

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

### ***Ordinary Meeting***

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

***4.00p.m, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025, Kells Civic Offices***

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Sean Drew**, presided.

**Councillors Present:** Michael Gallagher, Eugene Cassidy, Sean Drew, Peter Caffrey, Sarah Reilly

**Councillors Present via Zoom:** David Gilroy

**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 19th May 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Mike Bray** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

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

There were none.

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

**Sympathies were extended to:**

- To the Farrell family on the passing of Bobby.
- To the Black family on the passing of Declan.

**Congratulations were extended to:**

- To Ráth Chairn Clann na nGael GAA on the success hosting Comórtas Peile na Gaeltachta 2025
- To the organisers of the JFK 50-mile walk that went through Oldcastle.

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### **4.0 Disposal of Land pursuant to the provisions of Section 183 of the Local Government Act, 2001**

#### **4.1** Agreement in principle to disposal of 0.0049Ha of land in Folio MH50850F at Cakestown, Kells, County Meath.

The lands are not affected by the provisions of the Land Development Agency Act 2021.

On the proposal of **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** the disposal was agreed in principle.

### **5.0 To receive an update on the N3 Virginia Bypass Design**

Oliver Mulligan from the Road Design office, Cavan County Council and Tom Cannon of EGIS Group updated the members on the proposed Virginia Bypass Design. Interventions from members included:

- Will any roads along the proposed route become cul-de-sacs?
- What is the completion time frame?
- How many car parks spaces will be created at the transport Park and Share Hub?
- Are you aware of the unofficial car park currently being used? Will this be gone in the new design?
- The Bypass will be great for the people of Virginia and help the commuters of Meath.
- Is there funding in place and where will it come from?
- Will there be a service station and area where lorries can park overnight?
- Will old roads be downgraded as a result of this proposal opening?
- Will you be back to the members with a final draft?
- Will many households/residents be affected in with regards to CPO's along the proposed route?

Oliver Mulligan & Tom Gannon responded accordingly and answered all queries raised. The proposal will move through phase 3 and hopefully move to phase 4 by the end 2025, they confirmed they will present to members with the final plans.

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### **6.0 Statutory Business**

#### **6.1 Transportation**

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

The report circulated in advance and was taken as read.

#### **6.2 Corporate Affairs & Governance**

- 6.2.1** To note the Municipal District Allocations submitted by Councillors on behalf of Kells Municipal District

This was noted.

### **7.0 Notice of Questions**

#### **7.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly**

*"To ask if road safety markings are to be installed on the road at Callighastown, and if there are any further updates in relation to Meath County Council's efforts to work with the TII to improve safety standards for the residents on this road?"*

**Response:**

Meath County Council have secured funding from TII for safety improvement works and resurfacing on the section of the N52 at Callighastown. The procurement process for the proposed works is currently being progressed.

This was noted. The Executive Engineer informed members that the above will start on the 14/07/2025 and will take approximately one week.

### **8 Notice of Motions**

#### **8.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly**

*"As efforts to progress a low-cost safety scheme at Balrath have not been successful due to the inability to secure a small piece of privately owned land, I call on Meath County Council to explore and prioritise alternative options to improve safety at this dangerous junction."*

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

Meath County Council confirm that it is considering various options in order to progress the N52 Balrath Cross Road Safety Improvement Scheme.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Mike Bray** was agreed.

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### **8.2 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher**

*"I call on Meath County Council to construct a footpath from Gibbstown School to Gibbstown Community Hall."*

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

As referred to in a previous reply in November 2024, the CDP contains objectives which support the provision of footpaths in Gibbstown. At the May 2025 Transport SPC, a presentation on a proposed footpath extension programme was given. 9 schools were identified as schools that could be linked by footpaths, one of which is the school in Gibbstown. The Transport SPC committee accepted the rationale behind the proposed footpath extension programme, and this will now be submitted to the Corporate Policy Group for further consideration.

The motion proposed by **Councillor Sarah Reilly** and seconded by **Councillor Mike Bray** was agreed. Cllr Reilly further queried on what basis were the 9 schools chosen and does it need CPG approval? Will it be 9 schools over the next 5 years? Will Carnaross be on the list?

### **9.0 Correspondence**

There was none

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### **10.0 Any Other Business**

- Members are of the opinion that IPAS had a rule where if there was only one hotel in the town, then this could not be used by IPAS. Can a letter be sent to the Minister asking for this to be clarified?
- Can Members appeal to An Bord Pleanála? Who can appeal? Can the Planning department outline the process?
- Members believed they should have been kept aware that IPAS were given permission to use the Castle Hotel for IPAS purposes.
- Members queried if the Oldcastle Hotel changes use, will it affect the rates valuation?
- Hosepipe ban in Kells area – can we write to Uisce Éireann regarding this?
- Construction on a dormant site on the Athboy road, before the bridge, has left it in bad condition. Can Meath County Council do anything in that case? Has the developer been in contact with Meath County Council? Can we have an update?
- Cllr. Drew noted that upon being informed by residents of Headford Park, Kells, of a severe pipe burst he contacted the Uisce Éireann emergency number. Cllr Drew was informed that it could take 8 to 10 weeks to resolve the issue. Cllr. Drew noted that this is wholly unsatisfactory response to an emergency. Can you send a letter to Uisce Éireann on the above outlining our concerns.
- Can we have an update on the N52 Grange to Clontail Scheme?

The meeting concluded at 5pm.

Signed:

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Cathaoirleach