



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Kells Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

4.00pm, 12th July 2021, Via Zoom

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Mike Bray**, presided.

Councillors Present: Eugene Cassidy, Seán Drew, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy and Paul McCabe.

Apologies: Councillor Sarah Reilly.

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Martin Murray

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Aaron Smith

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Apologies: Dara McGowan, Director of Service

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Annual Meeting held on 21st June 2021.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on the 21st June 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor David Gilroy** and seconded by **Councillor Paul McCabe**.

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 21st June 2021.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 21st June 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor David Gilroy**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes



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There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to:

- Councillor David Gilroy on his recent engagement and also for his role in a recent emergency response.
- Councillor Seán Drew on the recent ceremony in Buvinda to mark the National Day of Commemoration.

4 Disposal of Land in accordance with Statutory Notices circulated pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

4.1 Disposal of 0.1502 Ha of Land at Townparks, Bective Street, Kells, Co Meath.

This was approved on the proposal of **Councillor Seán Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Paul McCabe**.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Environment

5.1.1 To receive a short presentation about the UN Sustainable Development Goals and how Meath County Council are integrating these into organisational culture. To receive an update on the URBACT Global Goals for Cities project.

Caroline Corrigan, Senior Executive Engineer, Environment delivered a presentation which provided information on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Global Goals 4 Cities, which includes Trim, the only Irish town, and examples of how to become involved.

Matters raised by councillors included:



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- Noted the high level of representation from Kells Municipal District at the recent training event and on the Climate Action Forum.
- Commended the Environment Section and Caroline Corrigan on the work being undertaken and acknowledged the significance of Trim having been identified as part of the Global Goals 4 Cities.
- Queried the potential to link the work being undertaken with tourism in the Boyne Valley – Boyne Valley was referenced in the city profile and is being showcased.
- Referred to the need for additional training for councillors in order to lead communities in this area – additional training will be arranged.

5.2 Transportation

- 5.2.1 To advise the members of the Municipal District that Meath County Council Transportation Department propose to put the draft Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) (Housing Estates) County of Meath Bye-Laws (No.1) 2021 on public display as required by Section 9 of the Road Traffic Acts, 2004 (No.44 of 2004). (See below)

Paul McKown, Executive Engineer, Transportation outlined the information circulated in advance, including the estates to be added for review. Consent was sought to proceed to put the maps and new byelaw on public display, following which they would be brought back to the municipal district and then to the full council for approval.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried whether the 30kmph speed limit applies to all estates that are taken in charge within the municipal district – an estate must first be taken in charge and most that are have been included. Some estates may be finished but not taken in charge whilst others may be small with short road lengths. Once an estate is taken in charge, it is added to the list.



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- Queried whether suggestions can be made with regard to adding further estates – this is the second period of public consultation, with advertisements placed and letters circulated to councillors in January/February. In addition to the public consultation, the Gardaí were also consulted.
- Referred to estates where the speed limit applies but no signs are in place – when the new byelaw comes into effect, a funding application will be made to the department for signage. If councillors are aware of estates where there is inappropriate signage, information on these should be submitted to the Transportation Department. The signs are subject to design guidelines.
- Queried the timeframe for the process – any objections or comments received as a result of the public consultation will be reviewed and the draft byelaw will be brought back to the municipal district for approval, following which it will be brought to the full council for final approval. The funding application for signage will be made with a view to having the byelaw implemented and signage in place in early 2022.
- Queried whether the speed limit and signage in estates is effective and whether other measures can be used to reduce speed – before and after traffic speed surveys can be carried out but the effectiveness depends on a number of factors, primarily driver behaviour. If councillors are aware of issues in particular estates, information on these should be submitted to the Transportation Department with a view to assessing each on a case by case basis to see if other measures are required, such as chicanes, speed bumps, etc.
- Queried whether a promotional campaign could be undertaken to encourage drivers to slow down – it was agreed to liaise with the Road Safety Officer on this.
- Underlined the role of Gardaí in enforcing speed limits – the byelaw is the process giving Gardaí the power of enforcement.



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- Suggested that, as part of the planning process for new estates, consideration be given to ensuring that physical measures are provided to slow traffic – a new design standard for estates will assist in traffic calming in new estates and, where funding is available for specific estates, measures can be retrofitted where required.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Paul McCabe** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Drew** to proceed as outlined.

- 5.2.2 To receive a presentation on the proposed Commons of Lloyd - Grassland and Biodiversity Management plan.

Loreto Guinan, Heritage Officer outlined the background to the plan, which originated when Meath County Council became a partner in the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and committed to implementing some of the actions contained in the plan. In 2019, the District Engineer sought to designate 14 acres at Lloyd for biodiversity and the purpose of today is to outline the next steps in terms of the Grassland Management Plan.

Billy Flynn and Ian Douglas, Flynn Furey Environmental Consultants delivered a presentation which referred to the importance of grasslands management, the significance of the site, the biodiversity crisis, the purpose of the management plan including the objectives and how these will be achieved, the timescale and monitoring guidelines. The plans for the three pilot areas were outlined in terms of meadows and grazing with success to be measured over 5 years under the headings species diversity, ecosystem health and site management A final strategy for 15 years can then be developed.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the plan and the links to the work of the Climate Action Forum, including the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Suggested that the learnings from the plan could help inform those involved in agriculture.



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- Queried whether it would be possible to include an area for bee keeping – whilst this has not been discussed, as diversity improves, so too will the value of the site for bees. As the site develops, further opportunities to link with the local beekeeping community could be advanced.
- Requested that all efforts be made to protect corncrakes in managing the grassland.
- Queried whether an area of the site could be set aside for tree planting with wild grass in between.
- Suggested that there may be a perception that the site is being left to grow wild – it is conceded that this will present a change to the perceived norm but that a manager will work closely with the farmer with grazing and mowing rights. A flexible approach will be adopted to ensure the best solution.
- Queried whether the plan will improve accessibility and requested that consideration be given to providing pathways and information noticeboards – pedestrian access will be provided and managed. The objective is to provide a public amenity and, after five years, what is needed to manage and open up the site will be clearer.

It was pointed out that the plan is at an early stage and all comments will be taken into account. The aim is to maximise the site as an amenity, an education resource and for biodiversity. Further updates will be provided as the project develops.

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

The report, circulated in advance, was noted.

Matters raised by councillors included thanking Aaron and his team for works undertaken and referred to potholes resulting from the recent bad weather –



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councillors were requested to submit information on any locations requiring pothole repairs.

5.3 Corporate Services

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

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted. Councillors were reminded that the deadline for the receipt of completed application and deferral forms is 30th September.

6 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

7 Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

8 Strategic Policy Committee & Corporate Policy Group Reports – For Information Purposes

- 8.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 11th June 2021.

The minutes were noted.

- 8.2 To note the report from the Transportation SPC meeting of 6th May 2021.

The report was noted.

- 8.3 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC meeting of 30th June 2021.

The report was noted.



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9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 Councillor Seán Drew raised the following issue:

10.1.1 Referred to a recent media article which referenced the proposal a number of years ago to submit a group application for a number of monastic sites, including Kells, for Unesco World Heritage Site status and the reasons why this did not proceed – whilst a proposal was discussed some years ago, involving five local authorities, the project did not proceed at the time.

10.2 Councillor David Gilroy raised the following issue:

10.2.1 Queried whether additional solar compacting bins are to be provided in the municipal district given the additional litter arising from outdoor dining – five additional compacting bins have been ordered for the municipal district and will be located in areas with high littering levels.

10.3 Councillor Mike Bray raised the following issue:

10.3.1 Queried whether the new compacting bins would have a foot pedal – these can be provided if needed but they do tend to result in an increase in the deposit of domestic waste.

10.4 Councillor Paul McCabe raised the following issue:

10.4.1 Referred to outdoor staff emptying bins on Sundays in other municipal districts and queried whether this can be done in Kells Municipal District also – generally bins are emptied on the Sundays of Bank Holiday weekends with the compacting bins to be located in areas where bins tend to overflow at weekends and these will be monitored.



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10.5 Councillor Michael Gallagher raised the following issue:

- 10.5.1 Requested an update on the area outside the Credit Union – a meeting with the Credit Union is planned to discuss the Part 8 proposal with the process likely to proceed as per the original proposal with the Credit Union being able to input as part of the Part 8 process.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach