

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Kells Municipal District

4:00pm, 11th March 2024, Cormeen Sports Complex

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

Councillors Present: Michael Gallagher, Sean Drew

Councillors Present via Zoom: Mike Bray, Eugene Cassidy, David Gilroy, and Sarah Reilly

Apologies/absent:

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Dara McGowan

Executive Engineer: Aaron Smith

Meetings Administrator: Elaine Daly

Staff Officer: Ann Monaghan

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paul McCabe, welcomed the Members to Cormeen Sports Complex. He thanked the voluntary committee for their ongoing commitment. He also noted that the complex served as a focal point for the community.

1 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of minutes of Ordinary meeting held on 12th February 2024.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 12th February 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Sean Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

2 Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

3 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

There were no expressions of sympathy or congratulations.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

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

There were none.

5 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

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

There were queries from Councillor Michael Gallagher with responses provided by Mr. Aaron Smith. The report circulated in advance was noted.

5.2 Environment

- 5.2.1 To receive a presentation in respect of the inspection programme for septic tanks and other wastewater treatment systems.

Mr. David Keyes, Senior Executive Engineer, gave an overview of the National Inspection Plan for domestic wastewater treatment systems, including the EPA requirements that the Council are obliged to meet. He provided details of the risk-based approach to inspections in each of the three zones within the County.

There were interventions and queries from Councillors Paul McCabe, Sean Drew, Michael Gallagher and Eugene Cassidy. Matters raised included Council resources, costs of remedial works and failure rates. Responses to queries raised were provided by Mr. David Keyes and Mr. Dara McGowan.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

5.3 Corporate Affairs and Governance

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

The allocations were noted.

5.3.2 To approve the Arts, Festivals, Festive Lighting Allocation 2024.

On the proposal of Councillor Paul McCabe and seconded by Councillor Sean Drew the Arts, Festivals, Festive Lighting Allocation 2024 were approved similar to 2023 as follows:

MD	2023 Allocation of €7,500
Kells	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athboy Business Association - €1,200 • Kells Christmas Lights - €2,000 • Nobber Amenity Park Committee - €1,200 • Oldcastle Christmas Lights Fund - €1,200 • Moynalty - €700 • Drumconrath Parish Grotto Committee - €600 • Castletown - €600

6 Notice of Question

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

To ask for an update on the provision of a bus stop at Ballinamona, Carnaross and Kilmainham Kells.

RESPONSE:

The Council is continuing to engage with the NTA to finalise the order of priority for new and improvements to bus stops and shelters for inclusion in a programme for works to be carried out in 2024 and 2025. When this is finalised, the Council will be in a position to advise on the status of requested works at individual locations.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Councillor Sarah Reilly sought further clarification of timelines. The response was noted by the Members.

7 Notice of Motion

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Sean Drew

That every effort should be made by Meath County Council to progress the early Development of an Affordable Housing Scheme in Kells Town.

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

Meath County Council is actively looking for suitable sites for affordable schemes throughout the county including Kells. There is a rolling notice on eTenders requesting Developers to engage with Meath County Council on lands or turnkeys for both social and affordable schemes. In addition to this the Council has engaged with a number of Developers with land that have expressed an interest to discuss the possibility of selling/developing lands. The process for a landowner to decide to sell or develop their land takes time. Proposals received are evaluated for their financial viability before any decision is made to apply to the Department of Housing Local Government & Heritage for support under the Affordable Housing Fund. It is hoped that it will be possible to progress more affordable housing in the county in 2024.

Councillor Sean Drew introduced the motion. He noted that there were lands already in the possession for Meath County Council at Riverside which could be used to provide affordable housing. There were interventions of support from Councillors Michael Gallagher and Paul McCabe.

The motion proposed by Councillor Sean Drew and seconded by Councillor Michael Gallagher was agreed.

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Mike Bray

That Meath County Council put a plan in place and investment to improve playground facilities in Athboy with the view to installing a larger array of equipment and play options, put longer lasting play units in place, improve security and surface area, and if deemed necessary to identify a more suitable location for the Athboy playground.

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

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Included in the Athboy Public Realm Implementation Plan is an action for amenity improvement which includes the playground Existing playground to be renovated, improved and better connected to the town centre. The Council is currently exploring funding streams for potential new amenities and amenity improvements throughout the County and this would include Athboy playground.

Councillor Mike Bray introduced the motion. He noted that the playground had been closed several times due to vandalism and that the playground was essential to the community.

Councillor David Gilroy proposed an amendment that was seconded by Councillor Michael Gallagher as follows:

That Meath County Council put a plan in place and investment to improve playground facilities in Athboy with the view to installing a larger array of equipment and play options, put longer lasting play units in place, improve security and surface area, and to identify a more suitable location for the Athboy playground.

There were interventions of support from Councillors Sarah Reilly, Michael Gallagher and Mike Bray.

The motion, as amended, proposed by Councillor Mike Bray and seconded by Councillor Paul McCabe was agreed.

7.3 Submitted by Councillor Mike Bray

Meath County Council carries out a review of the layout and safety at the L4025 / L40251 crossroads at Allenstown.

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

Low Cost Safety Schemes normally consist of works to improve sightlines and/or provide warning signage and road markings to improve junction safety for road users. Following receipt of this Notice of Motion, an inspection was carried out at the junction between the L4025 and L40251 and it was noted that there are adequate sightlines, warning signage and road markings in place. There are a number of other junctions in the Kells MD without this infrastructure that would receive a higher priority when considering future schemes under the Low Cost Safety Scheme.

Councillor Mike Bray introduced the motion. He noted that he had been contacted by several people with road safety concerns.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

The Motion proposed by Councillor Mike Bray and seconded by Councillor Michael Gallagher was agreed.

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

- 8.1 To note the Corporate Policy Group Meeting Minutes of 26th January 2024.

The minutes were noted.

- 8.2 To note the Protocol Committee Minutes of 26th January 2024.

The minutes were noted.

- 8.3 To note the Draft Report from the Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs SPC of 9th February 2024

The draft report was noted.

- 8.4 To note the Draft Housing Community & Cultural Development SPC Meeting Minutes 24th January 2024.

The draft minutes were noted.

- 8.5 To note the Draft Transportation Strategic Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of 14th December 2023

The draft minutes were noted.

9 Correspondence

There was none

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

10 Any Other Business

There were interventions of Councillors Paul McCabe, David Gilroy, Sarah Reilly, Mike Bray, Michael Gallagher and Sean Drew. Matter raised included:

- Best wishes to former Road Safety Officer, Mick Finnegan on his recent retirement
- Surface water on N51
- Update on speed limit review
- Parking at Kells Swimming Pool
- Utilisation of Heritage Centre
- Flooding at Woodtown and Landstown Cross
- Hoarding at round tower

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Paul McCabe thanked the members of the Community Group for their hospitality.

The meeting concluded at 5.25pm

Signed:

Cathaoirleach