

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

### ***Ordinary Meeting***

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

***4.30p.m, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024, Kells Civic Offices***

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

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

**Councillors Present via Zoom:**

**Apologies/absent:**

**Officials in Attendance:**

**Director of Service:** Dara McGowan

**Executive Engineer:** Matthew Rafferty,

**Meetings Administrator:** Áine Bird & Francis Regan

**Assistant Staff Officer:** Stephen Carey

**Clerical Officer:** Kathryn Fox

#### **1.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Sean Drew** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

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

There was none.

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

Sympathy was extended to:

- The family of the late Brendan Brennan
- The family of the late Seanie Higgins

Congratulations were extended to:

Meath Hill GAA team winning the championship, Dee Rangers winning the intermediate championship, Kells Women's handball team on winning in the world championships.

Thanked officials Ella Ryan and Emma Gill and area engineer Matthew Rafferty for their assistance with the Samhain festival.

#### **4.0 Statutory Business**

##### **4.1 Environment**

##### **4.1.1 To receive an update on Kells Swimming Pool**

Jarlath Flanagan, Administrative Officer, Environment updated members with a presentation on Kells

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

swimming pool. Members were congratulatory of the work done in the pool and impressed by the amount of foot fall using the pool.

Members raised the following:

- Suggested a lane opened in the pool for older persons.
- Enquired if more opening hours be available for school going children.
- Enquired what would stage 4 look like and when could this commence.
- The Director advised that opening hours can be reevaluated as part of any future stage 4, that may be considered when there is a full staff compliment for stage 3 and these levels can be sustained. Recruiting and retaining staff is difficult, despite recent initiatives such as lifeguard training.

### **4.2 Transportation**

- 4.2.1** To consider the Chief Executives Report on the Part 8 application, PT8MH148 – Poles Greenway Carpark & Greenway Footpath Link.

David O'Reilly, Senior Executive Engineer, Active Travel gave a presentation on the Part 8 application project.

Members raised the following:

- Stated that a wooden fence should resolve the privacy issue.
- That the infrastructure will be great for the local area.
- Queried the proposed car parking usage and how will it be funded?
- Enquired if Gyproc could assist with the funding?

The Engineer responded and advised it is led by demand and noted that there was excess of the 2.5k footfall in the area. This will continue to be monitored. It is hoped funding will come from TII.

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

The report had circulated in advance and was noted.

### **4.3 Corporate Affairs & Governance**

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

The allocations were noted.

## **5.0 Notice of Questions**

### **5.1 Submitted by Councillor Sarah Reilly**

*"Can the Transportation Section provide details on the position of the following schemes on the Low- Cost Safety Scheme list:*

- *McGee's Crossroads*
- *Cloncat Lane*
- *Kilmainham Lane*

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

*To include clarity on whether these have been assessed, the remedial works proposed and the likelihood of works commencing on these schemes in 2025."*

**Response:**

With regard to Kilmainham Lane (R147) and McGee's Cross (R163)

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/4qS3K6MDFEVPJzXdA> and Cloncat Lane (N52)

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/kTGSK83cyG9D1ACs9> it is envisaged that feasibility and options for each location will be progressed in 2025 with any subseque

nt required works being progressed thereafter subject to any required approvals, funding and resources.

**The response was noted.**

### **5.2 Submitted by Councillor Mike Bray**

*"To provide an update on the provision of new bus stops at Ballynamona, Carnaross and Kilmainham."*

**Response:**

"The responsibility for the provision of bus stop infrastructure is a matter for the relevant bus operators and the National Transport Authority (the Authority) in the first instance.

Meath County Council provides assistance to the National Transport Authority in respect of the delivery of the sustainable infrastructure, such as the project management of the construction works relating to bus stops and those necessary to facilitate the erection of the bus shelters by the Authority's bus shelter installation contractor. The request for bus stop infrastructure in both Ballynamona and Kilmainham is noted. However, whilst Meath County Council periodically discusses representations received in relation to new stops and services with the NTA, we recommend that these matters such as the provision of bus infrastructure are raised directly with them given their statutory role in this regard.

All requests for new bus stops at locations in County Meath should therefore be directed to the National Transport Authority. Public representatives can send queries via email to [oireachtasliaison@nationaltransport.ie](mailto:oireachtasliaison@nationaltransport.ie)

Alternatively, written communications can be made to:

National Transport Authority

Dún Scéine

Harcourt Lane

Dublin 2

D02 WT20

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

Councillor Mike Bray was unhappy with the response and asked that clarification be sought from transportation regarding the provision of these bus stops.

### **6.0 Notice of Motions**

#### **6.1 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher**

*“That Meath County council construct a footpath from Gibbstown school to Gibbstown Hall and upgrade the safety measures at Gibbstown school.”*

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

“In relation to Baile Ghib (Gibbstown), the County Development Plan states ‘ There are no footpaths or street lighting along the main road, resulting in a community that is reliant on the car. This plan will promote sustainable modes of transport such as walking and cycling, through the development of new paths connecting the village centre and a pedestrian amenity route along the historic avenue to Gibbstown Demesne’. Thus the CDP contains the following objectives:

#### **GHIB OBJ 7**

To promote more sustainable forms of transport, including the provision of new pedestrian paths, public lighting, and traffic calming measures.

#### **GHIB OBJ 13**

To create a village identity through the provision of pedestrian paths and public lighting connecting the community facilities to the consolidated village centre to the east.

The general issue of funding and prioritisation of amenity footpaths is the subject of an ongoing discussion at the Transport SPC. At the next Transport SPC meeting it is proposed to have a further discussion about how the amenity footpath schemes in the development plan (and those that have been requested by Councillors, the public and sports clubs etc.) can be ranked and prioritised for construction in line with the funding that is/may become available. Officials from the transportation department have also met with the School Principal of Scoil Ultain Naofa twice in 2024 and will consider the issues raised when compiling the capital programme for school safety measures in 2025.”

The motion and response were noted on the proposal of **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Mike Bray**.

**Cllr Gallagher** introduced the motion and said funds are required due to safety issues to connect the footpath from the Sports Hall to school. There were interventions from Cllr Mike Bray, Sarah Reilly and Eugene Cassidy who supported the motion and said this will be raised at the upcoming transportation SPC meeting.

#### **6.2 Submitted by Councillor Mike Bray**

## **Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes**

*“That Meath County Council and the Heritage Officer engage with the local community with the view to preserving St. Schiria’s Church in Crossakiel (Church of Ireland building) which is under ownership of Meath County Council.”*

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

St. Schiria’s former Church of Ireland parish church of Crossakiel is a protected structure. The church is a fine example of early nineteenth century gothic architecture occupying a prominent hilltop site. It was deconsecrated in 1968 and is now a roofless ruin.

The Council will engage with the local community with a view to advancing the conservation of the church and exploring available funding options for same.

The motion and response were noted on the proposal of **Councillor Mike Bray** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

### **6.3 Submitted by Councillor Mike Bray**

*“That work begins immediately on flood alleviation measures at the Butterfield View / Cloran Road / Church View area in Athboy which Meath County Council was allocated funding for in March 2023 under the Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Scheme by the Department of Transport.”*

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

The Athboy scheme can be included in the Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience funding application for 2025 and progressed subject to departmental approval and a funding allocation.

The motion and response were noted on the proposal of **Councillor Mike Bray** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

Councillor Mike Bray introduced the motion and said there are 3 homes in Butterfield View, Athboy who get flooded regularly and he has concerns that a housing development on Connaught Street, will cause more flooding.

Cllr Cassidy and Cllr Reilly supported the motion and acknowledged the assistance of the overseer in alleviating the issue to date.

The area Engineer responded and advised that there is ongoing maintenance and jetting of the pipes. He advised an application for funding has been submitted to the department and await approval. The members sought clarification if it will be a stand-alone project. To seek clarification.

### **7.0 Correspondence**

There was none.

### **8.0 Any Other Business**

The members raised the following questions:

- Could the flooding issue at the entrance Nobber GAA grounds be investigated?
- Referred to damage on the Screeboge bridge and enquired if a weight restriction be included
- Could a safety review be conducted at Yellow Ford Bridge?

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

- Referred to Booley Road where roots of a tree are a safety concern.
- Enquired if 'Glebe estate' can switch from liquid gas to mains gas.
- Director and Area Engineer responded to queries raised.

The meeting concluded at 6.06pm.

Signed:

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Cathaoirleach