



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Kells Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

4.30pm, 9th November 2020, via Zoom

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Paul McCabe**, presided.

Councillors Present: Mike Bray, Eugene Cassidy, Seán Drew, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy and Sarah Reilly.

Officials in Attendance:

A/Director of Service: Larry Whelan

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 12th October 2020.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 12th October 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Drew**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Willie Tormay, Fordstown, who was very popular locally and who had exhibited some of his art pieces in the Sense of Place Art Exhibition;



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- The family of the late Frank Howard, Hill of Ward, Athboy.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Athboy ICA Guild on celebrating their 60th Anniversary.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Community

4.1.1 To discuss the application process for Community CCTV.

Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Officer, Community joined the meeting and referred to the Community CCTV policy adopted by the JPC in early 2020, which sets out the process to establish new and extend existing schemes. The process was outlined, the first step in this instance would be a letter from the municipal district to the Community Department, requesting that CCTV be installed in Kells. Each request is prioritised based on policing need, with the approval of the Garda Commissioner required. A Data Protection Impact Assessment is also required, with approval sought from the Data Commissioner's Office. The JPC will also consider the request and provide a letter of support, if appropriate. This is then followed by a Part 8 process, including public consultation, procurement and construction, all of which takes some time. Funding must also be identified. The data protection element is very detailed and must ensure that there will be no impact on privacy. An audit of schemes is currently underway, with all issues being addressed as part of this.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried how such schemes are funded and the likely cost to the local authority – a grant scheme, administered by the Department of Justice, provides funding to a maximum of €40,000, with the balance to be funded by the local authority. The final cost will be determined by the scale of the scheme.
- Queried the estimated timeframe for the process – if the request is submitted before the end of the year, it would be anticipated that it would be



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commenced by the end of 2021. It was pointed out that the data protection element must be in order prior to being presented to the JPC.

- Queried the status of the scheme in Navan – the estimated cost of that scheme, which is not yet at procurement, is approximately €50,000–80,000. This includes 7 additional poles with 4 cameras on each to be connected to the existing system. Connectivity must be provided, either through ducting or by wireless. The Gardaí identify the key areas to be covered.

It was unanimously agreed to proceed with a request to the Community Department to establish a Community CCTV scheme in Kells.

4.2 Transportation

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

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

Matters raised by councillors included the need for improved coordination with regard to road resurfacing works on routes that traverse municipal districts to ensure such works are completed on the entire road – it was agreed to refer this to Transportation. Councillors also thanked Aaron and his team for works undertaken.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

"To ask for an update on the position of the Council regarding the vandalism that took place to its property in Headfort Woods estate."

Response:

Meath County Council is continuing to investigate the background to this item.



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Councillor Sarah Reilly pointed out that she had expected a more detailed response and it was confirmed that there were a number of different matters associated with this issue. It was agreed to revert back with a more detailed response.

5.2 Submitted by Councillor Sean Drew

“I am seeking an update as to works undertaken to date on the following projects in Kells Town, for which substantial grant and capital funding has been allocated for their development:

1. Courthouse Cultural Hub
2. Kells Printworks and Centre for Typography;
3. Convent Chapel and Convent Residential Artists Studios.”

Response:

1. *Meath County Council are finalising the proposal and sourcing of quotes. Once all of the quotes are received and assessed the works can commence.*
2. *The Design Team for the project has been appointed and are currently looking at feasibility options for the project. Once the extent of works are decided, the detailed design and tender documents will be prepared.*
3. *The Council has prepared a draft set of contract documents and it is intended that these will be published in the coming weeks with a view to appointing a Design Team before Christmas.*

The response was noted. Councillor Seán Drew requested that a further update be provided at the January or February meeting.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly



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“To ask Transportation for a presentation regarding future plans for bus shelter works in the Kells Municipal District.”

Brian Murray, Transportation Department delivered a presentation on the bus shelter programme, which includes 11 bus shelters for existing bus stops. The proposed locations and description of the shelter structures were provided. There are three locations in Kells Municipal District- Carnaross, Martry and the R147 Cavan Road (south bound), Kells. A further shelter is to be provided on the R162 at Kilberry as part of the junction improvement works. It is hoped to go to tender in November and appoint a contractor in December.

Councillor Sarah Reilly welcomed this progress and queried as to how similar requests can be made in the future – it was pointed out that Meath County Council is acting as the local agent for the NTA and initial contact should be made with the NTA. The NTA, in conjunction with Bus Éireann, analyse the area, the footprint of the area served, the passenger numbers, etc. and if it were to proceed, the NTA would ask the council to facilitate the civil construction aspect. These are progressed as quickly as possible but, due to individual circumstances, some can take longer than others.

In response to a specific query, it was confirmed that the bus stop at the Parochial House, Kells would be resurfaced by the end of November.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**, was noted.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

“I call on Transportation Department to further progress safety standards on the Balrath Road and to provide an update on works carried out to date.”

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

Following submission of the feasibility and options report to the TII they have now confirmed that they will not be funding the construction of a footpath under their safety programme. The Council have appointed an independent road safety auditor to review the design. They have undertaken a site visit and we are awaiting submission of their report. The council are in the process of seeking proposals for environmental studies in



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relation to the proposed footpath, particularly an Appropriate Assessment report to accompany the Part 8 proposal.

A further update was requested for the December meeting.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Mike Bray**, was agreed.

7 Correspondence

7.1 Correspondence received from Ronnie McGrane.

The correspondence was noted.

7.2 Correspondence received from Irish Water in response to the Notice of Item 9.1.1 from the October meeting re water supply serving Louth/Meath.

The correspondence was noted.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Councillor Michael Gallagher raised the following issues:

8.1.1 Requested that Irish Water be contacted regarding the addition of a cancer causing chemical to the local water supply.

8.1.2 Requested that the deadline for submissions regarding the N52 Clontail realignment be extended as the public offices remain closed – it was agreed to check this but councillors were reminded that the public can view planning documents at Buvinda by appointment.

8.1.3 Referred to the road closure in Kilberry, for which no advance notification had been provided.

8.2 Councillor Sarah Reilly raised the following issue:



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8.2.1 Referred to a representation received regarding the traffic wardens in Kells, some of which are not readily identifiable as they are not wearing uniforms but are checking cars.

8.3 Councillor Mike Bray raised the following issues:

8.3.1 Referred to the council post on Facebook, since amended, regarding illegal dumping on private lands and queried what assistance is provided to landowners – it was pointed out that a new notice has been published and the council will work with farmers to try and address the issue. Community Wardens try to identify those responsible and will remove the material, if possible. If evidence is found, contact will be made with the Gardaí.

8.4 Councillor Seán Drew raised the following issues:

8.4.1 Queried whether the OPW had contacted the municipal district engineer regarding the proposed enclosed scaffolding works at the Round Tower despite plans not to commence structural works for some time – it was confirmed that no contact had been made but that a hoarding licence was required, confirming the start and finish dates. Permission would not be given for long term scaffolding unless a viable reason existed.

8.4.2 Referred to the agreement reached at the October meeting regarding the purchase of a projector for festive lighting and, with reference to Item 7.1, queried if the Christmas tree could be relocated as the projector will be located at the civic offices – the projector and tree will be either side of the civic offices this year. An application has been made under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme for the area in front of the Credit Union and, if successful, there will be adequate room for the positioning of the tree there in future years.

8.5 Councillor Paul McCabe raised the following issue:

8.5.1 Requested that residents in Headfort Place be advised in advance of the projector being in place at Christmas – this was agreed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.



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Signed:

Cathaoirleach