



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Kells Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

4.00pm, 9th March 2020, Kells Civic Offices

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

Councillors Present: Mike Bray and Paul McCabe.

Apologies: Councillors Eugene Cassidy, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy and 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 17th February 2020.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 17th February 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Paul McCabe** and seconded by **Councillor Mike Bray**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- John Hetherton on the death of his brother, Paul.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Congratulations were extended to:

- Councillor Michael Gallagher on his co-option.

Councillors also extended their best wishes to Councillor Eugene Cassidy.

4 Election of Leas-Chathaoirleach

This item was deferred to the April meeting.

5 To receive a presentation from the PPN Resource Officer.

Danielle Monahan, PPN Resource Officer, Community Department delivered a short presentation, on the role and structure of the PPN, its composition and planned improvements, with the Department of Rural and Community Development to undertake a review and publish a new handbook. Of the approximate 1,000 groups represented in Meath, 241 are located in Kells Municipal District. A Community Wellbeing Statement is being drafted and will be submitted to the department for review at the end of March. The aim is to create an effective structure, representing the voice of the community but avoiding any overlap with elected members, with roles to be clarified. The workshop recently held in Kells Municipal District was well attended.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Acknowledged the high representation of local groups registered with the PPN.
- Queried the duplication of roles between the PPN and councillors – community groups can approach both with the same issues and a revised PPN structure will assist in clarifying roles.
- Acknowledged the role of the PPN in sharing information on issues such as available grants, resulting in increased applications being made.
- Requested that information on supports offered to member groups be circulated to councillors, in order that they can share this with all relevant groups – capacity building is a focus area, e.g. training on financial issues. A free financial workshop,



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

due to be held on 26th March, is already fully booked and will address issues such as tax compliance, registration with the charity regulator, etc.

- Requested whether councillors could be added to the mailing list to receive information – access to the mailing list is restricted to member groups but it was agreed to check if this was possible. Information is also available online.

The Cathaoirleach and councillors thanked Danielle and her colleagues.

6 Statutory Business

6.1 Transportation

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

The report was noted.

6.2 Community

- 6.2.1 To inform the Kells Municipal District Members about the development of Broadband Connection Points in Kells Municipal District as part of the National Broadband Plan.

Cormac McCann, Broadband Officer, Community Department delivered a presentation which provided a background to the scheme, the roll-out programme over 2020-2021, the beneficiaries, the BCP models, BCP locations in Kells Municipal District, considerations including access, management and insurance, connecting BCPs and the role of councillors.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- The experiences in other counties where the scheme is operational – a number of test sites were located in Offaly but, overall, it is still a work in progress.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Requested clarification on the scheme availability in areas already served by fibre – the scheme is not available in areas which are already commercially served.
- Raised a number of specific queries on how the scheme will operate and the role of community groups – these were addressed.

The Cathaoirleach and councillors welcomed the scheme and acknowledged its benefits to communities in rural areas.

6.3 Corporate Services

- 6.3.1 To consider allocations under the 2020 budget for Arts, Festivals, Festive Decorations & MD Renewal.

It was agreed to defer this to the April meeting.

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

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted.

7 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

8 Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

10.1 Councillor Mike Bray raised the following issues:

10.1.1 Referred to a recent increase in the extent of illegal dumping in the Drewstown / Martinstown / Gillstown/ Kilkeelan/ Lynch's Cross area and queried whether this had been investigated as to who was responsible – it was agreed to refer this to the Environment Department.

10.1.2 Welcomed the progress in the Cow Park in Athboy and thanked those involved.

10.1.3 Queried how the COVID-19 situation, if it escalates, will impact on Meath County Council, its staff and offices/facilities and whether a Business Continuity Plan is in place – regular meetings are taking place to discuss the situation and the impact on service delivery, particularly critical services, if the situation escalates. Consideration is also being given to the services provided which are subject to statutory timeframes, e.g. planning. Staff are urged to comply with national advice and guidance in the terms of staying away from work if unwell.

10.2 Councillor Paul McCabe raised the following issues:

10.2.1 Requested an update on the non-statutory public consultation process in relation to the access by HGV traffic to the new service station on the Cavan Road – no submissions have yet been received, with the closing date this coming Wednesday. A report will be brought to the April meeting.

10.2.2 Requested an update on the issues raised in relation to student safety at the Kells schools campus – the council response to the schools was outlined and the Road Safety Officer will visit the schools to remind students of road safety.

10.3 Councillor Seán Drew raised the following issues:

10.3.1 Welcomed the commencement of works on the walkway/cycleway on the N52 Bypass but expressed disappointment that only one section is being provided and queried whether funding had been requested to extend it – due to TII guidelines, design restrictions apply in several locations and only certain sections were feasible to proceed. If to proceed in its entirety, bridge works would be required in two locations and the cost would be prohibitive.

10.3.2 The number of incidents at the same location on the Headfort Road at Headfort



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Bridge, including a recent fatality and the possibility of erecting additional advance warning signs – advance warning signs and chevrons are already in place. The addition of suitable road markings would be looked at, as would the road surface/gradient.

10.4 Kevin Stewart raised the following issue:

10.4.1 Referred to the significant number of submissions made in respect of the County Development Plan review.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach