

Minutes of the Celbridge Area Meeting

Held on Thursday, 15 November 2012 at 10.00 a.m.

in Áras Chill Dara, Naas.

Members Present: C Purcell (Cathaoirleach); Councillors K Byrne, S Griffin, A Larkin, and F O'Rourke

Also Present: Mr P Minnock (Area Director), Ms S Kavanagh (S.E.O.), Ms E Doyle (Meetings Administrator), Ms P Penny (A.S.O.), Ms E Murray (Area Engineer) and Ms C.Loughlin (Area Secretary)

Apologies: Councillor J McGinley

Vote of Sympathy

Councillor Purcell and the members of the committee expressed their sympathy with Councillor Doyle on death of his mother, Mrs May Doyle.

Councillor Purcell and the members of the committee expressed their sympathy with Praveen Halappanavar on the death of his wife Savita Halappanavar . The members would hope for a speedy outcome to the investigation on this matter. The members agreed this incident should have not have happened in this modern time and asked that the item in question goes forward to full council for discussion.

Resolved: That the following motion goes forward to full council for discussion:

The members of the Celbridge Area Committee wish to express their sympathy with Praveen Halappanavar on the death of his wife Savita Halappanavar and they agreed that this incident should not have happened in these times and want their concerns expressed at full council.

CE 01/1210

Minutes and Progress Report

The committee considered the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 19 October 2012 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal as Councillor Griffin and seconded by Councillor O' Rourke that the minutes be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

CE 02/1210

Matters arising from the Minutes and Progress Report

The extension of footpaths and cycle paths

Councillor Byrne asked that the extension to the footpath be attended to as soon as possible and that the funding be applied for from the National Transport Authority for this project.

Repairs at Hazelhatch Road, Celbridge

Councillor O'Rourke stated that the footpath needs to be prioritised on the list with the area office and for the area office to meet Councillor O Rourke on site to discuss the footpath.

Pay and display sign be removed at main street Leixlip

The members have asked for the sign to be removed as soon as possible and a member of staff from the area office to meet Councillor Larkin on site.

Castletown Gates to Colourtend be included in the re-surfacing road works programme

The members agreed that funding needs to be found for the works along the Maynooth road from Castletown Gates to Colourtend.

Overgrown bushes at the entrance to Wolstan Haven housing estate

Councillor Byrne stated that the bushes are overgrown onto the footpath and that for health and safety reasons the bushes need to be cut back, and he asked that the owner of the property be written to asking them to cut back the bushes.

Car park at The Church of Our Lady's Nativity, Leixlip

Councillor Purcell asked that a further meeting would take place for a solution in this area as it is one of the most dangerous places in Leixlip.

Speed limit around schools in Celbridge electoral area

Proposed by Councillor Griffin and seconded by Councillor O'Rourke that a solar panel pilot scheme be rolled out around the Celbridge electoral area. The members are to submit a list of the schools, to the roads department, that they wish to prioritise in the Celbridge electoral areas.

Improvement works at the corner of the Main Street, Celbridge

The members requested that the historic content of the granite kerbing be taken into account when this work is being done.

Signs on the Shackleton Road

The members asked that a swivel bracket / screw be put into the back of the sign to make sure the sign can not be moved.

Clean up of Carton Avenue, Maynooth

Councillor Griffin was disappointed that the work would not be done until 2013 and stated that the work needs to be done for health and safety reasons and he requested that the parks department reconsider the clean up of Carton Avenue.

Housing needs in Ardclough

Councillor O' Rourke expressed his concern at the difficulty that residents of Ardclough are experiencing when seeking to get planning permission within the boundaries of Ardclough and requested that their housing needs be accommodated under the Rural Housing Policy. The members spoke of the depopulation of Ardclough as a result of these difficulties. Councillor Griffin again requested that the planning department write to Nama asking them to release some of the land that is zoned for planning, to Kildare County Council for a site scheme.

Taking in charge of The Beeches, Straffan.

The members asked that they be given a list of the issues that were raised during the display process which require investigation.

CE 03/1210

Overgrown palm trees, Moyglare Road

As Councillor McGinley was not present it was agreed that he would receive reports on the items in his name on the agenda and he would be at liberty to re-enter if he so wished.

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McGinley :

That steps be taken to have the overgrown palm trees, on the opposite side of the Moyglare Road from the Maynooth Post Primary School, trimmed back as they are completely

blocking the two public lights and they are hazardous for pedestrians and large vehicles as they are hanging over the footpath and part of the roadway.

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 13 November 2012 stating that when the landowners details are confirmed a hedge/tree cutting notice could be issued to them.

The report was noted.

CE 04/1210

Potholes, Maynooth

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McGinley :

That the potholes on roads at the following locations in Maynooth be repaired before they cause traffic accidents:

- At house (details supplied) Old Greenfield
- At house (details supplied) Old Greenfield
- At the back lane, Old Greenfield, behind houses (details supplied)
- At house (details supplied) Parson Hall

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 13 November 2012 confirming that the potholes in Old Greenfield had been attended to and the one in Parsons Hall would be done as soon as possible.

The report was noted.

CE 05/1210

Traffic calming measures, Lords Road, Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Byrne :

That the council examine what traffic calming measures can be put in place on the Lords Road, Celbridge, with a particular emphasis on the safety of pedestrians.

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 13 November 2012 confirming that a meeting has been organised on site between Councillor Byrne and roads design to discuss this issue.

The report was noted.

CE 06/1210

Replacement of lamps, Dara Court, Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Byrne:

That the council arrange for the replacement of the lamp standards number 14 and 15 which are falling over at Dara Court, Celbridge.

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 13 November 2012 confirming that Kildare County Council and the public lighting maintenance contractor (Airtricity) would visit Dara Court to assess lamp standards number 14 and 15.

The report was noted.

CE 07/1210

Water ponding in Straffan

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Rourke:

That the council investigates the problem of the water ponding in locations on the road surface in Straffan between the Straffan Inn and the service station.

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 13 November 2012 stating that this issue would be investigated as soon as manpower and resources are available. Councillor O'Rourke stated that a simple solution would be put in some channel drains in the locations where the ponding is occurring and for the work to be done as soon as possible.

Resolved: That the area office look at putting some channel drains in the locations where the ponding was occurring and for the work to be done as soon as possible.

CE 08/1210

Boston Road, Ardclough

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Rourke:

That the Boston Road in Ardclough be included in the re-surfacing road works programme, as sections of the surface is breaking up and deteriorating.

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 13 November 2012 stating that this section of road was on the current proposed three year plan.

The report was noted.

CE 09/1210

Parking over Christmas in Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Rourke:

That the area committee agree on the days of free parking over Christmas for Celbridge and Leixlip.

Ms Kavanagh presented a report to the committee stating that free parking in any town at the busiest time of the year is strongly discouraged and not recommended. This was the time when regulated parking was needed most. Illegal parking and serious traffic congestion, which affects those with disabilities, traffic flow, bus drop off/set down, has also been reported on recent surveys. Furthermore, the financial implications of further reducing

enforcement time must also be taken into account. Councillor O'Rourke stated he was disappointed with the response and suggested that the free parking would go ahead over the Christmas period and all members supported Councillor O'Rourke on the motion. The members agreed the following times for free parking over Christmas from Wednesday 19 December 2012 to Wednesday 26 December 2012 with normal operation from Thursday 27 December 2012. Ms Kavanagh stated that there would be financial impact on the council if the members go ahead with the free parking.

Resolved: That there would be free parking in Celbridge and Leixlip from Wednesday 19 December 2012 to Wednesday 26 December 2012.

CE 10/1210

Mechanical sweeper

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Griffin:

That during the autumn fall, I request the council to increase the use of the mechanical sweeper to clean up the excessive leaves in those towns requiring same.

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 13 November 2012 stating that the area office would endeavour to do this, within the resources available, during the leaf fall periods.

The report was noted.

CE 11/1210

Projects approved by the NTA in Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Griffin:

That the area committee be given a detailed report on those projects approved for the Celbridge area by the NTA and also those in the pipeline for consideration by the NTA.

A report was circulated to the members at the meeting by Ms Kavanagh.

The report was noted.

CE 12/1210

Footpath repairs in Castletown estate, Leixlip

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Larkin:

That necessary repairs be carried out on the footpath outside number (details supplied) Castletown estate, Leixlip.

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 13 November 2012 stating that this footpath was not in a critical state for repair and, as the funding available to the area office for footpaths repairs was so low, this work cannot be carried out at the moment. Councillor Larkin asked Ms Murray at what point is the footpath critical to be

repaired. Ms Murray explained to Councillor Larkin that the footpath repairs are graded on a scale from one to ten and that the footpath in question was at the bottom end of the scale. The report was noted.

CE 13/1210

Yellow grid box

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Larkin:

That the yellow grid box outside Murphys, Main Street, Leixlip be repainted.

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 13 November 2012 stating that as per best practice yellow boxes are only to be installed at public road junctions. As this was at a private entrance the box would not be repainted. Councillor Larkin was not happy with the report and asked that the yellow grid box be repainted as soon as possible. Councillor Purcell agreed stating that it is a very busy junction.

Resolved: That the area office repaint the yellow grid box outside Murphys, Main Street, Leixlip, as soon as possible.

CE 14/1210

Footpath outside St Marys GAA Club

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Larkin:

That the footpath be dished outside St Marys GAA Club, Leixlip at the ramp to facilitate pedestrians crossing from the footpath on the opposite side.

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 13 November 2012 stating that the function of this ramp was primarily traffic calming and it was not constructed as a crossing point for pedestrians. Unfortunately there was no funding available at present to upgrade this. Councillor Larkin stated that this has been perceived as a pedestrian crossing by more than 100 pedestrians a day and he stated that the path heads directly on to the ramp and it has become a health and safety issue and that a solution needs to be found to make the crossing safer to the pedestrians.

Resolved: That the area office find a solution to make the crossing safer for the pedestrians.

CE 15/1210

Cope Bridge, Confey

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Purcell:

That the council seek an alternative to traffic lights at Cope Bridge, Confey, Leixlip by having the bridge widened or/and have a pedestrian metal walkway attached to the bridge as an interim measure.

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 13 November 2012 stating that there was no funding available for major roadworks at the present time. Councillor Purcell stated that he had a meeting with Mr O'Leary on site that a costing of work that needed to be done on Cope Bridge was being prepared. Councillor Purcell suggested that a possible solution would be to widen the bridge, Councilor Grffin supported these suggestions. Councillor Purcell asked that the roads department request the NTA to look at the work that needs to be done on Cope Bridge.

Resolved: NTA be requested to look at the work that needs to be done to Cope Bridge and for Mr.O'Leary to revert back to Councillor Purcell with a costing on proposed works.

CE 16/1210

Bollard be replaced in Glen Easton, Leixlip

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Rourke:
Can the plastic bollard in the centre of road L5058 beside Glen Easton in Leixlip be replaced?

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 13 November 2012 confirming that this would be attended to as soon as possible.

The report was noted.

CE 17/1210

Graffiti in Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Rourke:
Can the graffiti be cleaned off the advance warning signs in the Celbridge Local Electoral Area?

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 13 November 2012 confirming that this item was on a list for attention.

The report was noted.

CE 18/1210

Remove sign on Shackleton Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Rourke:
Can the sign on the Shackleton Road before the junction of Aghards Road that says "No Construction Traffic" be removed or replaced as it is dangerous?

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 13 November 2012 confirming that the sign would be removed as soon as possible.

The report was noted.

CE 19/1210

Repair broken footpath St Mary's Park, Leixlip

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Purcell:

Will the council repair the broken footpath outside house numbers (details supplied) St. Mary's Park, Leixlip?

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 13 November 2012 stating that there was no funding in our budget at present for these repairs. Councillor Purcell was not happy with the report and asked for the footpath to be repaired as soon as possible.

Resolved: That the area office repair the footpath at St. Mary's Park, Leixlip as soon as possible.

CE 20/1210

Re-erected signage at Arthur Guinness Square, Leixlip

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Purcell:

Will the council agree that the re-erected signage at Arthur Guinness Square, Leixlip is not in keeping with the intentions that Leixlip Town Council has for this area and following on from the large amount of money spent here by Leixlip Town Council that the council now put more ornate/appropriate signage in place?

A report was received from the roads and transportation department dated 13 November 2012 stating that the council cannot justify taking down signage and replacing it when the sign performs the function required. The members were not happy and asked that the sign be removed as the sign does not fit the purpose and was too big and they asked that an alternative place be found to re erect the sign. Councillor Larkin can be contacted for suggestions to where the sign can be replaced.

Resolved: That the area office remove the sign and find alternative place to re erect the sign. Councillor Larkin can be contacted for suggestions to where the sign can be replaced.

CE 21/1210

Prune trees, The Grove, Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Byrne:

That the council prune/cut back the trees from houses number 1 - 28, The Grove, Castletown, Celbridge so that the public lighting can be effective as it is presently hindered by this.

A report was received from the parks department dated 14 November 2012 stating that this work would be considered for inclusion in the upcoming tree surgery works programme. However their inclusion was contingent on the overall cost of carrying out the other

numerous requests that have been received throughout the year and having the finance to complete all these requests.

The report was noted.

CE 22/1210

The Gathering Committee

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Byrne:

That the area committee link up with The Gathering Committee with a view to maximising the best result for the area.

A report was received from the community and culture department dated 14 November 2012 stating that all relevant groups, contacts made through the Gathering events, county and local Councillors have been notified of the two Gathering funds available. Workshops delivered by Failte Ireland on marketing and social media for the Gathering are being held for interested groups. Any group or person seeking further information or support can contact Peter Minnock or Ann Marie Conneely in the community and culture department. The members suggested that maybe the three towns Leixlip, Maynooth and Celbridge come together as one for the Gathering. Mr Minnock thanked the members for including the motion on the agenda.

The report was noted.

CE 23/1210

Land reserved for social housing in Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Byrne:

Can the council inform the Celbridge Area Committee the locations and extent of land owned by the council that is dedicated or reserved for social housing and the council's plans for the use of these lands?

A report was received from the housing department dated 15 November 2012 stating that the housing department are compiling the information and expect to be in a position to circulate to members within the next 7-10 days.

The report was noted.

CE 24/1210

Examine trees outside houses in Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Byrne:

Can the two trees outside houses (details supplied), Celbridge Abbey be examined to establish if they are in a dangerous condition and should be removed?

A report was received from the parks department dated 14 November 2012 stating that these trees would be examined to see what works if any are required.

CE 25/1210

Remove trees at the Scouts Den, Leixlip

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Byrne:

Will the council remove or cut back trees at the Scouts Den on Distillery Lane, Leixlip in the interest of personal security?

A report was received from the parks department dated 14 November 2012 stating that these trees would be examined to see what works if any are required.

The report was noted.

CE 26/1210

Celbridge Local Area Plan

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Byrne:

To ask the council when will the Celbridge Local Area Plan be reviewed.

A report was received from the planning department dated 14 November 2012 stating that the forward planning team are currently working on the Kildare Local Area Plan. Also, it is intended to publish the Draft Maynooth Local Area Plan in early December. While the review of the Celbridge Local Area Plan is on the agenda, along with a review of Kilcock, Leixlip, Clane, Sallins, Kilcullen and Monasterevin, it is difficult to specify a timeline but it will be some time in 2013.

The report was noted.

CE 27/1210

Food take-aways main street, Maynooth

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McGinley:

That the food take-aways on Main Street and Mill Street, Maynooth be written to outlining their obligations under the Litter Act, also advising them that they should combine to hire someone to clean the litter from 7am each day and that the footpath outside their premises should be steam cleaned to remove the grease and that if they don't take such action that the council will issue them with fines under the Litter Act.

A report was received from the environment department dated 14 November 2012 stating that the food take-aways on Main Street would be written to in respect of their obligations under the Litter Act. The proposal regarding their hiring of someone to clean litter at 7.00 am each day and the removal of grease would also be raised.

The report was noted.

CE 28/1210

Odour from the sewerage system at Old Hill/ Celbridge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Purcell:

That the council explain the foul odour from the sewerage system at Old Hill/Celbridge Road and Distillery Lane entrance to Leixlip in recent weeks.

A report was received from the water services department dated 12 November 2012 stating that odour was controlled in this part of Leixlip by a combination of an odour control vortex and chemical dosing of wastewater. The odour control vortex was routinely cleaned during the summer months. However, on Monday, 22 October 2012, the Overseer reported that there was a blockage in the vortex. The vortex was subsequently cleaned on Wednesday 24 October, and it was likely that both the blockage and the associated clean up work gave rise to some odours.

The report was noted.

CE29/1210

Dumping of tyres at, Leixlip Amenity Centre

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Purcell:

That the council assist, using its camera network, in locating the used tyre dumpers who now have dumped twice at Leixlip Amenity Centre.

A report was received from the environment department dated 14 November 2012 stating that the camera network has been examined but unfortunately it was unable to provide information in relation to this matter. Councillor Purcell stated that we need to find the people that are dumping the tyres as it is costing the council every time they dump the tyres. The report was noted.

CE30/1210

Watermain along Parson Street, Maynooth

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor McGinley:

When will Water Services be laying the watermain along Parson Street, Maynooth to enable re-surfacing and yellow lining to take place?

A report was received from the water services department dated 14 November 2012 stating that Kildare County Council has carried out site investigation works on Parson Street. The scheme design was currently being finalised and it was hoped, following full approval from the Department of Environment Community and Local Government to go to tender on the works in spring 2013. These works were listed for discussion.

The report was noted.

CE31/1210

Graffiti

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Larkin:

Have the litter wardens made any progress in identifying the culprits who are spraying graffiti throughout the area and could a covert operation be put in place at one of the hot spots to catch the offenders?

A report was received from the environment department dated 14 November 2012 stating that the spraying of graffiti was not deemed to be litter and was actually a criminal offence. The wardens do not have a statutory role in pursuing offenders. The matter could be referred to the Joint Policing Committee for attention. Councillor Larkin asked has anyone ever been caught and how much does it cost to remove graffiti. He also asked if it would be possible to deploy a camera into one of the hotspot areas where the graffiti was being done to catch the culprits doing it. The community needs to take a zero tolerance approach to this matter. All members supported Councillor Larkin. The members asked for the issue of graffiti to be brought up at the Joint Policing Committee on the 26 November.

Resolved: That this matter be referred to the Joint Policing Committee.

The meeting concluded.