



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

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

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

***4.00pm, 13<sup>th</sup> December 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

**Staff Officer:** Triona Keating

#### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

##### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Paul McCabe**.

##### **1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Finance Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021.**

The minutes of the Special Finance Meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Seán Drew** and seconded by **Councillor David Gilroy**.

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

There were no matters arising from the minutes.



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

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Gerry Callaghan, Moynalty.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Kells Arts Club on their Cultural Evening from Argentina and South America;
- Councillor David Gilroy on his recent wedding;
- Councillor Eugene Cassidy on the recent opening of the Greenway at Nobber.

### **4 Statutory Business**

#### **4.1 Environment**

- 4.1.1 To receive a presentation in respect of the publication of the draft River Basin Management 2022-2027 and the public consultation process for same including the making of submissions or observations.

Larry Whelan, Senior Executive Officer, David Keyes, Senior Executive Engineer and Emmet Conboy, Executive Chemist, Environment Section attended the meeting and a presentation was delivered, which included the River Basin Management Plan, the condition of waters nationally and locally, the main themes of the plan, the main pressures and catchment response in Meath, overview of measures proposed, selected plan measures and how to make a submission and get involved locally.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried whether there were any concerns relating to local water bodies or wastewater treatment plants that require upgrades – improvements



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had been evident in rivers in Meath up to 2012/2013 but the quality had since declined, due to an increase in nutrient concentrations, although some sections do meet good status, e.g. in the Boyne. Agriculture represents the most significant sectoral pressure with hydromorphology now being monitored. Catchment works are useful if identifying and resolving issues. Most of the wastewater treatment plants, which are subject to EPA licences, have been upgraded, allowing for nutrient removal. The issue relates to network overflows and this will require investment.

- Queried how councillors can engage in a meaningful way – councillors can assist by playing a role in increasing awareness of the need for more sustainable agricultural practices, particularly in vulnerable areas.
- Referred to the increase in factory farms and zero grazing methods – a number of measures are being implemented in relation to intensification, with increased engagement with farmers.
- Queried the approach of the OPW in clearing river beds – the OPW will not clear a whole river bed, but rather clears half at a time, which is a less environmentally harmful approach.
- Referred to the need for balance within the agricultural sector between minimising environmental harm and maintaining business sustainability and the need for additional incentives.
- Referred to the future impacts of price increases of artificial manure in reducing waste – artificial fertilisers and slurry are the source of nutrients in rivers and avoiding slurry spreading during rainfall events is critical.
- Referred to plans to deal with cattle access points to rivers – cattle access to rivers causes sediment disturbance and increased manure. Pilot projects where such points were fenced off resulted in an increase in river water quality. Simple approaches are effective, e.g. fencing, water troughs, etc.



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### **4.2 Transportation**

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

The report, circulated in advance, was noted. The Cathaoirleach thanked Aaron and his team for their work throughout the year.

### **5 Notice of Question**

There were no Notices of Question.

### **6 Notice of Motion**

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

“That the popular walking route out the Maudlin Road, up Cherryhill and back in by Mullaghea Church be named to assist with future funding applications.”

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

*This is not a designated walking route and giving it a name will not assist with funding applications.*

A discussion followed, with reference to the opportunities to secure funding for walkways and trails and the formal and informal naming processes for such walkways. Information was requested on possible funding sources and how walkways/trails can be nominated. It was also requested that consideration be given to undertake drainage and other road works on the road identified.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**, was noted.



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

- 7.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

The minutes were noted.

- 7.2 To note the Corporate Policy Group & Group Whip Meeting Minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

The minutes were noted.

- 7.3 To note the report from Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC of 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

The report was noted.

### **8 Correspondence**

- 8.1 Correspondence received from OPW in response to the notice of item 4.2.1 from the November meeting re St Colmcille's House and the Round Tower.

The correspondence was noted. Councillors expressed dissatisfaction at the response received and requested that regular letters issue to the OPW until such time as the information required is received, including confirmed timeframe for works. It was also agreed that an invitation issue to the OPW to attend a municipal district meeting to discuss these and other relevant issues.

### **9 Any Other Business**

- 9.1 Councillor Sarah Reilly raised the following issue:

9.1.1 Requested an update on the design of Phase II of the walkway and cycleway around Kells.

- 9.2 Councillor Michael Gallagher raised the following issue:



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9.2.1 Requested that Irish Water be invited to attend a municipal district meeting – it was pointed out that Irish Water attend clinics and that Gerry Boyle, Water Services would be invited to attend to provide an update on Irish Water projects.

9.3 Councillor Paul McCabe raised the following issue:

9.3.1 Queried whether consideration had been given to providing measures to improve safety at Maeve's Bridge, Moynalty Road and Headfort Bridge, e.g. a one-way system – it was pointed out that installing traffic lights could result in increased speed approaching the bridge. Due to health & safety requirements for those working on the scaffolding at Maeve's Bridge, a full road closure for four days may be required, 10am – 5pm, until works are completed. This will be confirmed tomorrow.

9.4 Councillor David Gilroy raised the following issue:

9.4.1 Requested an update on proposals to realign the bad bend on the Athboy to Delvin Road.

9.5 Councillor Seán Drew raised the following issue:

9.5.1 The possibility of adding red warning signs on the road approaching Maeve's Bridge – it was agreed to look at possible suitable measures.

9.6 Councillor Mike Bray raised the following issue:

9.6.1 Referred to the need for additional traffic calming measures to deter speeding on the approaches to Rathcairn.

9.7 Dara McGowan raised the following issue:

9.7.1 Confirmed that online booking for children's swimming lessons at Kells Swimming Pool will open on Friday at 10am.



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The Cathaoirleach concluded the meeting by thanking councillors for their work and cooperation throughout the year. He also thanked the staff and wished everyone a very happy Christmas.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach**