

Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting held on Monday, 22 June 2015 at 10.00 am at Municipal District Office, Rathstewart, Athy

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

Officials Present: Mr J Boland (District Manager), Mr J Coppinger (Senior Engineer), Mr G Perry (Senior Executive Officer, Housing), Mr G Duff (A/Senior Executive Officer), Ms. P Berry, Athy Enterprise Centre, Mr S Wallace (Senior Executive Parks Superintendent), Ms M Dalton (Meetings Administrator), Ms M Quinn (Municipal District Office), and Ms O Mooney (Secretary).

AY 01/1506

Confirmation of Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 18 May 2015.

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

Matters Arising

Installation of a water outlet or tap at the Jetty area in Athy

Councillor Redmond stated that he was very disappointed with such a negative response on this issue. He stated that he had heard that a tap had been installed in a cemetery in North Kildare and couldn't understand how this could occur in one municipal district and not the other. He added that a tap had been installed in Ballylinan Playground and that he would be happy to get the District Manager the costing for same. The cathaoirleach stated that a water tap would be very beneficial in this area and a great investment for tourism in Athy.

Councillor Breslin stated that the council were hoping to develop the Barrow Way but with the issues of anti-social behaviour, lack of bins and water outlets were to be addressed first.

The District Manager stated that there was generally a caretaker in the cemeteries and water taps would be supervised. He stated that unsupervised taps would not be feasible and that the council would not be in favour of it. However, he suggested that maybe a local group or

Inland Waterways would make an application directly to Irish Water seeking a water tap. He stated that he had been very helpful on this issue but there were many expenses with regard to the jetty, for example, insurance premium and maintenance of jetty and an unsupervised tap would not be feasible or practical. He added that local groups put an application in for additional grants, if required, to help with covering costs for volunteers watering plants.

Resolved that the feasibility of Inland Waterways or a local community group making application to Irish Water be explored.

Bridge at the Marina across from the Dominicans – Athy

Councillor Redmond noted report but stated that he had spoken with the Planning Section and that no formal notice was with them on this issue. Councillor Redmond stated that four to five years after the fact, he had been asked to put in an Enforcement Order. He stated that the bridge is in a bad condition and needs to be repaired. The District Manager noted that the District Engineer had consulted with the former Town Engineer on this matter but was disappointed that the matter had not progressed.

Resolved that a report be prepared for the next meeting.

Policing along Athy Waterways – Number of Alcohol Fines issued.

Councillor Redmond asked for an update on this matter. The meetings administrator reported that a report would be available shortly and would be circulated before the next meeting.

Resolved that a report would be circulated to the members before the next meeting.

Fixing of Bridge Walkways in Distillery Court, Monasterevin

Councillor Redmond noted report stating that this was an historical issue which primarily refers to compliance with planning conditions at the time and was, consequently, a matter for the Planning Department. He stated that this bridge needs to be repaired.

Resolved that report be prepared for next meeting.

Old Churchtown Cemetery

Councillor Wall asked for an update on this matter. The District Manager reported that the preliminary technical assessment and design of proposed lands are being progressed. He added that the extension is now in the Capital Programme.

Resolved that the members be kept updated.

Upgrade of the Road and Footpath from the Friary to the school in Castledermot

Councillor Wall asked for an update on this matter. Mr Coppinger stated that he was still trying to seek funding from the National Transport Authority (NTA) to carry out this work.

Resolved that the members be kept updated.

Public Lighting in Rural Areas

Councillor Wall asked what the policy was on this matter. Mr Coppinger stated that there was no report on such a policy as yet but he said he would not be recommending individual lights in rural areas. He suggested to the members that if they wished to assign some local property tax (LPT) monies, he would look at it.

Resolved that a report be prepared for the next meeting.

Ard na Laoi, Castledermot – Derelict Sites

Councillors Wall and Keatley asked for an update on this matter. The District Manager reported that a Section 55 notice had issued and that there had not been full compliance with notice. The matter had been forwarded to solicitors to initiate legal proceedings.

Resolved that the members be kept updated.

Public Right of Way – Kilkea

The cathaoirleach asked for an update on this matter. Mr. Wallace reported that he was waiting on documents from the Department of the Environment.

Resolved that a report be prepared for the next meeting.

AY 02/1506

Update on Community and Economic Development issues

Ms Berry gave the members a comprehensive update of community issues and events coming up in the near future and events that had taken place since the last meeting.

- Tidy Towns Application – Linking up with Tidy Town Groups and helping them with their applications before submission.
- Woodstock Forum – Pride of Place Competition due to be judged in July.
- Moat View Housing Estate – Kilmead - Currently working with Simon Wallace, Dave O'Flaherty and Dara Wyer in this regard.

- Meeting with Richard O'Rourke as he has some plans to discuss with regard to the Monasterevin area.
- Arranged a meeting on behalf of the District Manager on the 1 July 2015 inviting Kildare Fáilte and Shackleton Committee to discuss how best to promote the Ernest Shackleton experience, with a view to attracting people to the south of the county, incorporating the naming of the new service station on the M9 and the Shackleton Cabin.
- Project "Get Involved" – Sustainable Ireland have this set up and Kildare Nationalist are going to follow its progress. Community and Residents Association have been requested to participate in this project.
- Stand at County Show and promoted Tidy Towns. Apologies were received from some groups for non-attendance. Athy Tidy Towns and Promoters won "Overall Stand" at the show.

The members congratulated her on the win and all the great work carried out by her to date.

Resolved that Ms Berry report to the members on a bi-monthly basis and that she update the members again at their September meeting.

AY 03/1506

Progress Report on Schedule of Municipal District Works

The members noted report from Roads, Transportation and Public Safety informing them that in the last number of weeks, the municipal district had concentrated on the roadworks programme and the following had been completed – surface dressing; roads around Cloney, Cush, Derrymount, Rathconnell, Mylerstown, Clarey, Richardstown, Cherrymills and Kildangan; resurfacing roads around Calverstown; preparation works for surfacing around Kildare Road, Athy and preparation works for surfacing around Moone/Timolin.

They also noted report from Mr Wallace as follows;

| Works | Update |
|--|--|
| Reinstatement Works, Castle Park, Athy | Contractor due to spray off various areas around the open space and reinstate with grass |
| Containers, Athy Town | Replanting works on containers in The Square, Shaws Car park, Raised Bed Stradbally Road |
| Grass Maintenance | Ongoing |

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Works | Update |
| Tree Surgery works | Completed |
| Playground Maintenance | Ongoing |
| Castledermot Playground | Work on design to commence in Autumn |

Resolved that this matter remain on agenda as standing item and report for next meeting.

AY 04/1506

Bridge in Kildangan between the Cross Keys Pub and Church

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

That this municipal district immediately initiate a safety audit on the bridge in Kildangan between the Cross Keys Pub and Church.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that there was no funding available at present to undertake the requested audit and the Roads Design Department was currently prioritising projects for which funding had been approved and was available. The request would be listed and would be undertaken if or when finance was available.

Councillor Redmond stated that this bridge was one of the most dangerous bridges in the south of the county. There is a pole in the middle of the bridge which should have been removed by Eircom and there is no footpath, signage or traffic lights on this bridge and school children and others use it daily. Councillor Wall and Councillor Dalton agreed, adding that the National Transport Authority (NTA) at their meetings were very focussed on non-vehicle solutions and talked about many projects and highlighted that this bridge was in a highly dangerous condition and that a solution needs to be found urgently. Mr. Coppinger stated that he would investigate this bridge over the next few months and that he would come back to the members after his analysis of the situation.

Resolved that a letter issue to Anne Graham, National Transport Authority (NTA) seeking report on this matter and that Mr Coppinger would investigate this bridge over the coming months and come back to the members with his analysis of the situation.

AY 05/1506

Replacement of Windows and Doors in Local Authority Houses

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

Can the council inform its members of the up-to-date position with the replacement of windows and doors in its local authority houses following the allocation of money to complete same in the recent budget as adopted by the council?

A report was received from Mr David Creighton, Architects Department informing the members that an amount of €200,000 was allocated in the 2015 budget for Planned Maintenance works which included replacement of windows and doors. In addition to this, the Department of Environment are continuing to fund Energy Efficiency Retrofitting works. At present, the programme was still dealing with Phase 1 nationally which includes attic insulation and draft proofing. Once Phase 1 of the scheme was finished, it was intended to commence Phase 2 which would include the replacement of windows and doors. The Housing Department intend to avail of this funding before reverting to funds from the Planned Maintenance budget which could usefully be allocated for other Planned Maintenance items. In anticipation of this, we have commenced a survey of the condition of the windows and doors in order to prioritise replacement works. We have also tendered an initial batch of windows and doors for nine dwellings and expect to be in a position to award this contract within the next two weeks. The cost of replacement of windows and doors to current standards in the average dwelling, based on the pilot tender of nine dwellings, was working out at approximately €5,000 per unit. Based on the budget of €200,000 we anticipate completing a maximum of forty dwellings this year, if the full budget was allocated solely for replacement windows and doors, without allocating funds to any other area of Planned Maintenance.

The members thanked Mr Perry for his attendance at the meeting. Councillor Wall sought clarification as he had been informed by the Director of Housing that €400,000 had been provided in the budget but it now seems to have halved and he enquired as to when all the doors and windows would be completed. Mr Perry stated that the Housing Section was in the process of these works for houses in the worst condition this year, and more money

would become available next year for the outstanding houses. Councillor Wall was not happy that all these works would not be completed until 2016 even though monies would come from the 2015 budget. The members stated that houses should be re-allocated as quickly as possible. Mr Perry asked that all issues be referred to him regarding this matter. **Resolved** that the members get clarity on funding for the next meeting and that all issues on this matter be referred to Mr Perry.

AY 06/1506

Remedial and Restoration Works on the Footpaths at Woodstock Street, Athy

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

That the council carry out remedial and restoration works on the footpaths at Woodstock Street, Athy.

A report was received from the Roads, Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that Woodstock Street (R428) from its intersection with the N78 to its junctions with the L4006 and L8061 needs to be totally revamped. The refurbishment design would include surface water drainage, footpaths and road surface. The work requires to be costed and a timescale agreed for completion of works.

Councillor Breslin stated that this street had been neglected for a long time. Many elderly people use this street and there had been a number of falls.

Resolved that this work be costed and put into Programme of Works and timescale to be given for the next meeting.

AY 07/1506

Replacement of the Traffic Lights at Castlemitchell, Athy

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

That the council confirm the up-to-date position with the replacement of the traffic lights at Castlemitchell, Athy, has the land been purchased and what plans, interim or otherwise, are in place.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the land at Castlemitchell had been purchased. There are plans in train to undertake an interim solution to have a second road lane at Castlemitchell. This would ensure that the temporary traffic lights can be removed.

Councillor Wall stated that he had spoken with the District Engineer and thanked him for his reply indicating that the work would be carried out within two months.

Resolved that report be noted.

AY 08/1506

Progress Report on the drainage on the green in Castledermot and an update on the Playground

The members considered the following motion received from Councillor Miley:

That the council give a progress report on the drainage on the green in Castledermot and an update on the playground.

A report was received from Mr Simon Wallace, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent informing the members that it was proposed to commence works on design for the playground and open space around it in the Autumn to allow the project proceed to Part 9 and tender stage. There are a number of other playground projects in the county that need to be completed first. These are playgrounds in Kill, Ellistown and a skate park in Newbridge.

The cathaoirleach stated that there was a flooding issue on the green area and asked for an update on the situation. Mr Wallace stated that he was not aware of such flooding.

Councillor Keatley supported the motion.

Resolved that a report on the flooding on the green area be sought from the District Engineer and Alan Dunney, Water Services.

AY 09/1506

Safety Scheme at Bolgers Cross

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

That the council carry out a safety scheme at Bolgers Cross to prevent vehicles overshooting the stop lines.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that as there was currently no funding available for this project in 2015, it would be considered for the Low Cost Safety Scheme in 2016.

Councillor Keatley stated that something had to be done at this location. He stated that he would speak to the District Engineer in this regard. Councillor Dalton stated that the solution to this problem would be a low cost project and it needed to be prioritised.

Resolved that a report be prepared for the next meeting.

AY 10/1506

Re-instatement Works on the Old Ballitore to Castledermot Road (N9)

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

That the council carry out re-instatement works on the old Ballitore to Castledermot Road (N9) previously promised by the NRA.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that roadworks were scheduled on the R448 (old N9) in the coming weeks. This road would be surface dressed from Crookstown to Moone. The plan was to have all of this road surfaced over the new few years. In 2016, the road between Moone and Castledermot would be surfaced. This work was dependent on finances being available.

Councillor Keatley stated that he would speak with the District Engineer in this regard. He was referring to unused portions of the old N9, for example, portions of land leading into people's homes. Verges need to be repaired and areas need to be brought up to the proper standard.

Resolved that a report be prepared for the next meeting.

AY 11/1506

Funding for a Bus Stop on the Dublin side of Athy

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

Can the council apply to the National Transport Authority for funding for a bus stop on the Dublin side of Athy.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the authorisation of bus routes and bus stops is, in the first instance, a matter for the National Transport Authority (NTA) on application from the service providers. Subsequently, approval to the location of bus stops was sought from Local Authorities. However, the provision of a bus stop was a matter for the service provider and the provision

of bus shelters was a matter for Bus Éireann to whom funding for that purpose was provided annually by the National Transport Authority (NTA).

Councillor Breslin understood that discussions had taken place with the District Engineer in this regard. Mr Coppinger said this was a matter for CIE and the Bus Company.

Resolved that report be noted.

AY 12/1506

Upgrade and Enhancement of the Square at Monument in Monasterevin

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

Are there any plans or proposals to upgrade and enhance the square around at monument in Monasterevin.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that there are plans being developed for the enhancement of the bus stop area in Monasterevin. It was the Municipal District Engineer's opinion that the whole area around the monument could be included in these enhancement plans.

Councillor Breslin stated that more improvement works need to be done in Monasterevin and that we should enhance the whole square.

Resolved that report be noted.

AY 13/1506

Re-surface Footpaths on the Athy Road, Monasterevin at Kill Cross

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

Can the council resurface footpaths on the Athy Road, Monasterevin at Kill Cross.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that there are a number of footpaths being examined with a view to resurfacing in the coming months. However, the Municipal District Office had been focussing on roads in the past few months and it would probably be the Autumn of this year before the footpath programme would commence.

Resolved that report be noted.

AY 14/1506

Provision of Lighting in new carpark of Crookstown National School

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

Can the council assist Crookstown National School with the provision of lighting in their new car park.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing members that the council have assisted Crookstown National School in moving the existing lights at the front of the new school development. Unfortunately, the council cannot assist with the provision of lighting to the school carpark.

Councillor Keatley thanked Declan Keogh, Roads Safety Officer for visiting the school and all his great work done in this regard. He also thanked the District Office for all their works carried out.

Resolved that report be noted.

AY 15/1506

Update on the Improvements on the sewage network planned for Narraghmore Village

A report was received from Mr Gerry Halton, Senior Executive Officer, Water Services informing the members that it was accepted that, realistically, that an interim arrangement also needs to be put in place in light of the very unsatisfactory situation which exists both from a public health as well as a residential amenity perspective. In this context, the feasibility of providing a link to the sewer network at Lipstown Manor (as was required in the parent planning permission) was actively being considered and it was expected that a decision would be made very shortly.

Councillor Keatley noted that the taking over of Lipstown Manor and The Orchards was imminent. He added that an individual was currently in debt due to an ESB Bill for The Orchards and she was afraid that it would come against her credit ratings. He asked the council to put as much pressure on Irish Water as possible as it was coming up to summer holidays for children and the situation had gotten worse and the green area still cannot be used. The cathaoirleach stated that tankering should be started immediately and Irish Water sent the ESB bill. He also added that the issue of public lighting needed to be sorted along with the taking in charge of the two estates. Councillor Keatley asked that once the estates were taken in charge, a meeting be set up with the developer to discuss outstanding issues.

The District Manager reported that he had met with Irish Water recently and they accept that an interim solution would be put in place. He stated that it was a positive meeting and that he had formally written to Irish Water to seek approval to extend the sewage network. He asked that the members send him details of the bill and that he would update them for the next meeting.

Resolved that the members send ESB bill to Mr Boland and that a report be prepared for the next meeting.

AY 16/1506

Foul Smell affecting premises from Skenagun to the town centre of Castledermot

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

That the council investigate the continuous foul smell that is coming from the rising sewage main affecting a large number of premises from Skenagun to the town centre of Castledermot.

A report was received from the District Manager informing the members that this matter should be reported directly to the Irish Water Helpline.

A discussion ensued and the members stated that they were very disappointed with the report given. The cathaoirleach stated that there had been many complaints received and that many premises had been affected by this smell. The issue only seems to happen when the pumping station is operating.

The District Manager stated that this matter and all water queries should be formally reported to Irish Water as they have their system in place. He stated he was familiar with the problem, as he had already spoken with a complainant. He said the problem may be a combination of internal plumbing within some buildings and a problem with the sewerage system as the building was built many years ago. He added that this problem would not be easily resolved.

Resolved that this issue be formally reported to Irish Water by complainants and or local residents, and that this matter would be resolved in conjunction with the council.

AY 17/1506

Update on Mortgage to Rent Scheme

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

Can the council update its members on any progress with the Mortgage to Rent Scheme as recently announced and will it benefit or be an option for those in arrears with the council.

A report was received from the Head of Finance informing the members that there had been no change to the Mortgage to Rent Scheme operating in the council as a result of the recent ministerial announcement. At present, borrowers in arrears can be considered for the Mortgage to Rent Scheme, provided they meet the following criteria;

- Borrowers must have engaged with the Arrears Support Unit and MARP (Mortgage Arrears Resolution Process), in relation to their arrears.
- Must be in negative equity.
- Must not own any other property.
- The value of the property must not exceed €220,000.
- Borrowers must be eligible for Social Housing.
- Net income must not exceed €35,000.
- Capital assets must not exceed €20,000.
- Must have long term right to remain in Ireland.

Borrowers can absolutely be considered for the scheme once they meet the eligibility criteria outlined above.

Councillor Wall stated that he had received a telephone call from the Head of Finance and was pleased with her reply. He added that she was dealing with forty cases at the moment in this regard.

Resolved that report be noted.

AY 18/1506

Use of Municipal Building for Civil Marriage

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

In order to put our community and council buildings to best use, that we get this council to agree to using our beautiful municipal building as a place to have a civil marriage.

A report was received from Mr Noel Gorman, Facilities Manager informing the members that the Athy Municipal District building was a working office and was not suitable for civil ceremonies for the following reasons;

- At present, the building houses, the customer service team and the Athy Municipal District Engineering Office, it would be difficult to provide these services during office hours in conjunction with hosting a civil ceremony. It would also impact on the service provided to our customers.
- There are confidential files stored in the offices.
- There are not adequate car parking spaces.
- There are insufficient welfare facilities to cater for a large crowd.
- The council's insurance on the building would not cover civil ceremonies and would require potential users to acquire public liability insurance to indemnify the council.
- Holding civil ceremonies in the building would put the council in competition with local rate payers.

Councillor Redmond stated that he was not happy with report as many civic receptions had been held in these offices and there was carparking available across the road in Catherine McCauley Carpark.

The members stated that there would be many possible locations in the municipal district to hold such ceremonies and questioned the demand for such a facility.

Resolved to ask the Facilities Manager to identify premises that could be used within the Municipal District should the need be established.

AY 19/1506

24 Hour Accident and Emergency Department – Portlaoise

It was agreed that the motions 21, 22 and 24 would be taken together.

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillors Breslin and Wall: That the Athy Municipal District supports the calls to the HSE to urgently develop a plan to safeguard Portlaoise Hospital as a grade 3 hospital including the need to maintain a 24 hour Accident and Emergency Department, given the importance of this hospital to the Athy Municipal District and its population.

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

Can we as a municipal district, write to the President and An Taoiseach to highlight our worry on the threats faced by our local hospital in Portlaoise.

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

Can the Athy Municipal District committee pass a notice of motion supporting the 24 hour Accident and Emergency Services at Portlaoise Hospital and call on the Minister for Health to ensure these services.

A discussion ensued and all the members agreed that that it was very important that the emergency services be retained in Portlaoise Hospital. Councillor Wall asked that a letter would issue to the Hospital Action Committee in this regard. The members also asked that the Minister for Health also be written to. Councillor Redmond stated that he had spoken with Dr. Susan O'Reilly, HSE Manager in relation to this matter and he asked that a letter would issue to her too. Councillor Breslin shared her concerns indicating that the whole health service needs to be reviewed. Councillor Dalton supported the motions and added that he was currently a member of the Health Forum. He had a meeting with Dr. Susan O'Reilly regarding issues going back a long time especially with regard to the tragic circumstances in maternity services in Portlaoise. Accident and Emergency needs to be kept on a 24 hour basis not a 12 hour basis. The press coverage over the years has affected the staff in Portlaoise Hospital and we need to stress to the HSE the importance of retaining a range of services on a 24 hour basis. Closing should not be an option. Additional Staff would need to be recruited. Councillor Keatley supported the motions and stressed that the only options for our district were Portlaoise Hospital or Naas Hospital. Naas Hospital is already overcrowded without further burden and Portlaoise Hospital was under-utilised. Services have to be at top standard.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Keatley, seconded by Councillor Redmond that a letter issue to the Minister for Health, the Hospital Action Committee, and Dr. Susan O'Reilly, HSE Manager asking that the 24 hour Accident and Emergency Services be retained at Portlaoise Hospital and of the importance of the health and safety of patients and to stress that a range of services need to be there on a 24 hour basis.

AY 20/1506

Meetings – Digital Access

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

Can we as a municipal district ask why the once digital Athy Town Council agendas, progress reports and minutes as well as current progress reports be posted online for the public to view.

A report was received from the meetings administrator informing the members that the website that the digital Athy Town Council agendas and minutes were posted on was taken down when the Town Council dissolved on 1 June 2014. All the information from this website was archived and the minutes and agendas 2008 to 2014 are available to be uploaded onto the Kildare County Council website on a month by month basis. Work has commenced to upload the minutes and agendas on a month by month basis, working from 2014 on the following link: For the members net, the url is:

<http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/MembersArea/CouncilMeetings/ArchivedAthyTownCouncilMeetings/>. It can also be accessed from the home page of the Members Net under the heading Archived Documents.

Resolved that report be noted.

AY 21/1506

Update on Progress on the Southern Distributor Road

Mr Coppinger stated that he has discussions with the consultants every month and that some surveys had been carried out and that the design started some time ago.

Councillor Redmond asked whether the route selection had been decided upon as yet and asked whether funding was fully there for this project. Councillor Wall asked about the role of the team looking after this project. Councillor Keatley also asked whether resources were fully in place. The cathaoirleach stated that from pedestrian point of view, walking and cycle tracks should be incorporated into the design.

Mr Coppinger stated that funding was in place. He added that traffic studies were the key element of route selection and this would take about three months to carry out these studies, and that he would be meeting the consultants again shortly and this would be discussed. He stated that his team's role would be more intensive after Christmas this year. The members thanked Mr Coppinger for this attendance.

Resolved that the members be updated at their next meeting and item to remain on the agenda as a standing item.

AY 22/1506

NTA Projects for Athy Municipal District

Mr Coppinger stated that he was working under the Roads Programme in this regard. He added that National Transport Authority (NTA) monies change throughout the year. The council try to negotiate additional funding on an ongoing basis. He stated that there was a priority list of projects. In regard to works at The Friary, Castledermot, the council are currently trying to secure money for this project. He added that the Municipal District area was getting very busy and may not have the engineering resources. He said he would try to get this project done this year. In regard to work at Cromaboo Pedestrian Bridge, the council have tried to secure funding for this project but it could take a long time because of statutory procedures and other reasons.

Councillor Keatley asked for an update on the widening of the N7 and whether there was any indication of when the bottle neck at Newlands Cross would be sorted. Mr. Coppinger stated that the National Roads Design Office (NRDO) dealt with this issue.

Resolved that a report be sought from the NRDO regarding the widening of the N7 for the next meeting.

AY 22/1506

Request for Receipt of Deputations

Dragon Boat Committee

The meetings administrator stated that the Dragon Boat Committee had requested to come to the next meeting of the Municipal District.

Resolved that a deputation be received from this committee at their July meeting.

Kildare Children and Young People's Services Committee

The meetings administrator stated that Ms Emma Berney, Co-ordinator of this committee asked to meet the members at a forthcoming meeting of their committee.

Resolved that a deputation be received from this committee at their September meeting.

Councillor Redmond on behalf of Sinn Féin thanked the cathaoirleach for all his work during his term of office. The cathaoirleach thanked staff and his fellow members for their support and help during his term.

The meeting then concluded.