



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Kells Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

4.00pm, 18th January 2021, 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 14th December 2020.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 14th December 2020 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:



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- Councillor Pádraig Fitzsimons, and his family, on the death of his father, Paddy Fitzsimons;
- The family of the late Nicholas Farrelly, Moynalty who had played an important role in the local community.

Congratulations were extended to:

- All local recipients of recent funding announcements, with council officials commended for submitting applications in conjunction with community groups;
- All local community groups and stakeholders for the role they continue to play in the COVID response initiatives.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Fire Services

- 4.1.1 To receive the Chief Executive's Report in accordance with Part XI of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) on the proposed new development at Nobber Fire Station (P8/20013).

Pádraig O'Longaigh, Senior Assistant Chief Fire Officer outlined the key points in the report, including the proposed works. It was confirmed that no submissions had been received as part of the public consultation period.

The project was unanimously welcomed by councillors.

4.2 Transportation

- 4.2.1 To receive a report on "N52 Grange to Clontail" Scheme Part 8.



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Maurice Kelly, Senior Executive Engineer and Ricky Nolan, Executive Engineer, Transportation were in attendance alongside Shane Tobin and Ursula O’Higgins, Atkins Consultants.

Philip Maguire, Executive Planner outlined the key issues in the report including the proposed development description and the submissions received following the public display period, which ran from 30th September to 29th October 2020. It was pointed out that the Part 8 and CPO processes were entirely separate. The Part 8 process was also outlined.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Acknowledged the importance of this road project and welcomed the progress being made.
- Queried whether the common issues identified in the submissions made had been addressed in so far as possible – it is felt that the scheme background and design solution best met objectives.
- Sought assurances that any possible negative impacts on affected properties would be minimised in relation to flooding, drainage and noise – responses were provided in relation to drainage, surface water run-off and noise mitigation measures.

4.2.2 To receive an update on the proposals for the N52 at Balrath/Barfordstown.

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, Transportation confirmed that it was intended to have a safety scheme designed and ready to go, subject to funding. The technical and environmental documentation is being prepared for the Part 8 process, the safety audit had been completed and the footpath to the M3/N52 junction was being considered, with discussions ongoing with the PPP in relation to that. The documentation should be compiled within 2 to 3 months. The proposed layout will be brought to the February meeting for consideration, when more information on the timeline should be available.

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Matters raised by councillors included expressing thanks to Nicholas for prioritising the project and for the ongoing contact with residents and queried whether a non-statutory public consultation would be undertaken. Whilst the project could fall outside the Part 8 requirements, it is felt that the Part 8 process would be preferable as it includes a public consultation process and landtake will be required. Agreement is also required with the PPP in relation to the connection with the M3/N52 junction. If there are no major environmental concerns, it is hoped to commence the Part 8 process in March.

4.2.3 To receive an update on the proposed one-way system for Kells.

Nicholas Whyatt referred back to the trial undertaken in 2016 and the meeting held to close off that process. Reference was made to a drawing, which outlined the existing system with parking, and a draft conceptual proposal with a reduced one-way system, with the differences from the trial highlighted. It was pointed out that the Kells Local Area Plan (LAP) will follow the adoption of the County Development Plan and this might be considered in that context and as part of the public consultation, as community buy-in is required.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the matter being reconsidered and the possible long-term benefits for residents, businesses and visitors.
- The need to consider this and make a decision as part of the LAP and Public Realm Plan – the Public Realm Plan would take all relevant issues into account and it was suggested that the timeline for this to commence would be looked at with a view to putting all proposals on display together. The LAP may not commence until 2023.
- Pointed out that whilst parking spaces is a priority for businesses, pedestrian safety and traffic management are the key considerations.
- Queried whether it would be possible to undertake a non-statutory public consultation process.



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- Referred to the need for as transparent a process as possible to avoid issues similar to those experienced during the trial and queried whether this was possible during public health restrictions.
- Suggested that initial consultation be undertaken with formally constituted representative groups, registered with the PPN and with a relevant interest, prior to a wider consultation process.
- Queried whether the conceptual proposal presented would facilitate the return of the Market Cross to its former location at Cross Street – the proposal does provide for a wider footpath at this location but it is not yet confirmed if this would be adequate to facilitate the relocation of the cross.

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

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

5 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

6 Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

7 Correspondence

7.1 Correspondence received from Mark Byrne, TII in response to the notice of item 7.1 from the December meeting.

The correspondence was noted. Councillor David Gilroy suggested that a meeting be formally requested and that a Meath County Council delegation, represented by the Cathaoirleach, the Chair of the Transportation SPC and Nicholas Whyatt, attend, with



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councillors requested to submit the most pressing issues for formal presentation and discussion. Some concern was expressed that the issues raised at Kells Municipal District, i.e. the N51 and N52, may not be included if approached at county level. It was agreed that the Transportation Department would raise this at the Transportation SPC.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Councillor Seán Drew raised the following issues:

8.1.1 Queried the timeframe for the provision of lights at the pedestrian crossing at the junction of Gardenrath/Rockfield Road and the type of lights being proposed – it is hoped to have the push button lights installed within the next 2 weeks, following which the ESB connection is required.

8.1.2 Requested an update for the February meeting on the proposed housing development at Carrick Street/Maudlin.

8.1.3 Welcomed the funding allocation for the area outside the Credit Union, commended Aaron Smith for his work on this and queried the process required to deliver the proposed plans – a meeting is planned with the Conservation Officer to agree the works and materials before a final design is prepared. A Part 8 process is preferable due to the public consultation required.

8.2 Councillor David Gilroy raised the following issue:

8.2.1 Referred to a plan to connect the surface water to the mains at the Community School in Athboy and the possible implications for residential properties as the gullies are already at capacity during heavy rain – it was agreed to check the application.

8.3 Councillor Sarah Reilly raised the following issue:

8.3.1 Queried whether it is planned to relocate the statue outside the Credit Union – as the building is a protected structure, agreement has to be reached with regard to the final design, including materials, etc. and following consultation with the key stakeholders.



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This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach