



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Kells Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

4.00pm, 13th September 2021, Via Zoom

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

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

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Dara McGowan

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Executive Engineer: Aaron Smith

Clerical Officer: Edita Asaciova

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 12th July 2021.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 12th July 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Paul McCabe** 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:



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- The family of the late Hughie Tully, Seymourstown, Carnaross who was commended for his community work in the Ballinlough/Kilskyre area.

Congratulations were extended to:

- The Hinterland Festival Committee on the successful event held this year;
- The Meath Ladies & Minors teams on winning their respective All Ireland finals, particularly those players from the municipal district.

4 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

- 4.1.1 To update the members of Kells Municipal District on progress with the Athboy Town Centre Project - Bus Stop Facility.

Paul McKown, Executive Engineer, Paul Phelan, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation and Ronan Murtagh, Tobin Consulting Engineers provided an update on progress since May, a summary of the submissions received as part of the public consultation, information on the studies undertaken and the options selection process and report. It was confirmed that, as a result of the impact of constraints, three options were not considered feasible. Of the remaining options, one option had emerged as the preferred option and its design was outlined. It was pointed out that the surveys and drawings would take a number of months to carry out, with the church and wall being protected structures, so the Part 8 process is likely to commence early in 2022.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried the next steps – councillors are being asked for approval to put the emerging preferred option on non-statutory public display for a two-week period, following which the Part 8 process will commence.



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- Requested that the name of the street, known as Church View Street, be established.
- Referred to the ongoing concerns in Athboy arising from the increased frequency of buses and the resulting impact on traffic congestion and loss of parking spaces.
- Suggested that the location of the proposed option would benefit from being formalised and acknowledged the improved safety for pedestrians and also the safety benefits of the proposed bend realignment.
- Emphasised the need to consider the existing parking bays and to liaise with the school regarding peak traffic flows.
- Queried whether it was proposed to relocate the bottle banks – it is proposed to relocate these to beside the council depot, with some minor works required.
- Commended the extensive engagement with relevant landowners.
- Queried the option selection process and how the emerging preferred option had been selected – responses were provided.
- Queried why, having already undertaken public consultation and as further public consultation will form part of the Part 8 process, it was being proposed to put the plan on public display – It was clarified that what was being proposed was just to put the emerging preferred option on public display to advise people of the outcome of the option selection process. Due to the volume and variety of submissions received, it was considered appropriate to advise people of the option selected and that the project is progressing to the next step. The information will be on display online and in Athboy Library. The design work can commence during this period.



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- Expressed disappointment at the option selected and queried whether any engagement had taken place with the Housing Department regarding an alternative location on the Kildalkey Road opposite the former convent – the options initially identified were viable at that time but the option selection process since carried out had narrowed the options down to that selected. The study area was confined to the church area and the N51 Kildalkey Road junction would require substantial realignment works to enable buses to turn.
- Queried whether the flooding issue on the opposite end of Church View Street would be addressed as part of this project – surveys on the drainage have to be carried out to identify the source of the issue and, once identified, a decision can be taken as to how the matter could be addressed.
- Queried whether the traders would be facilitated as part of the project – it is hoped that the trading spaces can be facilitated and this will form part of the detailed design as it progresses.
- Queried whether parking facilities can be provided near the town centre – approximately 14 car parking spaces will be freed up on Main Street but the wider parking issue is separate to this project.

It was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor David Gilroy** to proceed as outlined.

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

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

4.2 Corporate Services

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



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The list of allocations, which had been circulated in advance, was noted and councillors were reminded of the deadline for the submission of completed application and deferral forms.

5 Notice of Question

5.1 Submitted by Councillor Seán Drew

“What is the current status of the Kells Carrick St, Housing Regeneration Project and the projected start date for:

1. The refurbishment of the existing on street vacant properties and
2. The construction of the new housing units on the backlands sites?”

Response:

The final design of the overall masterplan for the lands is currently being agreed with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The Council is aiming to have final layouts submitted into the Department before the end of September and approval should follow within a further 4 weeks.

There is a large amount of pre-construction enabling works required for the backland development, so it is envisaged that the refurbishment properties will be progressed independently of the new build units, while those enabling works take place.

The level and value of the refurbishment work is such that Planning Permission will be required. As soon as approval to proceed to planning is granted from the Department, then the Part 8 process will be commenced. Based on the foregoing, it is anticipated that a Part 8 for the refurbishment units would be advertised in November this year, with the report presented to the Members during quarter 1 of 2022.



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The Council has been asked to provide a Natura Impact Statement for the proposed construction of new units at Archdeaconary Glebe, Kells; to address concerns regarding the potential impact of development on the River Blackwater Special Area of Conservation. It is likely that a similar approach will be required for the new units in the Carrick Street project. The production of a Natura Impact Statement means that the Part 8 process cannot be followed, and that the planning application for the new units must be made directly to An Bord Pleanála. The application to ABP will be prepared as soon as permission to proceed is granted from the Department. This will require a greater level of detail, and the decision period is at the discretion of ABP but will also be a 2022 decision. Once the necessary planning consents are in place, the Council will seek Department approval to go to tender as soon as possible thereafter.

The response was noted.

6 Notice of Motion

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Mike Bray

“That Kells Municipal District write to the ESB seeking action be taken and an explanation be given regarding the regular and continuous electricity outages in the Fordstown area over many years.”

The motion, proposed by **Councillor Mike Bray** and seconded by **Councillor Paul McCabe**, was agreed. It was also agreed to invite a representative from the ESB to meet with councillors regarding the issue of outages in the municipal district.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Mike Bray

“That Meath County Council liaise with the TII in relation to the installation of a vehicle activated sign (VAS) on western end of N51 road through Athboy.”

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



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The Transport Section of Meath County Council will carry out speed surveys on the N51 western approach to Athboy to gauge the level of compliance with the posted speed limits and, following on from a review of the results and other requirements in accordance the MCC Policy on Vehicle Activated Signs, will liaise with the TII re the possibility of installing vehicle activated signage in the area, if deemed appropriate.

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

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

- 7.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 2nd July 2021.

The minutes were noted.

- 7.2 To note the report from the Joint Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs SPC meeting of 2nd July 2021.

The report was noted.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Councillor David Gilroy raised the following issue:

9.1.1 Referred to commercial vehicles parking overnight in Athboy and queried whether parking byelaws could be introduced to regulate this – there are no parking byelaws in Athboy and any works carried out, such as installing double yellow lines or time limits on parking, would require enforcement by the Gardaí.



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- 9.2 Councillor Seán Drew raised the following issues:
- 9.2.1 Requested that the Gardaí be asked to enforce the axle restriction, which is the subject of byelaws, in Kells.
 - 9.2.2 Referred to a report on the Kells Town Wall published during Heritage Week and requested that the Conservation Officer be invited to a meeting of the municipal district to discuss how the recommendations can be implemented.
- 9.3 Dara McGowan raised the following issue:
- 9.3.1 Reminded councillors of the forthcoming Athboy Water Body Catchment Information evening.
 - 9.3.2 Pointed out that the closing date for the receipt of applications for the Facebook Community Action grants was 15th October.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach