



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

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

### ***Ordinary Meeting***

***4.00pm, 18<sup>th</sup> November, 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 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2019.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Paul McCabe** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

##### **1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Finance Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2019.**

The minutes of the Special Finance Meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Mike Bray**.

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

Councillor Seán Drew re-confirmed that the minutes of each meeting are not published until they are confirmed at the subsequent meeting. He also referred to information of concern that had been published on social media regarding meeting minutes and underlined the transparency and procedures in place. Reference was made to the protocol in place with



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

regard to councillors reporting inaccurately on social media and queried whether a similar protocol was in place for members of the public and/or was there any mechanism available to prevent members of the public from attending meetings if they persist in posting inaccurate information online. It was confirmed that no such protocol exists and that, whilst members of the public are entitled to attend council meetings, it would be hoped that they would provide fair and accurate accounts. It was suggested that the local media be invited to attend meetings to ensure a balanced and unbiased account of proceedings.

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

Congratulations were extended to:

- All local businesses who won awards at the Meath Business & Tourism Awards, including Hinterland and Oldcastle House Hotel;
- All involved in organising Guth Gafa.;
- The local sports organisations who had secured funding under the Sports Capital Grants;
- The local groups who had secured funding under the Urban & Village Renewal grant scheme;
- All local groups who had received awards in the county Pride of Place Awards;
- Nobber GFC on winning the Intermediate Championship;
- Clann na nGael on their successes throughout the year;
- The Meath County Council Arts Office and Heritage Office, alongside local community groups, for their work in securing significant funding for the promotion and development of the arts in Kells;
- Meath County Council for their role in this year's Púca Festival, which generated considerable international exposure for the area;



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

- Boyne Valley Flavours on winning a World Food Travel Association's Food Trekking Award.

### **4 Statutory Business**

#### **4.1 Transportation**

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

The report was circulated at the meeting and was noted.

### **5 Notice of Question**

#### **5.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly**

“To ask Meath County Council how often they have conducted compliance testing on paid parking in Kells this year?”

**Response:**

*Twenty two compliance tests on paid parking and illegal parking were carried out to date this year in Kells.*

*Compliance tests were conducted by Meath County Council staff and the contractor's supervisor.*

The response was noted.

### **6 Notice of Motion**

#### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Seán Drew**

“That this council requests that, when the 2020 Schedule of Municipal District Works is being drawn up, that consideration be given to including the segments of local roads



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

that were due to be restored/resurfaced in the 2018 & 2019 agreed programmes but were not fully completed due to funding restrictions.”

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

*It is the Council’s intention to present the 2020 Schedule of Municipal District Works to the Kells Municipal District Meeting in February 2020 as soon as may be after the Department of Transport Tourism & Sport grant allocations have been announced. As in previous years it is proposed to liaise with the Municipal District Members before finalising the proposed works for this grant funding and presentation in the Schedule of Municipal District Works. This will present an opportunity for the Members to put forward sections of road for consideration in determining those schemes to be prioritised for funding under the 2020 programme.*

The motion was proposed by **Councillor Seán Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

A discussion followed on how this might be achieved, e.g. through additional funding being allocated rather than remove other roads from the works programme. It was agreed that, before the Schedule of Municipal District Works is finalised, the stretches of road not previously done should be identified and quantified. Reference was also made to the proposed change to the funding of the community contribution under CIS.

The motion was adopted.

### **6.2 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly**

“That a two hour free parking initiative be rolled out in Kells from the 18th - 25th December to support local business.”

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

*Meath County Council introduced a parking incentive in Kells a number of years ago and this has remained in place until the present day. Meath County Council have no proposals to introduce any further parking incentives in Kells during the requested period.*



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

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

It was suggested that, as a compromise, additional signage be erected on the approach roads highlighting the low cost parking available and 15 minute grace period for the Christmas period and, if possible, more permanently.

The motion was noted.

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

7.1 To note the report from the Transportation SPC meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2019.

The report was noted.

7.2 To note the report from the Climate Change, Environment and Emergency Services SPC meeting of 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2019.

The report was noted.

### **8 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **9 Any Other Business**

9.1 Councillor David Gilroy raised the following issues:

9.1.1 Requested an update on the unauthorised development at Kilkeelan, Athboy.

9.1.2 The deterioration of the road at Ballyfallon, Athboy – a consultant has been appointed to assess the road and identify the works required.

9.1.3 Requested clarification on what permission is required to remove hedging and mature trees – a felling licence is required to fell mature trees and planning permission is required to fell a tree subject to a preservation order. In order to



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

remove a hedge, planning permission is required if an entrance is to be created onto a public road. It was suggested that Department of Agriculture would also need to be informed and give their approval for the removal of hedging.

### 9.2 Councillor Sarah Reilly raised the following issues:

9.2.1 Requested that a letter issue to Bus Éireann expressing disappointment that the service from Delvin to Drogheda/Dundalk via Carlanstown is not on the schedule, requesting that it be prioritised and ask when it will become available.

9.2.2 Requested that the public lighting scheme be coordinated with the availability of the social housing units in Carlanstown.

### 9.3 Councillor Mike Bray raised the following issues:

9.3.1 Referred to the traffic congestion on the Girley Road as a result of the Halloween events held by local businesses and the resulting impact on local residents with access to homes being impeded. He requested that the Council engage with the three local businesses to ensure that a traffic management plan is put in place for planned Christmas and other events.

9.3.2 Expressed concern at the 80kmph signs on the Girley Road in light of the traffic volumes.

### 9.4 Councillor Johnny Guirke raised the following issue:

9.4.1 Referred to the failure of many landowners to cut hedges and requested that notices be issued to all affected landowners – it was pointed out, due to the road lengths involved and the need to identify all property owners, such a request would not be considered feasible. Notices are served based on the priority locations and are generally effective, with second notices issued if required.

### 9.5 Councillor Seán Drew raised the following issues:

9.5.1 Commended the hedge cutting works on the farm at Lloyd.

9.5.2 Suggested that a media campaign be undertaken in early January to encourage



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

relevant landowners to cut hedges before the season ends.

- 9.5.3 Referred to Meath Enterprise Week, with the main location being Kells Enterprise Centre, and wished all local participants well.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**