

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Ordinary Meeting

Kells Municipal District

4.00p.m, 10th February 2025, Kells Civic Offices

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

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

Councillors Present via Zoom: Peter Caffrey

Apologies/absent:

Officials in Attendance:

Director of Service: Dara McGowan

Executive Engineer: Matthew Rafferty

Meetings Administrator: Francis Regan

Assistant Staff Officer: Stephen Carey

1.0 Confirmation of Minutes from the Ordinary Meeting of 20th January 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on the 20th January 2025 were confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Michael Gallagher** and seconded by **Councillor David Gilroy**

2.0 Matters arising from the Minutes

There were none.

3.0 Expressions of Sympathy and Congratulations

Sympathy was extended to the:

- Family of the late Jimmy Brady, Ballinlough

Congratulations were extended to:

Cathal Seoige and his recent award for the Irish language

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 circulated in advance and was noted.

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4.1.2 To consider and adopt the 2025 Schedule of Municipal District Works, for Transport

Caroline Corrigan, Executive Engineer for Transport gave a presentation on the 2025 Schedule of Municipal District Works Kells, for Transport and answered questions from all members as detailed below.

- The new average speed camera on the N2. Is it legal or just a warning system to slow drivers down? *This is legal and fines and penalty points will issue to offenders.*
- Warm mix is it more expensive? *Warm mix is only one cent more expensive.*
- A Local Improvement scheme (LIS) application was returned on the 23/04/2024 because they were not the landowners. *Caroline asked that this be forwarded to her to investigate further.*
- Are the R154 towards Ballinlough, L8004-8, Jamestown, L68642, Ballagree to Oldcastle Road and L6813 part of the three-year plan? *This will be investigated.*
- Is there a big interest in L.I.S? *Yes, but we are seeing it slow down. We are receiving more CIS applications than LIS applications.*
- Do we talk to our neighboring Counties regarding gritting into one another's road? *Yes, dialogue is always ongoing with neighboring counties and relationships are positive.*
- Foster fields lane has been completely washed away. Could this be used under the fund? *Yes, this will be investigated.*
- Of the €3m allocated how does the Kells MD compare to the other MD's, what is it based on? Is it Roads and paths? *It only includes roads. A matrix is used to allocate, keeping in mind such factors as road usage, need, safety and other priorities. Also to note a 'County Road Survey' will be complete this year which will also help in the completion of the three-year plan.*
- Could we get a pavement survey for the MD? *The active travel team will explore this.*
- Has it been agreed that we are not losing outdoor crews? *Yes, there will be no reduction of staff to the outdoor crews for the Kells MD.*
- Road safety scheme – what is the list and when is getting done? Can we get a presentation from the road safety officer? *We will approach the road safety officer for a presentation to be included at the March MD.*
- Can we get advance notice of estates that will be getting road resurfacing and footpaths? *Yes, we will do our best to keep members informed.*

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- On road surfacing can we continue to patch up the sides as this seems more effective. *Yes, we find this the most effective method also.*
- GSS staff, what is the minimum crew to a job? *This will be decided by the area engineer and dependent on the size of the works that need to be done.*
- Is the figure of just over €3 million every year, or just over three years? *This is allocated annually.*
- How are low-cost safety schemes selected, and which will advance this year? *A list will be furnished to Members.*

Cllr. Mike Bray noted that whilst the ratio to the National average seems good, this does not reflect Kells, this needs to be addressed with measurable investment.

The above statutory process was confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Eugene Cassidy** and seconded by **Councillor Mike Bray**

4.2 Housing

4.2.1 To consider and adopt the 2025 Schedule of Municipal District Works, for Housing

Corrina Elder, Executive Engineer for Housing gave a presentation on the 2025 Schedule of Municipal District Works, for Housing and answered questions from all members as detailed below.

- How long will it take to retrofit current supply? *Maintenance is conducting a 'stock condition' survey presently. It is hoped 1000 houses will be surveyed every year for the next four years. By completing this survey, it will identify what units to target first. How long it will take retrofit existing units depends on future funding received.*
- Where does the money for retrofit come from? *From central Government and our own resources.*
- How airtight are Meath County Council houses? *New houses are being built to A2 standard and existing units coming back into stock at B2 rating.*
- Do we have enough plumbers? Can the tenant be kept informed of when the plumber/contractor will call? *Yes, we have a full complement of engineers and clerk of works who oversee our contractors who have enough plumbers. Maintenance is currently working on a new CRM system with our IT department which will incorporate the contractor. This way all involved in the process will be able to view the workflow, hopefully resulting in better communication. Often when a contractor calls to a house, they are unable to gain access for multiple reasons. It is then difficult to rearrange the appointment.*
- Can we explore the idea of generators to Age friendly units when there are power cuts? *This would not be feasible, or affordable.*
- Do we have any data on decarbonising oil burners compared to new ones. *All new heating systems must be HVO compatible.*

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- What is the status of the four houses for elderly people in Oldcastle? *These are CAS project managed by SVDP.*

The above statutory process was confirmed on the proposal of **Councillor Mike Bray** and seconded by **Councillor David Gilroy**

4.3 Corporate Affairs & Governance

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

This was noted.

5.0 Notice of Questions

There were none.

6.0 Notice of Motions

6.1 Submitted by Councillor Michael Gallagher

"I call on Meath County Council to work with residents at the Glebe Housing Estate, Kells including Meath County Council tenants, to explore possible alternative home heating sources for the estate in the interest of the environment and reduce household energy bills and that the Council will work with Codema and others in this regard."

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

All houses which are owned by Meath County Council will be considered for the Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme (EERP) as resources allow. This programme is funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Please note that houses are given priority for this programme based on engineering and energy assessments. It is expected that the funding allocation for 2025 will be confirmed soon.

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

Whilst the above motion was proposed, Dara McGowan, Director informed members that the above motion should also be sent to the Climate Action Team. Once a response is received from Climate Action, it will be circulated to the members.

7.0 Correspondence

There were none.

8.0 Any Other Business

The meeting concluded at 17.20 pm.

Signed: