

**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting held on Monday, 20 July 2015 at 10.00 am at Municipal District Office, Rathstewart, Athy**

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

**Officials Present:** Mr J Boland (District Manager), Mr D O'Flaherty (Municipal District Engineer), Mr G Perry (Senior Executive Officer), Mr J Doyle (A/Senior Executive Officer), Ms L Russell (Arts Officer), Ms. P Berry (Athy Enterprise Centre), Mr M McLoughlin (Administrative Officer), Ms A Aspell (Meetings Administrator), Ms M Quinn (Municipal District Office), and Mr J Hannigan (Secretary).

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**AY 01/1507**

**Confirmation of Minutes and Progress Report**

The members considered the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 22 June 2015.

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

**Matters Arising**

**Pedestrian Bridge over the River Barrow**

Following a enquiry from Councillor Redmond, Mr Boland informed the members that he believed some improvements could be carried out to the bridge. Following the results of a feasibility study a report will be given at the next meeting.

**Resolved** that a report be given at the September meeting following the feasibility study.

**Bridge at the Marina (across from the Dominicans)**

The Municipal District Engineer informed the members that this was a historical planning item and he intended to meet with the planning department and update the members at the next meeting.

**Resolved** that a report be given at the September meeting.

### **Fixing of Bridge Walkways in Distillery Court**

Councillor Redmond noted report to meeting indicating that this matter refers to compliance with planning conditions at the time and was, consequently, a matter for the planning department. The Municipal District Engineer advised that he intended to meet with the planning department and update the members at the next meeting.

**Resolved** that a report be given at the September meeting.

### **Right Turn at Moyle Abbey**

Councillor Keatley informed the meeting that there were no road markings on the old N9 and the right turn into Moyle Abbey needed to be addressed. Councillor Keatley agreed to meet the municipal district engineer to review the marking and turn.

**Resolved** that Councillor Keatley meet with the Municipal Engineer at the location.

## **AY 02/1507**

### **Dragon Boat Committee Deputation**

The members received a deputation from the Dragon Boat Committee consisting of Ms. Rosemary O'Sullivan, Mr. Aaron Webb and Mr. Brian Dooley who gave a short presentation on the activities and achievements of the club. They asked that Kildare County Council facilitate them by allowing them to use 6 spaces in the Dominican car park to place a container to store their boat. They currently transport it to the river but this is dangerous and they depend on the goodwill of their sponsor to do this. They cannot, however, continue with this practice and if they cannot locate a place to store the boat close to the river the club will close. They advised that they had already written to the Council and had received a response advising of a rental fee of €1050 per week for the spaces. They further advised that the Dragon Boat crews need to start training in the next 2 weeks to defend their All-Ireland titles.

The members expressed amazement at the cost for rental of spaces in what was a little used car park. They agreed to support the Dragon Boat Committee in their request to use these spaces. Mr Boland asked to meet with the members of the club at the car park to examine the situation.

**Resolved** that Mr Boland and elected members would meet with the members of the Dragon Boat Club to examine their request.

**AY03/1507**

**Schedule of Municipal District Works**

Mr O'Flaherty informed the members that surface road dressing was continuing throughout the months of July and August at the Rathmuck to Fennor Road and Grangemellon to Maganey Road.

The members thanked the Municipal office for the good work.

**Resolved** that the report be noted and that this item remain on the agenda.

**AY04/1507**

**Chain of Office for Cathaoirleach**

The members considered providing a chain of office for the Cathaoirleach of Athy Municipal District.

Councillor Redmond suggested that the chain of office used by the former Athy Town Council could be used, and the members were agreed that this was a good suggestion.

The meeting administrator informed the members that the former town council had voted that the chain of office be put on display in the civic centre. This is almost complete and it is hoped to have the chain of office on display in the near future. The members unanimously decided that the chain should go on display and that the Cathaoirleach of Athy Municipal District would not use a chain of Office.

**Resolved** that the Cathaoirleach of the Athy Municipal District would not use a chain of office.

**AY05/1507**

**Southern Distributor Road**

Mr O'Flaherty informed the members that work was continuing on the project. He apologised that Mr Coppinger was unable to attend.

The Cathaoirleach informed the meeting that if Mr Coppinger was unable to attend he was to be represented by the Project Engineer.

**Resolved** that this item remain on the Agenda

**AY06/1507**

**Speed Limit Review - Bord na Mona Factory**

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

That this council enact a speed review up to the Bord na Mona factory from the Main Road in Kilberry.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that this area is currently a 50kph speed limit and can be further considered by submission in the Speed Limit Review for County Kildare which is due to commence in quarter 3 2015.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

**AY07/1507**

**Speed Limit Review and Provision of Speed Ramps in Housing Estates**

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

That the council update its members on the current review of speed limits and the provision of ramps in housing estates in County Kildare, in particular the provision of ramps at Ard na Laoi, Castledermot, Ard Evan, Monasterevin, Kylbeg and Abbots Wood, Kildangan and Coneyboro, Athy amongst a number of other estates that calls have been made to provide ramps in.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that Speed Limit review in estates is currently being carried out. The Road Design Section will liaise with the Municipal District Engineer on the provision of ramps at these locations where funding would have to be sourced and approved. Other traffic calming measures apart from ramps would also be examined by the Road Design Section.

Councillor Wall enquired when the report on provision of speed ramps will be published.

**Resolved:** that the report be noted and that an update on the protocol on provision of speed ramps be provided at the next meeting.

### **AY08/1507**

#### **Speed Ramps at Crookstown**

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

That the council move immediately to remove the existing speed ramps at Crookstown, reinstate the road and improve conditions at the bridge over the River Griese.

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the existing speed ramps in Crookstown will be removed and the road reinstated in the coming weeks. The road in front of the old school and over the bridge will be surface dressed subsequently. The situation at the bridge can be looked at with a view to providing yield signs at both sides.

Councillor Miley welcomed the report.

**Resolved:** that the report be noted.

### **AY09/1507**

#### **Railway Bridge Townland of Coolagh**

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

Can we as a council put a stop and go system on the bridge over the railway tracks in the town land of Coolagh after the bad big river bridge?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that there are a number of railway bridges that intersect the public road network in Kildare. The public roads over the railway lines are quite narrow, and care is needed when using these roads. The options are limited for the regulation of traffic over these bridges. The safest option is the installation of traffic lights on either side of the bridge. This is an expensive option which is not considered safe in a rural environment, due to the lack of compliance with the sequence.

**Resolved:** that the report be noted.

### **AY10/1507**

#### **Bus Shelter Monasterevin**

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Redmond:  
What progress has been made to develop the bus shelter in Monasterevin as I initially got a positive response from my motion?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that Road Design are looking at this area with a view to improving traffic movements in the vicinity of this junction, in addition to providing a bus shelter.

Councillor Redmond informed the meeting that people wishing to use buses had been left on the side of the street. The members were informed that a draft design was available.

**Resolved:** that the members be kept updated on progress with this issue.

### **AY11/1507**

#### **Location of Ernest Shackleton Sculpture**

Ms Berry informed the members that following the next meeting of Kildare Failte they would have more information for the members. The members were advised that the Council had secured the Cabin of the Endurance Sculpture and it was hoped this would be put on display soon in the revamped Heritage Centre. Ms Russell outlined the provisional plan for the commissioning and location of the sculpture. She believed that the most suitable location was the Square in Athy and that it was timely there was a proposal to upgrade the Square.

Councillor Miley thanked Ms Berry for her work and felt that the Square was the ideal location for the sculpture. Councillor Redmond believed that there would be objections to any plan to move the existing fountain from the Square. The councillors agreed that the square would be the best location for the sculpture and would fit in with the upgrade of the Square. Councillor Keatley enquired as to the cost of the sculpture and was informed that it could cost in the region of €60,000.

Ms Russell showed pictures of statues of Shackleton, but reminded the members that this was only a concept and at the end of the day the brief provided and how the successful artist interpreted the brief would determine the final sculpture.

**Resolved** that members would be kept up to date on progress.

#### **AY12/1507**

##### **Traffic Calming Meeting Lane**

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

Can consideration be given to additional traffic calming measures at Meeting Lane, Athy?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that there are no proposals for any additional traffic calming measures at Meeting lane, Athy.

Councillor Breslin informed the meeting that there was an issue with cars not stopping at the stop sign and with the skate park in this area that it needed to be looked at.

**Resolved** that the report be noted and that the municipal district engineer look at this again.

#### **AY13/1507**

##### **Emily Square Athy**

It was agreed to take the following similar questions in the names of Councillor Breslin and Miley:

**Councillor Breslin**

What is the up-to-date position in relation to the refurbishment of Emily Square, Athy?

**Councillor Miley**

Can the Council give the municipal district an update on the plans for revamping Emily Square, Athy?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that an advertisement seeking expressions of interest for appointment of consultants was recently published on e-tenders. It was, therefore, proposed to have consultants appointed by September or October 2015.

**Resolved** That the members be kept updated on progress.

**AY 14/1507**

**L3010 road from Kildangan to Kildare**

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

Can the council confirm if they are bringing the L3010 road from Kildangan to Kildare up to an improved standard and will they include the L7062 road as part of any improvement measures?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that resurfacing of the L-3010 between Rathmuck and Fennor will commence in the next few weeks. There are no proposals for improving the L-7062 at the moment. Iarnrod Eireann has work to do on the railway bridge, prior to any improvements being carried out.

Councillor Wall welcomed the report and informed the meeting that the L-7062 is used by Kildangan Stud.

**Resolved** that the report be noted

**AY15/1507**

**Directional signs along the L-8031**

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

Could the council provide directional signs along the L-8031 road at Milltown Junction, Athy to the L8068 road and onto the Monasterevin Road, in the interest of safety and also provide road narrowing signs at this location?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that prior to any signs being erected at this location, a traffic study must be carried out in order to ascertain a need for this proposal. The traffic study should entail origin/destination study and traffic volumes, in particular, HGV volumes and traffic movements.

Councillor Wall informed the meeting that Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) were using this road and when they get to the bridge they are forced to reverse back up to quite a significant distance. He believed that directional signs were needed to prevent this happening.

Mr O'Flaherty informed the meeting that they might consider banning HGV's from this road. There were protocols in place as to how this should be dealt with and he recommended that this be sent to Roads Design.

**Resolved** that the report be noted and that the issue of the HGV's be referred to Roads Design.

**AY16/1507**

**Park and Ride Facilities M9 Motorway**

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

Can the council design and plan park-and-ride facilities in the vicinity of exit 3 and 4 on the M9 Motorway?

A report was received from the Roads Transportation and Public Safety Section informing the members that the NRA has no plans for park and ride facilities at junction 3 and 4 on M9. There is no funding available at present to design a park-and-ride facility at this location.

Design for such projects are only carried out where funding has already been secured. An application for funding will be submitted to the National Transport Authority (NTA) by the Roads Department.

Councillor Miley informed the members that members of the public were parking in this area. Providing park and ride facilities would provide safe and secure facilities for these people and would have a positive effect on our carbon footprint. Councillor Miley asked that a letter be sent to the NRA asking them to consider this location for a park and ride location.

**Resolved** that the report be noted and that a letter be sent to the NRA recommending that a park and ride facility be put at this location.

#### **AY17/0715**

##### **Sewage System Network Narraghmore Village**

The Area Manager informed the members that following meetings with Irish Water and Building Control he expected that the taking in charge of Lipstown Manor and The Orchard would be advertised in the coming weeks and he expected that the taking in charge process would be completed by October. He also advised that Oakpark and Narraghmore would take a while longer.

**Resolved** that the members be kept informed of progress.

#### **AY18/0715**

##### **Cost of Litter Clean Ups**

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

That the council confirm the amount they have spent on the collection of illegal dumping in the Athy area year to date and how many fines have being issued during this period. Will they continue to support, as in the past, the efforts of community groups to assist in the clean ups of their areas and what measures, including the use of cameras, are they considering in the fight against this problem.

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that the council's annual budget for the clean-up of illegal dumping in the county amounts to over

€273,000 per annum. In the year to date, an amount of €174,000 has been spent, with over 170 tonnes of waste material having been collected. The Litter Warden team has been particularly active during 2015 in investigating reports of littering and illegal dumping and 242 fines have been issued throughout the County. The Council acknowledges all the assistance provided by local groups and the general public in the ongoing commitment to reduce and deter illegal dumping in the Municipal District. The Environment Department continues to provide materials to assist with clean ups and assists to remove rubbish collected. Both stationary and mobile CCTV is used by the Department to detect offenders and also acts as a preventative measure. The Council's Litter Management Plan is currently being reviewed and the Draft Plan will be published shortly to allow for public engagement in the process to guide future actions and preventative measures by the Council. It is pleasing to note that 12 towns and villages from the Municipal District have entered this year's National Tidy Towns Competition and each committee is receiving assistance from the Council.

Councillor Wall informed the meeting that litter was a major issue in Kildare. People were continuing to fly tip. The members agreed and gave details of their own experiences and recommended that each household should be made accountable for their own rubbish.

Mr Boland agreed with the members and advised of the steps taken by the council to deal with litter including the use of CCTV in some areas. He stressed the need for evidence to secure prosecutions against those charged with litter offences. He also thanked local groups who organised cleanups in their area and said there was a need for investment in further preventative measures.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

### **AY20/0715**

#### **Ard Na Laoi - Castledermot**

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Redmond  
That this council meet with the residents of Ard na Laoi to help with anti-social behaviour.

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that the development is a private development and does not fall within the remit of the Housing Department.

**Resolved** that the report was noted.

**AY21/0715**

**Provision of Social Housing Units**

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

That the council outlines its plans in relation to the provision of social housing in the Athy Municipal District, the amount of social units to be delivered, the timescale for the delivery of units, will the council be acquiring units and, if so, the timescale for same.

A report was received from the Housing Department informing the members that they are in continued discussions with a number of parties including the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, the Housing Agency and approved housing bodies in respect of the delivery of social housing in the Athy Municipal District. The redevelopment of 10 derelict units in Athy is nearing completion with all units expected to be occupied by the end of Quarter 3 2015. The Council has engaged with a number of developers on unfinished housing estates in the municipal district and are making good progress in this regard. The Council is continuing to source properties through the Rental Accommodation Scheme and social leasing. The members will be updated with more specific information when available later in the year or as proposals with third parties are agreed.

Councillor Breslin expressed her dissatisfaction with the response and said that the information provided to the members needed to be concrete. In response, Mr McLoughlin informed the members that it was the intention to provide 1200 units between 2015 -17. He told the members that the council had engaged with a number of developers of unfinished estates in the Municipal District and were continuing their efforts through the rental accommodation scheme and social leasing.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

**AY22/1507**

**Number of Emergency Homeless Beds**

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

That the Athy Municipal District be informed of the number of emergency homeless beds that the council have access to, the number of service agreements the council have and the names of the organisations that the council have agreements with.

A report was circulated to the members from the Housing Department outlining the current homeless beds that are utilised by Kildare County Council. The council works with a number of voluntary housing bodies to source additional emergency units across the county.

Councillor Breslin asked how many of these beds were for females and how many were for families, stating that there was a lack of beds for both. She also wanted to make sure that the council is getting value for money. Councillor Keatley expressed concern that the council is not getting access to beds that they were funding.

Mr McLoughlin informed the members that the council works with many agencies to provide services to the homeless.

Councillor Wall expressed concern that the council does not have a homeless outreach officer. Councillor Breslin informed the meeting that the problem of homelessness continues to fall on the councillors and she asked that priority be given to families with children.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

**AY23/1507**

**Taking in Charge of Sewage Systems in Kilmeade and Narraghmore**

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

That the council take in charge the sewage systems in Kilmead and Narraghmore incorporating the housing estates of Cluain Ard, Lipstown Manor, The Orchards and Oak Park.

A report from the planning department was circulated to the members advising that the statutory notice for taking in charge of Lipstown Manor and The Orchard, Narraghmore was published in the prescribed publications in week commencing 13 July 2015. It is hoped to complete the taking in charge of these estates including sewerage systems, pump station and municipal waste water treatment plant in September/October 2015. The taking in charge of Oak Park, Narraghmore cannot be considered until the sewerage system in the estate is connected to the municipal waste water treatment facility (it is hoped to have this completed by October 2015) and the wearing course macadam is laid in the estate. It is unlikely that this estate will be ready for taking in charge this year. Cluain Ard estate in Kilmead and the municipal plant provided as part of this development cannot be taken in charge until the waste water treatment plant is brought up to an acceptable standard (a list of outstanding remedial works have been provided to agents acting for the bond provider) and CCTV surveys, ACDs and wearing course macadam are provided.

Councillor Miley welcomed the report.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

The meeting concluded.

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