



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Kells Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

4:00 p.m., 21st September 2015, 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 20th July 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 20th July 2015 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- Kells Handball Club on its success in the World Handball Championships and for which a Civic Reception had been organised following the meeting.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

4 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Corporate Services

- 5.1.1 To consider and, if thought fit, to recommend to Meath County Council the making of the Polling Scheme in accordance with the Draft and subject to such amendments as are considered necessary. The Scheme, if adopted, will come into operation on 15th February 2016.

A presentation was delivered by Olive Falsey, Administrative Officer and Sheila Sheridan, Staff Officer, Corporate Services.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** to recommend to Meath County Council the making of the Polling Scheme in accordance with the Draft.

- 5.1.2 To receive a presentation on the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015.

A presentation on the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 was delivered by Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Services and he responded to a number of queries raised.

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 Act 2000-2014.

- Townparks Manor, Kells.

The Cathaoirleach noted that the developer had met with residents and that works were ongoing but were incomplete. It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Seán Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** to defer



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

this matter to the October meeting when confirmation that works had been completed would be sought.

- 5.2.2 To receive and consider the Chief Executive's Report in accordance with Part 8 of the Planning & Development Act 2000–2013 and the Planning & Development Regulations 2001–2015 on the N52 Owenroe Bridge Rehabilitation Works and if thought fit to approve the report.

A report had been circulated in advance and Fiona Redmond, Senior Executive Planner, Aoife Kennedy, Assistant Planner and Paul McNulty, Senior Executive Engineer were available to answer any queries arising. Councillors raised a number of queries in relation to issues such as the submissions received, the installation of bollards and lighting, the provision of footpaths and the extent of road closures and the provision of alternative routes. Responses were provided.

This was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

5.3 Transportation

- 5.3.1 To receive a progress report on works undertaken/planned for Kells Municipal District.

The works in cul-de-sacs were welcomed and attention drawn to the potholes on the bends from Girley Church to Fordstown.

- 5.3.2 To receive a report on a one way system for Kells.

The council has carefully considered the views expressed by those who attended the public information session held in the Headfort Arms on the 15th June 2015. As is evident now the Council has decided to postpone the introduction of the trial of the one-way system until 2016. It is still the Council's intention to go ahead with the trial, however, in response to the concerns raised, the following modifications are proposed:

The time scale for the trial will be considerably reduced from 4 months to 8 weeks and will be undertaken during July, August & September 2016



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Rather than close Cross Street completely for the full extent of the trial period, one way flow on Cross street with right in/right out only access from either Back Street (Kenlis Place) or Market Street will be maintained for 6 weeks out of the 8 weeks of the trial. Cross Street would then be closed for the remaining 2 weeks of the trial period.

The Council are agreeable to include the preparation of a Town Design Statement for Kells in the work programme for 2016. The information gathered from the trial of the one-way system will inform the final recommendations in this document.

A liaison officer will be appointed before the trial of the one-way system to act as a point of contact for the business community. Contact details will be circulated before the trial commences.

The Council hopes that the above will be seen as a meaningful response to the issues raised and will go some way toward allaying the concerns of local people and businesses in relation to the one-way system. It is also our intention to consider a suitable event that might be staged during the trial period when Cross Street is closed. There will be further communication with Councillors, the Chamber of Commerce and local people in advance of the commencement of the trial.

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer outlined how consideration had been given to the issues raised at the public meetings and the value of the trial to the town design statement, planned for 2016. It was confirmed that a further report would be presented at the October meeting of Kells Municipal District.

The report was unanimously welcomed by Councillors and the following issues were raised:

- The potential of Kells to develop in a sustainable way and the possibility of accessing European funding to support planned initiatives under culture and heritage;
- The need to keep Councillors informed of developments prior to information being released to other parties;



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The need to consult with the Traders Organisation also;
- The role of the Municipal District in advancing related initiatives such as off-street car parking.

5.3.3 To receive a report on the paid parking trial for Kells.

Alan Rogers, Administrative Officer, outlined the key points raised in the report that had been circulated in advance.

Councillors expressed their support for the continuation of the scheme and the need to ensure that the budget process facilitated its continuation. It was confirmed that the Chamber of Commerce were undertaking a survey of their members in terms of the impacts of the scheme, the results of which should be available in two to three weeks. It was agreed that the scheme should continue until the results of this survey were available, following which a decision could be taken bearing in mind the annual costs of the scheme.

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Sean Drew

“Reference is made to the €120,000 included by Meath County Council under its Amenity Projects Capital Investment Programme 2015 for Kells Playground.

Can the Executive please outline the process and timescale for the development/upgrade of Kells Playground by Meath County Council, specifically in relation to the funding, design, planning, contractor appointment, projected date for opening of the playground and the future operation & maintenance of the public facility?”

Response:

Estimate cost for the project is €150,000, with funding sourced from a number of areas, including Meath County Council’s Capital Programme, local community funding and the Department of Youth & Children Affairs.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The next stage of the project is the necessary design and contractor procurement. It is intended that this phase will be completed in quarter four of 2015, with a view to completing the project during 2016. It is not possible at this point to provide exact dates regarding the completion of the project, but the completion of the design/contractor procurement stage will allow a more detailed timeframe to be provided, and the executive will revert back to members at that point.

The response was noted. Councillor Sarah Reilly pointed out that consideration should be given now to the installation of appropriate security measures given the issues that had arisen in other playgrounds.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

"That a road traffic management survey be conducted in Oldcastle town, with a particular emphasis on the Cavan Road, to investigate average speed with a view to the implementation of appropriate traffic calming measures where necessary."

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

The scope of a road traffic management survey in Oldcastle would depend on the intended scale of improvement works to be carried out. If this was intended to be a comprehensive design and construction of traffic calming in the town it would require significant funding and provision would have to be made in next year's budgets. If the main concern is the speed of traffic on the Cavan Road, an automatic traffic counter can be placed at this location as part of the county-wide speed limit review, which will be completed in approximately one year. The requirement for traffic calming at this location would then have to be reviewed, and the identification and provision of any measures would be subject to available funding and resources.

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

Councillor Sarah Reilly acknowledged the information provided and agreed with the recommendation to proceed with the actions identified as part of the speed limit review, followed by consideration of traffic calming measures as appropriate.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The motion was adopted.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 Correspondence received from Mary Murphy, Sports Co-ordinator, Meath Local Sports Partnership.

The correspondence was noted.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Councillor Michael Gallagher raised the following issues:

9.1.1 The failed public lighting in Loughcrew Hills and Ardfrail Court estates, Oldcastle, neither of which were taken in charge – it was agreed to check if the public lighting had been taken in charge. If not, no action could be taken. It was also agreed to request Planning to check if any requests had been received with regard to the taking in charge of these estates and if security was in place.

9.1.2 Overhanging trees on the Carlanstown to Kells road – it was confirmed that this was the responsibility of the landowner and, as this was a national route, it would be checked and notices served if required.

- 9.2 Councillor David Gilroy raised the following issue:

9.2.1 Update on the roadworks on the N51 Kells Athboy Road – it was confirmed that works were on schedule. A short discussion followed on the road diversions and the use of narrow roads to reach Athboy – it was confirmed that adequate signage was in place confirming the road closure in addition to ‘Slow Down’ signs but that the issues raised would be looked at. A written report on the works was also requested.

- 9.3 Councillor Seán Drew raised the following issue:

9.3.1 The possibility of clearing the footpath on the Headfort Road in advance of the Pink Ribbon Walk taking place this weekend – it was agreed to do what was possible bearing in mind that no footpath surface was in place.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- 9.3.2 The possibility of offering some rates incentive to traders in Athboy such as that currently being offered to offset losses experienced due to the road closure – it was confirmed that there was no provision to allow this.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

The meeting was followed by a Civic Reception to recognise the achievements of the following at the World Handball Championships, which took place in Calgary, Canada in August:

- Robert Fox – Bronze in the Mens B Singles;
- Gary McConnell – Gold in the Mens A Singles & Silver in the Mens A Doubles;
- Christy McGovern – Silver in the Masters Doubles & Bronze in the Masters Singles;
- Michael Sheridan – Silver in the Masters Doubles & Bronze in the Masters Singles.
- Kells Handball Club.