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

4.00 p.m., 14th September 2026, Kells Civic Offices

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

Councillors Present: Peter Caffrey, Eugene Cassidy, Sean Drew, Michael Gallagher, Sarah Reilly, Mike Bray.

Councillors Present via Zoom: n/a

Apologies/Absent: David Gilroy

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Dara McGowan

Senior Executive Engineer: Matthew Rafferty

Meetings Administrator: Alison Condra

Staff Officer: Kate Lomza

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting of 13 July 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2026 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Peter Caffrey** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher.**

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were none.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

The Members wished to send a note of congratulations to:

- the Committee of the Oldcastle Agricultural Show on their successful event;
- Meath County Council Climate Action Team on the success of the Kells DZ event.

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

4.1 Agreement in principle to the disposal of 0.0009 ha of land in Folio MH26452 at Blackwater Heights, Kells, County Meath.

The item was proposed by **Councillor Sean Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Mike Bray.**

5.0 Statutory Business

5.1 Transportation

5.1.1 To receive an update on Urban Special Speed Limits after completion of Public Consultation.

Stephen Shotrall, Executive Engineer, presented an update to the Elected Members on the submissions received during the public consultation. The new Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws will be presented to the Plenary Council in October. Subject to approval, the implementation date will be 31 March 2027.

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

The report was circulated in advance and noted by the Members.

5.2 Planning

5.2.1 To receive an update on the Kells Public Realm Plan and the Lloyd Recreation and Amenity Plan.

The Planning Department advised that the **Kells Public Realm Plan** was currently being updated to reflect recent feedback received from Members. It will then proceed to public consultation.

The **Commons of Lloyd Recreation and Amenity Plan** public consultation closed on 10 September 2026, and the submissions are currently being reviewed. Where applicable, the Planning Department intends to make minor revisions to the Plan to reflect the observations raised by the public and proceed to approve the Plan thereafter.

5.2.2 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: Permeability link from Jim Brunnock Road (L28140) to Hermitage Glen (L28130) at Jim Brunnock Road(L28140), Hermitage Glen and Gardenrath, Kells, Co. Meath. Planning Reference (PT8MH374).

Paul McKeown, Senior Executive Engineer, Active Travel, noted that the matter was sent to the Members on 28 August 2026 for consideration. He responded to Members' queries regarding concerns raised by residents and anglers. He said the scheme was led by the County Council under the Safe Routes to School programme and would serve two national and community schools with a student cohort of 1,262 pupils. Adequate public lighting was planned, and no environmental issues were expected as the path would not alter the flow regime of the existing stream.

Councillors Reilly, Drew, Gallagher and Bray indicated their support for the scheme.

5.2.3 To agree time for the Consultation Workshop regarding the Variation

No 7of the County Development Plan 2021-2027.

The Forward Planning Team will host a workshop, including a discussion on land-use proposals, on Monday, 12 October, from 1.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

This was noted by the Members.

5.3 Corporate Services

5.3.1 To approve the Arts, Festivals and Festive Lighting Allocation 2026 for Kells MD.

On the proposal of Councillor Sarah Reilly and seconded by Councillor Sean Drew, the Members agreed the following allocations:

- 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

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

The allocations were noted by the Members.

6.0 Notice of Questions

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Peter Caffrey

"I wish to ask the Executive what the current status is regarding the upgrade of Oldcastle Fire Station. Have the final drawings been sent to the Department and what is the update regarding a commencement date?"

Response:

The Preliminary Design Report was issued to the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management (NDFEM) on 2 September 2026.

Provided approval issues from the NDFEM, Meath County Council Fire and Rescue Service (MCCFRS) will brief the Members of Kells MD on the project at the October/November 2026 meetings, contingent on NDFEM approval. MCCFRS will then proceed shortly afterwards with the statutory planning application (Part 8 approval), which includes public display and a period for submissions.

The programme commencement date is difficult to define at this juncture, given that there are several stages for the project.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly and Councillor Sean Drew

"Now that the keys for St Vincent de Paul Hall, Kells, have been officially handed over to Meath County Council, can the Council please clarify its plans for the building, noting the keen interest of the people of the town in having the building reopened as a community facility as soon as feasibly possible?"

Response:

Following the recent handover of the St. Vincent de Paul Hall to Meath County Council, a number of condition assessments are being progressed, including fire safety and accessibility reviews. The findings of these surveys will inform any works required to facilitate reopening the building for community use in the short term, and the feasibility of such works will be assessed once costings have been established.

In the longer term, funding has been secured to advance the project through the planning process. As part of the development of the longer-term proposals, the Council intends to engage with relevant stakeholders in advance of the statutory planning process. Any subsequent redevelopment works will be subject to the necessary planning approvals and the securing of external funding.

7.0 Notice of Motions

There were none.

8.0 Correspondence

Correspondence from the NTA in response to an April motion regarding the provision of a new bus service between Athboy & Kells.

9.0 Any Other Business

Councillor Mike Bray requested that Local Link be contacted regarding the provision of a service between Athboy and Kells. Councillor Bray also raised the matter of Athboy Library, which is currently reduced to providing two days/10 hours of service to the local community, with events curtailed. He requested that the restoration of service hours be treated as a priority.

Councillor Sarah Reilly sought an update from the Climate Action Team on the provision of drinking water fountains in the town.

Councillors Bray and Gallagher raised issues regarding Uisce Éireann works and the condition in which road verges were left post-works, particularly in Cortown, Fordstown and Drumconrath. Matthew Rafferty requested details of the locations so that he could raise these with the contractor within the defects period.

All Members supported contacting the OPW to thank them for their work at the Round

Tower and to seek a meeting with them to progress the restoration and promotion of the other monastic sites in the town.

Lloyd Public Realm – the Members requested that the Planning Department present the final plans at the October meeting.

The meeting concluded at 5.00 p.m.

Signed:

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Cathaoirleach