



## **Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes**

### **Kells Municipal District**

#### **Ordinary Meeting**

**4.00pm, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022, Kells Civic Offices**

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Mike Bray, presided.

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

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

**Director of Service:** Martin Murray

**Executive Engineer:** Aaron Smith

**Meetings Administrator:** Claire King

**Staff Officer:** Triona Keating

**Apologies:** Dara McGowan, Director of Service

### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

#### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022.**

- The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of Councillor Seán Drew and seconded by Councillor Eugene Cassidy.

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

There were no matters arising from the meeting.

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

Sympathy was extended to:



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- Sheila Harkin, Finance on the death of her father, Michael Tuite.

Congratulations were extended to:

- The Meath Ladies team on winning the Division 1 Final.

### **4 Statutory Business**

#### **4.1 Planning**

- 4.1.1 To receive the Chief Executive's Report in accordance with Part XI of the Planning & Development Act 2000–2021 and Part VIII of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001–2021 on the proposed development which will consist of the installation of an access ramp to the front of the Kells Credit Union building which is a Protected Structure (LA RPS ID 90529), realignment of the junction between Kenlis Place and Headfort Place with the provision of raised table and pedestrian crossing on Kenlis Place and upgrading of the Parnell Garden with a raised planted area (P822001).

Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Officer, Community Department outlined the report, including the submissions received following the public display period. It was confirmed that extensive engagement had taken place with the Credit Union and the Conservation Officer. The Part 8 process was also outlined, with the councillors having six weeks from the date of receipt to consider the report and recommendation.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried the funding available to implement the scheme – a number of funding sources are available including the Town & Village Renewal grant, local authority contribution and possibly third party funding.
- Welcomed specific aspects of the proposed scheme including the pedestrian crossing and upgrade of areas and thanked all involved in bring the scheme to this stage.



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- Queried the recommendation by the Transportation Section regarding the proposed removal of four perpendicular parking spaces on John Street and suggested that this should be considered as part of the Public Realm Plan – the point raised was noted and it was confirmed that this could be dealt with at the May meeting.

### **4.2 Heritage/Conservation**

#### **4.2.1 To receive an update on plans for burial grounds.**

Loreto Guinan, Heritage Officer delivered a presentation on the heritage capital works being undertaken in the municipal district, including Rathmore Graveyard, Dulane Church and Graveyard and St. John's Church and Graveyard, Nobber.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the works being done.
- Queried whether it would be possible to undertake a condition survey of all medieval graveyards in the county in order to prioritise works to ensure their preservation – a number of information sources are already available including a database on [archaeology.ie](http://archaeology.ie). The Environment Department undertook a survey, which provides good baseline data and the IT Department also undertook a mapping exercise a number of years ago.
- Queried whether a programme of works could be developed based on the information available – 60-70 groups did submit applications to the Community Department for funding available. Many of the sites involved include protected structures. Whilst a new government fund is available, the amount of resources and work involved in any of these projects is extensive.



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- Queried whether works are planned in other graveyards in the municipal district – a phased approach is being taken in relation to required works at Staholmog and a staged assessment is required for Castlekieran.
- Queried whether there were plans to undertake works on further sections of the wall in Dulane Graveyard – these works are planned.
- Confirmed that the committee in Staholmog have a report on the removal of vegetation and need to access funding for the works – the Department must also be notified and the proposed methods approved.
- Queried the timeline to remove the tree at Robertstown and whether permission was needed to provide a gravel pathway.
- Referred to the process in accessing the National Monument Fund, which is complex, and the need to have a conservation plan in place as a first step – many of the projects are complex, due to structural issues and the need for appropriate interventions, with the first principle being minimum intervention to conserve the structure. Having a conservation plan is key to accessing available funding, with a roadmap for phased conservation works. It was agreed to circulate a generic brief for a consultation management plan.
- Queried the costs involved in projects such as Dulane and Rathmore for the stabilisation of church ruins – it is hard to provide an exact figure but there can be significant costs involved due to the specialist skills required, particularly if dealing with church structures.
- Queried whether the National Monument Fund was for graveyards only – the fund is for different monument types with maps and further information available by townland on [archaeology.ie](http://archaeology.ie).
- Queried whether the council can do anything if access to a graveyard crosses private land and no right of way is available – each case is different and, where possible, the agreement of the landowner is sought.



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- Referred to St. John's Graveyard in Kells, where the council did undertake works on the wall and steps, but where no group is set up to look after it – significant conservation works have been undertaken, with further works required on the wall, subject to funding.
- Queried whether the council made a submission to the National Monument Fund for the proposed works on the Mural Tower, to the rear of Canon Street – it was confirmed that a submission had been made.
- Requested that the Mural Tower to the rear of the Darnley in Athboy be assessed, as it is the last part of the town wall remaining.
- Queried the criteria to be considered a historic graveyard – if classified and published as a monument. Newer ones do not fall under the heritage remit.
- Referred to the tourism potential of incorporate the graveyard in Nobber with the greenway.

### **4.3 Corporate Affairs & Governance**

#### **4.3.1 To agree a date for the Kells Municipal District Awards Night and list of recipients.**

The protocol for the Municipal District Awards Night was outlined and responses were provided to queries raised. Councillors were asked to submit the names of suitable recipient groups and individuals and the decision regarding the final list and date can be made at a later meeting.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Seán Drew and seconded by Councillor Paul McCabe that the event would take place prior to mid-June.

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



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Following a short discussion, the following allocations were agreed on the proposal of Councillor Seán Drew and seconded by Councillor Sarah Reilly.

<b>MD</b>	<b>2022 Allocation of €7,500</b>
Kells	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Athboy Business Association - €1,200</li><li>• Kells Christmas Lights - €2,000</li><li>• Nobber Amenity Park Committee - €1,200</li><li>• Oldcastle Christmas Lights Fund - €1,200</li><li>• Moynalty - €700</li><li>• Drumconrath Parish Grotto Committee - €600</li><li>• Castletown - €600</li></ul>

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

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

### **4.4 Transportation**

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

The report, circulated in advance, was noted.

## **5 Notice of Question**

### **5.1 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.”



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### Response:

*MCC can confirm that a Contractor has been appointed, and construction on the Bus Shelter Enabling Works project has commenced.*

*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.*

The response was noted.

## 6 Notice of Motion

### 6.1 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.”*

### 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.*



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

### **6.2 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.*

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

### **6.3 Submitted by Councillor Paul McCabe**

"I am calling on Meath County Council to undertake a review of traffic management and pedestrian safety in Moynalty village."

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

*Currently, the Capital Plan makes general provision for sustainable transport measures which can take the form of traffic management measures which support walking, cycling and safety of vulnerable road users. The linear nature of the village, with the school,*





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*church, graveyard, GAA grounds at the extremity of the village, as opposed to clustering within the village, results in specific issues for a settlement of this type. The Transportation Section, in conjunction with the MD Engineer, can engage to discuss these and particular measures that may be appropriate for the village in the context of the overall priorities in the MD.*

The supporting information and motion, proposed by Councillor Paul McCabe and seconded by Councillor Michael Gallagher, was agreed.

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

7.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

The minutes were noted.

### **8 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **9 Any Other Business**

9.1 Councillor David Gilroy raised the following issue:

9.1.1 Queried if further solar compacting bins can be provided in Athboy.

9.2 Councillor Michael Gallagher raised the following issue:

9.2.1 Referred to complaints regarding the new bus stop on the Cavan Road, including traffic disruption and anti-social behaviour – the council is aware of the complaints and have met third parties but the bus stop is in the right location and all disruption will be minimised.

9.3 Councillor Seán Drew raised the following issues:



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9.3.1 Welcomed the bus stop on the Cavan Road, which was badly needed, and commended officials on the communications with residents, the majority of which are happy.

9.4 Councillor Sarah Reilly raised the following issue:

9.4.1 Requested that contact be made with the OPW regarding overgrowth at Headfort Bridge.

9.5 Councillor Mike Bray raised the following issue:

9.5.1 Queried if an update was available on the costs of the roadworks programme – it was confirmed that prices had increased.

9.6 Councillor Paul McCabe raised the following issue:

9.6.1 Queried if decisions regarding the CIS/LIS assessment can be made earlier so that councillors can consider making MD Allocation Scheme contributions – whilst LIS funding is in line with 2021, department funding for CIS has been severely reduced. It was agreed to have an update for the May meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach