



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Kells Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

4.00pm, 12th September, Kells Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Eugene Cassidy, presided.

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

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Dara McGowan

Meetings Administrator: Claire King

Staff Officer: Triona Keating

Apologies: Aaron Smith, Executive Engineer

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 11th July 2022.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 11th July 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of Councillor Paul McCabe 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

Congratulations were extended to Councillor Mike Bray on his forthcoming wedding.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

4 Disposal of land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001

4.1 Agreement in principle to disposal of 0.0032Ha of Land at the Spire of Lloyd in Kells Co. Meath.

Una McNamara, Administrative Officer, Asset Management outlined the background to the proposed renewal of the lease and the works proposed in the tower.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried why the annual lease payment was less per annum than that charged under a previous lease agreement – whilst an increased payment can be proposed, there are considerably more telecommunication towers than in previous years, when the original lease was agreed.
- Queried whether the lease applied to the external or internal area of the spire – the lease applies to the existing wires within the internal shaft and does not apply to the external area.
- Requested that a condition be included whereby any income from the lease be ringfenced for improvements to and/or upgrades of the spire – all income from the municipal districts goes to the county council, including rates income from all areas. The cost of the works planned for the tower will exceed the income that will arise from this proposed lease agreement.
- Suggested that a Notice of Motion be submitted requesting a written commitment that, at the very least, the annual spend on the spire be equal to or exceed the proposed annual income from the lease – this is not required as the works are taking place.
- Queried if any other lease agreements are in place at the spire and, if so, what is the total annual income – there is another lease in place for €9,000 per annum and a separate area at €9,500 per annum, both with different companies and applying to two different sets of equipment.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Queried whether there were any health and safety concerns regarding visitors to the spire and surrounding area as a result of this infrastructure – Comreg monitor radiation levels, with survey results available online. All locations are well below safe levels.
- Queried whether commercial rates apply to such infrastructure – it was agreed to check this.

It was agreed that an increased amount per annum be sought and this would be discussed again at the October meeting.

- 4.2 Agreement in principle to disposal of 0.2876Ha of Land in Hermitage, Moynalty, Kells Co. Meath.

This was agreed on the proposal of **Councillor Paul McCabe** and seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Community

- 5.1.1 To receive details of the proposed grant allocations under the Community Amenity Project Scheme 2022 and, if deemed appropriate, forward to the Full Council of Meath County Council for approval.

Councillor Mike Bray confirmed that, due to his involvement with one of the applicant groups, he wished to declare a conflict of interest and left the meeting whilst this item was being discussed.

Fiona Fallon, Senior Executive Officer, Community Department outlined the assessment criteria, the number of applications received and eligible, and the requirement that the funding be drawn down by 31st December 2023. The recommended grant allocations, totalling the available €100,000 budget, and the rationale for these, were outlined. The recommended grant allocations, once



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

agreed, will be brought to the October meeting of Meath County Council for approval.

The recommended grant allocations, below, were unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sarah Reilly and seconded by Councillor Seán Drew:

- Carnaross Hall - €15,000
- Fordstown/Girley Community Development Association - €35,000
- Gaeil Colmcille CLG - €35,000
- Torro United - €15,000

Councillor Mike Bray rejoined the meeting.

- 5.1.2 To update Members on progress on the National Broadband Plan and Telecommunications Developments within Kells Municipal District.

Cormac McCann, Broadband Officer, Community Department delivered a presentation, which provided an update on broadband in Ashbourne Municipal District including NBI works, commercial operators, WIFI4EU and hubs. He provided responses to specific queries raised in relation to the NBI works, including timelines and infrastructure to be provided and its maintenance.

Other matters raised by councillors included:

- Queried whether an App is available to facilitate the booking of hubs – whilst there is no App available, bookings can be made via three websites, e.g. Connected Hubs Portal.
- Queried whether hubs are likely to be provided in church owned properties – this is unlikely due to concerns around insurance.
- Queried whether it is planned to extend WIFI4EU to other towns and whether the traffic data captured could be provided to businesses in areas without full WiFi – there is no indication that additional central



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

funding will be made available for this initiative, which costs €2,500 per location. If individual towns wish to fund this themselves, assistance can be provided. There are other technologies available to count footfall.

- Requested that assistance be given to assist groups in promoting hubs and increase their use.
- Referred to issues following works in Newrath, e.g. covers left open overnight and footpath restoration of poor standard – further location details were requested.
- Queried what the implications would be if a company was unable to gain access to an estate not yet taken in charge – this will not affect current provision and the company may return to complete works in estates not initially covered.

5.2 Transportation

- 5.2.1 To receive an update on the proposed Safety Improvement Works on the R162 - Kilberry to Lisnagrew & Environs Road Safety Improvement Works.

Fergal McCabe, Executive Engineer, Transportation outlined the rationale for the proposed works.

Matters raised by councillors included:

- Welcomed the proposals, particularly the measures for Mullen's Cross.
- Queried if additional signage would be provided at Mullen's Cross – whilst the Stop sign will be relocated, the kerbing will make a big difference in slowing traffic.
- Referred to the possible sinking of the road at Gypsum - the road was reinstated approximately two years ago.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Queried how the works are to be funded – the council is looking at a number of different funding sources.
- Requested an update on similar works planned for the N52 at Johnsbrook Cross and Balrath Cross approximately three years ago – this is a TII scheme.

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

The report, circulated in advance, was noted and a further update was provided in relation to works on Drumconrath Main Street, Suffolk Street and Newmarket Street, the proposed works at Balrath and the pedestrian crossing in Kells.

5.3 Corporate Affairs and Governance

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

The list of allocations, circulated in advance, were noted and councillors were reminded of the deadline for the receipt of completed application and deferral forms.

6 Notice of Question

There were no Notices of Question.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

“To congratulate Meath County Council on its successful application for funding for safety works on the Spire of Lloyd and to ask that these works be prioritised, and a plan devised to ensure that the Spire is open as a tourist attraction once said works are completed.”



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Councillor Sarah Reilly introduced the motion by acknowledging the reassurances given previously regarding the works planned for the spire and underlined the need to maximise the tourism potential of this council asset by planning to having it re-opened to visitors from next summer, with an increase in opening hours and considering deploying a staff member. Councillor Seán Drew suggested that a medium term plan be developed with a view to opening the spire to its full capacity, to include staffing and costings. Councillor David Gilroy suggested that consideration be given to using other schemes to provide staffing, e.g. the Community Employment Scheme. Councillor Michael Gallagher expressed his support and referred to the need for toilet facilities.

Dara McGowan confirmed that council funding had been allocated to carry out works on the grounds and to facilitate the re-opening of the spire, with the intention of providing the previous access arrangements. The Tourism Officer will be requested to consider if a medium term plan can be prepared, to look at feasibility from a tourism perspective and possible funding streams. Due to issues regarding location and funding, there are no toilet facilities planned at present.

The supporting information and motion, proposed by Councillor Sarah Reilly and seconded by Councillor David Gilroy, was agreed

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

- 8.1 To note the report from the Transportation SPC of 30th June 2022.

The report was noted.

- 8.2 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 4th July 2022.

The minutes were noted.

- 8.3 To note the report from the Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs SPC of 13th July 2022.

The report was noted.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- 8.4 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC of 23rd August 2022.

The report was noted.

9 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10 Any Other Business

- 10.1 Councillor Michael Gallagher raised the following issues:

- 10.1.1 Requested an update on the timeframe for the commencement of the housing scheme on Carrick Street/Maudlin Street – no works can commence until the planning permission is in place.
- 10.1.2 Queried whether there was any way of pre-paying parking tickets by cash the night before on the new parking meters – payment can be made online/via an app.
- 10.1.3 Referred to ongoing issues relating to a property in Drumconrath – contact should be made with the Gardaí in relation to any illegal activity.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:


Cathaoirleach