comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

Teach Buvinda, Bóthar Átha Cliath, An Uaimh, Contae na Mí. C15 Y291
Buvinda House, Dublin Rd., Navan, Co.Meath, C15 Y291

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Kells Municipal District

4.00p.m, 13th July 2026, Kells Civic Offices

An Cathaoirleach, **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**, presided.

Councillors Present: Peter Caffrey, Eugene Cassidy, Sean Drew, Michael Gallagher, Sarah Reilly, David Gilroy.

Councillors Present via Zoom: Mike Bray

Apologies/absent:

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Dara McGowan

Senior Executive Engineer: Matthew Rafferty

Senior Executive Officers: Pat Shore, Majella Farrell.

Senior Executive Planner: Alan Crawford

Meetings Administrator: Alison Condra

Staff Officer: Kate Lomza

Observer: Mr. Tom Wilson, Binghamton University.

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes from the Annual Meeting of 15th June 2026

Proposed**: Councillor Sean Drew**

Seconded: **Councillor David Gilroy**

2.0 Confirmation of Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting of 15th June 2026

Proposed: **Councillor Sarah Reilly**

Seconded: **Councillor Michael Gallagher**

3.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

4.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

There were no expressions of sympathy.

Congratulations were extended to:

The Hinterland Festival Committee on a very successful event and thanks were expressed to the Municipal Outdoor Team who provided support and had the town looking in great condition.

Councillor Mike Bray on the birth of his daughter.

5.0 Statutory Business

5.1 Planning

5.1.1 To receive an update on the Kells Public Realm Plan & Lloyd Recreation & Amenity Plan.

Alan Crawford, Senior Executive Planner presented a draft outline of the Public Realm Plan which is progressing towards finalisation by the consultants and aims to develop Kells as a strategic economic centre for North Meath. The next steps are to finalise the draft plans in place and seek Government funding. Once the plan is finalised it will be circulated to the Members for their consideration.

Following contributions from Councillors Eugene Cassidy, Sean Drew, Sarah Reilly, Michael Gallagher, Peter Caffrey the members welcomed the plan and agreed that wider consultation was required and requested that the Plan provides further clarity on designated parking areas around the town before going out to public consultation.

The elected members also agreed that isolated safety features in the public realm should not delay the safety improvements prior to the designs being finalised.

Members requested the consultants present the draft plan at the next Municipal District meeting on the 14th September.

Lloyd Recreation & Amenity Plan

Alan Crawford presented the draft plan on the Commons of Lloyd and indicated that it was close to completion by the consultants.

Councillors Sarah Reilly, Eugene Cassidy, Sean Drew, David Gilroy, Michael Gallagher all welcomed the Plan, particularly as it would become more accessible from the town centre. Discussion arose regarding the need for a more active vision statement, the possibility of using an area as a dog park, adequate car and coach parking provision, size of playing courts and toilet provision. It was agreed that the plan would go out for public consultation in mid-August.

5.1.2 To receive the Chief Executive's Report in accordance with Part XI of the Planning & Development Act 2000-2023 and Part 8 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2026, on the proposed development which will consist of: Extension to No. 63 Magdelene Court, Kells, Co. Meath, A82 C2P7. Planning Reference (PT8MH351).

Noted by the elected Members.

5.2 Transportation

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

Noted by the Elected Members.

5.3 Rural Regeneration

5.3.1 To receive an update on the former Nobber National School.

Pat Shore, Senior Executive Officer, presented the design concept for proposed artist studio and shop in the former national school building. As there is no increase in the footprint of the building it is proposed to use a Section 51 procedure.

5.4 Corporate Affairs & Governance

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

Noted by the Members.

6.0 Notice of Questions

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

"To ask the Planning Section what is the time frame for the taking in charge of the Cloister estate, Kells and to ask if there is a particular reason for the delay in this process commencing."

Response:

The Planning Department is in receipt of a valid taking-in charge request. The Planning Department have carried out all required inspections and scoped the necessary works that would allow for the taking-in-charge process to commence. However, there is an issue with a 3rd party boundary treatment that needs to be resolved prior to any works commencing. Until such a time as the boundary issue is resolved we cannot provide a timeframe for the taking in charge to be completed.

7.0 Notice of Motions

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Peter Caffrey

"To ask the Executive would Meath County Council write to the OPW to request that the Garda Station in Oldcastle be painted, as it is a prominent building in the centre of the town and is in need of repainting."

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

If the Motion is passed we will issue the letter to the Office of Public Works.

Proposed : Councillor Peter Caffrey

Seconded: Councillor Miachael Gallagher

7.2 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly

"To ask that Meath County Council submit an application under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) for the extension of the Kells Walk/Cycleway on the bypass."

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

Meath County Council will be seeking clarification from the Department (DRCDG) if the proposal below meets the eligibility criteria of the ORIS scheme outline - (eligibility criteria have changed in recent years).

If the Department confirms that the proposal is eligible, then it will be put forward for consideration.

Proposed by: Councillor Sarah Reilly

Seconded by: Councillor Sean Drew.

Agreed by the Members.

7.3 Submitted By Councillor David Gillroy

"That Meath County Council conduct a survey of The Hill of Ward graveyard Athboy with the aim of the preparation of a conservation plan to protect the remains of medieval church present on the site, to include the re-establishment / protection of right of way access to the graveyard."

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

The Heritage Office has agreed to include this site in funding calls in 2027 for the completion of conservation survey and assessment.

Proposed : Councillor David Gilroy

Seconded: Councillor Michael Gallagher and Councillor Sean Drew.

Councillor Gilroy has requested an associated timescale for the likely completion date as he feels the structure is in imminent danger.

7.4 Submitted by Councillor David Gillroy

"That Meath County Council ensures that the road surface is fully reinstated to its pre-works state once Uisce Eireann works have completed on the Athboy Dunderry Road at the Hill of Ward Athboy."

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

Kells MD operations and maintenance are engaging with Uisce Eireann in relation to this job and all reinstatements will be completed in line with the licence conditions granted and the purple book standards for reinstatement.

Proposed : Councillor David Gilroy

Seconded: Councillor Sean Drew

8.0 Correspondence

Noted by the Members. Discussion arose regarding the poor condition of the roads in the district and enquired if there were any additional funds available for allocation. Majella Farell indicated there would be a secondary list compiled in September for local tertiary roads**.**

Further to the OPW response Members requested a letter be sent asking for an update on the status of the project and enquiring when the lintel in the cairn would be replaced**.** The members also requested a meeting with the OPW to be arranged.

9.0 Any Other Business

The following items were raised:

The need for a Uisce Éireann workshop due to the lack of a local contact in the area

Sewerage Blockages at Connaught Street and Main Street, Athboy

Mannistown Cross- further grass cutting is required to increase visibility at the junction.

Shop Front scheme- Letters of offer were issued to successful applicants and the uptake will be monitored.

The OPW has advised the Area Engineer that the wrap around the Round Tower will be removed at the end of August.

The meeting concluded at 6.00 p.m.

Signed:

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Cathaoirleach