



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

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

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

***4.00pm, 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2019, Kells Civic Offices***

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

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

**Apologies:** Councillor Bryan Reilly.

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Kevin Stewart

**Meetings Administrator:** Claire King

**Executive Engineer:** Aaron Smith

**Staff Officer:** Triona Keating

#### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

##### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor David Gilroy**.

#### **2 Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

#### **3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

There were no expressions of sympathy or congratulations.

#### **4 To meet with Superintendent Dermot O'Connor, Kells Garda District.**



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Superintendent O'Connor attended the meeting with Sergeant David Bowens and provided responses to a number of issues previously raised by councillors, including staffing and opening hours at Athboy and Oldcastle stations, the resources available to deal with drug related investigations and offences and staffing levels in the district. It was pointed out that the number of public order offences remained static and the number of reported assaults was low. Legal clarification was being sought in relation to data protection and the introduction of community CCTV. It was confirmed that speed checks had been carried out in the vicinity of Rathmore N.S. and would continue. With regard to engagement with young people, an active schools programme is being implemented at both primary and secondary levels and the SMART project is very beneficial.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The potential impact of Brexit on resources in the district – it was pointed out that there remained some uncertainty in this regard but that no impact was likely at this stage.
- The possibility of installing speed boxes on approach roads to towns and villages with cameras being rotated to maintain their effectiveness.
- The possibility of moving the speed detection vehicle to within the restricted speed limit zone at Rathmore N.S.
- The illegal and anti-social activities associated with illegal halting sites at Kilkeelan and Martinstown, Athboy, the impact on local residents and the possibility of information being made available on local crime statistics – it was pointed out that crime statistics for Kells District remain on a par with last year but this matter will be looked into further.
- Acknowledged the role of the Community Garda in setting up the local youth club.
- The possibility of moving the speed detection vehicles to different locations, including on the Mullingar Road, Kells and on the Millbrook Road, Oldcastle – it was pointed out that these are deployed to target locations prone to accidents and that a request had been made to deploy a rolling traffic monitoring system to deal with speeding on the Mullingar Road.



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- The potential role of councillors in assisting the Gardaí, e.g. seeking the allocation of additional resources.
- The need for a full-time station in Oldcastle and the need to deal with drugs offences and illegal parking – activity in relation to drugs searches and detections has increased and the available resources were outlined.
- Reports of anti-social behaviour at the playground in Kells.
- The availability of an anonymous contact number to report issues of drug dealing, threats and intimidation – it was agreed to forward the comments to the relevant district.

The Cathaoirleach and councillors thanked Superintendent O'Connor and Sergeant Bowens for attending and for the information provided and suggested that they be invited back in approximately six months for a further update.

### **5 Statutory Business**

#### **5.1 Transportation**

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

The report, circulated in advance, was noted.

#### **5.2 Corporate Services**

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

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted. Councillors were reminded of the deadline for the receipt of completed applications.

### **6 Notice of Question**



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There were no Notices of Question.

### **7 Notice of Motion**

#### **7.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly**

“That a Part 8 Planning Application be commenced to accommodate the construction of a path from Bective Street (via the rear of McKeon's) to the School Campus.”

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

*The Transportation Section is currently progressing the pedestrian and cycle facilities on the N52 Kells Bypass, which received funding as part of the Outdoor Recreational Scheme. The Part 8 for the footpath from Bective Street to the school campus will be reviewed in due course.*

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

The motion was adopted.

#### **7.2 Submitted by Councillor Seán Drew**

“Kells Municipal District Council requests that Kells Town be selected by Meath County Council as one of the two designated towns in County Meath for the new Fáilte Ireland “Destination Town” Tourism Investment Scheme.”

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

*The Destination Towns – Tourism Investment Scheme was launched by Fáilte Ireland on 27<sup>th</sup> March last. The overall fund is €15.5 million for capital works with a maximum of €500,000 for each county. A county can submit a maximum 2 projects and each project must have a minimum value of €250,000. The Council will be required to provide 25% matching funding to any successful application.*



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*The full details of the scheme are not yet known and we will need to examine the terms and conditions closely to establish what capital works qualify for inclusion and what other conditions apply. Fáilte Ireland have made it clear that any project submitted will be subject to rigorous economic appraisal and only those showing a clear economic return will be considered. The proven potential of a project to contribute additional bed nights and economic activity to the region will be a key consideration. In summary they have advised that focus should be on a well developed and fully costed project rather than any countywide spread of funding. We understand that projects that can be funded from other sources will generally not be considered.*

*Fáilte Ireland have also indicated that they wish to meet with officials in each county to discuss potential projects and advise on what would offer the best opportunity to meet the rigorous scheme criteria. The state of “readiness” of a project including agreement and completion of design and planning will also be key factors as the expectation is that projects will be “ready to go” if approved and will be delivered within a specified timeframe.*

*I will advise the Council as further details become available.*

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

The motion was adopted.

### **8 Strategic Policy Committee & Corporate Policy Group Reports – For Information Purposes**

- 8.1 To note the report from the Environment SPC meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2019.

The report was noted.

- 8.2 To note the report from the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.

The report was noted.

### **9 Correspondence**



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9.1 Correspondence received from Mr Ronnie McGrane.

The correspondence was noted.

### **10 Any Other Business**

10.1 Councillor Sarah Reilly raised the following issues:

10.1.1 Requested an update on the capital investment programme as it relates to works in Dulane Cemetery and also on works in Rathmore Cemetery, for which funding was allocated.

10.1.2 Requested an update on the proposed pathway from the Oldcastle Road to Eureka.

10.1.3 Queried the action that can be taken, e.g. the introduction of bye-laws, to prevent flashing signage being erected at business premises in a heritage town and to implement standards for signage.

10.1.4 Requested that an update be sought from the NTA regarding the planned bus route to serve Carlanstown.

10.2 Councillor David Gilroy raised the following issue:

10.2.1 Requested an update on the illegal halting sites at Kilkeelan and Martinstown, Athboy.

10.3 Councillor Seán Drew raised the following issues:

10.3.1 Requested an update on the number of vacant sites available in Carlanstown and when these will be put on the market.

10.3.2 Referred to queries raised with regard to eligibility of businesses to apply under the Community Grants Scheme for grants for the painting of business premises.

10.4 Councillor Michael Gallagher raised the following issues:



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- 10.4.1 Requested an update on the proposal made for the Men's Shed to be located at the Victorian Waterworks site.
  
- 10.4.2 Requested that TII be requested to ensure that an Environmental Impact Statement and flood risk assessment be carried out in relation to planned works on the Ardee Bypass and that a flood risk report be made available, taking into account potential flooding impacts on Drumconrath and surrounding areas.
  
- 10.4.3 Requested that a safety scheme be considered for the Yellow Ford Bridge, which has been subject to a number of collisions.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**