



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

### ***Ordinary Meeting***

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

***4.00pm, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023, Kells Civic Offices***

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

**Councillors Present:**, Mike Bray, Sean Drew, Michael Gallagher, David Gilroy, Paul McCabe

**Councillors Present via Zoom:** none

**Apologies/absent:** Sarah Reilly

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Dara McGowan

**Executive Engineer:** Aaron Smith

**Meetings Administrator:** Áine Bird

**Staff Officer:** Triona Keating

#### **1 Confirmation of Minutes**

##### **1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023.**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 were proposed by **Councillor David Gilroy** and seconded by **Councillor Mike Bray**.

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

There were no matters arising.

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

There were none.

#### **4 Statutory Business**



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### **4.1 Transportation**

#### **4.1.1 To receive an update on the Virginia Bypass Route by Cavan County Council.**

Oliver Mulligan Cavan County Council and Tom Cannon, JB Barry Consultants gave a presentation and updated the members on the preferred transport route which will be on public display for one month until 16<sup>th</sup> June.

The members welcomed the progress and had the following queries:

- When would construction start – advised several milestones to pass to get to construction stage which is envisaged for 2028 and open to traffic in 2031.
- Enquired if the cycle/walking lane connects back to Maghera. A public Realm plan is being prepared for Kells and can the cycle lanes be incorporated into this plan - advised that the scheme stops at Derver and there maybe parts of the old N3 that can be enhanced as cycle lanes to Kells.
- Is there Park and Ride along the route – advised two locations for Park and Share, with one site at Derver near the roundabout.
- How much land in Meath will be affected – advised that there are 5-6 landowners with around 1km of land that will be affected, no house will be taken in this area. The width of the corridor is 300m which will allow for flexibility.
- Will there be interaction with existing roads – advised it will tie into the existing roundabout. Contacted several landowners along the route to carry out surveys and each owner will get an information pack detailing the route.

#### **4.1.2 To receive an update on the proposed redevelopment of the Fair Green, Oldcastle.**

Thomas Lynch Executive Engineer, Transportation gave a presentation and outlined the proposals for the redevelopment of the Fairgreen, Oldcastle. He advised that he met with local interest groups and presented two concept options with Option 2 the preferred option. He referred to Oldcastle Agricultural show committee making contact raising concerns about a route that they use in the Fairgreen to enter Gilson Park for the annual Agricultural show. This has been considered and the route now allows for vehicles to travel on. He said this entrance will be controlled during the show allowing vehicles attending the show entry only. The existing play area to the south will be extended into this area with



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an additional 1500sqmeters included in the site plan.

He said that the next stage is to prepare documents for a Part 8 and to apply for RRDF funding in November 2023 and if successful commence construction in 2024.

The members had the following queries:

- Enquired what the current costings are for the project - advised the costings will be €1million.
- Welcomed the plan as the area has been wasteland several years.
- Queried the surface for the shared pathways – advised that they will be resin bound.
- Suggested getting the local community involved the maintenance of the area.
- Referred to the Pop-up Pool that is currently here and will there be space for it – advised can look at the green area for the pool.
- Referred to anti-social behaviour and if infrastructure be installed for CCTV
- Suggested that the more open and inclusive the space, this will deter anti-social behaviour.
- Referred to the half basketball court and suggested having a full one as a multipurpose space.

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

The report circulated in advance was noted.

### **5 Notice of Question**

There was none.

### **6 Notice of Motion**

#### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher**



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*“That Meath County Council apply for funding to the Minister of Transport to up grade the A Class Three Roads in the Kells MD area.”*

The annual Roadworks Programme, both Restoration Improvement and Restoration Maintenance, adopted by the Elected Members includes 4 categories of road type: regional, local primary, local secondary and local tertiary. The annual programme falls from three-year programme, presently being the programme 2022-2024, which is submitted to the department. The establishment of the programme is data led, from the extensive surveys and traffic data undertaken and supplemented by local knowledge from the Municipal Districts and the Elected Members. Supplementing the RI and RM work is the Community Involvement Schemes for low trafficked cul-de-sacs.

Department funding varies yearly, and Meath County Council has benefited from increasing funding from the Department of Transport in recent years although this is somewhat challenged by increased inflation. The funding allocations are distributed fairly across the 6 MDs and as referred to above the programme of works is data led, ensuring the investments are made in the right locations, any additional funding from the department would be assigned across all 6 MDs.

On the proposal of **Cllr Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Cllr David Gilroy** the motion was noted.

Cllr Gallagher stated that more funds are needed for the Kells MD as it has more local roads than any other MD. The members suggested that the motion should be referred to the full council on behalf of the Kells MD for submission to the Department.

On the proposal of **Councillor Paul McCabe** and seconded by **Councillor Sean Drew**, the members agreed to submit the following motion from Kells MD to the Full Council –

*“That Meath County Council apply for funding to the Minister of Transport to upgrade the local roads in County Meath.”*

### **6.2 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly**



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*“To ask for an update on the lease and planning permission for the Kells Men’s Shed Development.”*

A licence agreement has been signed with Kells Men’s Shed, as part of the agreement the onus is on the Club to ensure they meet all statutory requirements relating to the use of the property within the first 2 years of the agreement.

This was deferred to the June meeting as Councillor Reilly was not in attendance.

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

7.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

The minutes were noted.

7.2 To note the Draft Climate Action, Environment and Emergency Services SPC Meeting Minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2023.

The draft minutes were noted.

7.3 To note the Draft Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

The draft minutes were noted.

### **8 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

### **9 Any Other Business**

- Enquired about the status of the Kells Public Realm plan and lands at Lloyd and seek an update for the June meeting.
- Referred to Jamestown bog junction and if there was any correspondence received from the Guards regarding the erection of more signage – advised no correspondence received, can submit application for funding next year under the Low-Cost Scheme.



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- Queried why the completion date for the 5 Age Friendly houses in Oldcastle is deferred to Q4 2024.
- Request a review of the wall around the playground at the Fairgreen, Kells as concerns for safety of some children climbing over the wall – advised will review wall.
- Welcomed the commencement of prelim works on Maudlin Street development.
- Thanks to officials for sourcing location for Mens Shed, wish to liaise with section to progress with the opening.
- Referred to the lack of one bed apartments in the town, person on housing list 13 years and still waiting for one –Notice of Question 2 months ago, and members advised that 80% on the list are seeking 1-2 bed properties, will refer to housing.
- Requested a start date for the Age Friendly housing units on the Kildalkey road, with numbers and size of property.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

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Cathaoirleach