



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Kells Municipal District

4.00pm, 16th September, 2019, Kells Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Seán Drew**, presided.

Councillors Present:, Mike Bray, Eugene Cassidy, David Gilroy, Johnny Guirke, Paul McCabe, Sarah 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 15th July, 2019.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 15th July 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Paul McCabe** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Meeting held on 29th July, 2019.

The minutes of the Special Meeting held on the 29th July 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Mike Bray**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Paul McCabe enquired as to whether a response had been received from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government with regard to the request for additional funding in respect of the proposed housing development in Nobber – it was agreed to refer this to the Housing Department.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations



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Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Darren Connell, Oldcastle.

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

- 4.1 This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Paul McCabe**.
- 4.2 This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Johnny Guirke** and seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

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

The report, which had been circulated in advance, was noted.

- 5.1.2 To receive a report on the N52 – Roundabout to Balrath Cross.

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, Transportation Department outlined the report that had been circulated in advance of the meeting and confirmed that, following the recent fatal accident at Balrath Cross, a formal process commenced between the local authority and the Gardaí, looking at the particular circumstances of the accident and any immediate action required. A feasibility report, including survey results, is also being prepared for submission to the TII to identify possible actions and with a view to funding applications for proposed works. In the longer term, this may be considered as a Minor Scheme, involving road realignment.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The possibility of providing a footpath in the shorter term and the possible need for land acquisition – the TII standards with regard to the minimum requirements for footpath provision were outlined and it was pointed out that

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the surveys being undertaken would provide more information on how this might be accommodated. The feasibility study being prepared would also outline the possible impacts, costs, etc.

- The approach being taken with regard to junction improvements and footpath provision – these are being dealt with separately. It was pointed out that, prior to the recent accident, this location was not on the system as a high accident location so a strong business case is required for the investment of significant public funds, for which there are competing priorities nationwide.
- The need to consider interim measures to slow traffic – it was agreed to review the location again for additional appropriate measures. A camera and traffic counters have been installed and this will be compared with historic data.
- The possible benefits of submitting this project with other similar projects that were affected by the M3 – it was pointed out that the TII are taking the National Planning Framework into account in their programme to 2040, including the linkages between regional centres.
- Requested that the results of the traffic counts and surveys being undertaken be made available for the October meeting.
- Referred to the role of Gardaí in undertaking speed checks and the need for a suitable, safe location for the deployment of the speed detection vehicles – it was agreed that this would be raised at the next JPC meeting.
- Requested an update on the N51 upgrade – it was confirmed that a large scheme was planned to reinstate the road properly and that an allocation had been made this year but that, due to limited in-house resources, it may be necessary to appoint external resources to progress it but that it is on the list of works to be commenced.

The Cathaoirleach thanked Nicholas for the information provided and requested that all possible measures be undertaken and that councillors be kept informed of developments.

5.2 Planning

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- 5.2.1 To consider taking in charge of the following and the making of a declaration that the roads within the developments shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2018.

- Rochford Hall Housing Estate, Kells.

A query was raised in relation to the wall on the south west boundary of the site, which had collapsed and had been replaced by contractors but was considered unsafe by residents and whether the council would be accepting liability. It was agreed to defer the decision in relation to the taking in charge until a response was received on this matter.

- Curragh Park Housing Estate, Carlanstown.

A query was raised in relation to the boundary to the west of the site, where there is an unsecured agricultural gate, enabling children access the river. It was agreed to defer the decision in relation to the taking in charge until a response was received on this matter.

- Bective Place Housing Estate, Kells.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Mike Bray**.

It was noted that no submissions had been received in relation to these proposals and councillors suggested that, in future, copies of the advertisements be circulated to them so they can inform residents and facilitate relevant submissions being made.

6 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly



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"That Meath County Council installs bike racks in various locations in Kells town to cater for our many cyclists and also to compliment the walk/cycle way."

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

The Municipal District Engineer has identified a number of locations to install bike racks in Kells and it is intended to install these later in 2019.

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

The motion was adopted.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor David Gilroy

"In light of successful trials of the Foamstream equipment currently on lease by Meath County Council in the Kells Municipal District and the necessity to move towards providing environmentally and workplace safe methods of maintaining our public areas, I propose that we purchase the Foamstream equipment for use across our whole municipal district."

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

With a view to investigating the use of alternatives to the traditionally-used weedkillers, Kells Municipal District is currently trialling the Foamstream system in Athboy, in agreement with Athboy Tidy Towns. This is a pilot scheme that will run until the end of 2020, after which the effectiveness, appropriateness and cost-benefit properties of alternative systems will be assessed.

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

The motion, in light of the supporting information provided, was noted.

8 Correspondence



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- 8.1 Correspondence received from Douglas Ryan Drouillard, Past President of the Tecumseh Area Historical Society.

The correspondence was noted and it was agreed to issue an acknowledgement.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Councillor Paul McCabe raised the following issues:

- 9.1.1 Referred to a request made for a deputation by the 2020 Traders Group – it was pointed out that a protocol for deputation requests at municipal district meetings is due before the full council in October and that consideration of requests received would be deferred until this is adopted.
- 9.1.2 The possibility of introducing measures to slow traffic on the N52 at Staholmog Stores – it was pointed out that advance warning signage is in place but that TII funding would be required for a realignment scheme.
- 9.1.3 Requested an update on the possible provision of a footpath from Belair to Moynalty village – it was agreed to put a costing on it.
- 9.1.4 Queried when the process for amending the byelaws relating to the HGV ban would commence to allow HGVs access the new service station development on the Cavan Road – it was pointed out that, whilst protecting the purpose of the byelaws, the wording for the amendment would need to be drafted and agreed, put on public display and submissions considered before being brought back to the municipal district for decision. It was agreed to bring a report to the October meeting.

- 9.2 Councillor Johnny Guirke raised the following issues:

- 9.2.1 Referred to a previous request received to deliver a presentation on the History of Kells – all requests would be considered once the protocol, as referred to earlier, was adopted.
- 9.2.2 Requested that consideration be given to reducing the speed limit at the new Eureka school from 50kmph to 30kmph due to the increased traffic and number of developments at this location - it was agreed to refer this to Transportation.

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9.2.3 Proposed that a letter be submitted to the Minister of Rural and Community Development acknowledging the value of the Clár funding programme to eligible parts of Meath but expressing the disappointment of councillors at the amount of funding allocated to Meath under the 2019 Clár programme, representing 2 out of 7 applications made. It was also suggested that the letter request that a review be undertaken with a view to increasing the eligible areas in Kells Municipal District and requesting feedback on the reasons why applications were unsuccessful.

9.3 Councillor Mike Bray raised the following issues:

9.3.1 Requested that the 80kmph speed signs on the Girley Road from Fordstown to Causey Farm be replaced with 'Go Slow' signs due to the high traffic volumes and narrow road width – it was agreed to check if end of speed limit signs could be installed.

9.3.2 Referred to requests made by Cortown GAA for additional drainage measures to prevent flooding – it was confirmed that drainage works had been undertaken and pipes cleared, which should resolve any outstanding issues.

9.3.3 Referred to odours at the Hill of Ward where works are being carried out by Irish Water and whether Meath County Council would lodge a complaint on behalf of residents – it was confirmed that works were being undertaken by Irish Water and the matter should be resolved in the coming weeks.

9.3.4 Requested that hedges and trees be cut on the Frayne Road to Ballivor – it was confirmed that this was on the list of works.

9.3.5 Requested an update on the illegal occupation at Athboy playground – it was confirmed that this was being dealt with.

9.3.6 Requested that a letter issue on behalf of Kells Municipal District councillors supporting the provision for funding for a respite centre in Athboy.

9.4 Councillor David Gilroy raised the following issues:

9.4.1 Queried whether legal proceedings would be re-initiated in relation to the unauthorised development at Kilkeelan, Athboy following recent developments.



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- 9.4.2 Requested an update on the installation of CCTV at the bottle bank in Athboy and requested that the clothing bank provider be requested to empty the bin more frequently.
- 9.5 Councillor Sarah Reilly raised the following issues:
- 9.5.1 Referred to correspondence received from Kilmainham & District Community Group with regard to the proposed replacement of the rose bushes on the roundabout with wildflowers – the rationale for the proposal was outlined, including the promotion of biodiversity and reduced maintenance.
- 9.5.2 The need to address safety issues on the Chipper Lane – the difficulties in addressing the issues raised were highlighted and it was agreed to review what can be done in relation to pedestrians on Farrell Street and on the bend where visibility is restricted.
- 9.6 Councillor Seán Drew raised the following issues:
- 9.6.1 The need to proactively encourage landowners to commence hedge cutting as early in the season as possible.
- 9.6.2 Complimented hedge maintenance works in the Back Lane, Headfort Grove.
- 9.6.3 Requested an update on the unauthorised development at Headfort Woods – an update was provided on both the stream pollution issue and the unauthorised development, which would be subject to legal proceedings if the issue cannot be resolved.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach