



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Kells Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

4.00pm, 14th February 2022, County Hall, Navan

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

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

Apologies: Councillor Eugene Cassidy.

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 17th January 2022.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 17th January 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Paul McCabe** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

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 Shay (James) Reilly, Kilmainhamwood.

Congratulations were extended to:

- All applicants who were successful under the Sports Capital Grants Scheme.

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.

4.2 To consider and adopt the 2022 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

Barry Lynch, Director of Service, and Corrina Elder, Senior Engineer, Housing Department outlined the schedule of works as they relate to housing, including the service categories, funding allocations per municipal district, the centralised budgets and updates on the previous year. Reference was made to a national programme of planned maintenance to be procured by mid-year, with a budget allocated from own resources to carry out an asset survey.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried the frequency of boiler servicing – under the boiler maintenance programme, both oil and gas boilers are serviced frequently.
- Queried whether long-term tenants can request the replacement of solid fuel with an oil boiler – to improve energy efficiency, air to water boilers are being fitted instead of oil boilers.



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- Queried the plans for energy upgrades – a budget allocation has been made for the retrofit of local authority houses, with deep energy retrofits carried out on pre-let units and on a planned basis.
- Queried whether units must be vacated prior to energy retrofit works being carried out – when units are vacant, the opportunity to carry out deep retrofit works is taken, with a move to planned maintenance also occurring.
- Queried the average timeframe for vacant units to become available for occupation – the target is 12 weeks but deep retrofit works may take longer to complete.
- Queried whether estates are being selected for energy upgrades and, if so, how many in the county and in Kells Municipal District – an asset management survey will be carried out on a rolling basis, with energy retrofits to be carried out on 30/40 specific properties per annum, rather than entire estates. Where possible, efficiencies will be achieved, based on location.
- Queried whether the budget for Local Authority Adaptation Grants had been expended in full in 2021 – the budget, plus an additional allocation, had been expended in full.
- Queried whether there were any issues in securing contractors to carry out works and whether tender costs had increased this year – Contract works are working well at the moment, with the tendering framework from 2021 still being applied and with the retender to be undertaken in June, when costs are expected to increase.
- Queried whether all items are removed when units are being upgraded – anything suitable is re-used or recycled, in line with current guidelines.

Martin Murray, Director of Service introduced Caroline Corrigan, who is due to join the Transportation Department as Senior Engineer, and referred to some changes due to be implemented in the Transportation Department. John McGrath, Senior Engineer, Transportation outlined the process and timelines for the Schedule of Municipal District Works, the funding amounts, where known, and sources, a road survey update and summary of PSCI ratings, the proposed programme of works, including the funding



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breakdown. Reference was also made to the contingency fund, to cover any tender cost increases, and the capital programme allocation for estates and footpaths.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the significant programme of works presented, the increased investment, the progress made and thanked all involved in preparing the information presented.
- Queried whether the PSCI breakdown was available for Kells Municipal District.
- Queried when additional roads can be added to the winter gritting programme – the current model is being reviewed by TII, with the current programme having recently been increased to include all regional roads. The Transportation SPC will again review the programme in Q3.
- Queried whether funding will be made available for new footpaths, particularly as previous funding streams, such as the Town & Village Renewal grants, are no longer available – there are different funding options available, e.g. RRDF, URDF, own resources, developments, etc. which can be used to progress infrastructural provision.
- Expressed disappointment that certain roads were excluded from the schedule of works – it was pointed out that the three year roadworks programme, previously agreed, was incorporated into the schedule and roads that may not be included this year would be considered for inclusion in future years. It was also underlined that the budget is finite and the selection of roads is based on engineering data.
- Queried whether the PSCI survey is up to date – the most recent full road survey was carried out in 2020, with the survey ongoing on a rolling basis.
- Requested an update on the number of CIS/LIS projects waiting to commence – a funding application for a significant number of schemes has been made, with



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the funding allocation not yet confirmed. A significant percentage of the schemes on the list are in Kells Municipal District.

- Queried whether funding could be made available to increase car parking spaces in housing estates – the capital programme allocation for estates will focus on road improvements in the first instance.
- Referred to the contingency fund and the possibility that this could be used for works on additional roads – the cost of materials is expected to increase and the inclusion of a contingency fund represents a prudent approach.
- Queried whether the budget for tree maintenance could be increased to allow for regular tree pruning rather than having to remove trees – tree pruning is preferable to removal but each case must be assessed. Approximately €20,000 was spent in 2021 on reactive tree maintenance and consideration will be given to targeting two estates per year for tree pruning.
- Queried whether it would be possible for conditions to be added to planning permissions for new developments, identifying appropriate locations for tree planting - as part of the planning application process, specialist arborists advise in terms of appropriate tree species and locations.
- Queried whether Low Cost Safety Scheme works would be carried out on the Faughan Hill junction at Cortown – applications have been submitted for funding, including that at Faughan Hill, and funding should be announced in the coming weeks.
- Referred to the need for funding for maintenance works on walkways – a central budget will be made available for the maintenance of walkways and greenways.

The adoption of the 2022 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Kells Municipal District was proposed by Councillor Sarah Reilly and seconded by Councillor Paul McCabe.

The Cathaoirleach requested that a roll call vote be taken with the following result:



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Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
BRAY, Mike	✓			
CASSIDY, Eugene				✓
DREW, Sean	✓			
GALLAGHER, Michael		✓		
GILROY, David	✓			
MCCABE, Paul	✓			
REILLY, Sarah	✓			
RESULT	5	1	-	1

The 2022 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Kells Municipal District was adopted.

5 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

6 Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

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

7.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 3rd December 2021.

The minutes were noted.

7.2 To note the report from the Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC of 20th December 2021.

The report was noted.

7.3 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC of 2nd February 2022.



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The report was noted.

8 Correspondence

- 8.1 Correspondence received from Mr Kevin Stewart, Moynalty Cycling Club re National Criterium Championships.

It was unanimously agreed that the deputation from Moynalty Cycling Club would be received at the March meeting.

- 8.2 Correspondence received from the OPW in response to the Notice of Item 8.1 from the December meeting re proposed works at St. Colmcille's House and the Round Tower.

Councillors expressed dissatisfaction at the response received, having understood that funding had been secured for works on the Round Tower and that commencement of these works were imminent. Concern was also expressed in relation to the remedial works required at Loughcrew. It was agreed to seek further information from the OPW on these issues.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 To agree arrangements for the March meeting of Kells Municipal District.

9.1.1 It was agreed that in-person meetings would return to Kells Civic Offices.

- 9.2 Councillor Sarah Reilly raised the following issues:

9.2.1 Referred to local concerns expressed about Gibbstown House, a protected structure, and queried whether anyone from Meath County Council had visited the site, whether the concerns were justified and whether the council were to take any action.

9.2.2 Requested that the Heritage Officer attend a meeting to discuss the proposed works on burial grounds following the allocation in the capital programme.



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- 9.2.3 Referred to concerns expressed regarding the number of dogs off the leash at Lloyd and whether consideration could be given to providing a designated dog park.
- 9.2.4 Expressed disappointment that the Department of Agriculture had issued a tree felling licence for Rabbit Hill Wood, despite encouraging councillors to protect the herons that nest there, but acknowledged that this was outside the council's control.
- 9.2.5 Requested that a letter issue to the Gardaí requesting that the speed van be deployed to the Fyanstown area.
- 9.3 Councillor Michael Gallagher raised the following issue:
- 9.3.1 Referred to the dumping of tyres to the rear of an industrial premises, on Údarás land, in Gibbstown.
- 9.4 Councillor Seán Drew raised the following issues:
- 9.4.1 Referred to the progress being made in preparing public realm plans for a number of towns and villages and expressed hope that a public realm plan for Kells would be prioritised.
- 9.4.2 Commended all involved in preparing the Part 8 for Headfort Place and queried when the works could commence – it is hoped to commence works in June/July, with completion by the end of August.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council



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Cathaoirleach

