



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Kells Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

4:00 p.m., 19th October, 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 21st September 2015.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21st September 2015 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

Congratulations were extended to:



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- Clann n nGael on winning the Division 2 Minor Hurling title and Intermediate Hurling title.

4 To meet with Adrian O'Loughlin, Services Manager, Bus Éireann.

Adrian O'Loughlin, Services Manager, Bus Éireann explained that Bus Éireann had a PSO contract with the NTA for Meath to 2019 and that, whilst Bus Éireann works with the NTA in deciding on timetables, the NTA ultimately decides on the services to be operated. He also pointed out that the NTA had sought submissions as part of the 2015 M3 Corridor Review and that changes arising from this review will come into effect in early 2016.

He invited Councillors to raise any issues or queries with regard to Bus Éireann services in the area.

Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The provision of a bus service for Carlanstown – it was confirmed that this issue had been raised a number of times as part of the M3 Corridor Review and that, if sanctioned by the NTA, a service would be operated by Bus Éireann.
- The provision of bus shelters – it was explained that there are two types of bus shelter provided: (1) Commercial and (2) Non-commercial. Based on requests received from different groups and individuals, each location is independently assessed to see which category it falls into. If deemed commercial, these are built and maintained by a private company, funded by advertisements. If non-commercial, these are provided by the NTA. However the number of requests across the country would exceed the funding available each year for non-commercial shelters so locations are prioritised. Adrian agreed to check if Ballinlough was included on the NTA list and to provide Councillors with relevant contact details.
- The possibility of the community providing bus shelters – it was pointed out that the ongoing maintenance and repair of shelters represents the biggest commitment and cost.
- The service in Oldcastle – it was confirmed that the new timetable to be introduced in 2016 would consider submissions received.



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- The Age Friendly status of County Meath and the possible provision of a formal bus stop at Navan Hospital – it was confirmed that this matter had been the subject of recent discussion between Bus Éireann and Meath County Council with a view to providing a safe designated area on each side and that the options would be considered.
- The possibility of changing the new timetables based on passenger feedback – it was pointed out that, whilst this decision would ultimately lie with the NTA, extensive consultation had been undertaken and it was not envisaged that further changes would be made.
- The provision of a bus stop in Athboy – it was confirmed that the current situation is considered unacceptable from an operational, health and safety and traffic management perspective, that extensive discussions had taken place with the NTA and Meath County Council and that it is hoped that the issues can be resolved as soon as possible.
- The provision of a pick-up and drop-off point at the new medical centre in Kells – Adrian agreed to check if any correspondence had been received and raise this with the NTA and Meath County Council.
- The possibility of a service from Kells to Drogheda – it was confirmed that there are no plans for a direct route but that a route linking Kells, Drogheda and Ashbourne may be planned.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked Adrian for attending the meeting and for the information provided.

5 To receive a presentation from Kells Playground Regeneration Committee.

Ken Murray and Barry Lynch attended the meeting and provided an overview of the Committee's work to date, including the funds raised and consultation undertaken. They outlined the key issues to be considered in the design of the playground, including the nature of the existing site and security issues. They requested that the Committee be facilitated in being consulted as part of the procurement process so that the views and knowledge collated could be considered as part of the tender. They thanked Aaron Smith and Eugene Farrelly for their help and support to date.



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Matters raised by Councillors included:

- The plans to address the funding shortfall – it was pointed out that additional funding may be available if the design meets certain heritage design criteria and additional fundraising initiatives were planned.
- The options to address security concerns, the topography of the site and the impact on the overall budget.
- The need to consider the ongoing maintenance of the playground.
- The next steps in progressing the project, including planning requirements and project management – it was pointed out that the nature of the planned works will determine the planning requirements and that, whilst there was no technical resource available within Meath County Council currently, this would be advanced as soon as possible.

The Cathaoirleach and Councillors thanked the Committee representatives for attending the meeting and for their presentation. They congratulated them for their achievements to date and pledged their ongoing support for the project.

6 Statutory Business

6.1 Transportation

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

It was confirmed that the junction upgrade scheme at N51 Ballyboy was due to be completed on time and by 23rd October.

6.2 Planning

- 6.2.1 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.



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- Townparks Manor, Kells.

It was pointed out that a lot of work had been undertaken by the developer but that there was more to be done. It was agreed on the proposal **of Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Drew** to defer this item to the November meeting and that Councillors would make contact with the developer requesting that works be completed by then.

7 Notice of Question

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

"The sauna in Kells Swimming Pool has been inaccessible to the public due to the need for repair works for over four months; when will the required works be completed and the sauna reopened?"

Response:

Following a tender process and associated clarifications which ended on the 30th September, the successful contractor has been notified and requested to submit details of the dates for the proposed works to the sauna in Kells pool. As soon as these dates are known and agreed with Kells pool, the works can proceed.

The response was noted.

8 Notice of Motion

8.1 Submitted by Councillor Seán Drew

"That Kells Municipal District supports the residents of Clifton Court, Athboy in their attempts to get their 30 year old housing estate taken in charge and that the planning department of Meath County Council facilitates and supports the residents in commencing the process with immediate effect."

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



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Meath County Council can confirm that it has recently received a valid taking in charge application the residents of Clifton Court, Athboy. The Council is now statutorily obliged to initiate the statutory taking in charge process.

The Council will shortly carry out an inspection of the estate to establish what works are required to bring the estate up to standard. The Council holds a small cash deposit from a number of developers / individuals who constructed houses in the estate. Where the developer (s) is no longer trading, the Council may initiate the statutory taking in charge process and on completion of that process undertake repairs in line with the security held.

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Seán Drew** and seconded by **Councillor David Gilroy**.

The information provided was noted. A short discussion followed and it was agreed to circulate information on the process involved in taking an estate in charge. Councillors also requested a list of all unfinished estates, with information on the associated bonds/cash deposits, in Kells Municipal District. It was requested that works in estates where the bond has been released, e.g. Cloran Court, Athboy, be expedited although Councillors were reminded that the Council must comply with the rules on procurement, which can cause delays.

The motion was noted.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Kevin Stewart encouraged Councillors to access the NTA's Draft Transport Strategy 2016 - 2035 for the Greater Dublin Area, available at www.nationaltransport.ie, for which submissions were invited by 13th November.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 Councillor Michael Gallagher raised the following issues:

10.1.1 The dangerous crossing at Gibbstown where visibility was obstructed by the



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cemetery wall – it was confirmed that discussions had taken place with the Cemetery Committee and a proposal made regarding lowering the height of the wall to improve visibility but that no response had been received. Councillors agreed to ask the Committee to make contact.

10.1.2 The possible extension of the footpath to the new GAA pitches in Kells – it was pointed out that there was no funding available for this.

10.2 Councillor Seán Drew raised the following issues:

10.2.1 The previous commitment made by a developer to provide playing pitches on the Moynalty Road in Kells and whether anything can be done to ensure this is delivered – it was agreed to check this out.

10.2.2 Complimented Aaron Smith, Fiona Beers and all the Transportation Operations staff on the roadworks programme delivered this year.

10.3 Councillor Johnny Guirke raised the following issue:

10.3.1 The problems for neighbours resulting from two derelict houses at 5 O'Growney Terrace and 17 St. Colmcille's Villas – it was agreed to refer this to the Environment Section.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach