail. It was agreed to get the background information from Kells Local Heroes.

8.4.3 The possibility of putting black writing on the Maureen O'Hara plinth – it was pointed out that the artist was strongly opposed to this but that further discussions would take place.



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This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach