



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Kells Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

4:00pm, 15th December 2014, Kells Civic Offices

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

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

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Kevin Stewart

Meetings Administrator: Olive Falsey

District Engineer: Fiona Beers

Clerical Officer: Fiona Casserly

Apologies: Claire King, Fiona Skehan

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 17th November 2014.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 17th November 2014 were adopted on the proposal of **Councillor Bryan Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Drew**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

The issue of the Kells Town Council Chain of Office was raised again.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to Michael Finnegan, Road Safety Officer, on his receiving the 'Road Safety Officer of the Year Award' form the Road Safety Authority.

4 Statutory Business



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There was no statutory business.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Seán Drew

“At the recent Annual Budget meeting of Meath County Council, it was stated that any changes to car parking charges in Kells town was a matter to be dealt with specifically by the Kells Municipal District within its own budgetary restrictions. To enable us, the Elected Representatives for the Kells Municipal District, to make an informed decision on this issue, please provide a detailed report of the Income and Expenditure that will be allocated specifically to the Kells Municipal District from the County Council's 2015 adopted budget. Please include in the report a detailed breakdown of the following:

- Kells Civic Office loan repayments;
- Paid parking income & expenditure;
- Swimming pool income & expenditure;
- Recycling centre income & expenditure;
- Street cleaning expenditure;
- Local authority housing estate open green areas upkeep and maintenance;
- All other substantial items of income and expenditure specific to the Kells Municipal District budget.”

A response was provided by the Administrative Officer, Kells Municipal District, as follows:

Meath County Council advises that the income and expenditure figures contained under the above headings in the adopted 2015 Budget are as follows: -

Civic Office Loan

- *€233,000 loan payments in 2015*

Paid Parking

- *€265,100 projected parking Income which represents parking fees and parking fines*



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- €205,247 direct costs of parking expenditure which includes upgrade and maintenance of metres, car parks, contract payment for collection of parking revenue, wages and legal costs
- €41,384 being the apportionment of support costs applicable to Kells parking
(Extract from the budget presentation on car parking attached for information)

Swimming Pool

- €195,000 income
- €456,762 expenditure – this figure does not include support salaries or Central Management Charge

Recycling Centre

- €45,000 income
- €140,000 expenditure – this figure does not include support salaries or Central Management Charge

Street Cleaning/LA Housing Estate open green areas upkeep and maintenance

A detailed breakdown of income and expenditure in relation to the above has not yet been decided. Work is ongoing on identifying the breakdown of expenditure under these headings and will be made available to members when the Roads Programme for 2015 is being considered.

The response was noted.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

“That Kells Municipal District grants permission to Kells Youthreach to erect the sculpture they are creating as part of their Young Innovators Project at an appropriate site in Kells town.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

Supporting information was provided by the District Engineer, Kells Municipal District, as follows:

A suitable location and fixing details should be agreed with Meath County Council.



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Councillor Sarah Reilly outlined the background to the project and a description of the sculpture. Fiona Beers advised that one proposed location was the Fair Green but the Kells Local Heroes group are considering the provision of a playground in the Fair Green so there needs to be co-ordination between the two groups.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Seán Drew

“That this Council approves the implementation, for an initial period of 12 months commencing January 2015, of first hour free on-street parking in Kells on Monday-Friday and free on-street parking on Saturdays from 12pm.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Seán Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Johnny Guirke**.

Supporting information was provided the Transportation Section, as follows:

The on-street parking income budget for Kells for 2015 is €176,000. The proposal, as outlined in the Notice of Motion, calls for free parking for the first hour for 89 % (48 of the 54 hours) of paid parking hours. An analysis of the number of tickets issued and income from machines to September 2014 reveals that the weighted average revenue per ticket is €0.89, indicating that the majority of tickets issued are for 1 hour or less.

The proposal would also be very difficult to manage and operate to ensure compliance.

It is reasonable to assume, given that the majority of tickets issued are for 1 hour or less taken together with logistical traffic warden operational issues (in terms of monitoring compliance), that the loss of income is likely to be substantial and therefore it is prudent to budget for a loss of revenue of 89 % of budget (i.e. a loss of revenue of €157,000).

Kevin Stewart advised the meeting that a representative group of Kells traders had a very positive meeting with the Chief Executive, Jackie Maguire, Kevin Stewart and a number of officials. The Chief Executive informed the group that a full review of paid parking was being carried out across the county. The group had an opportunity to outline issues of concern. It was proposed that the free parking for the first hour would be initiated for a trial period beginning in February/March. It was agreed that a further meeting would take place in January and provided that a cost neutral solution could be shown, the Council would be willing to engage in the process.

Councillor Drew requested clarification on some of the figures outlined in the budget and further information was provided by Paul Timoney, Financial Accountant. Based on the information provided, and on the report of the positive meeting with the Chief Executive, Councillor Drew and the other Councillors agreed to defer the motion.

The motion was deferred.



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6.3 Submitted by Councillor Johnny Guirke

“That the €50,000 for the Kells Municipal District from the Non-Principle Private Residence income be divided between Oldcastle and Athboy, as these two towns are amongst the poorest in Ireland, need help and have no facilities like other towns in the area. The people of each town would be consulted on how best to use this money and all Kells Municipal District councillors would be involved in the decision making.”

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Johnny Guirke** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

Councillor Guirke outlined information from a Teagasc report regarding the status of the towns in question.

Following a lengthy debate, an amendment to the motion was proposed by Councillor David Gilroy and seconded by Councillor Bryan Reilly as follows:

“That €40,000 would be spent equally across the four population areas of Athboy, Oldcastle, Kells and Nobber/Drumconrath with €10,000 ringfenced for a project on safe parking at Rathmore National School.”

Following a roll call vote, the result of which was seven Councillors For and 0 Against, the amended motion was carried.

7 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Councillor Bryan Reilly raised the matter of the continuation of the long association that KTC had with Iona and Derry – Kevin Stewart advised that the administration of all twinning projects would be carried out by Corporate Services and that there was no intention to end any such associations.

8.2 Councillor Michael Gallagher requested an update on the Eirgrid line across the farm at Lloyd as discussed at the September meeting – Fiona Beers clarified that it is an ESB overhead line and confirmed that the ESB had been informed that the Council had no further objections.

8.3 Councillor Seán Drew raised the following matters:



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- A report that identified three persistent failures at wastewater plants located in the Kells Municipal District, i.e. Carlanstown, Drumconrath and Nobber, and that these plants should be prioritised for repair.

- Informed the meeting of the deadline of 9th January for submissions to be made to the Department regarding hedge cutting controls. It was agreed that a submission would be made requesting, for road safety reasons that road side hedges would be exempt from the wildlife legislation.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach