



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

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

#### ***Ordinary Meeting***

***4.00pm, 8<sup>th</sup> February 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

The Cathaoirleach opened the meeting by reminding all those in attendance, including councillors and members of the public, of the Standing Orders that apply to online meetings.

### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

#### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Michael Gallagher** 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:



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- The family of the late David Kenny, formerly Cortown, who passed away recently in Australia;
- The family of the late Joe Dunne, Cross Street, Kells, former Kells Town Councillor;
- The family of the late Dom Tighe, Mullingar Road, Kells.

### **4 Statutory Business**

#### **4.1 Transportation**

- 4.1.1 To inform the Members of the commencement of a review of submissions received regarding housing estates to be considered for inclusion in an update to the current 30 km/h Housing Estate Special Speed Limit Bye-Law and seek representations in relation to any estates which the members feel should be included for review.

Paul McKown, Executive Engineer, Transportation referred to the estates in Kells Municipal District that had been identified for review and asked that any further suggestions be submitted by email by 31<sup>st</sup> March. It was agreed to circulate the list of housing estates to which the special speed limit of 30km/hr already applies.

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

Nicholas Whyatt, Senior Engineer, Transportation outlined the proposed works, to include a footpath and two gateways, and the associated design. If the planning report is available, it is hoped to put this on public display next month.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried the estimated cost of carrying out these works – the cost identified in the feasibility report was approximately €750,000 but this will need to be revised and will be determined by the amount and cost of landtake required and the cost of accommodation works. Some



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drainage work has since been carried out and this will result in some savings.

- Queried whether TII were supportive of the proposed design, including two crossings over the carriageway – the feasibility study had not included a connection to the roundabout but the safety audit had concluded that the connection was preferable as the crossings will take place anyway. Consultation with TII will take place as part of the Part 8 process. If the crossings are problematic, the issue would be reconsidered.
- The need to clearly communicate the message that the proposal, if approved, is subject to funding.
- The need for all affected landowners to support the proposed works to ensure the complete project can be delivered – discussions with the residents association suggest that there is support for the proposed works and it is hoped to peg out the scheme to enable people to see what is involved. Whilst land is not required as part of the Part 8 process, greater certainty around the capacity to deliver a project is needed when making funding applications.
- Suggested that public lighting will be requested for any footpath provided – provision for future lighting, i.e. ducting, will be provided.
- Queried whether other measures will be provided to reduce speed – the proposed works will signify a transition zone, where traffic is entering an urban area.
- Queried the next steps – contact will be made with the residents association and, depending on the restrictions in place after 5<sup>th</sup> March, engagement can be undertaken either physically or virtually.

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



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

### **4.2 To consider and adopt the 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works.**

David Jones, Senior Executive Officer, Housing Section outlined the schedule of works as they relate to housing, including the service categories, funding allocations per municipal district, the centralised budgets and updates on the previous year. Reference was made to a national commitment given with regard to the Energy Retrofit Programme, which will represent an annual programme of works over the coming years.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried the number of local authority adaptation grants administered in the municipal district and referred to the waiting list for such works – the overall budget available is limited, with a larger budget for private home adaptation works and for which Kells Municipal District represented 121 of 346 applications granted in 2020.
- Requested that Magdalene Court be prioritised for the energy retrofit programme, when it commences – whilst the request is noted, the framework has not yet been identified but it is likely to focus on the less efficient stock.
- Queried the amount of land available for social housing in Kells Municipal District – historically there has been a significant landbank in Kells Municipal District, enabling the delivery of direct construction schemes. Further projects are in the pipeline, including Archdeaconry and Carrick Street, Kells, and Kildalkey Road, Athboy. However, due to limited private developments, the number of units secured under Part V agreements has been fewer. Sites across the county are being assessed for future planning requirements, e.g. Oldcastle, but land availability and cost remain challenging. The Part 8 in respect of the 20 proposed units at Archdeaconry is to be re-advertised from 17<sup>th</sup> February.

Dara McGowan, Senior Executive Officer, Transportation outlined the programme for the delivery of the Schedule of Municipal District Works, as it relates to Transportation, including the funding sources and status. Some grant allocations have not yet been confirmed and a contingency allocation in the Restoration Improvement Grant has been



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allowed in the event that grants are reduced from 2020 levels and/or inflation leads to increased costs.

John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Transportation outlined the proposed programme of works, across the different categories and schemes and including the funding breakdown. It was pointed out that the programme being outlined excluded works planned under the capital programme.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the significant budget allocations and the considerable progress made in recent years, including the efficient response to road damage caused by adverse weather.
- Referred to the need to increase investment in improving local roads.
- Acknowledged that the three year roadworks programme, which councillors had supported, had resulted in significant progress and that the opportunity to feed into the next programme would arise later this year.
- Requested that, if additional funding were to become available, the following roads would be considered for works or, alternatively, included in the next roadworks programme: L6838 (Fordstown – Volvenstown – Cortown Road), L6830 (Seymourstown Black/McGee’s Cross), L8006-0 (Higginstown), L80052-0 (Lisclogher/Pluckstown), L80054-0 (Gillstown) and L8003-0/L8003-18 (Rodstown/Allenstown).
- Queried the nature of the proposed works on the N51 – TII funding was secured for a pavement overlay to the county boundary and the design is being prepared. The scheme is to continue in Westmeath with discussions taking place to run the scheme in tandem and a possible S85 agreement to enable one roads authority to take the lead for the overall scheme.
- Requested that, if funding is available, that unfinished roads included in the roadworks programme be prioritised for completion – the contingency fund is primarily to cover any tender/cost increases with the aim being to finish the



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roads programme. Following a mid-year review, consideration can be given to finishing off roads or additional roads.

- Requested that councillors be provided with a map indicating the extent of roads completed to date under the three year roads programme and those included for 2021.
- Underlined the need to undertake a new PSCI survey prior to the new roads programme being prepared – the current roads programme was based on the 2015 PSCI, with a survey carried out in 2018. Some further analysis is required.
- Queried whether funding is to be allocated for CIS and LIS – contact is being made with those on the list for LIS to confirm if it is still required and update contact information. It is hoped to have the same allocation for CIS as in 2020, with the costings for the next 11 schemes, 10 of which are in Kells Municipal District, to be revisited.
- Referred to the budget that was available to the former town councils for housing estate road maintenance and requested that a budget be set aside to undertake required works – the allocation of €50,000 for estates can be spent on surfacing works. A capital allocation is also available for footpaths. If a public road, the CIS can also be considered.
- Queried whether the funding allocated for estates could be used to towards the repair of an estate boundary wall, damaged by a contractor working in an adjacent estate.
- Queried whether the upgrade of pedestrian crossings could not be funded from the sustainable transport budget – it was agreed to see if there was alternative funding available.
- Referred to the impression being given from the information available that the full extent of a road will be subject to restoration maintenance and/or improvement works and requested that information be provided on the actual extent/length of road to be covered – this information can be made available from the Roads Management Office; however, the length of the road to be



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covered may be subject to change, with the maps representative of the proposals, which will be subject to tender costs.

The adoption of the 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Kells Municipal District was proposed by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor David Gilroy**.

The Cathaoirleach requested that a roll call vote be taken with the following result:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
BRAY, Mike	✓			
CASSIDY, Eugene	✓			
DREW, Sean	✓			
GALLAGHER, Michael		✓		
GILROY, David	✓			
MCCABE, Paul	✓			
REILLY, Sarah	✓			
<b>RESULT</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

The 2021 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Kells Municipal District was adopted.

## 5 Notice of Question

### 5.1 Submitted by Councillor Mike Bray

“To ask Meath County Council to provide details regarding the ownership of ground in Coille Dios estate in Athboy which was previously earmarked for the development of a HSE facility and to advise if there are any plans in place for this section of land.”

#### **Response:**

*At the entrance of Coille Dios, there is circa .25 hectare that is in the ownership of the HSE. Meath County Council is not aware of any plans for this site. It is suggested that the query is raised with the HSE’s Estate Management section for the necessary response.*

The response was noted.



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### **6 Notice of Motion**

There were no Notices of Motion.

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

7.1 To note the report from the Transportation SPC meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.

The report was noted.

7.2 To note the report from the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

The report was noted.

7.3 To note the report from the Planning Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

The report was noted.

7.4 To note the report from the Climate Action, Environment & Emergency Services SPC meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

The report was noted.

### **8 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **9 Any Other Business**

9.1 Councillor Sarah Reilly raised the following issue:

9.1.1 Referred to concerns of residents in Tobar Ban, regarding subsidence of a wall to the rear of the estate, with a steep drop from adjoining gardens, and the need





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for the council to take urgent action even if the taking in charge does not include the wall – it was pointed out that responsibility for the wall does not lie with the council but with the residents of the adjoining gardens and whilst the dangerous structures legislation could possibly be applied, the penalties would be the responsibility of those residents. Councillor Seán Drew acknowledged the limitations of the council in dealing with the issue but suggested that it provide advice and assistance to residents on how the issue might be remedied. It was requested that a further update be provided at the March meeting.

9.2 Councillor Mike Bray raised the following issues:

9.2.1 Welcomed the removal of rubble from the car park at the Cow Plot, Athboy.

9.2.2 Referred to the increased usage of bottle banks and queried if the capacity of banks and/or frequency of collection could be increased as well as additional facilities provided in areas such as Oldcastle, Carnaross, Kilskyre, etc. – this is an issue across the county. A contract is in place for collections and the options will be considered.

9.3 Councillor David Gilroy raised the following issue:

9.3.1 Acknowledged the response to repairing potholes and requested that new potholes on the road to Grennanstown to the Westmeath border be repaired.

9.4 Dara McGowan provided updates on three projects:

9.4.1 Convent Chapel – the tender for conservation architects issued last week. A feasibility study on the use of the facility is to be prepared, with a preferred option to be identified, followed by the tender for design through for the planning process. The next funding application will relate to renovation works.

9.4.2 Printworks/Sawmills – contracts for the purchase are in the process of being signed, the architect team is in place and the feasibility study completed and the construction tender documents are being prepared. It is hoped that works can commence in Q2 or 3.



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- 9.4.3 Courthouse/Cultural Hub – this arts and heritage project will deliver a facility that will include a performance space, etc. It is hoped that works can commence in Q3 or 4 this year.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**