



## **Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes**

### **Kells Municipal District**

#### **Ordinary Meeting**

**4.00pm, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022, 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 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 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.

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

Sympathy was extended to:



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- The family and friends of the late Ashling Murphy, Tullamore;
- The family of the late John Moran, Carlanstown;
- The families of the late Julie Anne Kehoe, Saoirse Corrigan and Shane Gilchrist, following the accident on the N52 on New Year's Eve.

Congratulations were extended to:

- The players, management and officials following Kells Celtic Youths winning the Division 2 football championship;
- Mickey Newman, Kilmainham following his retirement from inter county football.

#### **4 Statutory Business**

##### **4.1 Water Services**

###### **4.1.1 To receive an update on water services projects in Kells Municipal District.**

Gerry Boyle, Senior Engineer, Water Services provided an update on water and wastewater services in the main centres in the municipal district, including Kells, Oldcastle, Athboy, Drumonrath, Nobber, Moynalty, Kilmainhamwood and Carlanstown. This included reference to plant and network upgrades and current capacity levels. Reference was also made to water supply issues in Drumconrath and it was agreed to deal with Item 6.1. The supporting information provided under Item 6.1 referred to the current status in relation to finding a new water source and it was underlined that the boil water notices were precautionary and would soon be lifted. It was also confirmed that there was no connection to THMs.

Matters raised by councillors included:



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- Welcomed the information provided, including the clarification around THM levels, the measures being taken in Drumconrath and the clarification that wastewater capacity in Kells is sufficient.
- Queried whether it would be possible to connect the Nobber water supply to the second borehole under investigation and then connect Kilmainhamwood to this supply – this would require a new treatment plant and is not being considered. An alternative plan for Nobber/Kilmainhamwood is under consideration.
- Queried the level of testing being undertaken for THMs – all supplies are regularly tested.
- Queried the timeframe for the plans for Drumconrath – the Hydrogeological report will indicate the long term sustainability of the wells and the next phase will include engagement with the landowners, a detailed design and drilling.
- Referred to previous malodour arising from the wastewater treatment plant in Athboy and queried how this was resolved and the likelihood of it reoccurring – this tends to be a seasonal problem, occurring in warmer, drier weather. Whilst measures were taken to counteract it, there are no guarantees that it will not reoccur.
- Queried the reason why the wastewater treatment plant in Lloyd Business Park is due to be closed – this is a small plant, nearing capacity, and the connection of the business park to the town scheme will facilitate its further development and reduce the number of plants to be maintained.
- Queried whether one-off houses and smaller developments on the outskirts of towns, which are served by septic tanks, can be connected to the public schemes, as they are extended – each case is different, with some more difficult than others. An alternative can be a group sewerage scheme or community connection, for which grant aid is available, but



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a strong case has to be made on environmental grounds and the costs can still be prohibitive.

The Cathaoirleach and councillors thanked Gerry for the detailed information provided.

### **4.2 Planning**

#### **4.2.1 To receive an update on the Athboy and Oldcastle Public Realm Plans.**

Wendy Bagnall, Senior Executive Planner delivered a presentation on the public realms plans for Athboy and Oldcastle, including reference to the implementation action plans and projects identified for both towns, including the new town square, enhanced pedestrian and cycling facilities, trees and planting, and wayfinding and signage in Oldcastle and Main Street enhancement, the Fairgreen and the Western Masterplan and bus stop relocation in Athboy. The next steps were also outlined.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried how the funding allocation for Oldcastle will be used – the next step will be the planning process and getting the project ready to source funding for construction.
- Queried the timeframe to progress the plans for Athboy – if funding is secured, a timeline can be provided but this is more difficult if funding has yet to be secured. The bus stop relocation is being progressed by the Transportation Department (see Item 4.3.1). It was also pointed out that the planning process can take some time to complete.
- Commended the level of involvement of local community and business sectors

### **4.3 Transportation**



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- 4.3.1 To receive an update on progress on the proposed Athboy Town Centre Project - Bus Stop Facility Part 8.

Paul McKown, Executive Engineer, Transportation referred to the documentation circulated and sought approval to proceed to public display.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Commended the level of public engagement undertaken.
- Requested that the flooding issues at the other end of Church View Street be addressed as part of the plan – CCTV surveys will be carried out and technical solutions for the flooding issues will be assessed.
- Pointed out that the street being referred to is not known locally as “Church View Street” and an alternative name should be used during the public consultation with a formal naming process also needed.
- Queried the timeframe for the planning process – a site notice and advertisement will issue next week, with the public display period commencing on 29<sup>th</sup> January for 6 weeks, followed by 2 further weeks for submissions. The documentation and drawings will be available in Buvinda House, Kells Municipal District civic offices, Athboy library and on the online consultation portal. It is expected that a report will be brought back to the municipal district in three months.

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

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

The report, circulated in advance, was noted and councillors thanked Aaron for all works carried out.



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### 5 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

### 6 Notice of Motion

#### 6.1 Submitted by Councillor Paul McCabe

"I call on the Water Services Department of Meath County Council and Irish Water to urgently identify and commission an alternative public water supply for the village of Drumconrath given the ongoing and unacceptable supply outages and boil water notices that have been issued in respect of the current water supply."

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

*In 2021, the Council secured the agreement of Irish Water to invest in the development of a new water source for Drumconrath, to replace the existing principal source, Lough Bracken.*

*In this regard, extensive trial well drilling and testing was undertaken in the second half of 2021. The trial wells drilled and tested proved to be promising and hence, subject to the specialist Hydrogeological report which is awaited (expected by February 2022), the development of a new source together with associated pipeline and Water Treatment Plant modification, will then proceed to design, planning, procurement and construction.*

*On this basis, the new source / pipeline and modified Water Treatment Plant is programmed to proceed to construction in 2023 and to be commissioned as operational in 2024, at an estimated cost in excess of €4 m.*

*In the meantime, the existing WTP will continue to be operated and maintained to provide the best possible service to the residents and businesses of Drumconrath and surrounding areas.*



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This was discussed under Item 4.1.1 and the information was welcomed.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by Councillor Paul McCabe and seconded by Councillor Eugene Cassidy, was noted.

### **6.2 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly**

“In light of the threat to the future of the St Vincent de Paul Hall Kells as an arts and community venue, that Meath County Council enter into negotiations with the Regional Conference of the St Vincent de Paul to secure the Hall for the future use of the people of Kells and Meath.”

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

*The Arts Office have no input to the management or running of Kells Theatre. MCC Arts section understand there is an ongoing internal organisational request for expressions of interest from the Regional Conference (owner of the building) in respect to the future governance and management arrangement of the St, Vincent de Paul Hall in Kells.*

*The Arts Office doesn't fund any operational element of the theatre, however they have programmed events in the theatre on a venue rental basis.*

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

## **7 Correspondence**

### **7.1 Correspondence received from the Office of the Minister of State in response to the notice of item 8.1 from the December meeting re St Colmcille's House and Round Tower.**

Councillors expressed disappointment at the lack of information provided and requested that a further letter issue requesting a substantive reply as soon as possible.



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### **8 Any Other Business**

#### **8.1 Councillor Seán Drew raised the following issue:**

- 8.1.1 Expressed disappointment at a recent planning decision that will prevent the development of the river walkway and access to Headfort Mausoleum, which has been an objective in successive local area plans and expressed the hope that relevant council departments will work together with relevant landowners to facilitate the opening up of these amenities for tourists and residents – it was pointed out that each planning application is considered against multiple criteria.**

#### **8.2 Councillor Sarah Reilly raise the following issues:**

- 8.2.1 Requested that the council work with the owners of the old Catherine McAuley Centre to make an application under the Historic Structures Fund to improve the railings and outer façade.**
- 8.2.2 Referred to issues of illegal dumping at a site off the Headfort Road – the background and actions taken were outlined.**
- 8.2.3 Queried the process in declassifying an area as a Special Area of Conservation – it was agreed to check this.**

#### **8.3 Councillor Mike Bray raised the following issue:**

- 8.3.1 Queried what action the council can take in relation to reports of a rodent infestation at Coille Dois, Athboy – the problem reported would appear to have arisen from an open drain on adjacent private land and has been referred to the Environment Section.**

#### **8.4 Councillor Michael Gallagher raised the following issue:**

- 8.4.1 Referred to flooding on the Bog Road – this will be checked but the council can only deal with issues, e.g. drainage, on the public road and not on private property.**





comhairle chontae na mí  
*meath county council*



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This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Bay", written over a horizontal line.

**Cathaoirleach**

