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., 12 October 2026, Kells Civic Offices

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

Councillors Present: Peter Caffrey, Sean Drew, Michael Gallagher, Sarah Reilly, Mike Bray, David Gilroy.

Councillors Present via Zoom: n/a

Apologies/Absent: n/a

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 of the Ordinary Meeting held on 14 September 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2026 were confirmed on the proposal of Councillor Peter Caffrey and seconded by Councillor Mike Bray.

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

Lloyd Recreation & Amenity Plan: Alan Crawford updated the Members on the changes made to the Plan following their comments at the September meeting. Dara McGowan, Director of Service, advised that no funding had yet been identified for the project. However, once funding calls open, elements of the Plan could be tailored to align with the relevant funding criteria and objectives.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Expressions of sympathy were extended to:

The Family of the late Anne Fitzsimons, Kenlis Lodge.

The Family of the late Céline Collins, Moynalty.

4.0 Statutory Business

4.1 Transportation

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

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

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4.2 Corporate Affairs & Governance

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

The allocations were noted by the Members.

5.0 Notice of Questions

5.1 Submitted by Councillor David Gilroy

"Over the past 12 years, on how many occasions has the Municipal District formally engaged, or sought to engage, with the Office of Public Works regarding the condition, repair, conservation, or maintenance of the Loughcrew Cairns?

Please provide the dates and nature of each engagement, including correspondence, meetings and requests for meetings, together with any responses received from the OPW."

Response:

Over the past five years, Kells Municipal District Members wrote to the OPW on four occasions regarding a request to attend a meeting, the Round Tower, monastic sites in the district and the Cross of Kells. No response was received.

Councillor Gilroy expressed concern regarding the lack of engagement by the OPW with the Members. Dara McGowan requested that the Members forward specific queries to him for submission to the OPW.

6.0 Notice of Motions

6.1 Submitted by Councillor David Gilroy

"That Meath County Council's Road Safety Section engage as a matter of urgency with An Garda Síochána to develop a coordinated road-safety and enforcement plan addressing residents' serious concerns regarding speeding on the principal approach roads into Athboy, particularly the N51 and R154."

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

The Athboy Public Realm Scheme is currently progressing through the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Project Management Guidelines and is at Phase 2 – Option

Development and Selection. Since its initial development, the scope of the scheme has been expanded beyond the town-centre public realm improvements to include the approach roads from the western and eastern speed-limit gateways on the N51. This broader scheme seeks to provide a more comprehensive response to traffic management and road-safety objectives within Athboy. As part of the ongoing design process, proposals are being developed to review and reduce speed limits within the town centre and on the approaches to the town, introduce appropriate traffic-calming measures, and address the recommendations arising from the TII Road Safety Inspection, including the identified inspection tags. Subject to the successful completion of Phase 2, the scheme will proceed to Phase 3, Preliminary Design. Subject to the required approvals, it is anticipated that the statutory Part 8 process will be published in Q1 2027. The Council's Road Safety Officer proposes to discuss the matter with An Garda Síochána at the next Road Safety Working Together Group meeting.

The motion, together with supporting information, was proposed by **Councillor David Gilroy** and seconded by **Councillor Mike Bray.**

The Members expressed frustration at the lack of urgency and progress outlined in the response. Following discussion, Councillor Sean Drew proposed reinstating twice-yearly presentations from the Transportation and Housing Sections to ensure that Members were kept informed of infrastructure projects. Councillor Eugene Cassidy also suggested that a deputation of County Council Members meet with TII officials at its offices in Dublin. All Members agreed to request that the Transportation Section attend the November meeting and that the Housing Section attend the December meeting.

6.2 Submitted by Councillor David Gilroy

"That Meath County Council prioritise and advance the permanent road safety improvement works on the N51 at Causestown, Athboy, including the necessary sightline improvements, and take all necessary steps to bring the scheme to construction and completion as a matter of urgency."

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

Meath County Council is currently drafting a Feasibility and Options Report for a Road Safety Improvement Scheme on the N51 at Causestown. The report will then be submitted to TII for review and approval. Subject to TII approval, the detailed design phase of the scheme can commence.

The motion, together with supporting information, was proposed by **Councillor David Gilroy** and seconded by **Councillor Mike Bray.**

Following discussion, the Members expressed frustration regarding the delay, noting that actions had been promised in 2024. The Members requested that the Senior Transportation

Engineering Team meet with them at the November meeting to discuss national road projects in the Municipal District.

6.3 Submitted by Councillor Peter Caffrey

"To ask the Executive to write to Coillte regarding the reopening of access at Derrysheridan Shore, Lough Sheelin, as it is the main access point to the lake from the Meath side. Many local anglers and lake users have raised concerns about the closure, which is preventing access to the lake and the launching of boats for fishing."

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

If the motion is proposed and seconded, Meath County Council will engage with Coillte regarding access at Derrysheridan Shore, Lough Sheelin.

The motion, together with supporting information, was proposed by **Councillor Peter Caffrey** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher.**

7.0 Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8.0 Any Other Business

Councillor Gallagher raised the issues of illegal dumping at Corrstown Bog, the provision of footpaths at Baile Ghib and the need for additional Department of Transport funding for roads in North Meath that had been damaged during the spring storms.

Councillor Sean Drew sought an update on the provision of footpaths associated with the Part 8 project at Collierstown (also known as Callighstown) and Rockfield Road.

The meeting concluded at 4.50 p.m.

Signed:

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Cathaoirleach