



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

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

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

***4.00pm, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021, Kells Civic Office***

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

**Staff Officer:** Triona Keating

**Clerical Officer:** Edita Asaciova

### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

#### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Paul McCabe** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

### **2 Matters arising from the Minutes**

Dara McGowan confirmed that representatives from the Transportation Department, including the Road Safety Officer, are due to meet with the principals of the Kells School Campus later this week.

### **3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**



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Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Des Ferguson, with tributes paid on his sporting and educational achievements.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Wolfe Tones on winning the Meath Senior Football Championship;
- Keith Sheerin, Drumconrath; Justin Curran, Carlanstown; and Keith Olwell, Moynalty who were involved in refereeing recent county football finals;
- Meath County Council on the successful Pride of Place event and all the participating and winning groups;
- The organisers of the Samhain Festival and the Council for their support;
- The winners in the Meath Business & Tourism Awards;
- The organisers of the Colmcille 1,500 on winning a National Heritage Week Heritage Newcomers award for their illuminations project.

## **4 Statutory Business**

### **4.1 Transportation**

- 4.1.1 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 welcoming the additional solar compacting bins and queried if these can be operated by foot pedals and whether it is intended to replace all older bins with the compacting bins – one compacting



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bin equals the capacity of three smaller bins, which are removed when compacting bins are provided. The disadvantage of foot pedals is that the deposit of domestic waste is facilitated.

- 4.1.2 To receive an update on the proposed Housing Estate Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws statutory process.

Paul McKown, Executive Engineer, Transportation outlined the documentation circulated in advance and sought approval to present the bye-laws to the December full council meeting. If ratified, the signage will be erected and the bye-laws will take effect in early 2022.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried the effectiveness of the byelaws in estates where they have been introduced – a speed survey is undertaken prior to and following the introduction of the byelaws to monitor their effectiveness. The initial surveys will also determine the type of signs appropriate to the location.
- Queried how the byelaws would be enforced – the draft byelaws were referred to the Gardaí, who are responsible for enforcement, and no comments were received.
- Queried whether engineering measures would be more effective in dealing with speeding in estates – if the speed survey, undertaken after the introduction of the byelaws, confirms that there is no reduction on speed levels, the possible introduction of engineering measures can be reviewed further, on a case by case basis and subject to funding.
- Referred to issues arising from parking on footpaths in estates and queried whether the policy relating to parking within estates, including unregulated parking, can be reviewed – the parking byelaws relate to paid parking in the three towns. It is illegal to park on footpaths or in proximity to junctions and it is the responsibility of the Gardaí to enforce this. Double yellow lines can be provided to prevent parking but this will also impact on residents and visitors.



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- Queried whether a default speed limit of 30km/h can be included as a planning condition for new estates – this would be unenforceable as the lower speed limit can only be applied when an estate is taken in charge, with the adoption of byelaws being a reserved function.

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

### **4.2 Planning**

#### 4.2.1 To receive an overview of Kells Townwalls Project.

Robert Miles, Conservation Officer delivered a presentation, which included an overview on the project to date, the purpose of the conservation and management plan, funding applications and funding secured, and works undertaken and planned.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Commended the report and steps taken and underlined the need to promote the activities undertaken and planned – it is intended to arrange a launch at a future date.
- Acknowledged the importance of the project in providing tourism and educational opportunities.
- Referred to the role of the Local Area Plan in safeguarding the structures in the context of future developments, improving accessibility, etc.
- Underlined the need to make landowners aware of the possible archaeology in areas where the location and condition of the walls is unknown and to ensure compliance with all archaeological requirements, imposing financial penalties if not met – referrals are made as part of the planning process and archaeological monitoring and testing requirements are included, as appropriate.



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- Queried whether similar approaches could be taken in other towns in the municipal district – whilst the conservation and management plan can provide a template for other locations, the first step is for the local community to apply to become part of the Walled Town Network, following which a plan can be commissioned.
- Referred to the need to preserve St Colmcille’s Well, which is not in council ownership – whilst there have been no reports of immediate concerns, there may be issues relating to access and this is a matter for the OPW and landowner.
- Referred to representations made by Kells & District Tourism Network and Colmcille 1,500 in relation to Colmcille’s House and the Round Tower, requesting that the OPW carry out all necessary repair works before the tourist season commences in 2022 – it was agreed that a joint letter issue to the OPW on behalf of Councillors Seán Drew and Mike Bray.
- Requested an update on plans for burial grounds, for which an allocation was made in the capital programme – it was agreed that the Heritage Officer and Conservation Officer would attend a meeting early in the new year with an update. It was noted that these locations are often complex, due to the number of stakeholders involved.
- Referred to issues accessing funding for conservation works in the graveyard at Castlekieran, which is in a Clár area but which does not have a conservation plan – the availability of a conservation plan is the first step in accessing funding.
- Queried the funding available to advance the works required – the funding secured was outlined, as were the plans to apply for future funding for different elements of the project, including repairs and restoration works to the Mural Tower and improving public access. It was noted that the overall plan is complex and will take time to implement.



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- Queried whether sufficient protective measures were included in planning permissions already granted for relevant locations within the town – it was confirmed that this would require discussion with the planning section.

### **5 Notice of Question**

#### **5.1 Submitted by Councillor Mike Bray**

“Can Meath County Council provide an update on the N52/R154 Johnsbrook cross scheme and the N52/L6835 Balrath junction scheme which the council have been working on in conjunction with the TII?”

**Response:**

*As previously advised, both of the schemes in question have been delayed. In relation to the Balrath Cross Scheme, Meath County Council is seeking an allocation for 2022 from the TII to progress the design, environmental and pre-construction phase for this scheme. The Transportation Department has also prepared a Feasibility & Options Report for the Johnsbrook Cross Scheme, which is still in the review process, before it can be formally submitted to the TII for consideration.*

The response was noted.

### **6 Notice of Motion**

#### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly**

“That a traffic count be conducted on the Bloomsbury road to gauge traffic speed, the number of HGVs on the road and the overall amount of vehicles accessing it.”

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



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*A traffic count was carried out on the L-6832 Bloombury in 2019 and the results of that survey indicated that speeding was not an issue with the traffic, along this section of road.*

*However, this has been listed with the Technical team in Transportation, requesting that another count be carried out. The Technical Team are involved in conducting such surveys throughout the county and this count will be carried out as soon as resources are available to do so.*

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

### **6.2 Submitted by Councillor Mike Bray**

“That Meath County Council install a pedestrian crossing between St Brigid's NS, Cortown and Wheatfield in order to improve safety for pupils and locals in the village.”

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

*Meath County Council will need to carry out a traffic and pedestrian count at this location, in order to ascertain if the installation of a pedestrian crossing is warranted. A request will be forwarded to the Technical Team in Transportation asking that this analysis be carried out, when resources are available to do so. If the provision of a crossing is found to be warranted, appropriate funding sources will need to be identified for the construction of same.*

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

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

### **7.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.**

The minutes were noted.



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- 7.2 To note the report from the Planning Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs SPC of 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

The report was noted.

- 7.3 To note the report from Climate Action, Environment & Emergency Services SPC of 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

The report was noted.

- 7.4 To note the report from the Transportation SPC of 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

The report was noted.

- 7.5 To note the report from the Housing, Community & Cultural Development SPC of 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

The report was noted.

### **8 Correspondence**

- 8.1 Correspondence received from Superintendent Thelma Watters, Kells Office in response to the notice of item 9.2.1 from the September meeting re axle restriction in Kells town.

The correspondence was noted. It was agreed to invite representatives from the Gardaí, including the Community Gardaí, to meet with councillors prior to the December meeting.

### **9 Any Other Business**

- 9.1 Councillor Michael Gallagher raised the following issue:

- 9.1.1 Referred to safety issues for trucks/buses due to high trees, e.g. on the N52, and queried whether landowners are issued with notifications/warnings – notices have been issued to landowners.





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9.2 Councillor Mike Bray raised the following issue:

9.2.1 Queried plans to clean road signs – councillors were requested to submit locations where this is required and it will be done, when resources are available.

9.3 Dara McGowan raised the following issue:

9.3.1 Referred to the remaining festive lights budget of €6,000. Following a short discussion, the following allocations were agreed:

- Athboy €1,200
- Kells €1,200
- Nobber €1,200
- Oldcastle €1,200
- Drumconrath €600
- Castletown €600

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**