



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Kells Municipal District

Ordinary Meeting

4.00pm, 13th February 2023, Kells Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**, presided.

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

Councillors Present via Zoom: Councillor Mike Bray.

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 16th January 2023.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on the 16th January 2023 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Paul McCabe** and seconded by **Councillor Seán Drew**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- The family of the late Kenneth Weldon, Cruicetown, Nobber.

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 2023 Schedule of Municipal District Works.

In attendance on behalf of the Housing Department were Corrina Elder, Senior Engineer, and Brian Murphy, Administrative Officer. Corrina Elder delivered a presentation, which included examples of improvement works carried out, sources of funding including centralised budgets and the funding allocated to the various categories and the planned programme of works for the year.

Matters raised by councillors, and responses provided, included:

- Welcomed the increased budget, particularly for Local Authority Adaptation Works, ordinary maintenance and boiler maintenance.
- Queried how many of the total applications for the Local Authority Adaptation Works were from Kells Municipal District and how many are currently on the waiting list – it was agreed to check this.
- Queried whether applicants for Local Authority Adaptation Works are advised of the estimated timeframe for applications to be processed – the funding allocation is made at the start of the year and a revised allocation is made during the year. Applications from September/October 2022 are currently being assessed. However, in the case of medical priority applications, these are assessed immediately.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Queried the length of time on the waiting list for grants, e.g. window and door replacement – in terms of the private grants, medical needs are a priority and works such as window and door replacement less so.
- Queried whether properties in Kells had yet been selected for window and door replacement and energy upgrades - the window and door replacement programme for this year has not yet been finalised but will focus on estates with ongoing problems.
- Referred to issues relating to air to water heating systems and difficulties in getting plumbers out to make repairs, as well as the need for adequate insulation to make these effective – houses must have a B2 rating before an air to water heating system is installed, i.e. has adequate insulation, in order to ensure that the systems are effective. These systems are designed to be left on all the time and, in some cases, issues arise as they are turned off and on. Otherwise there are generally few issues with the heat pumps.
- Queried whether there were issues in securing the services of contractors such as plumbers to carry out repairs, including emergency repairs – there are difficulties in securing the services of contractors such as plumbers and a tender will issue again in the coming weeks.
- Referred to a property that has remained vacant for some time despite the average time for returning vacant units to use – depending on the extent of works required and the delays in securing contractors, some units may take longer than the average turnaround time. However, information was sought on any particular cases and these can be checked.
- Queried the cost associated with straight forward refurbishment of vacant units and whether this has been impacted by the increase in construction costs – the cost cannot be specified as it will depend on the extent of works required. Whilst there were no significant additional cost increases arising during the tender process in October, some contractors are seeking additional funding now.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Queried if anything is salvaged when a house is being refurbished – if it can be saved, it will be saved. However, if something is not in good condition, the house may be refused.
- Referred to reports of oil boilers not being serviced regularly – a two year servicing programme is in place and is generally on schedule. Information on any particular cases was requested and these can be checked.
- Referred to reports of long delays in having repairs carried out.
- Queried when the energy upgrade works were due to commence in Magdalene Court and whether the programme would extend to all houses – the contract for the retrofit of windows in ten houses has commenced and should be completed by the summer.
- Queried whether the selection of units for the energy upgrade programme would take into account the Sustainable Energy Communities – the energy retrofit programme has a different funding source than the SEAI but this can be looked at, if required.

The Cathaoirleach and councillors thanked Corrina and all the team in Housing for the significant works being undertaken.

In attendance on behalf of the Transportation Department were Martin Murray, Director of Services, Caroline Corrigan, Senior Engineer, Kitty Foyle, Senior Executive Officer, and Majella Farrell, Administrative Officer.

Caroline Corrigan delivered a presentation which included information on an overview of 2022, sustainability and the circular economy, data led SMDW development, pre-2018 versus 2022 PSCI ratings, Meath's performance in comparison to the national average, an overview of the 2023 SMDW programme, challenges for 2023, sources of funding, how increased investment in the road network has led to network improvements and reactive, planned and strategic services.

Matters raised by councillors, and responses provided, included:



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Acknowledged the progress made in terms of road improvements in recent years and welcomed the additional funding being made available, particularly from own resources.
- Welcomed the funding allocation for LIS and the works being carried out on CIS projects.
- Referred to the number of rural roads in the municipal district and the need to focus on local roads in the future.
- Referred to the need to address drainage issues during roadworks.
- Requested an update on the programme circulated in October 2021 including the order in which the roads were completed and are scheduled.
- Expressed disappointment that councillors had not been consulted in advance of the programme of works being finalised.
- Queried whether councillors could feed into the review of the winter gritting programme – the winter gritting programme is ongoing with the focus on regional roads, roads with high traffic volumes and access to infrastructure. Whilst the programme is at capacity, it will be subject to review.
- Referred to roads that are not taken in charge but have been maintained by the council and whether these would be eligible for CIS.
- Queried when funding for CIS will be announced and how much is likely to be allocated – this has not yet been announced by the Department of Transport but is decreasing year on year.
- Requested that the list of approved CIS projects be circulated to councillors in advance of applicants being notified.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Queried if the PSCI survey is carried out annually and, if so, if the most up to date information for Kells Municipal District can be provided – the PSCI is ongoing and undertaken over a two year period, providing a snapshot of the road condition at that time.

The 2023 Schedule of Municipal District Works for Kells Municipal District was adopted on the proposal of **Councillor David Gilroy** and seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**. Councillor Michael Gallagher wished to have it noted that he opposed the adoption of the Schedule of Municipal District Works due to the condition of roads in north Meath.

4.3 Corporate Affairs & Governance

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

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

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 2nd December 2022.

The minutes were noted.

- 7.2 To note the report from the Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC meeting of 20th December 2022.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The report was noted.

- 7.3 To note the report from the Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC of 8th December 2022.

The report was noted.

- 7.4 To note the report from the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee of 15th December 2022.

The report was noted.

8 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Councillor Paul McCabe raised the following issues:

9.1.1 Requested that a separate meeting with Bus Éireann be arranged before May.

9.1.2 Requested that a meeting be arranged with the Garda Superintendent.

- 9.2 Councillor David Gilroy raised the following issues:

9.2.1 Requested an update on the illegal halting site at Kilkeelan, Athboy.

9.2.2 Requested an update on the allocation of seven houses in Athboy.

- 9.3 Councillor Michael Gallagher raised the following issue:

9.3.1 Requested an update on the council owned lands at Drumconrath.



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

9.4 Dara McGowan raised the following issue:

9.4.1 Provided an update on the Meath Temporary Rest Centre to be located in the former HSE building in Kells – councillors welcomed the update.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul McGowan", written over a horizontal line.

Cathaoirleach