

Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Committee Meeting

Held on Monday, 13 October 2014 at 10.00 a.m.

Rathstewart Athy

Members Present: Councillor M Miley (Cathaoirleach), Councillors A Breslin, T Redmond, I Keatley and M Wall
Apologies: Councillor M Dalton

Also Present: Mr J Boland (Area Manager), Ms S Kavanagh A/ Director of Services, Mr J Coppinger (Senior Engineer), D O' Flaherty (Athy District Engineer), G Duff, (A/Senior Executive Officer), M McLoughlin (A/Senior Executive Officer), A Aspell (Meetings Administrator), M Quinn (Athy Municipal District Office) and J Hannigan (Committee Secretary)

AY01/1410

Minutes and Progress Report

The committee considered the minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2014 together with the progress report.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Wall, seconded by Councillor Breslin, that the minutes be confirmed and taken as read. The progress report was noted.

Matters arising

Construction on the M9 being carried out on behalf of NRA

No response has been received from the NRA. The members expressed their dissatisfaction with the lack of response and the lack of consultation. The lack of communication was disrespectful.

Resolved: A letter is to issue from the Mayor's office requesting a response to the letter issued in July to the NRA

Taking in charge process

The members were concerned that Building Control Section did not appear to have all contact details for the residents associations. The members undertook to contact Building Control to check contact details.

Jetties near The Courthouse

Mr Boland informed the members that agreement had been reached with Waterways Ireland. Budget provision for insurance and maintenance would be required in 2015. Councillor Miley thanked all for their help

Sewage issues 1 to 6 Moone

The members queried when the electricity would be connected.

Resolved the members would be updated at the next meeting

Illegal encampments and Horses being kept on green spaces

The members agreed there had been an improvement with the control of horses but a message needed to go out that this type of activity would not be allowed . Mr Boland confirmed that a meeting had been arranged with all interested parties. The meeting will take place prior to the next meeting of the Municipal District on Monday 17 November in Áras Chill Dara and representatives from Housing, Roads, Environment and the Veterinary Officer are to attend

Resolved to list this on the Agenda for Athy MD 17 November Closed session 30 Minutes

Upgrade of insulation on tenants houses

The Members were advised that an additional 152 house had been put out to tender this programme.

Resolved to check if Castledermot has been included.

Refund due to tenants of Athy Town Council

Resolved the members were advised that this should be resolved by end of year

Deputations

The meeting administrator confirmed that request for deputations to address the municipal district should be by way of a motion from the members.

Resolved that a special meeting of the municipal district committee would be held on Monday 3rd November to receive a number of deputations.

Members to forward names and contact details to Corporate Services so the invitations and instructions to deputations can be forwarded to the various groups.

AY02/1410

To nominate a member to the 1916 Commemorative Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Keatley and seconded by Councillor Breslin that the sitting Cathaoirleach of Athy Municipal District represent Athy MD on this Committee.

Resolved that the sitting Cathaoirleach of Athy MD would serve on the committee

AY03/1410

Southern Distributor Road

The members were updated on progress on the Southern Distributor Road.

The members were informed that the advertisement for the project engineer would be placed in the coming weeks. The members had met with the Chief Executive who was very positive about the project and was meeting the Chamber of Commerce to keep the momentum going.

Resolved : that this item to be kept on agenda

AY04/1410

Drainage works on River Leer Main Street Castledermot

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Keatley

That the council carry out drainage works on the River Lerr at the bridge on the Main Street, Castledermot.

The meetings administrator read a report from the roads and transportation department dated the 6 October informing the members that the Water Services engineer has confirmed that this work was completed.

Councillor Keatley asked that the point of the bridge be kept clear.

Resolved the report was noted

AY05/1410

Access to Moone Soccer Club R408

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Keatley

That the council assist Moone Celtic Soccer Club in giving safe access to their grounds at Timolin off the R448.

The meetings administrator read a report from the roads and transportation department dated the 6 October informing the members that the roads design section met with Councillor Keatley and Moone Celtic Soccer Club recently in relation to proposed development works at the club. The work the soccer club does and the facilities it offers the

local and wider community was fully acknowledged. However, Planning Permission had previously been refused by Kildare County Council. There are serious concerns about the location of the premises with access off a busy regional road with high HGV volumes and this, in the opinion of the Roads Design Section, was a dangerous situation for players, members and the general public using this facility. It had been recommended to the Club that they should look for another site nearby with safer access for all road users and the public.

The members expressed their disappointment with this response as there was no other site available. The club were involved in fund raising and were ready to make an application for planning. The members asked that roads look at this again and advise on how this can be made safe.

Resolved that the report was noted and that this be report be sent back to roads for review and advise how this can be made safe.

AY06/1410

New Public Lighting in rural areas

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wall

Could the council confirm if they are in a position to offer vulnerable residents or areas the opportunity of new public lighting?

The meetings administrator read a report from the roads and transportation department dated the 6 October informing the members that this was a matter for the Members to consider in the context of their upcoming budget deliberations. The 2014 public lighting maintenance does not allow for any new public lighting. It should be noted that an allocation for additional public lighting would require an increase in the allocation for public lighting maintenance and energy supply.

Councillor Wall asked for the cost of installing a public light if discretionary funding were to be used to fund the installation of public lights was to be considered. The municipal district engineer advised that it was expensive and he did not have a figure. A new steel pole would have to be erected and maintained.

Resolved that the report be noted and members be advised of the estimate of cost to install lights.

AY07/1410

Footpaths Carlow Road Athy

The following question in the name of Councillor Dalton was considered by the members

When will the completion of the footpaths on the Carlow Road, Athy be carried out?

The meetings administrator read a report from the roads and transportation department dated the 6 October informing the members that this project has been submitted to the National Transport Authority (NTA) for consideration for funding for 2015.

Resolved that, as Councillor Dalton was not in attendance, that the report be noted.

AY08/1410

Upgrade works traffic calming ramps in Calverstown

The following question in the name of Councillor Dalton was considered by the members

Can upgrade works be carried out to the traffic calming ramps in Calverstown?

The meetings administrator read a report from the roads and transportation department dated the 6 October informing the members that Calverstown had been included in the 2015 Restoration Improvement Grants. There were a number of issues in Calverstown that need to be resolved ie 1/ drainage; 2/ surfacing and 3/ new ramps. If finance was made available these works can be undertaken.

Resolved that, as Councillor Dalton was not in attendance, that the report be noted.

AY09/1410

Applications from the Athy Municipal District for road improvements, road safety schemes etc for 2015.

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Keatley

Could the council produce a list of applications for the Athy Municipal District for road improvements, road safety schemes etc, to be made to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport for 2015 before the end of the current year?

The meetings administrator read a report from the roads and transportation department dated the 6 October informing the members that Kildare County Council makes application on behalf of the Municipal Districts to the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport under a number of headings i.e.

1/ Restoration Improvements – these are road strengthening projects in the Municipal Districts;

2/ Restoration Maintenance – these are road surface dressing projects in the Municipal Districts;

3/ Community Involvement Schemes (CIS) – improvement of public roads jointly funded by the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport and the community;

4/ Discretionary Maintenance – funds from this grant are used to supplement existing maintenance funds;

5/ Winter Maintenance Grant;

Councillor Keatley acknowledged that the municipal district had made good use of the funding available under the schemes, he asked for a timeframe for applying so that he could ensure that applications were given proper consideration. The municipal district engineer outlined when funding was applied for under the various headings.

Resolved that the report be noted

AY10/1410

Improve the Barrow side amenity

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Wall

That the council work with local businesses and tidy towns to improve the Barrow side amenity in Edmund Rice Square, Athy.

The meetings administrator read a report from the environment department dated 6 October advising the members that a meeting took place on Friday 3rd October involving the environment section, Area Engineer and the landowner with a view to developing a proposal to enhance the area. The Director of Services has visited the location and agreed that it required attention. The members agreed that this was worthwhile and should be supported.

Resolved that the report be noted.

AY11/1410

Pure Mile light Project

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Miley

Could the council develop a Pure Mile Light Project in the Athy Electoral Area?

The meetings administrator read a report from the environment department informing the members that in principle the council is willing to examine the feasibility, or otherwise, of such an initiative. The matter would be raised for discussion at the next meeting of the tidy towns network. In the interim, if there were any examples or cases from elsewhere in the county where this is working effectively, perhaps these details could be submitted to the meetings administrator.

Councillor Miley explained that a project of this nature did not require major funding but could enhance the appearance of rural areas by getting the community involved.

Resolved that the report be noted

AY12/1410

Improve the Visual Look of Athy

The members considered the following motion and question in the name of Councillor Miley
Can the council work with all agencies in Athy town to improve the visual look of the town itself and that the council move to design a new landscaping plan for Emily Square, Athy.

The meetings administrator read a report from the environment department informing the members that a project team had been established encompassing, Roads, Planning and Architectural departments. Preliminary work had been completed with a view to seeking tenders from design consultants, hopefully before the end of October. Members would be kept fully informed A collaborative approach towards the upgrade of the town of Athy was to be welcomed. The matter could be discussed in more detail at the next meeting of the Athy Investment Development and Employment Forum and perhaps an action plan agreed.

The members welcomed the improvements taking place, the early morning road sweeping the work of Tuas workers which contributed to a positive image. It was important that this positive message continue and that this was an opportunity for community groups and businesses to get involved. The municipal district manager hoped that he might be in a position to give the members a short presentation at the next meeting.

Resolved that the report be noted and that this item be kept on the progress report for the next meeting.

AY13/1410

Requests for Taking in Charge

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Wall

That the council confirm the estates that they have received a taking in charge request from developers or residents in the Athy Municipal District and if they have been or will be in correspondence with these estates in the coming weeks.

The meetings administrator read a report from the planning department dated the 7 October informing the members that requests had been received from the owners of houses in the following seven estates

Castleraven, Nurney.

Hillcrest, Kilcullen.

Burrow Manor, Calverstown.

Oak Park, Narraghmore.

Lipstown Manor, Narraghmore.

The Orchard, Narraghmore.

St. Johns, Castledermot.

These requests were made on the basis that the Water Services infrastructure was to be taken in charge. Before the council can proceed with the taking in charge of any of these estates at the request of the house owners, it would have to be on the basis that the house owners knew that the Water Services infrastructure would not be taken in charge. Building and Development Control Department would write to each of the residents associations in this regard as outlined to full council on 22nd September 2014, if the members could contact Stephen Cunningham directly to provide contact details for each of the residents associations.

The members expressed their concern that the council might not have the correct contact details. They would contact building control directly to confirm. They noted that the report listed estates outside Athy town and queried if the following estates were in charge or had requested taking in charge:

Rheban Manor

Coneyboro (was this technically in charge)

Abbeyfield Ballytore

They noted there was no estate listed for Monasterevin

Resolved that the report was noted building control to check that all estates in the municipal district had been listed.

AY14/1410

Taking in charge of sewerage systems in Narraghmore, Ballitore, Kilmead, Moone, Timolin and Calverstown

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillors Miley and question in the name of Councillor Keatley

Motion Councillor Miley

that the council give an update on the condition and the taking in charge of sewerage systems in Narraghmore, Ballitore, Kilmead, Moone, Timolin and Calverstown.

Question Councillor Keatley

Can the council carry out regular tankering at Oak Park, Narraghmore to relieve the current situation?

The meetings administrator read a report from the planning department dated the 7 October informing the members that the table below sets out the current position in each of the cases listed as requested.

Location	Response
Municipal Plant Narraghmore.	This Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) is being maintained by Water Services on behalf of Irish Water
Upgrade to municipal plant Ballitore.	Works on this plant are at an advanced stage. These works are being managed by Water Services.
New municipal plant Kilmead.	A snag list of outstanding works required to bring the plant up to an acceptable standard has been provided to the receiver. KCC is awaiting a response.
Moone Village.	A new pump station has been installed. Awaiting ESB to connect to network.
Millbrook, Timolin.	Water Services are managing this project. Works are currently out to tender
Burrow Manor, Calverstown.	The bond has been called in. Building Control will pursue the bond provider on this matter.

It should be noted that the taking in charge of sewerage systems cannot be progressed until the Irish Water taking in charge policy has been finalised as outlined in detail to full council meeting on 22nd September 2014.

The developer remained responsible for maintenance of Oak Park in Narraghmore. If tankering of waste was required, this was an issue for the developer or Irish Water. There were no funds remaining in the building and development control budget for emergency works in private housing estates this year.

Councillor Keatley acknowledged that there were problems with Lipstown Manor and Oakpark and asked for an update on the design for the WWTP in Narraghmore. He also asked could some cosmetic work be done to the WWTP in Ballitore as it detracts from the heritage village.

Resolved that the report be noted and a report on progress on the WWTP in Narraghmore to be prepared for the next meeting and report is also requested on possible cosmetic works to be carried out on Ballitore WWTP.

AY15/1410

Athy Heritage Centre

The following motion in the name of Councillor Dalton was considered by the members
That this council supports the promotion of Athy Heritage Centre particularly in respect of the Shackleton Expedition Centenary.

The meetings administrator read a report from the planning department dated 9 October informing the members that Kildare County Council supported the Athy Heritage centre through an annual subvention towards the running of the Centre and through small grants under the Community Heritage Grant Scheme. This funding was likely to continue into 2015 depending on budgets.

Resolved that, as Councillor Dalton was not in attendance, that the report be noted.

AY16/1410

Cloncarlin Halting Site

The following motion in the name of Councillor Dalton was considered by the members
that a report be given on the operation of Cloncarlin halting site.

The meetings administrator read a report from the housing department dated 6 October informing Cloncarlin Halting site had two serviced bays, one of which was presently occupied. The Halting site was supervised on a daily basis by a camping warden with duties shared between Cloncarlin and Andrew Halting Site, Athy.

Resolved that, as Councillor Dalton was not in attendance, that the report be noted.

AY17/1410

Upgrading of insulation in Local Authority Homes

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Wall
Can the council confirm the up to date position with the number of local authority homes they have carried out insulation in and their plans for continuing this insulation to further local authority estates in the Athy Municipal District?

The meetings administrator read a report from the housing department dated the 6 October informing the members that the Council received an allocation of €884,654 for Energy

Efficiency Retrofitting of Social Housing Stock in two separate allocations in 2014. The Council was prioritising older stock to ensure that all properties are brought up to a minimum standard with cavity wall and attic insulation.

Works had been completed in the Athy Municipal District at Clonmullion Phase 1, Clonmullion 2; Greenhills, Athy; Castlepark, Athy in 2014. Further works had been tendered for completion in 2014 and to continue the programme into 2015.

Resolved Members would be briefed at the next meeting on the specific locations.

AY18/1410

Standing Orders

The meeting administrator circulated a copy of the draft Standing Orders to the members, On the proposal of Councillor Redmond and seconded by Councillor Keatley.

Resolved that the Standing Orders were adopted.

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on 17 November at Áras Chill Dara

The meeting concluded .