



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

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

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

***4.00pm, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022, Kells Civic Offices***

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mike Bray, presided.

**Councillors Present:** Eugene Cassidy, Seán Drew, Michael Gallagher, Paul McCabe.

**Apologies:** Councillors David Gilroy and Sarah Reilly.

#### **Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Dara McGowan

**Executive Engineer:** Aaron Smith

**Meetings Administrator:** Claire King

**Staff Officer:** Triona Keating

### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

#### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022.**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 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**



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Councillors acknowledged the ongoing plight of the Ukrainian people and also the role of Meath County Council in doing what it could to accommodate those in need.

Congratulations were extended to:

- Joe Brady and Bernard Gaffney, Kells Municipal District on their recent retirements;
- The organisers of the Kells St. Patrick's Day Parade, particularly Jess Olohan and Tony Gray, and council staff on cleaning up the town the following day.
- The organisers of the St. Patrick's Day parades in Athboy and Oldcastle;
- The Meath Associations in New York and London, as well as councillors and officials, on the recent delegation visits to both cities.

#### **4 To receive a presentation on behalf of Moynalty Cycling Club.**

Kevin Stewart, Enda Murray and Paul Kelly, attend and delivered a presentation, which provided a background to the club including its catchment, membership, achievements, and aims and objectives. Information was also provided on the National Criterium Championship, which the club will be hosting in Kells on 6<sup>th</sup> July. Details were provided on its format, route and associated requirements.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried where the event had been hosted previously – the event was held on a racecourse in Limerick last year and, in recent years, has not been based in a town environment. Due to the nature of the event this year, i.e. based in a town, it has generated a lot of interest amongst participants.
- Queried the insurance arrangements – as this is a national Cycling Ireland event, insurance is covered. All riders are licensed by Cycling Ireland.



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- Requested that residents in affected streets be advised in advance of parking restrictions – the consultation process is just commencing and the organisers will work closely with the council and Gardaí with regard to street closures and health and safety requirements, such as barriers and marshals.
- Suggested that the council promote the event on social media and through Boyne Valley Tourism – contact has been made with Boyne Valley Tourism.

The Cathaoirleach and councillors welcomed the proposed event, acknowledged the significant increased interest in cycling, particularly in recent years, and also the potential benefits for the town.

### **5 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001**

#### **5.1 Agreement in principle to disposal of 0.0286 Ha at Castletown, Navan, Co Meath.**

This was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Eugene Cassidy and seconded by Councillor Michael Gallagher.

### **6 Statutory Business**

#### **6.1 Transportation**

##### **6.1.1 To receive an update on progress on the proposed N52 Road Safety Improvement Scheme at Calliaghstown, Kells.**

Paul Phelan, Senior Executive Engineer, Transportation provided the background to the scheme, the three main elements, recent progress, the scheme location and proposed outline, and current status.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the progress made.



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- Queried whether all issues related to affected landowners had been resolved – these had been resolved, in so far as possible, and submissions can be made as part of the statutory public consultation process.
- Queried whether it is intended to wait for TII to respond prior to going on public display – the technical report has been uploaded and a response is usually expected within 3 weeks. It is preferable to get approval before the Part 8 process commences, as it is a national road. Meetings have taken place on site and the proposals discussed.
- Queried the outcome if one of the affected landowners objects – the scheme, as proposed, would be unlikely to proceed.
- Queried whether compensation is being sought – the estimated cost of the scheme, without compensation, is approximately €1million.
- Acknowledged the amount of work involved in bringing the proposal to this stage.

6.1.2 To inform the Members of the commencement of a Review of Road Traffic (Special Speed Limits) County of Meath Bye Laws and seek representations in relation to any roads or locations which the members feel should be included for review.

Phil Ward, Assistant Engineer, Transportation outlined the key points included in the letter, circulated in advance. Submissions are to be made by 29<sup>th</sup> April. All roads submitted will be subject to engineering, speed and traffic volume surveys, following the national guidelines. It is expected to be the end of the year before the initial draft revised bye-law will be available for discussion in advance of commencing the statutory process. He also referred to the Housing Estate Special Speed Limit Byelaws, which will come into effect on 4<sup>th</sup> April.

Matters raised by councillors included:



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- Queried whether speed surveys would be carried out at all locations submitted – traffic volume and speed surveys will be carried out.
- Referred to a number of locations where road resurfacing or restoration had been undertaken as part of the 2020 roadworks programme and where the temporary speed limit signs were still in place and asked that these be removed.
- Referred to the need for measures to improve pedestrian safety in towns and villages and suggested that the new unit in Transportation review this issue.
- Queried whether the speed limit review covers all national, regional and local roads and whether the local authority must get the approval of TII to change the speed limit on a national road – all roads, outside of estates, are included and the introduction of byelaws is a reserved function. However, the written consent of TII is required for any speed limit on a National Road.
- Referred to complaints received regarding the 80kmph speed limit on the R147, with the speed limit having been unchanged as part of the last review.
- Queried what role the Gardaí play in the review as they are required to enforce the speed limits – enforcement is one element of the approach taken.
- Queried whether the speed limit can be increased on the N52 if the road is improved – the appropriate limit is as per the guidelines, which includes stipulations around road conditions.
- Queried whether a speed limit can be reduced from 80kmph to 60kmph – the speed limit review has to be carried out having regard to the national guidelines.



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

A report, covering two months, will be provided in April.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried whether the road from Kingscourt to Meath Hill will be fully resurfaced following works – the road opening licence includes a condition for full restoration.
- Queried whether all reported potholes are being repaired – there are generally no issues, with the pothole filler being brought in as required.
- Queried the roadworks tendering process had indicated any cost increases – works generally start in May and a contingency has been made to cover any cost increases.

## **6.2 Corporate Affairs & Governance**

- 6.2.1 To discuss the 2022 Arts, Festivals, Festive Lighting & MD Renewal budget (Christmas Lighting Fund - €7,500)

The allocations, made in 2021, were outlined and a number of proposals were made for this year. A query was raised as to whether all allocations made in 2021 had been drawn down and it was agreed to check this. This item was deferred to the April meeting.

Clarification was also provided around the Community Grants Scheme, which includes funding for festivals.

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



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The list of allocations, circulated in advance, was noted.

### **7 Notice of Question**

#### **7.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly**

"To ask Meath County to provide a definitive date for the erection of the bus shelters approved for Martry, Carnaross & Kells."

**Response:**

*I can confirm that a Contractor has been appointed, and construction on the Bus Shelter Enabling Works project is due to commence in the next week.*

*This project entails the installation of bus shelters, and their associated services infrastructure, at 11 separate locations throughout the County. It is being delivered in conjunction with our Accessible Bus Stops Works project, and we estimate that both projects will take in the region of five months to deliver.*

*We acknowledge that this project has taken longer than anticipated to deliver. The Covid 19 restrictions, and their associated follow-on backlog issues for Contractors/Specialists availability have hampered our ability to advance this project as we would have preferred. We do not anticipate any further delays.*

This item was deferred to the April meeting.

### **8 Notice of Motion**

#### **8.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly**

"That Meath County Council find a home in Kells for the Creative Ireland sponsored Táin tapestry project that is currently being created with the assistance of LMETB and local co-ordinator Ina Olohan."



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

*The Meath Creative Ireland Culture Team has worked closely with our colleagues and lead project partners in An Táin Arts Centre Dundalk, in the development and delivery of the Táin Tapestry Project. Included in our partnership agreement is the provision of an appropriate hanging space for the Meath piece once completed. We plan to meet with the local project artist & co-ordinator Ina Olohan in the coming weeks to discuss suitable spaces, taking into account the tapestry size and hanging requirements.*

This item was deferred to the April meeting.

### **8.2 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly**

*“To protect the habitat of the heron and wildlife living in Rabbit Hill Wood, that a Tree Preservation Order is sought as a matter of priority.”*

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

*The Planning Department will have an assessment of the trees carried out in accordance with Section 205 of the Act to determine their appropriateness for a tree preservation order.*

*205.—(1) If it appears to the planning authority that it is expedient, in the interests of amenity or the environment, to make provision for the preservation of any tree, trees, group of trees or woodlands, it may, for that purpose and for stated reasons, make an order with respect to any such tree, trees, group of trees or woodlands as may be specified in the order.*

This item was deferred to the April meeting.

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





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- 9.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

The minutes were noted.

### **10 Correspondence**

- 10.1 Correspondence received from Superintendent Bláithín Moran, Kells Garda Station in response to the notice of item 9.2.5 from the February meeting re speed van be deployed to the Fyanstown area.

The correspondence was noted.

### **11 Any Other Business**

- 11.1 Councillor Michael Gallagher raised the following issue:

- 11.1.1 Referred to the erection of a gate to the rear of the cemetery off the Headfort Road, Kells, which is blocking a right of way – this site was subject to illegal dumping, which the council had cleared. Discussions had taken place with the individual who claimed to own the land and they were asked to take appropriate measures to prevent dumping.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

