

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Kells Municipal District

4.00p.m, 11th December 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

Senior Executive Engineer Transport: Paul Phelan

Heritage Officer: Loreto Guinan

Meetings Administrator: Francis Regan

Assistant Staff Officer: Stephen Carey

Clerical Officer: Kathryn Fox

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11th November 2024

The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on the 11th Of November 2024 were proposed by **Councillor David Gilroy** and seconded by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy**.

1.2 Confirmation of the Minutes of the General Municipal Allocation Budget Meeting held on 11th November 2024

The minutes of the Budget meeting held on the 11th Of November 2024 were proposed by **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Michael Gallagher**.

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

Councillor Sarah Reilly enquired about the wall at Castlekiernan Cemetery and asked if the responsibility of it has moved from the OPW to Meath County Council. Loreto Guinan will follow this up.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to:

The family and friends of Nicola Downey, Navan

Congratulations was extended to:

The MD engineer and outdoor staff for all their hard work during the storm Darragh Kells Christmas Lights committee

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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 by way of Licence of 0.1127Ha of land in Folios MH3636F and MH75548F at Townparks Kells

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

The members agreed in principle to the disposal on the proposal of **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor Sean Drew**.

5.0 Statutory Business

5.1 Heritage

5.1.1 To receive an update on the Printing Works in Kells

Loreto Guinan, Heritage Officer gave a presentation on the Kells Printing Works. Loreto outlined Kells Creative Placemaking project, how the printing works came into being, local community and national organizations that have been involved to date, the conservation of the collection, funding received to date including acquisition of the building on Church Lane (former Sawmills) to house the collection, gave an outline programme of proposed activities. It is hoped that the printing works will be open in the summer of 2025. The contents of the presentation were warmly welcomed and acknowledged how beneficial the printing works will be to the town of Kells and beyond.

The members raised the following:

- Should we consider buying the house near the entrance of the Print works for better visibility and ease of access?
- Do we have someone in mind to manage the Printworks and what will the management structure be?
- How many staff are to be recruited and when will this happen?
- Has car parking been taken into consideration?
- Can members be kept informed monthly on the progress of the print works.
- Will the general public be able to submit exhibitions
- Will the building be in the ownership of Meath County Council.

Loreto Guinan Heritage Officer and Director Dara McGowan responded to the above:

- The acquisition of the house at the front of the building will be explored
- The management of the print works will be clearer in February when the outcomes of various outstanding grants applications have been concluded.
- It was confirmed that the building is in the ownership of Meath County Council and will be treated like any other building in the council's ownership.

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5.2 Transportation

5.2.1 To receive an update on proposed Traffic Calming at Castle Lawns Estate, Athboy in the Kells Municipal District

Paul Phelan Senior Executive Engineer Transport stated that there were no submissions between the 29th October 2024 to the 29th Of November 2024. The Transport department intends to finalise the detailed design and commence the procurement of the contractor to carry out the proposed works.

Councillor Mike Bray did query whether or not the was a reserved function. It was confirmed by Paul Phelan that it was not a reserved function.

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

The report circulated in advance was noted.

6.0 Notice of Questions

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Peter Caffrey

"To ask the executive what the up-to-date situation is regarding the car park for Oldcastle town realm is."

Response:

Meath County Council identified a preferred site for a long stay car park on Cavan Street, Oldcastle, locally known as the Bottle Store, engaged with the landowners Agent, and made a series of offers in an effort to secure the site. Unfortunately, we have now been advised by the landowners Agent that they no longer wish to sell the site. Meath County Council are currently examining other potential sites for a long stay car park in proximity to the main square.

The response was noted.

7.0 Notice of Motions

7.1 Submitted by Councillor Peter Caffrey

"I call on Meath County Council to increase road safety on the R195 between the junction at Millbrook Foods and Millbrook football pitch by installing a footpath and extending the 50km/h speed limit beyond the football pitch."

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

Amenity footpaths are subject for discussion with the Transportation SPC to determine a mechanism for ranking and prioritising the many requests for amenity footpaths. In the interim, your request can be added to the 'List of Requested Works' which can, in time, feed into the assessment once the methodology is agreed by the SPC.

It may also be useful to explore other community-based grants or funding models that may assist with the delivery of the footpath.

Regarding the speed limit location, a national review is currently underway, reducing the speed limit on rural local roads initially, then addressing urban speed limits. The latter will require byelaws, this statutory process, developed under the 'Guidelines for Setting and

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Managing Speed Limits in Ireland' will involve an Elected Member pre-draft consultation and subsequent public consultation. Please note we are awaiting an update of the aforementioned guidelines. Submissions in relation to the location of existing speed limits can be addressed through this process.

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

8.0 Correspondence

There was none

9.0 Any Other Business

The members raised the following:

- Can Kenlis place and the Fair green be used for free parking over the Christmas season? Free parking didn't prove successful last year for various reasons.
- Can a letter be sent on behalf of the members to Irish Water & ESB asking why backup generators are not in place and the need for better contingency plans. All pumping stations should be able to operate regardless of storms. Why was water not left with those who had no drinking water.
- Can something be placed on social media to encourage households to contact 999 rather than local Garda stations regarding storms issues.
- Acknowledgement and thanks to local farmers who assisted in clearing our roads
- The emergency line used during the storms needs to be reviewed. It was reported that people were waiting over 40 minutes to get through to an operator.
- Cllr Michael Gallagher requested an update on the N52 road safety measures

Director Dara McGowan noted the comments above and confirmed that the emergency line will be reviewed in due course.

The meeting concluded at 17.25 pm.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach