

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Kells Municipal District

4.00p.m, 14th April 2025, Kells Civic Offices

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

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

Councillors Present via Zoom:

Apologies/absent:

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Dara McGowan

Executive Engineer: Matthew Rafferty

Meetings Administrator: Francis Regan

Staff Officer: Kate Lomza

Assistant Staff Officer: Stephen Carey

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting of 10th March 2025.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 10th March 2025 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Peter Caffrey**.

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were none.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations.

To John V. Farrelly, former Councillor, and family on the passing of his daughter Emma.

4.0 Statutory Business.

4.1 Transportation

- 4.1.1** To receive a Progress Report on works undertaken/planned for Kells Municipal District.

This was noted.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

4.2 Planning

4.2.1 Taking in Charge

- To consider the taking in charge of **Wilmount View, Kells** and the making of a declaration that the roads within these developments shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2023.

The above statutory process was confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Peter Caffrey** seconded by **Councillor Sean Drew**.

- To consider the taking in charge of **Lynfield, Kells** and the making of a declaration that the roads within these developments shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2023.

The above statutory process was confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Sean Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

- To consider the taking in charge of **Borora Crescent, Carlanstown** and the making of a declaration that the roads within these developments shall be public roads in accordance with Section 11 Roads Act 1993 and the Planning & Development Acts 2000-2023.

The above statutory process was confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Sean Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

4.2.2 To receive an update on the Kells Public Realm & Plans for Lloyd

The Senior Executive Planner updated the members and confirmed that the regeneration of Kells public realm 2023 will be reviewed again shortly and acknowledged to members that two years had passed. More information needs to be collected with regards to the flow of traffic management. It is envisaged that this will go on public display by the end of the year.

Plans for the Lloyd project are complete and will be on display in June or July 2025.

Interventions from members included:

- Expressed disappointment that there is no clear update on the Kells Public Realm.
- The proposed thoroughfare of Kells wasn't wide enough and believes it should have a two-way system and a single system thereafter.
- It is believed better funding sources are in the Public Realm Fund. The Realm needs to be done as quickly as possible to secure and ring fence the funding. Carrick on Shannon Public Realm is a great example and not dissimilar to Kells.
- Will the previous submissions still be taken on board in regard to the Public Realm?
- Public Realm needs to be done in conjunction with proposed bus stop infrastructure. Will this and town parking in the centre of Kells be part of what is put on public display?

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

- Are 'front' and 'back' lands being considered as part of the Realm?
- Can members be shown the Lloyd draft plan before it goes on display? Can it be promoted as an activity plan (installation of exercise equipment) as well as a walking plan. There should be amenities such as toilets at Lloyd and connectivity needs to be considered between Lloyd and Kells.
- Does funding impact Oldcastle and Athboy?
- Public realm seems more of a desktop exercise. Has RRDF funding been resubmitted and if so, what material changes have been made?

The Senior Executive Engineer & Director responded accordingly. A further update will be given at the May MD.

4.2.3 To receive a presentation on the proposal for the old Doyle's garage site in Drumconrath

Consultants from AECOM presented 4.2.3 to the Members. Interventions included:

- Likes the idea of a potential coffee shop at the development.
- What will happen to the existing garage?
- Hopes that the landscaping will be practical, high impact and low in maintenance and that 'Tidy Towns' will support the project.
- The park needs good visibility from the road which should help in the management of potential Anti-Social behavior.
- The project looks colorful, was warmly welcomed and all agreed that it would enhance the aesthetics in Drumconrath.

Director, Dara McGowan confirmed the existing garage will be demolished shortly. Further feedback will be sought and the 'Part 8 planning process' will begin.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

4.3 Corporate Affairs & Governance

4.3.1 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 Sean Drew

"I note that there are presently 16 Vacant Meath County Council houses in the Kells MD. Please provide the following information in relation to each of these 16 houses:

- 1. Location*
- 2. Size/Type of house*
- 3. Length of time vacant*
- 4. Projected date of re-tenancy"*

Response:

1. Currently there are 12 dwellings on the vacant dwellings list in the Kells MD Area. Locations of these dwellings include Kells Environs, Nobber, Carlanstown, Oldcastle, Athboy, Moynalty.
2. The vacant dwellings comprise of a mixture of house types: 2 x 1 bed, 2 x 2 bed, 7 x 3 bed, 1 x 4 bed
3. Noted as per Chief Executive Report
4. Reletting times can vary dependent on the quantity of work required, contractor availability, energy retrofit works etc. Based on the average timeline, the projected proposed works completion in the above referenced units is six months, which will include energy retrofit works in most of this dwelling units.

Whilst the question was noted, **Councillor Drew** would like clarification on whether it is 16 vacant dwelling as per CE report, or 12 as in the answer above.

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

6.0 Notice of Motions

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher

"I call on Meath County Council, in conjunction with the TII, to seek funding to construct the planned footpath on the Balrath Rd Kells."

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

Meath County Council made a number of applications in May 2024 which included the N52 at Calliaghstown in response to TII Circular No. 3/2024 which was about establishing opportunities to reduce severance (along and across national roads), connect peripheral communities and promote active travel mobility. To date we have not had notification whether any of our applications were successful.

Whilst the motion proposed by **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** was agreed, members expressed dissatisfaction with interventions including:

- When will we get an answer from TII?
- Funding needs to be approved soon, as the current signage does not seem to be adequate.
- Regarding site lines on the N51 to N52, an application was made last year. Can we have an update on this?
- If even better road marking were implemented, it would show the public that something is being done.

7.0 Correspondence

There was none.

8.0 Any Other Business

- Can the Lloyd plans consider a dog park with a section where dogs can be left off the lead?
- When will the proposed tenants of Gardenrath be moving in? Tenants need to give current landlords notice.
- Members expressed concerns that house building by Meath County Council isn't quick enough. Also highlighted that HAP properties are in short supply as the majority of landlords are leaving the market.
- Can a letter be issued to the OPW to support the re-opening of Loughcrew, Oldcastle?

The meeting concluded at 17.30pm

Signed:

Cathaoirleach