

Minutes of the Celbridge Area Meeting

Held on Friday 17, May 2013 at 10.00 a.m.

in Áras Chill Dara, Naas.

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

Also Present: Mr G Perry (Acting/Area Director), Ms Eileen Hanlon Head of Finance, Mr J Deane (Area Engineer), Mr D Hodgins (Senior Executive Engineer), (Ms S Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer), Ms P Penny (Assistant Staff Officer), Ms E. Doyle (Meetings Administrator) and Mr J Hannigan (Area Secretary)

CE 01/1305

Minutes and Progress Report

The committee considered the minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2013 together with the progress report.

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

CE 02/1305

Matters arising from the Minutes and Progress Report

Casual Trading Bye Laws in Celbridge

Councillor Byrne asked for an update on the Casual Trading Bye Laws for Celbridge as the item was deferred at the April meeting.

CE 03/1305

Castletown Housing Estate

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Rourke: That the trip between the footpath and the tactile at the north entrance to Castletown housing estate in Celbridge be removed in the interest of the welfare to all pedestrians.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 17 May 2013 informing that the work would be done that week.

The report was noted.

CE 04/1305

Modify Pay Parking Machines to Accept Credit Card Payments

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor O'Rourke: That the council consider modifying the pay parking machines for the use of credit card payments and consider implementing this in Celbridge\Leixlip as a pilot project.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 17 May 2013 advising that a three month trial could be arranged, however the capital costs would have to be borne from Celbridge / Leixlip pay parking income and there was insufficient income in Celbridge and Leixlip to accommodate this request. It might be possible for the trial to be carried out in Newbridge where pay parking is self financing. Following discussion it was recommended that the trial should be conducted in Maynooth where new machines were being installed. The report was noted and the credit card system to be trialled in Maynooth

CE 05/1305

Remove remains of Sign on Clane Road

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

That the council remove the remnants of a disused sign on the Clane Road at the nurseries beside the garage.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 17 May 2013 advising that this would be listed to be attended to in the coming weeks.

The report was noted.

CE 06/1305

Manhole covers The Grove Estate

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

that the council examine the manhole covers on the path from The Grove estate to the Main Road that are over the sewer.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 17 May 2013 informing them that the area office had reviewed the ironwork in The Grove and on the road from The Grove to the bridge and identified one Eircom manhole that could pose a trip hazard. The area office would write to Eircom and ask them to investigate. The report was noted.

CE 07/1305

Bus Shelter

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Byrne that the council examine the possibility of erecting a bus shelter on the Main Road outside Saint Wolstans School on the Clane Road following a request from the many students who use the bus service.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 17 May 2013 informing that in the past, bus shelters had been erected in locations where potential suppliers of advertising space had calculated that the footfall of passengers warranted the demand for the advertising and hence the shelter was financed from the sale of the advertising space. All such locations that met this demand now had shelters erected. Since this was done, the business model for these shelters has deteriorated so it was unlikely that the company in question would decide to erect any more shelters. However, the area office will contact the bus shelter supplier and ask them to investigate this particular location. The report was noted.

CE 08/1305

Town centre parking survey

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Purcell: That Kildare County Council carry out a survey amongst retailers and shoppers to see what effect pay parking is having on our towns.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 17 May 2013 asking what information the members would like to gather through such a survey. It was suggested that the questions would need to be very well thought out in order to get some valid feedback. For example, the survey would pick up on the shoppers who were shopping in our towns but would not pick up on those who went elsewhere and the reasons for their choice to shop elsewhere. Perhaps the roads and transport department could carry out some research regarding similar surveys that had been carried out and bring this information back to the committee.

Councillor Purcell stated if people get a parking fine that they do not come back and there needs to be a review of the parking strategy for all Kildare.

Resolved that transport department carry out an investigation to see what research existed, on the effects of pay parking in town centres and report back to the committee.

CE 09/1305

Cope Bridge

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

That we seek information from Meath County Council and Fingal County Council on plans they may have for roads that could effect the widening of Cope Bridge, Leixlip.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 17 May 2013 if the committee were in agreement, the roads and transport can contact Meath and Fingal County Councils. Councillor Purcell stated that there had been a number of near misses at this bridge with people breaking the lights.

Resolved that transport department would contact Meath and Fingal Local Authorities

CE10/1305

Traffic Surveys,identification of Surveyors

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

If there are any surveys being carried out on parking behaviour throughout the area, that surveyors have clearly visible hi visibility vests/jackets indicating that they are carrying out a survey only.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 17 May 2013 asking Councillor Larkin to contact the roads and transport department to clarify his concerns. It was unclear whether he is referring to the parking wardens carrying out other duties when they were not enforcing pay parking or whether he was referring to other parties carrying out traffic / parking surveys. Councillor Larkin explained that it was Apco who were carrying out the surveys and monitoring the movement of traffic to get statistics on the turnover of spaces now that pay parking had been suspended on Saturdays.

Resolved transportation department will contact Apco to determine the purpose of the survey and to ensure that surveyors are clearly identified.

CE11/1305

Flexi arrow bollards Youngs Cross

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Larkin that the flexi arrow bollards in the centre of the road at the Celbridge side of Youngs Cross be repaired/replaced.

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 17 May 2013 stating that these had now been replaced.

Report noted

CE 12/1305

Bollards at Castletown House

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

Can the two concrete bollards be repaired inside the main entrance to Castletown housing estate, Celbridge which are on the left hand side as you exit from the Main Street?

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 17 May 2013 stating that these bollards, which are in poor repair, were located along the part of the entrance to Castletown House that is maintained by the OPW. The area office had passed on the request to get them repaired or replaced.

Report noted

.CE 13/1305

Drainage Problem Castletown

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

Can we get an update on drainage problems at no (details supplied) Castletown, Leixlip?

A report was received from the roads and transport department dated 17 May 2013 stating that this work had been done.

Report noted

CE 14/1305

Harbour Field Maynooth

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

That circuses and carnivals be banned from using the Harbour Field, Maynooth, unless they pay a deposit capable of repairing any damage caused to the field as a result of their activities.

A report was received from the senior parks superintendent dated 17 May 2013 advising the members that, in future, a deposit will be sought from circuses and carnivals using the Harbour Field to ensure that any damage caused was repaired.

The report was noted.

CE 15 /1305

Grove Estate and Simmonstown Park

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

Can the council examine the gap in the hedge, which is being used as a rat run between The Grove Estate and Simmonstown Park, with a view to remediation. The gap in the hedge at this location was due to people using this as a shortcut to Simmonstown Park, Newcastle Road and the Train station.

A report was received from the senior parks superintendent dated 17 May informing the members that the amount of people using this could be evidenced from the strong desire line that exists across the open space in The Grove. It would be futile to attempt to block this access given the number of people who appear to be using it as it will most likely lead to another gap appearing somewhere else along the ditch line. Therefore it was recommended that the existing gap should be formalised and allow people to access between the two estates safely. Councillor Byrne stated that he was unhappy with the report and stated that he was totally against permeability at this location.

Resolved; that the matter be referred back for review.

CE 16/1305

Removal of Trees Abbey Estate

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

Can the parks department remove the trees at houses (details supplied) Celbridge Abbey Estate, Celbridge which are damaging the walls and paths nearby?

A report was received from the senior parks superintendent dated 17 May informing the members that an assessment would be made of the locations and any trees causing damage will be scheduled for removal subject to the available resources to carry out the work.

The report was noted.

CE 17/1305

Emergency Response Celbridge

The following motion in the name of Councillor Purcell was deferred to the June meeting:

What are the results of the pilot project communal emergency response which was set up in Celbridge?

The members were informed that the director of services Peter Minnock would deal with this item at the June committee meeting.

CE 18/1305

Dog Fouling Celbridge

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

That the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government be written to asking him to change the law to make it illegal for dog walkers not to carry dog foul bags with them when walking their dogs, in order to encourage dog owners to clean up after them and to make it easier for litter wardens/dog wardens to fine those who are guilty.

A report was received from the environment department dated 17 May informing the members that that any assistance in helping to enforce the litter laws in relation to dog fouling was welcomed. All dog handlers should carry some form of bag to deal with this matter when out walking their pets. Councillor McGinley advised that dog littering was a serious issue that affected everybody, This was supported by the members, Councillor O'Rourke asked could our litter wardens provide a proactive role in dealing with this. Councillor McGinley stated that a letter should issue to the Minister for the Environment Community and Local Government requesting that the legislation should be changed to deal with this issue and the members agreed.

Resolved that the report be noted and that a letter be issued to the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government.

CE 19/1305

Dustbins Castlevillage Shops

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

That the council replace the two dustbins which are in bad condition at the Castlevillage shops in Celbridge to assist with keeping the area litter free.

A report was received from the environment department dated 17 May informing the members that the provision of new litter bins in Celbridge would have to be agreed to by the Celbridge area engineering office and the matter will be referred to the transport department and a further report will issue to the June meeting of the committee.

Resolved that a further report issue to the June meeting of the committee.

CE 20/1305

Wall in Celbridge Abbey

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

Can the council examine the wall at the side of house (details supplied) Celbridge Abbey which is in a dangerous condition?

A report was received from the environment department dated 17 May stating that the wall would be examined to determine a course of action.

The report was noted

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CE 21/1305

2nd National Chewing Gum Environmental Awareness Campaign

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

Is the council participating in the 2nd National Chewing Gum Environmental Awareness Campaign launched on 2 May? If yes, what will the campaign involve and how many fines were issued for throwing gum on the street in Maynooth last year?

A report was received from the environment department dated 17 May informing the members that Kilcullen was chosen as the nominated town for the 2013 campaign. Retailers in the town had been supplied with gum wraps (to dispose of chewing gum) and a photocall with the Mayor at Cross and Passion College had been organised to launch the programme on May 20th. The litter warden would patrol the town on an ongoing basis in the summer to maintain awareness. There were no fines for chewing gum litter in Maynooth last year.

Chewing gum litter fines are difficult to impose as we rely on the warden to witness the offence or else for the public to act as witness - this would require them to identify the offender. Chewing gum was therefore one of the more intractable litter problems, hence the need for a designated campaign. Councillor McGinley did not accept that this should be confined to one town as this should be for the entire county. He asked that a once off contribution be made to clean up the streets prior to the Irish Open

The report was noted.

CE 22/1305

Waste Recycling Plant

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

Could we have an update on the proposed waste recycle plant for the North Kildare area?

A report was received from the environment department dated 17 May informing the members that this proposal was progressing more slowly than expected. The environment section were very aware regarding the importance of locating a recycling facility in the North of the county. Kildare County Council would continue to consider options in relation to access to the site on the Maynooth Road. The members would be kept informed of progress. Councillor Larkin advised that the site was not acceptable to locals. The report was noted.

CE 23/1305

Moyglare Hall Maynooth

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

That the developer of Moyglare Hall, Maynooth, be asked to surface the open area at The Walk as it is unsightly and unsafe in its present state.

A report was received from the planning department dated 17 May informing the members that the area referred to was the proposed site of an apartment block and was not open space. The building/development control section could write to the developer to advise them of their responsibilities to maintain the site safely. However, the council cannot require the developer to develop or use this space for any use other than that required in the planning permission. Councillor McGinley asked that the developer be asked to either cover the area with grass or tar.

Report noted.

CE 24/1305

Industrial type buildings behind the Salmon Leap public house

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

Had the council been advised as to the massive industrial type buildings erected behind the Salmon Leap public house by Fingal County Council, had a tree screening been agreed and should we have a presentation about developments at this site?

A report was received from the planning department dated 17 May informing the members that the matter was being investigated by the planning department. The members would be up-dated at the June committee meeting. The members inquired if there was a Part 8 process done by Fingal County Council for the development of these buildings.

The report was noted.

CE 25/1305

Town Centre Rates for retail units

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

That the council consider increasing rates on retail outlets outside of our towns by up to fifteen per cent and decrease rates by a similar amount for retailers within our town boundaries, so as to give an equal chance to in town retailers whose businesses are subject to adverse trading conditions such as pay parking.

A report was given at the meeting from the finance section informing the members that rates on premises were based on the effective valuation of a premises which is supplied to Kildare county Council by the valuation office and this effective valuation is multiplied by the annual rate on valuation that the council adopts as part of the annual budget. These rates are set for all business regardless of where the business was situated, therefore it was not possible to consider different rates amounts for businesses. Business Incentive schemes were in operation in some towns throughout the country to assist new business start up in in towns in these difficult economic times. These schemes were set up and controlled in each council by the economic development section and it was a grant that was given out by them...

Councillor Purcell said he expected this response but something needs to be done for town centre businesses, who were at a disadvantage because of pay parking. The members agreed with Councillor Purcell that something had to be done to prevent halt the further demise of the town centre business. Councillor Larkin suggested a rates system based on turnover. Councillor Griffin suggested that there was a unique opportunity for a new incoming council to reduce the commercial charges for business.

Resolved: That this motion be referred to the Finance committee for further consideration.

CE 26/1305

Registered owner of Lands

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

Could it be established if the council owns land at St Mary's Park, Leixlip close to the tv mast? The lands were formerly owned by Watkins and were also subject to a planning application for eight houses by Mr Gallagher, No. 1 Castletown Estate, Leixlip?

A report was received from the parks department dated 17 May stating that according to land registry records there are three land owners of the lands near the telephone mast. Two areas are privately owned and one area is owned by Kildare County Council. The exact details and layout of the ownership can be provided if required.

CE 27/1305

Supplementary Agenda

Traffic Management Improvements Maynooth Road

The members were presented with Traffic Management Improvements Maynooth Road report A number of amendments were proposed, Ms Kavanagh requested that the proposed amendments be given in writing . it was agreed by the members that the amended report was be forwarded to the full council.

Resolved that the amended report be forwarded to full council.

CE 28/1305

Any Other Business

The members welcomed Eileen Hanlon Head of Finance to the meeting

The members wished Leixlip Festival and the Irish Open well

The meeting then concluded.