

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

### ***Ordinary Meeting***

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

***4.00p.m, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025, Kells Civic Offices***

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Sarah Reilly**, presided.

**Councillors Present:** Michael Gallagher, Eugene Cassidy, Sean Drew, Mike Bray, Peter Caffrey,

**Councillors Present via Zoom:** David Gilroy

**Apologies/absent:**

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Majella Farrell, Senior Executive Officer, deputised for Director Dara McGowan

**Executive Engineer:** Matthew Rafferty

**Meetings Administrator:** Francis Regan

**Assistant Staff Officer:** Stephen Carey

#### **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Sean Drew**

#### **2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were none.

#### **3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations**

Sympathy was extended to the:

- Family of the late Brendan Cummins, Navan
- Family of the late David Ennis, Athboy

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### **4.0 Statutory Business**

#### **4.1 Rural Regeneration**

- 4.1.1** To consider the Chief Executives Report on the Part 8 application (PT/MH187) in relation to Lough Bracken Enhancement (Amenity) Works

**Cllr Michael Gallagher** excused himself from the chamber due to a conflict of interest regarding PT/MH187 Part 8 application.

The Senior Executive Engineer presented '4.1.1.' to the members. Interventions from members included:

- This will be a great addition to the community and is a perfect project for a future ORIS funding application
- Are the council optimistic that the landowners will cooperate in the planning process?
- Are there any measures in place to deal with potential anti-social behavior?
- It is noted it will be done in two stages. Having it all done at the same time would be preferable.

The Senior Executive Engineer responded accordingly to the above. **Cllr Michael Gallagher** was invited back into the chamber.

- 4.1.2** To receive update/notice of upcoming Part 8 application for Sensory Garden, Kells

The Senior Executive Engineer gave an update to the members on point 4.1.2. Interventions included:

- Members thanked the Senior Executive Engineer for the update.
- Members believe this will prove a great addition to all the people of Kells with great interest from Prosper Meath.
- Whilst members understand the initial intention is to open the garden, Monday to Friday, within working hours, it would be great to see the park opened in the evenings and weekends.
- The boundary trees to the garden will need addressing as they need cutting back.

The Senior Executive Engineer responded accordingly to the above.

- 4.1.3** To consider the Chief Executives Report on the Part 8 application (PT/MH178) in relation to Athboy Fair Green Playground

**Cllr David Gilroy** attending remotely was placed in a waiting room due to a conflict of

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interest regarding PT/MH187 Part 8 application.

The Senior Executive Engineer presented point 4.1.3 to the members.

Interventions from the members included:

- Believed, to date, that the process of public consultation of PT/MH178 has been poor. There has been no previous update like the process used in point 4.1.2.
- Letter of consent to carry out the Part 8 process received from the trustees – have we got their agreement that the construction can go ahead, and if they will lease the land to Meath County Council for this purpose? If this is not given the project is dead in the water.
- Members are of the opinion that funding is not available for this project so why are we progressing?
- Members communicated that there seems to be some opposition to the Park.
- Clarity on the position of the trustees is key, before a decision is made on the Part 8.
- The action to write a letter to the trustees to establish their position in relation to the above issues was proposed by **Cllr Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Cllr Sean Drew**.
- Members asked that a special meeting be convened to discuss the issue further.

The Senior Executive Engineer responded accordingly to the above. The meeting administrator will liaise with the Cathaoirleach on the arrangement of a Special Meeting to discuss PT/MH187. **Cllr Gilroy** expressed disappointment at being placed in a waiting room, before he was able to declare his conflict of interest. Apologies were offered by the meeting Administrator and the Cathaoirleach.

### **4.2 Heritage**

#### **4.2.1 To receive a presentation on the Old Court House**

As requested by the members, the County Arts officer gave a presentation to the chamber on the use and future use of the Old Court House. Comments from the members included:

- Great to see the different variety of groups using the centre.
- How is it publicised currently and how can we increase awareness of all the events happening there and the good work being done? Even though the footfall of users is high, it seems to go under the radar for some artists.
- Could the old Nobber school be considered as a craft studio?
- The art group 'Studio 1 online' are always looking for a facility. Can you link in with them please so they can use the Old Court House?
- Can we get more youth groups involved, by showing films etc, and widen the usage across more sectors of the community?

The County Arts Officer responded accordingly to the above queries.

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### **4.3 Transportation**

#### **4.3.1 To receive a list of proposed bus infrastructure works for the Kells Municipal District**

The Executive Engineer, Active Travel, presented to the Members a list of proposed bus infrastructure works for the Kells Municipal District. It was explained that this was just for noting and informing the Members. The proposed works are in conjunction with the 'Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan' issued by the National Transport Authority (NTA). It was also explained to Members how Meath County Council act as an agent for the NTA and the list of bus stops discussed here today is a priority list given by the NTA for Meath County Council to implement.

Interventions raised by Members that were answered by the Executive Engineer included:

- Where exactly will the bus stops be placed in Kells, Athboy and Crossakiel?
- Why is there no bus stop proposed for Carlanstown or Ballinlough?
- Can bus shelters be included for the Nobber stops?
- Need for a sign in Drumconrath to promote the new route.

#### **4.3.2 To receive an update from the Road Safety Officer on Kells MD Road safety issues and Safe Routes to School.**

Interventions raised by Members that were answered by the Road Safety Officer included:

- Members agreed that road safety was the biggest issue whilst campaigning, so it's great to see such works being undertaken.
- There was frustration at the lack of physical measures being implemented to slow traffic on the National routes.
- HGV Ban in Kells is being ignored, it is unsafe and damaging the roads, could the Gardaí be asked to enforce this.
- Ramps seem to be effective outside of schools rather than just signage. Can ramps be used more?
- Can the speed limit signs at Rathmore school move back a further 60 metres to assist with enforcement?
- Could the Road Safety Officer visit Oldcastle school to discuss bus safety at the school and see what the options are.

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### **4.3.3** To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Kells Municipal District

This was noted

## **4.4 Corporate Affairs & Governance**

### **4.4.1** To note the Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Kells Municipal District

This was noted

## **5.0 Notice of Questions**

### **5.1 Submitted by Councillor Peter Caffrey**

*“To ask the executive what the up-to-date status is regarding the funding for the Oldcastle Town Realm?”*

#### **Response:**

Funding under the RRDF category 2 is available for the detailed design of the Oldcastle Main Square Public Realm Scheme. Tobin Consultant Engineers Ltd. are completing the detailed design on behalf of the Council. The detailed design is scheduled to be complete in Q3 2025. There is no current funding available to progress this scheme to construction stage.

However, the Department has indicated that a funding call under RRDF Category 1 which is for the construction of such projects may open for applications in late 2025.

The delivery of this scheme will be dependent on the submission to and approval by the Department of same to allocate the funding required for the scheme.

**The response was noted**

## **6.0 Notice of Motions**

There were none.

On the proposal of **Cllr. Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Cllr. Mike Bray**, the meeting was extended by 15 minutes.

## **7.0 Correspondence**

- Correspondence from Uisce Éireann regarding letter issued from the December 2024 Kells MD Meeting (included).

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### **8.0 Any Other Business**

- Previously, Section 5's were circulated monthly. Can this be reintroduced?
- Regarding Uisce Éireann, can it be clarified what is the process for out of hours, weekends and emergencies,

The meeting concluded at 18.15pm

Signed:

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Cathaoirleach