

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Kells Municipal District

4.00 p.m. 13th November 2023 Kells Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Paul McCabe**, presided.

Councillors Present: Mike Bray, Eugene Cassidy, Sean Drew and Sarah Reilly

Councillors Present via Zoom: Michael Gallagher

Apologies/absent: Cllr David Gilroy

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Dara McGowan

Executive Engineer: Aaron Smith

Meetings Administrator: Áine Bird

Staff Officer: Ann Monaghan

Apologies:

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 9th October 2023

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on the 9th of October 2023 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Mike Bray**

1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Special Meeting held on 24th October 2023

The minutes of the Special meeting held on the 24th of October 2023 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Mike Bray**

2 Matters arising from the Minutes.

There was none.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

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Sympathy was extended:

- To the family of the late Tommy Mullen, Athboy
- To the family of the late Ultan Fitzpatrick, Kells.

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

There was none.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Community

5.1.1 To receive an update on the Digital Strategy and National Broadband Plan progress report.

Simon McCabe, Head of IT and Cormac McCann, Broadband Officer gave an update on progress of the current Meath Digital Strategy. They advised overall that good progress has been made despite encountering several challenges which included the pandemic thus switching to remote working and moving to digital services, staff changes and a small number of actions which could not be progressed. They said that the next steps are to review and update the strategy accordingly.

The members welcomed the update and commended on the works done so far. They enquired how do the public know where the BCP points are located and that people with high-speed broadband are not going to use the BCP's. They referred to AI and what is the council doing regarding this. Responses to the queries were provided.

5.1.2 To nominate a replacement onto the Athboy Social Needs Recreational Company Ltd.

On the proposal of **Councillor Sean Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly**, the members nominated Mike Bray.

5.2 Planning

5.2.1 To receive an update on County Meath Heritage Strategy 2023-2030

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Loreto Guinan, Heritage Officer, gave an update on the new proposed Strategy and the seven themes agreed. She advised that the next steps are to carry out an Environmental Assessment and finalise the plan to present to the Full Council for approval.

The members commended the works being undertaken and welcomed the appointment of Ben Malone as the Bio-Diversity officer. They suggested the Heritage section attend a future MD meeting to give an update on projects.

The members referred to having audio interpretative points in Kells and at Lloyd. They suggested planting apple trees along the greenway and other locations. They referred to the community groups and the importance of working with them to promote their culture and heritage. Responses to the queries were provided.

5.3 Transport

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

The report circulated in advance was noted. The members commended Aaron and the outdoor crew on their work carried out during the recent storms.

5.3.2 To receive an update on Active Travel Projects for the Kells Municipal District

John McGrath SE Transportation updated the members on the various projects and funding streams that are ongoing including the Active Travel programme, Footpath scheme, Public Realm projects, Safe Routes to Schools and Greenways.

The members raised the following:

- Enquired on an update for the footpath and traffic calming on N52 at Balrath, Kells
- Referred to the junction/crossroads on the N52 and if any update on works for here.
- Referred to accidents outside Rathmore school where the principal has applied to the department of Education for Emergency Safety works, enquired if a letter of support from the council could be included.
- Enquired if any interim works can be completed along the N51 where a number of accidents have occurred.
- Referred to the walking route along the N52 bypass, Kells and if any progress in extending this route.
- Enquired if any progress on linking the Gardenrath /Rockville roads to connect to the schools.

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John McGrath SE updated the members accordingly. He said that discussions will take place shortly with landowners regarding the transfer of land for traffic calming measures on the N52 at Balrath. He also advised that there is no funding available at present for these measures.

Regarding the junction on the N52, a safety scheme is being looked at for the area.

He referred to Rathmore school seeking a letter of support, and he suggested that the school submit in a request seeking support for these works.

Regarding the N51, he said a safety scheme is being considered at Caucestown where several accidents have occurred, albeit this location was not identified as a High Collision Location (HCL) in the last network analysis carried out by the TII. Traffic calming measures will form part of the public realm project for Athboy and will address the area identified in the TII's analysis for the town centre. The approach on the Navan road was not identified in the TII network analysis as a HCL, however the Council propose to apply to TII to improve the gateway signage on the approach to the Town in 2024.

He advised that under the Safe Route to Schools scheme, that the connection link from Gardenrath road to the schools can be considered as a potential option for this project if the school is successful in the next round of funding and subject to the land being available for the construction of this option.

The members thanked John for the updates and suggested coming back to a meeting at a later date with progress.

On the proposal of **Councillor Sean Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Mike Bray** the members agreed to a 15-minute extension.

5.4 Corporate Affairs and Governance

5.4.1 To note the Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Kells Municipal District

The report circulated in advance was noted.

6 Notice of Question

There was none.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher

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That Meath County Council construct a footpath from Gibbstown School to Gibbstown Hall in the interest of pupil safety at Gibbstown School

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

This will be added to the list of requested works and reviewed as part of the footpath programme.

The motion was dropped as Cllr Gallagher was not in attendance and he had not authorised anyone in his absence to propose it as per the standing orders.

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

- 8.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 29th September 2023

The minutes were noted.

- 8.2 To note the Protocol Committee minutes of 1st September 2023.

The minutes were noted.

- 8.3 To note the Draft Minutes from the Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise, and European Affairs SPC 20th October 2023

The draft minutes were noted.

- 8.4 To note the Draft Minutes of the Transportation SPC 28th September 2023.

The draft minutes were noted.

9 Correspondence

- 9.1 Correspondence from TII

Members noted the correspondence.

- 9.2 Correspondence from the OPW

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This was read out to the members as it had been received that day.

10 Any Other Business

The members were advised that the next MD meeting in December will be held in the Athboy Community hub.

The meeting concluded at 6.15pm.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach